



NEW WAY FORWARD FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ

TALKING POINTS

BACKGROUND

- ✓ During their November 30, 2007, meeting in Jordan, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki provided President Bush with a detailed Iraqi plan for transitioning security responsibility to Iraqi forces in 2007.
- ✓ President Bush told Prime Minister Maliki that he must make two strong commitments before the United States would commit to this plan:
 - To treat perpetrators of sectarian violence—whether Sunni or Shi’a—equally, and
 - To create, field, and sustain sufficient numbers of Iraqi Security Forces.
- ✓ U.S. officials, who had been involved in an interagency assessment of the U.S. strategy in Iraq during the fall and summer of 2007, reviewed the Iraqi plan and found it ambitious but executable.
- ✓ U.S. military commanders determined that more U.S. troops would be needed to support that plan and suppress the violence in Baghdad and al-Anbar Province.

MILITARY ELEMENTS

- ✓ Deploy 6 additional U.S. brigades (roughly 21,000 troops) to Iraq with 5 brigades assigned to Baghdad and 1 brigade assigned to al-Anbar Province.
- ✓ Deploy 3 additional Iraqi brigades (2 Kurdish brigades, 1 Shi’a brigade) to Baghdad, bringing the total number of Iraqi battalions in Baghdad from approximately 33 to approximately 42. One brigade will be in place by February 1, 2007, and the 2 additional brigades will be deployed by February 15, 2007.
- ✓ Embed 1 U.S. combat battalion within each Iraqi brigade to fight alongside the 3 Iraqi combat battalions in that brigade.
 - This is necessary because Iraqi forces fight better alongside U.S. forces.
 - All U.S. forces will remain under operational control of U.S. commanders.
- ✓ Baghdad will have an overall military governor and will be divided into 9 military districts, each with a police/military “hub” from which to deploy security forces.
 - Currently, there are approximately 33 Iraqi battalions and 45 to 60 U.S. battalions in Baghdad.
 - By February 15, 2007, approximately 42 Iraqi battalions and 45 to 60 U.S. battalions (plus 5 additional brigades) will be deployed in Baghdad.

- ✓ Operations in al-Anbar Province will build on the Sunni tribal leaders' desires, as expressed to U.S. and Iraqi leaders, to end violence and al-Qaeda's influence within the province.
 - Accept Sunni tribal leaders' offer to contribute roughly 1,000 new volunteers to Iraqi counterterrorism forces.
 - Currently, there are approximately 18 Iraqi battalions and U.S. units under I Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters operating in al-Anbar Province.
 - By February 15, 2007, there will be approximately 18 Iraqi battalions and U.S. units under I Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters (plus 1 additional U.S. brigade) deployed in al-Anbar Province.

OTHER ELEMENTS

- ✓ Saddam Hussein's former military personnel will be given a choice between serving with the Iraqi Security Forces and accepting a pension.
- ✓ New oil legislation will break the government's monopoly on fuel imports, allowing the refined fuel market to grow, relieve subsidies' cost to the Iraqi Government, and decrease fuel shortages.
- ✓ There will be more equitable distribution of oil revenues.
- ✓ Passing de-Ba'athification legislation and holding provincial elections will occur soon.
- ✓ The Iraqi Government will spend the billions of dollars currently sitting in banks or otherwise unused, such as the \$1.5 billion in a Foreign Military Sales account.

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