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May 21, 2004

TO: General Myers

CC: Paul Wolfowitz

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld



SUBJECT: Force Estimate for Iraq

Questions have been raised about whether US, Coalition and Iraqi force levels in Iraq are adequate. This issue has been raised by some Members of Congress and some retired generals. Most recently, I received a memorandum from Ambassador Bremer asking that the issue be reviewed. This is, of course, an issue that you and I have been reviewing continuously with General Abizaid and the Chiefs as circumstances have evolved.

In light of the new and emerging conditions, it would be useful to develop a current, careful assessment of this question, so that all risks can be properly weighed.

If possible, please get back to me by May 27 with an initial military estimate, based on work with General Abizaid and the Joint Chiefs, of force levels appropriate to accomplish the mission in Iraq, to include the following considerations:

- Respond effectively to violence at the current level and possible alternative levels;
- Provide protection for lines of communication and critical infrastructure;
- Provide force protection for CPA/Mission and selected UN and Iraqi civil officials, as appropriate; and
- Provide support for accelerated training and equipping of Iraqi security forces, if appropriate.

Issues to consider include:

- Availability of forces estimated;
- Sustainability of level of effort estimated that may be required;



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- Evaluation of any risks in other theaters if the forces estimated were committed;
- Impact on rebalancing the force and the Army transformation; and
- Additional roles Iraqi forces might play if their resources were once again increased.

Please provide your assessment in brigade-level increments.

In addition, please provide a separate assessment of the possible force requirements at the end of this year that might be appropriate to provide security for the planned elections. Include an assessment of:

- Iraqi security forces planned to be available at the end of this year and their capability;
- What capabilities international forces might provide, based on a realistic evaluation of their ROEs and performances to date;
- What role new Coalition partners, including Turkey, Pakistan, and others might play, if that proves possible; and
- What security support Peshmerga, Badr Corps, or other existing Iraqi militia might provide for a temporary period.

Please include any other considerations that you, General Abizaid and/or the Chiefs may feel are appropriate.

Thanks.

DHR:dh
May 04/Force Estimate

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Certified As Unclassified
January 9 2009
IAW EO 12958, as amended
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

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April 25, 2007
CH, WHS R & D Div