



UPDATE ON US WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

Anthony H. Cordesman
Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy
acordesman@gmail.com

There are three areas where there still seems to be confusion about the formal end of US combat operations in Iraq. Many of these issues have already been address in two sets of analyses by the Burke Chair:

- A book length report on strategic partnership with Iraq, available on the CSIS web site at:
<http://csis.org/publication/iraq-and-united-states>
- A five part series on the current situation in Iraq available on the CSIS web site at
<http://csis.org/publication/iraq-realities-us-withdrawal-combat-forces-and-challenges-strategic-partnership>

There are, however, three areas where further clarification seems necessary.

US Forces Remaining In Iraq

The first is the role and size of the remaining US ‘military force in Iraq. First, it is important to note that the US has massive air, sea and cruise missile elsewhere in capabilities in the Gulf and supports Iraq with a wide range of national intelligence assets.

Official Statements at the Time of the President’s Speech

Officials sources reported on September 1, 2010 that,

Troops and Change of Mission

When President Obama took office in January 2009, there were 144,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. At his Camp Lejeune speech on February 27, 2009, President Obama announced that the United States would end its combat mission on August 31, 2010, and retain a transitional force of up to 50,000 U.S. troops to train and advise Iraqi Security Forces; conduct partnered and targeted counter-terrorism operations; and protect ongoing U.S. civilian and military efforts.

- By January 2010, there were 112,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. By the end of May 2010, that number had been reduced to 88,000. General Odierno made the decision in May 2010 that positive developments in the security sector permitted the drawdown to go forward as planned. The final tranche of the drawdown to reach the President’s commitment to end combat operations began in earnest in June 2010. On August 24, 2010, the number of U.S. troops in Iraq was reduced to 50,000. On August 31, *Operation Iraqi Freedom* ends. The transitional mission will be called *Operation New Dawn*. Consistent with our agreements with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops are scheduled to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.
- There are currently 660,000 Iraqi Security Forces who have been leading the effort to secure Iraq since June 2009, when U.S. troops repositioned outside of Iraqi cities. Even as terrorists have sought to exploit the period of government formation that has followed Iraq’s successful election, security incidents remain near the lowest level since we’ve been keeping records. Since the beginning of this year, the U.S. and

Iraqi military partnership has resulted in the death or arrest of more than 30 members of the top leadership of al-Qai'da in Iraq.

- The reduction in troops does not mean a reduction in the U.S. commitment to Iraq – it means a change in the nature of our commitment from one led by the military to one that is civilian-led. The transitional force that we will have in place can continue to support Iraqi Security Forces. And we will strengthen the U.S. and Iraqi partnership in fields such as education, the rule of law, trade and technology. To guide the expansion of our relationship, the United States and Iraq signed a Strategic Framework Agreement, which specifies areas for dialogue, exchanges, links, and the transfer of expertise.

Equipment

By the end of August 2010, U.S. Forces in Iraq will reduce the total number of equipment in Iraq from 3.4 million pieces in January 2009 to a total of 1.2 million pieces, which are required to support the remaining troops which will be organized six Advise and Assist Brigades plus enablers. Lieutenant General William Webster, who commands the Third Army and is overseeing the drawdown, said “This is the largest operation, that we’ve been able to determine, since the build-up for World War II.”

- The equipment is being moved to one of three places in priority order: to U.S. troops fighting in Afghanistan, to replenish U.S. military stocks, and to Iraqi Security Forces to ensure they have the minimum essential capability to handle Iraq’s security. Most of the troops and equipment are being transported out of Iraq through Kuwait, although Jordan and Turkey are also permitting transit.
- The Army has dubbed the combined drawdown in Iraq and reinforcement in Afghanistan “Nickel II.” The name plays off the Third Army’s role in World War II, when General Patton ordered a dramatic turnabout to attack the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge. Patton called his operation “Nickel.”

Bases

As part of the drawdown in Iraq, U.S. forces are also closing or transferring military bases in Iraq.

- In June 2009, U.S. Forces occupied 357 bases. U.S. Forces currently occupy 92 bases, 58 of which are partnered with the Iraqis.

The Big Picture: U.S. troops “Boots on the Ground” (BOG) in Iraq and Afghanistan

Several facts illustrate both the size and scope of the drawdown, and the shift in focus as we end the war in Iraq, and focus on al Qai'da and Afghanistan.

- In January 2009, there were about 177,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan: 144,000 in Iraq and 33,000 in Afghanistan. In July 2010, there are about 169,000: 81,000 in Iraq and 87,000 in Afghanistan. In September 2010, there will be about 146,000: 50,000 in Iraq and 96,000 in Afghanistan. So even with the surge in Afghanistan, the total number of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan will have been reduced from 177,000 to roughly 146,000. In addition to those on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, there are about 28,000 U.S. service-members deployed supporting Iraq and 17,000 supporting Afghanistan. They are deployed in other locations, such as Kuwait, Qatar, and afloat in the Persian Gulf.
- The drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq since January 2009 comprises roughly three times as many troops as the President ordered to Afghanistan last December.

