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## McCain appreciates Thompson

Thank goodness Tommy Thompson dropped out of the race for President and Hunter S. Thompson can't enter it. One Thompson is plenty. The happiest Republican in the race right now is John McCain. With the entry of *Law and Order* actor Fred Thompson, McCain looks a lot younger on camera. Compared to Fred Thompson, that is.

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**5501 Independence** – This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home is located in a great subdivision & is close to schools! Features include an enclosed sunroom, all kitchen appliances, a beautiful rock fireplace and a fenced backyard.  
**\$176,900**

**1620 Ragtime** - This is the home you saw on the cover of Preview Magazine! There are 4 bdrms. & 4 baths with a huge kitchen, large master suite with dual closet's and a main floor laundry. There is also a hot tub, kids wooden play set, central air and a full sprinkler system. This home is waiting for a new family!

**6652 Bison Run Loop** - This 3 bdr/ 2 bath home has plenty to offer both inside and out! Features include vaulted ceilings, a gas fireplace, all kitchen appliances and a large formal dining area. Outside, there is a full sprinkler system, a 40x48 barn and a large 3 car garage. Price reduced from \$327,000 to **\$311,000**, this home is definitely worth seeing.

**645 Vista Lane** – This elegant Western Hills home is huge (4550 sq. ft) and will be great for entertaining! There are 3 bdrms. & 3 baths with an attached 2 gar garage. Located close to the base, you are just minutes away from golf, shopping and schools. This is located in a tranquil neighborhood, and won't be available long! **\$299,500**

## Waterboarding

Whether waterboarding is torture or just a form of aggressive interviewing may be a matter of whether one is giving or receiving.

The latest near-casualty of the argument between political sides as to whether waterboarding is torture or not was the latest appointment to serve as Attorney General of the United States. After Alberto Gonzales, anyone this side of Forrest Gump looks pretty competent to hold the cabinet office.

Michael Mukasey was sailing through the confirmation process, answering the questions put to him with caution and a degree of independence. When asked about waterboarding, an interrogation technique considered to simulate drowning and considered a form of torture to almost every civilized society in the world, he excoriated it. Reprehensible. Despicable. Wrong. Barbaric.

But is it torture, he was asked. For if it were considered torture, it would be illegal. Couldn't say, he hedged. Don't know exactly what form of waterboarding you're talking about. Haven't been briefed.

That's a little like saying, "I'm not sure what you mean by death by a firing squad." Haven't been briefed. As though there were different types of death by firing squad. "Hanging by the neck till dead?" Haven't been briefed. Don't know how to assess that act - have to know more about what kind of hanging you're talking about.

Ask John McCain. He has a pretty fair idea what waterboarding is and he considers it torture. John has the scars and dislocated joints to establish his credibility on the subject.

Readers have probably seen more simulations of waterboarding than they care to. The principle is simple: A person is restrained and water is poured onto their face (with a rag stuffed into the mouth or cellophane spread over the face - sometimes the person is elevated with head down, feet up) to simulate drowning.

A much published article states that the Navy discontinued using waterboarding as a part of SEALS counter-interrogation training because the elite special forces group could not survive it without breaking and the practice was stopped because "it was bad for morale."

The Central Intelligence Agency used the technique until a couple years ago. In their own training, agents have lasted an average of 14 seconds before "begging to be released." Our own elite operatives have proven that either the procedure is the most effective form of interrogation or it is an exquisite form of torture, of which no human can hold out for long.

CIA officials who continue to maintain that waterboarding is not torture do admit that the quality of information extracted from those subjected to the procedure is poor.

International tribunals have determined that "mock executions" like guns to the temple to simulate execution are forms of torture. Waterboarding is generally considered to have the result of convincing the one subjected to it that they will drown if they do not cooperate.

After World War II, a Japanese soldier who used waterboarding against a U.S. civilian was sentenced to 15 years in a U.S. prison for "committing a war crime." The technique was commonly used by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the 70's and they have not survived as a controlling group of any standing.

If waterboarding is not torture and is not illegal as an interrogation technique, then it should be incorporated into police departments around the country. It is either legal or it is illegal. If legal, it should be employed on every suspect in a missing child crime and on those thought to have buried a living victim or placed a bomb to detonate at a later time. In any instance where lives can be saved by forcing a suspect to provide vital information about whereabouts, etc., it should be used. If it is legal. If it is, and has been, illegal, that admission should be made. Grant immunity to those who have done it, but stop.

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