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rescue.

A card sent out to everyone earlier this year by the Frederick County Health Department urged citizens to prepare for emergencies before they happen, referring to the possible avian influenza by having food, non-perishables, medical and health supplies on hand. This snowstorm showed us why we should prepare in advance.

I do realize there are people who must go out, such as doctors, nurses, those who are out trying to clear roads, etc., and I am truly thankful for them.

Hopefully, we don't get hit with such a storm again soon, but this may be a warning to all of us to prepare in advance for emergencies as best we can, before they happen.

DOROTHY MISNER
Frederick

telling the BBC "Our preference would be ... the longer we stay together here, the better."

Khalilzad is dead right. The Brits in the Basra area provide security for the U.S. convoys carrying food, fuel and ammunition from Kuwait up to forward U.S. military bases in Baghdad and Anbar province. Without the British, insurgent militias can cut off these supplies leaving U.S. troops in the center-north of the country sitting ducks for the Sunni Arab guerrillas.

Cheney's feigned sunny misdirection should not be allowed to mask the dangers of the departure of America's most important ally.

JERRY McKNIGHT
Frederick

Seeing the world through Cheney's rose-colored glasses

Last week Britain's Tony Blair announced the start of withdrawal of British troops from southern Iraq, starting with the first complement in May 2007.

The Vice President was quick to applaud this development: "What I see," the vice president intoned, "is an affirmation of the fact that there are parts of Iraq where things are going pretty well."

Unfortunately, the facts on the ground tell an entirely different story. Southern Iraq is a quagmire that has resisted all British efforts to impose order. The reality is that British military commanders have pushed Blair to pull out of Iraq altogether. The American Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, protested the British withdrawal plans,