Department of Defense Reporting

The Department of Defense has stated in other reporting that that the US role in Operation New Dawn,

“will have three primary missions: advising, assisting, and training the Iraqi Security Forces; conducting partnered counterterrorism operations; and providing support to Provincial Reconstruction Teams and the Iraqi government.

"This redoubles the efforts of the Iraqis," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a briefing Monday. "They will write the next chapter in Iraqi history, and they will be principally responsible for it. We will be their ally, but the responsibility of charting the future of Iraq first and foremost belongs to the Iraqis."

“ Also, according to a United States Forces-Iraq press release, the state and defense departments are slotted to take the lead on the U.S. presence in Iraq, turning efforts there diplomatic rather than military-focused.

"This transition represents a change in the nature of U.S. commitment to the government and people of Iraq, but not a change in the level of commitment," the press release states.

“Bases and equipment have also been downsized. U.S. forces currently occupy 121 posts, a number down from 357 in 2009, and the total number of equipment in Iraq is expected to be cut to 1.2 million pieces, down from 3.4 million in 2009.

At the same time, the Department of Defense and US Army have it clear that many of the nearly 50,000 US troops remaining in Iraq through 2011 could provide Iraq with military help if the Iraqi government requested this. The US is to keep substantial cadres of Special Forces in Iraq as advisors and trainers, as well as six Advisory Assistance Brigades.

These units are experienced combat units and the first four began to deploy in mid 2009. They included the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Ft. Benning, Ga., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, Ga., 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, Ga., and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson, Colo. All six are now in place and operational.

Department of the Army Reporting on the US Forces Staying in Iraq

The Department of the Army describes the role of these and the other US forces remain in Iraq as follows:

During Operation New Dawn, the remaining 50,000 U.S. service members serving in Iraq will conduct stability operations, focusing on advising, assisting and training Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). Operation New Dawn also represents a shift from a predominantly military U.S. presence to one that is predominantly civilian, as the Departments of Defense and State work together with governmental and non-governmental agencies to help build Iraq's civil capacity.

Why is this important for the Army?

The transition to Operation New Dawn represents the U.S. commitment to the government and people of Iraq as a sovereign, stable country that will be an enduring strategic partner with the

United States. This has been made possible by the improved capability of the ISF to take the lead in securing their country.

New Dawn also signifies the success of the responsible drawdown of forces and the redeployment of thousands of U.S. Soldiers, as well as the return or transfer of war fighting equipment to the U.S. or to combat troops fighting in Afghanistan.

What will the Army do?

To support the transition to stability operations, the Army has six advisory and assistance brigades (AABs) in Iraq. AABs are designed to partner with ISF and are tailored for the needs of the specific location in which they will operate. They provide security for Provincial Reconstruction Teams and have up to 24 specialty teams which enable them to conduct advisory, security, and training missions, as well as the development of civil capacity.

AABs are structured around the modular design of brigade combat teams but are trained for stability operations, rather than for combat. However, under the security agreement they retain the inherent right to self-defense and are authorized to take necessary action to prevent terrorist activities in order to protect themselves or the people of Iraq.

Unlike traditional brigade combat teams, the AABs will focus less on combat operations and more on advising, assisting and developing capabilities within the Iraqi security forces, he explained. However, they also will conduct coordinated counterterrorism missions and protect ongoing civilian and military efforts within Iraq.

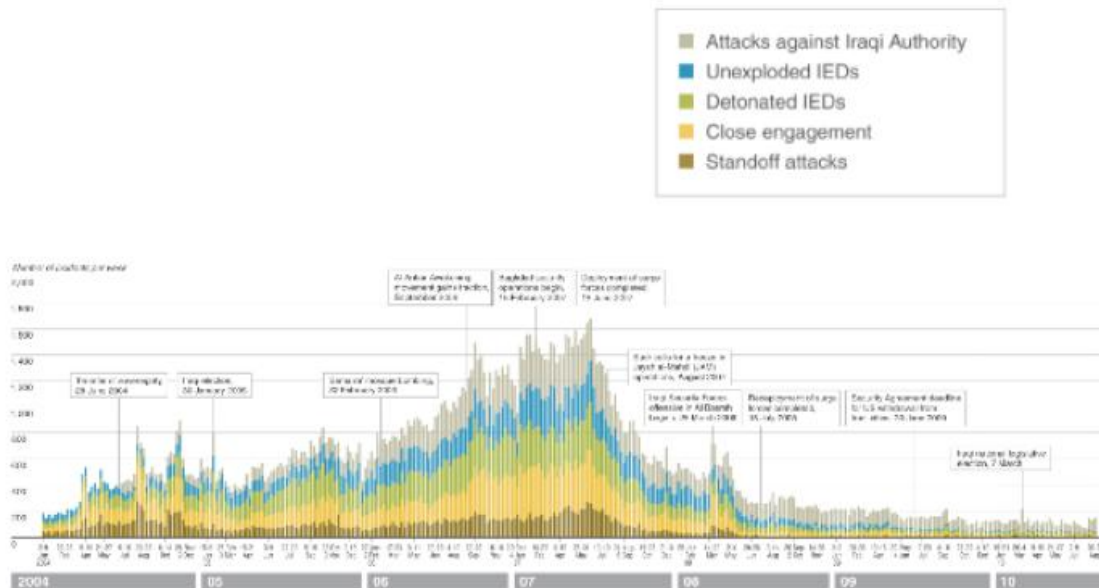
What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

