

January 4, 2005

TO: Gen Pete Pace
 CC: Gen Dick Myers
 FROM: Donald Rumsfeld
 SUBJECT: Views from Generals

I know John Abizaid and George Casey periodically hold Commanders' Conferences. If you agree it would be worthwhile, please ask them to discuss the below-listed questions with their generals and senior colonels and provide some feedback to us. I don't need to know names, but it would be helpful for me to have a sense of what the commanders at various levels think on these issues. Please include minority opinions and their reasoning.

For example, I would be interested in knowing whether or not they believe the US and the coalition:

1. Are doing about the right things overall, and with about the right number of troops in their respective areas of operation (*specify their AORs*).
2. Need more troops and, if so, where and for what purposes.
3. Would be better off with fewer US troops (*where*) and doing less of *what* types of activities.
4. Would be better off with the same (larger or smaller) number of troops, but refocusing coalition efforts to put *X % (i.e., 10%? 50? 90%?)* of our forces on the tasks of organizing, training, equipping, and mentoring Iraqi Security forces.
5. Should cut back dramatically on US-only patrols and focus most of their efforts on joint patrols and/or mentoring Iraqi Security forces.
6. Put more coalition forces Iraq's borders (with Syria? Iran? and/or on Baghdad? Mosul? other?), but remain available to conduct raids throughout the country as required.
7. Should establish a larger presence in the relatively secure North and South, and less coalition presence in the Sunni Triangle
8. Other.

Thanks.

DHR:dh
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Please respond by _____