



## **US Department of Defense**

### **Talking Points - US Troop Levels in Iraq – Oct. 20, 2003**

#### **America's Goals in Iraq**

Improve security by hunting terrorists.

Expand the international Coalition.

Transfer power and accountability to the Iraqi people.

- The decision on the number of troops needed in Iraq will be event driven, not decided by a timeline.
  - Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said in an interview that reports of a Department of Defense plan to cut 50,000 troops are not true.
- Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, along with the Coalition Provisional Authority is responsible for planning and recommending troop levels.
  - The Joint Chiefs also constantly monitor and discuss troop levels.
  - A major estimate of the number of troops needed in Iraq in 2004 will come in December.
- One factor affecting troop levels is the participation of the Iraqi people in protecting their own nation. The Coalition is making great progress in transferring power and accountability to the Iraqi people by training and equipping Iraqis to protect themselves.
  - More than 70,000 Iraqis are now helping secure Iraq as part of the new Iraqi army, and the various police and guard forces.
  - These forces are taking over much of the security work.
- Training Iraqis in security function benefits the United States and the Coalition in several ways:
  - Iraqis will be effective – they know the language, customs and territory best.
  - As Iraqis take over more security, they can conduct searches, man checkpoints and guard installations.
  - The more Iraqis that can provide basic security, the more U.S. and Coalition forces can conduct sophisticated offensive operations against regime loyalists, for which they are best suited and well trained.
  - The faster Iraqi forces are trained and on the job, the sooner U.S. and Coalition forces can be relieved of these duties and come home.
- The Coalition is also working to increase the number of international forces assisting in Iraq, which affects the number of U.S. forces in Iraq.
  - Currently there are 23,000 international soldiers in two multinational divisions in Iraq.
  - One division is being led by the United Kingdom.
  - A second division is being led by Poland.

#### **Progress in Iraq**

- A clean-up campaign in Al Hillal focused on repairs, road maintenance and the city's environment will create 600 new jobs and benefit 95,000 inhabitants.
- In Kirkuk, more than 6,600 tons of domestic and industrial solid waste has been removed.
- The first month of work on the Rustimiyah Wastewater Treatment plant in Baghdad is being completed ahead of schedule. The plant serves approximately 3.5 million people.

## **The Army Transformation Roadmap**

The Army Transformation Roadmap (ATR) has been published in final draft as of 10 Oct 2003. This Roadmap meets the Transformation Planning Guidance, articulates the Army Transformation Strategy, and informs The Army Plan. One of the key changes from the 2002 document is the change from "Army first" to "Joint first." Army Transformation is described as an explicitly network centric and knowledge-based, incorporating a capabilities-based methodology while highlighting ongoing immediate work on the CSA's 15 focus areas. Terminology used to define our Army has changed to Current and Future Forces. Our focus is on enhancing the capabilities of the Current Force now for use in fighting the Global War on Terrorism, while developing a realistic timeline for transitioning to the Future Force. Lastly, the revised ATR incorporates operational experiences gained over the past two years of fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

## **The Army Chief of Staff's 15 Immediate Focus Areas**

The CSA recently identified 15 immediate focus areas he wanted the Army to assess. The areas are as follows: Soldier; Bench; Network; Modularity; AC/RC Balance; Joint Expeditionary Mindset; Unit Manning; Combat Training Centers/BCTP; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Installations as our Flagship; Current to Future Force; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; and Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability. The overarching theme for the 15 areas is two-fold: improve the soldier and improve the Army's focus on "jointness." Proponents were assigned (the majority being chaired by TRADOC) and Task Forces were assembled for each area. The purpose of these Task Forces is to assess the Army's current status in a respective area, and to develop implementation plans that will focus on an end state of making the Army more relevant to the overall Joint Force. Implementation plans for each of the 15 areas will significantly impact the revision of the Army Transformation Campaign Plan, due out NLT 15 Jan 04. Additionally, one of the major initiatives associated with the Focus Area TF work is the intent to reorganize 3ID, 101AA and associated, selected EAD Brigades into modular organizations. These two division reorganizations will be the prototype to assess the modular design application for reorganizing all Army divisions in the future. The 3ID begins reorganization in Jan 04, and the 101<sup>st</sup> AA follows in Oct 04. The FORSCOM priority is to maintain a combat ready force to meet Combatant Commander requirements.

## **Transformation Campaign Plan**

The Army Transformation Office (ATO) will use the updated Army Transformation Roadmap, The Army Plan, and the implementation plan derived from the 15 Focus Area Task Forces to revise the Army Transformation Campaign Plan. Between submission of the Roadmap to OSD and 15 Jan 04, the ATO will stand up a working group to incorporate Transformation way ahead guidance from the CSA. One of the major questions to be answered is how the 15 Focus Areas will be addressed within the plan. Forces Command will work closely with the ATO working group to ensure that our issues are clearly addressed, and that when revised, our TCP fully supports the Army's. Guidance will be provided to the field as available to ensure that MSC's have sufficient time and information with which to update their supporting campaign plans.