For the foreseeable future, U. S. forces will maintain a force strength of 50,000 as it conducts stability operations and partnered counterterrorism operations in Iraq. In accordance with the security agreement, U.S. forces are scheduled to leave Iraq by the end of 2011. Despite the change in mission, USF-I remains committed to the Iraqi people and will continue to support efforts to build civil capacity throughout Iraq.

Levels of Violence in Iraq

There still is a significant insurgent presence in Iraq, and ongoing violence. The levels of such attack, however, remain far lower that during periods of serious civil conflict. This is shown in data released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on August 31, 2010.

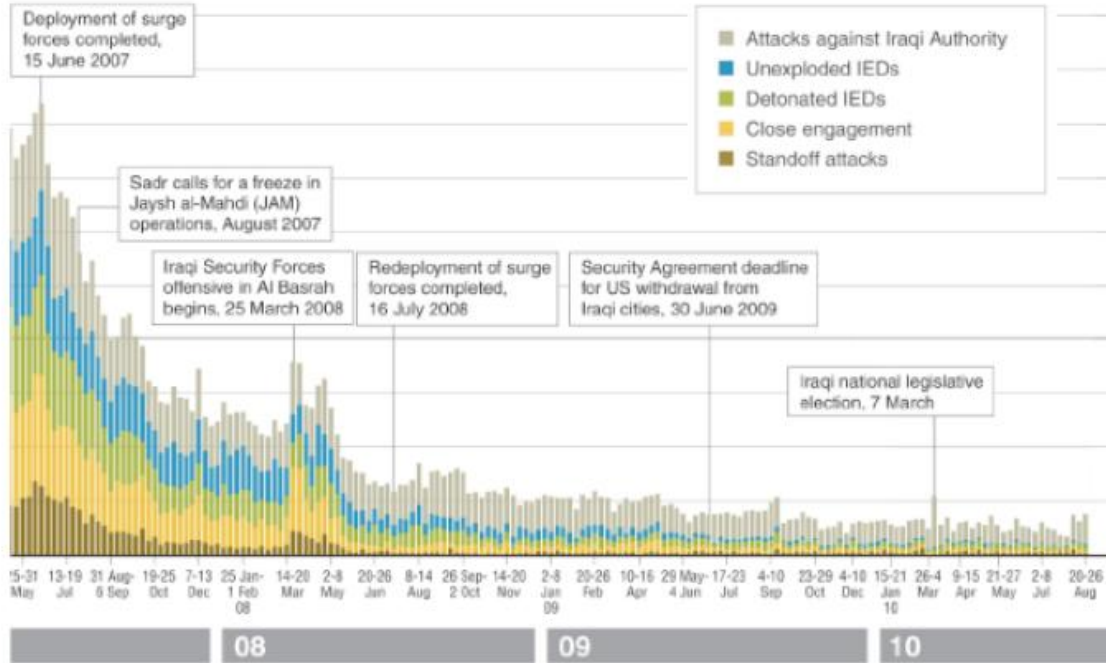
The first chart shows the overall patterns of violence in the war, and that current levels of violence remain far below their past peak:



Source: ODNI, 31-8-2010

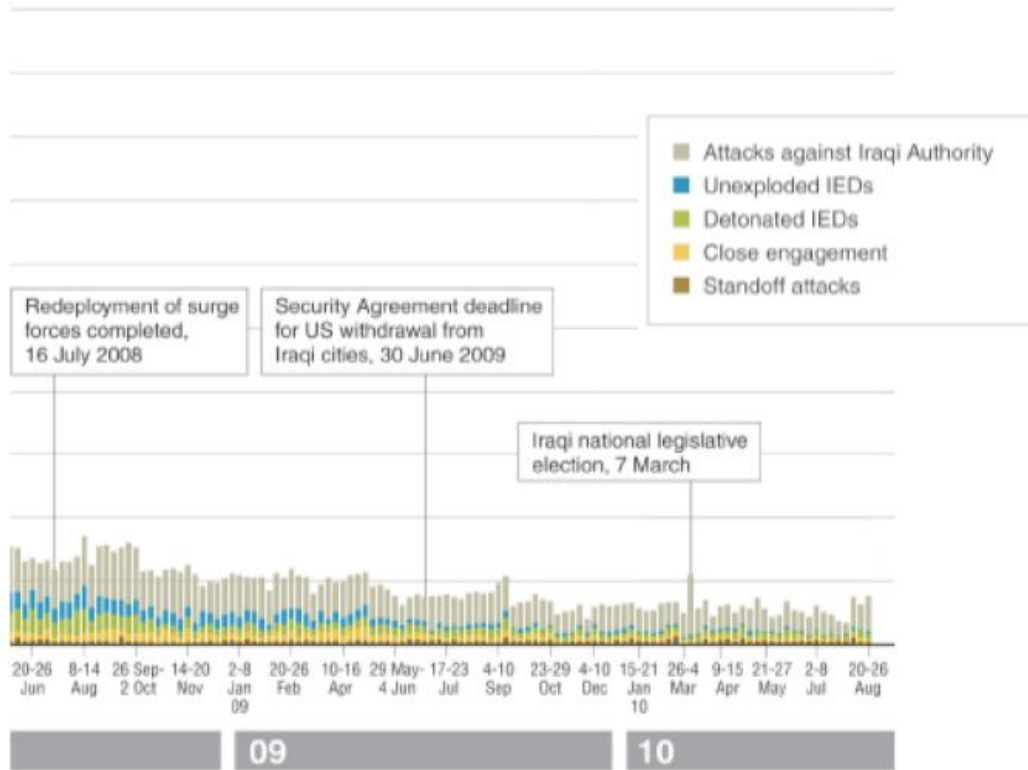
The second chart zooms in on these data and shows how much the level of violence has dropped since the peak periods of fighting:

Iraq: Patterns of Violence From the Peak of the Insurgency to the Withdrawal of US Combat Forces



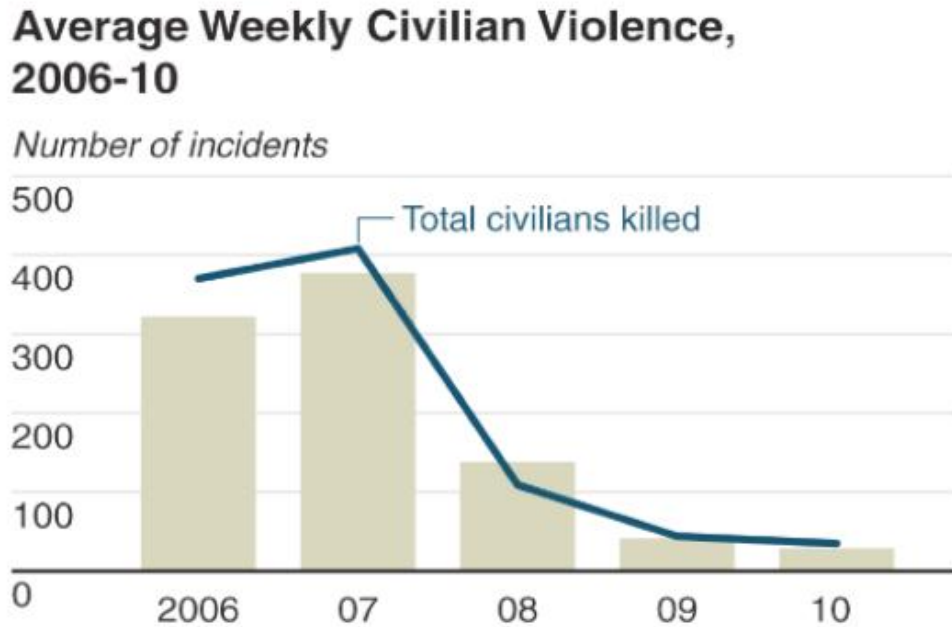
Source: ODNI, 31-8-2010

The third chart warns that no significant cut in violence has taken place since late 2009, and that levels of violence have risen only slightly as the insurgent have attempted to score propaganda victories through violence that has large targeted Iraqis and not Americans.



Source: ODNI, 31-8-2010

The fourth chart shows that in spite of these insurgent attacks, the average numbers of Iraqi civilian deaths remains low:



Source: ODNI, 31-8-2010

US Civil Aid Programs Continue

US civil and economic aid to Iraq has been sharply cut in terms of dollars, and the number of PRTs will drop from 16 to the equivalent of five which will be located in the US embassy, two consulates, and two additional State Department facilities, plus another major police training mission run by the State Department. These shifts, however, are part of a transition from large, expensive “brick and mortar” aid to a broader program of technical assistance that is better suited to a partnership with Iraq.

Data released by the Department of on September 1, 2012 indicate that the US will make a substantial civil and military aid request in the FY2012 budget, and work closely with the new Iraqi government to provided such aid.

Key Areas of US Civilian Engagement with Iraq

Under the terms of the **U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement**, we are building a dynamic partnership with the Iraqi government and people. U.S. government agencies are working to support Iraq's development in a range of sectors, including education, energy, trade, health, culture, law enforcement, and judicial cooperation. Examples of this cooperation include:

Agriculture: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks to help Iraq develop a food and agricultural system that is competitive, sustainable and globally integrated. Experts from USDA are providing technical assistance in areas such as food safety, soil and water policy, and education initiatives. USDA recently arranged a visit to Baghdad for representatives from the most prominent agricultural firms in the United States to meet with Iraqi counterparts to explore commercial ties. To complement these efforts, USAID is working to strengthen Iraq's private agribusinesses and to connect local Iraqi farmers to national markets.

Commerce/Trade: The U.S. Department of Commerce works to enhance U.S.-Iraqi commercial relations by providing U.S. companies with guidance on how to do business in Iraq. The Department of Commerce also works to facilitate commercial exchanges between U.S. and Iraqi companies. For example, the Department of Commerce is arranging a visit of U.S. companies to Iraq this fall to explore business opportunities. The Secretary of Commerce co-chairs the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue, a group of U.S. and Iraqi private sectors representatives who advise the Department of Commerce and Iraqi Ministry of Trade on private sector views, needs, and concerns regarding economic development in Iraq. Through the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), Commerce is helping to create a modern commercial law framework in Iraq that facilitates foreign trade and investment.

Culture: As part of the Iraq Culture Heritage Project, the Department of State is working with the Iraqi government to make improvements to the Iraq National Museum, to establish a national conservation training institute in Irbil, and to provide training opportunities in the United States for Iraqi cultural heritage professionals. The Department of State is also working with the World Monuments Foundation and the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities on the Future of Babylon project, which aims to develop a site management plan for Babylon.

Economics: The U.S. Department of the Treasury is facilitating Iraq's engagement with the IMF and World Bank. The Department of Treasury also provides technical assistance to improve Iraq's public financial management, Central Bank of Iraq operations, and Iraq's financial sector. USAID-supported microfinance institutions focus on youth entrepreneurship and long-term employment generation. Beyond micro-finance lending, USAID supports the expansion and diversification of the non-oil economy through support for small and medium business lending.

Education: Iraq has the largest Fulbright Foreign Student program in the Middle East, providing opportunities for Iraqi students to study, research and teach in the United States. In addition, the Department of State has established a Fulbright Visiting Scholars Program for Iraq. This summer 25 Iraqi professors, administrators and deans, from a number of universities across Iraq, are spending ten weeks at American universities to participate in programs on Education, Public Health, Linguistics, Science and Technology, and Engineering.

Energy: The U.S. Department of Energy is providing regulatory training to officials in the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity. This initiative is conducted under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and will transfer best international practices for electricity regulation and pricing to the Iraqi regulatory body. The Department of Energy will also design and implement an initiative with the Iraqi Ministry of Oil to improve Iraq's capacity to capture and utilize associated natural gas currently being flared, including to support the development of a domestic gas market.

Health: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has partnered with the Iraqi Ministry of Health in the training of physicians, epidemiologists, and mental health professionals in areas such as mental health, field epidemiology, and drug dependency. USAID provides technical assistance in public administration management to the Ministry of Health. USAID also disburses grants to non-governmental organizations and UN agencies to support maternal and child health, community-based water/sanitation and hygiene, and mobile clinics for vulnerable populations and displaced persons.

Homeland Security: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides executive-level advisory assistance to the Iraqi government to develop comprehensive border, transportation, and critical infrastructure security programs. U.S. Coast Guard personnel are working closely on maritime security initiatives. These include in-country training to Iraqi maritime forces in Engineering and Logistics, Small Boat Operations, and Outboard Engine Maintenance.

Interior: In support of the development of Iraq's energy development, the U.S. Department of the Interior is providing technical and programmatic advice to Iraq's Ministry of Oil to improve the ministry's ability to work on tendering, resource evaluation (both geologic and economic), field operations, information technology, and revenue management.

Justice: The U.S. Department of Justice is helping Iraqis establish an effective, fair and accountable system of justice under the rule of law. Justice attorneys and law enforcement agents are working with Iraqi judges, prosecutors, and investigators to build the capacity of the Iraqi justice system to address major crimes, including terrorism. Justice advisors are also providing assistance and training to Iraqi corrections officials to help Iraq build and maintain a humane and secure prison system.

Transportation: The U.S. Department of Transportation is helping Iraq modernize and secure its air and sea ports. The Department of Transportation is also facilitating the improvement of Iraq's surface transportation network, including road, rail, and intermodal linkages. Personnel from the Department of Transportation are working with Iraqis to rehabilitate the transportation infrastructure. The United States Trade and Development Agency, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, hosted an Iraqi delegation of officials led by the Iraqi Minister of Transportation earlier this year. The Iraqis visited aviation and maritime port facilities in the Washington, D.C. area, Louisiana and Oklahoma to explore technologies and systems that could be applicable in Iraq.

Agency-by-Agency Details of US Efforts

Official sources provided the following data on the efforts of individual US agencies to establish a productive strategic partnership:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Field Work. USDA agricultural advisors have been working in Iraqi provinces sharing their expertise with Iraqi farmers and local officials to improve irrigation technology, expand food processing, and build farmer organizations. USDA has also deployed soil experts, statisticians, and animal disease experts to work in Iraq.

Policy Advice. USDA agricultural advisors assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad are working with the Iraqi Ministries of Agriculture, Planning, Water Resources, and Higher Education. These advisors have contributed their expertise in agricultural strategy, animal health, food safety, soil and water conservation, and agricultural extension and education.

Promoting U.S. Exports. U.S. agricultural exports to Iraq were \$173 million in the first six months of 2010 and consisted mostly of wheat, rice, and poultry. In June 2010, USDA organized a visit of 17 U.S. companies to Iraq to discuss commercial opportunities with more than 250 Iraqi companies. This was the first large public trade event for U.S. firms in Baghdad.

Department of Commerce

U.S.-Iraq Business and Investment Conference (BICK) and Trade Mission. More than 1,100 U.S. and Iraqi government officials and private sector representatives attended the BICK in

October 2009. The BICK highlighted twelve sectors of the Iraqi economy in need of private investment. To organize this event, the Commerce Department worked closely with Iraqi counterparts at the Iraqi National Investment Commission and Ministry of Trade to arrange business-to-business meetings between the Iraqis and U.S. companies. The Department of Commerce is now organizing a visit to Iraq by U.S. firms representing a broad range of industries, including but not limited to oil and gas, construction, and information and communications technology. The purpose of this trip is to explore commercial opportunities.

U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue (USIBD). The USIBD, created in 2007, was born out of an agreement between the Department of Commerce and the Iraqi Ministry of Trade. The USIBD is a bilateral trade dialogue charged with enhancing bilateral commercial ties and advising the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and Iraqi Minister of Trade on private sector views, needs, and concerns regarding business development in Iraq. The last full meeting of the USIBD was held in October 2009, and it was chaired by Secretary Locke, Deputy Secretary Hightower, and Iraqi Minister of Trade al-Safi. In August 2010, the Department of Commerce appointed ten new members to the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue (USIBD). The USIBD plans to hold its next meeting in Washington, D.C. in September 2010.

Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP). The CLDP is helping the Iraqi government design and implement a commercial law framework to facilitate trade and investment. The CLDP is providing advice to Iraqi government officials, such as the Ministry of Oil, on how to effectively negotiate major contracts with foreign parties. Working with the Chief Justice of Iraq, the CLDP is helping establish a curriculum to educate sitting judges on modern commercial law principles and is promoting the practice of arbitration.

Department of Energy

Training and Reintegration of Iraqi Scientists and Officials to Reduce the Risk of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Proliferation. Through its program Global Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention, the Department of Energy engaged some 140 former Iraqi WMD experts through small-scale research and business development projects and arranged access to scientists in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East in order to reintegrate the Iraqi experts into the international business and scientific communities. In cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), The Department of Energy held a workshop in May 2010 to train key Iraqi stakeholders on how to implement the IAEA Additional Protocol, including state reporting mechanisms and protocols.

Regulatory Capacity Building for the Iraqi Oil and Natural Gas. Working with the U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Department of Energy is undertaking a capacity building initiative to increase Iraq's electricity availability and reliability. This effort includes the development of an Iraqi regulatory body to institutionalize mid-level decision making, enhance transparency, and encourage the domestic development and use of natural gas.

Renewable Energy Strategic Plan and Applications for Iraq. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory is working with Iraqi government officials to develop a renewable energy strategy. The plan would support alternative energy and off-grid technologies, which could increase the amount of oil and gas resources available for export.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The Iraq - HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Partnership on Behavioral Health. For the past three years, HHS has assisted Iraq in its efforts to rebuild its capacity to provide mental health services through an exchange of mental-health experts. As part of the Initiative on Trauma and Behavioral Health Services, SAMHSA hosted its first cohort of mental health professionals in the United States in 2008, and plans to host a second

cohort of 24 Iraqi mental health professionals in the fall of 2010. The Initiative focuses on trauma and behavioral health services and brings together multidisciplinary teams of Iraqi behavioral health providers for visits to American medical centers.

HHS/Center for Disease Control/Ministry of Health Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Project. This project was initiated in 2008 and is intended to enhance Iraq's epidemiologic and disease control and prevention capacities. The program trains epidemiologists and also assists in the monitoring of communicable diseases and analysis and interpretation of surveillance data. It is a collaborative effort between HHS/Center for Disease Control, the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Ministry of Higher Education, the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Department of State (Iraqi Scientist Training Program, ISEP) and others. In 2010, 11 Iraqi medical doctors from all over Iraq were accepted into the program and began their training.

Donation of medical journals to Baghdad Medical School. In July 2009, the U.S. National Institutes of Health in partnership with USAID donated approximately 50,000 journals with a subscription value of \$27 million to the University of Baghdad Medical School. Restocking this major medical library in Iraq provides physicians, mental health professionals, researchers and students with access to up-to-date advances in medical research for enhancing research capacity in country.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP personnel provide training and mentoring to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MOI) Directorates of Border Enforcement, Port of Entry, Travel and Nationality, and to the Ministry of Finance Civil Customs Commission. The training includes how to conduct effective customs and immigration operations. CBP assistance is geared toward the encouraging Iraqi adoption of realistic management controls, adequate organizational structures, operating procedures that conform to modern laws and regulations, and updated technology.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE supports efforts to develop a stronger anti-money laundering/counterterrorism financing regime. ICE actively encourages cooperation among Iraqi government regulatory, investigative, and judicial agencies to improve the government's capacity to investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing. These efforts build on existing and ongoing U.S. operations to combat terrorist financing networks in Iraq and its neighboring countries. **Repatriations of Iraqi Cultural Artifacts.** As a result of an ICE-led investigation, the United States returned six Iraqi artifacts to the Iraqi government in February 2010. The items included a Babylonian clay foundation cone, ca. 2100 B.C.; a Sumerian bronze foundation cone and stone tablet with inscription, ca. 2500 B.C. to 1800 B.C.; an Iraqi coin, ca. 250 B.C.; and a neo-Assyrian gold earrings ca. 8-7th Century B.C. In 2008, in one of the largest repatriations to date, ICE returned 1,044 cultural antiquities to the Iraqi government. These antiquities had been seized in four separate investigations dating to 2001. The items include terra cotta cones inscribed in Cuneiform text, a praying goddess figurine that was once embedded in a Sumerian temple, and coins bearing the likenesses of ancient emperors.

Department of the Interior

Oil and Gas Resource Management. The Department of Interior has provided direct technical and programmatic training to Iraqi government officials in the Ministry of Oil and the State Oil companies. The training covers oil and gas resource management, including tendering, resource evaluation; field operations; information technology infrastructure; revenue management; and environmental stewardship. The Department of Interior has conducted a series of workshops and provided on the job training opportunities for Iraqi middle and senior level managers in the state-run oil industry. These exchanges allow the Department of Interior to share its expertise on lease management, resource evaluation, field operations and revenue management.

Establishing a Network of Relationships. The Department of Interior is introducing Iraqi government officials to their counterparts in the international oil and gas community through third-party technical training, industry meetings, and attendance at events like the Offshore Technology Conference held in Houston in spring 2010.

Department of Justice

Establishment of the Iraqi High Tribunal. The Department of Justice led the effort to create the Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) to prosecute members of the former regime, including Saddam Hussein. The FBI assisted the Iraqis in investigating crimes committed by the former regime. The United States Marshals Service helped the Iraqi government establish security for the court and protect defendants, judges, witnesses, and attorneys during the trial of the most notorious defendants. Prosecutors from the Department of Justice assisted the IHT judges in the development of policies and procedures for conducting trials that are fair, transparent, and largely accepted by the international community. The IHT is now fully functioning under Iraqi leadership.

Establishment of the Iraqi Corrections System. The Department of Justice has worked closely with Iraqi leaders to develop a national prison system. Beginning in 2003, Justice advisors from the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) methodically identified facilities, vetted staff, and housed criminal defendants, creating a system that became the Iraqi Corrections Service, now administered by the Ministry of Justice. Today the Justice Ministry operates eleven prisons and eight detention centers; houses more than 24,000 inmates, including high-value prisoners; and employs more than 15,000 staff.

Equipping the Iraqi Justice System to Address Major Crimes. Members of the Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) have worked to develop Criminal Justice Councils that bring Iraqi government officials together to form Iraqi solutions to obstacles in addressing major crimes throughout Iraq. U.S. attorneys, working closely with Iraq's judicial leadership, developed a program to send traveling judges to the most dangerous locations in Iraq to try terrorism cases. This program resulted in the first terror suspects being brought to justice outside of Baghdad, and significantly improved the legitimacy of the Iraqi government outside the capital. At the same time, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and the U.S. Marshals stood up a Major Crimes Task Force in Baghdad. This task force partners U.S. federal agents with Iraqi officials in an effort to provide Iraqi investigators with the skills needed to investigate terrorism and other major crimes.

Department of Transportation

Aviation sector. Through projects, training, and technical assistance, the Department of Transportation has helped Iraq develop its air routes and assume control of its airspace for flight levels over 24,000 feet. As Iraq prepares to assume control of all of its airspace, the Department of Transportation is helping Iraq prepare to fully meet international standards. Aviation sector improvements have made it possible for major airlines to initiate service to Iraq, including Royal Jordanian, Lufthansa, Austrian Air, Turkish Airlines, Etihad, Middle East, and Gulf Air.

Ports. The Department of Transportation has helped Iraq significantly improve the capacity of the country's principal port at Umm Qasr. Due to successive military conflicts, capacity at the port had declined significantly. The main channels were silted and littered with war debris. In addition, the port's administrative capabilities were limited, its infrastructure needed rehabilitation and assistance, and insurgent elements controlled and profited from port activities. Today, the port at Umm Qasr is functioning at 45 percent of capacity and is currently receiving over 100 vessels per month. Throughput is over 350,000 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit, a measure of cargo container capacity) per year. Port infrastructure, including cranes, and rail lines and road connections, have been rehabilitated. A number of sunken vessels have been removed from the waterway and the port authority is working to control silting. The port authority has also issued

commercial contracts for a number of berths. The Department of Transportation is now helping Iraqi officials to meet international security standards.

Railroad. The Department of Transportation works closely with the Iraqi Republic Railroad (IRR) to improve passenger service, implement an advanced train control system, and increase freight and passenger lines in operation. Additionally, with the support of the Department of Transportation, a new passenger traffic line has been opened from Iraq to Turkey through Syria, forging the way for a rail connection from the port of Umm Qasr to Europe.

Department of the Treasury

Engagement with International Financial Institutions. The Department of Treasury has been actively engaged in the negotiation and implementation of Iraq's stand-by programs with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an effort to support the maintenance of a stable macroeconomic environment in Iraq. This year, the Department of Treasury encouraged Iraq and the IMF to agree to a third multi-billion dollar program. The Department of Treasury has also been instrumental in helping Iraq increase its engagement with the World Bank to promote financial sector development and improvements in Iraq's social safety net, working closely with the Iraqi government to facilitate the negotiation of the World Bank's Development Policy Loan to Iraq, which was approved in spring 2010.

Debt Relief. In support of Iraq's reintegration with international financial markets, the Department of Treasury has worked closely with Iraq's creditors to facilitate a write off of more than \$65 billion in Saddam-era debt. Reducing this debt is an important step towards cleaning up the Iraqi balance sheet by getting rid of Saddam-era liabilities. This effort helped Iraq reduce its external debt burden from over 350 percent of GDP to about 140 percent in 2009. Debt relief efforts are ongoing with Iraq's remaining creditors, which include Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Designing and Executing a Sound Iraqi Budget. Technical advisors from the Department of Treasury have worked closely with Iraqi ministries including the Ministry of Finance and Planning to help Iraq formulate appropriate budgets and execute funds efficiently on priority reconstruction and security tasks. Iraq's spending on reconstruction has risen from \$1.2 billion in 2005 to almost \$7 billion in 2009, and Iraq's spending on security has risen from \$2.1 billion in 2005 to almost \$8 billion in 2009.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Youth Initiatives. In August 2010, USAID and the Iraqi Minister of Trade launched a new program called the Iraqi Youth Initiatives (IYI). IYI is now open in eight Iraqi provinces providing business skills training, apprenticeships and microfinance loans. The program is projected to benefit over 5,000 deserving Iraqi youths between the ages of 18 and 35 and create approximately 2,500 full-time jobs.

Providing Access to Credit. USAID helped establish nine Iraqi-owned microfinance institutions (MFIs) and provided financial support to three international MFIs operating in all 18 provinces. Since 2004, these MFIs have distributed more than 178,400 loans worth \$410 million with a repayment rate of 98 percent.

Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other Vulnerable Populations: Since 2003, USAID has contributed \$396 million for humanitarian aid in Iraq. USAID assistance is provided to the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs, returnees, religious minorities, orphans, the disabled, and widows. This assistance has reached close to one million people and includes emergency relief items, rehabilitation of shelter, primary healthcare, improved water and sanitation, and income generation activities. In addition, USAID has provided assistance to the Iraqi government to build its capacity to assist returnees and IDPs and coordinate humanitarian response efforts.

Incentivizing Private Bank Lending: USAID helped to establish the Iraqi Company for Bank Guarantees (ICBG), which incentivizes private bank lending to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) through loan guarantees insured by 16 Iraqi banks. The ICBG also provides assistance to private banks by training them in alternative lending instruments. The ICBG has disbursed 1,316 loan guarantees totaling \$19 million.

United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

Aviation Sector Orientation Visit. In February 2010, USTDA brought a delegation of Iraqi aviation officials, led by the Minister of Transportation, to Washington, D.C., New Orleans, and Oklahoma City to meet with senior U.S. transportation officials and industry representatives. The visit was an opportunity for the Iraqi delegates to speak with their American public sector counterparts about U.S. best practices and systems that could be of benefit as Iraq upgrades its aviation and ports infrastructure. The delegates met with a range of American technology, equipment and services providers in order to identify opportunities for new commercial engagements.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Electrical Power 2010 Conference. Delegates from Iraq's Ministry of Electricity, the Kurdish Regional Government Ministry of Electricity, and the Iraqi private sector traveled to Cairo in spring 2010 to participate in an international conference that showcased electricity sector projects to encourage regional and international collaboration. More than 275 participants in the conference, including 60 representatives of 40 U.S. companies such as GE Energy and Honeywell.

Oil and Gas Sector Technical Support. From 2004-2007, USTDA funded a multifaceted training program for the Iraqi Ministry of Oil in the areas of management, technical/engineering, and human resources. USTDA has also hosted Iraqi government officials at power facilities in the United States to teach them about best practices in the power sector.