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GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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SIX INSIGHTS -- THE WAR ON TERROR

- The terrorist organizations threatening the U.S. have been intimidated and badly damaged.
- The terrorist threat has morphed and remains a huge danger to the US and our allies.
- Global animosity toward US foreign policy and the Administration is universal, intense, and growing.
- Homeland security has improved immeasurably since 9/11 (not withstanding Katrina).
- Homeland security is grossly under-resourced, lacks congressional support, and remains incoherent.
- The proliferation of WMD nation states and technology remains the principal threat to the American people and our allies.



TOOLS TO SHAPE THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- Diplomacy
- International Development Assistance
- Arms Control
- International Law Enforcement Cooperation
- Nonproliferation Initiatives
- Shaping World Opinion
- Covert Action
- Military Intervention



IRAQ – A DRAMATIC CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

- The appointments of General Dave Petraeus as Joint Commander in Iraq and Ryan Crocker as Ambassador have turned around the Iraq Civil War.
- The morale, fighting effectiveness, and counter-insurgency skills of U.S. combat forces continue to be simply awe-inspiring.
- Secretary Gates and Secretary Rice are effectively repairing foreign and national security policy in the Middle East. Tensions with Iran, Syria, and Turkey are somewhat reduced.
- Political reconciliation talks with the Sunnis show positive response. “Concerned Local Citizen” groups have greatly enhanced security. Most Shia militia forces maintain an uneasy “cease fire” with US and Iraqi forces.
- The Iraqi Army is real, growing, and much more willing to fight. However, they are still not adequately equipped. The Iraqi Police are now the focus of enormous new efforts in training, leadership development, and equipment.
- The Maliki Administration is dysfunctional. Governance is broken. The nation is gripped with fear and distrust. However, the Shia dominated government is now beginning to respond to US pressure to reach out to the Sunnis and Kurds.
- US Special Operations Forces have largely succeeded in defeating the foreign jihadist threat at a tactical level in Baghdad and Anbar Province. AQI has fled to the northwest (Mosul) and is reconstituting.
- U.S. combat forces need to reduce their footprint to get down to twelve combat brigades by December 2008. We are breaking the US Army.
- Iraq cannot sustain economic recovery without enhanced, long-term U.S. budgetary support. Congressional support is lacking.

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AFGHANISTAN IN PERIL

- Afghanistan in six years has moved from a situation of: mindless violence, poverty, and the absence of government -- to a nation with a struggling democratic government; a developing economy; a rapidly growing, disciplined Army; a free press, and active diplomatic and economic ties with its neighbors and the world.
- There is little question that the level of fighting against the Taliban has intensified rapidly in the past year. Fortunately -- we have significantly increased US combat forces in Afghanistan. (Two infantry brigades). NATO now has lead for the entire effort. (37 nations and 40,000 troops -- 22,000 US) Additional US Marine units are now scheduled to deploy to southern Afghanistan to join Brit/Canadian Forces.
- The assumption by NATO of a lead role in supporting the Afghan government is a triumph. However, NATO is seriously under-resourced for the task at hand. The assumption of ISAF command by US General Dan McNeill has dramatically increased our command flexibility.
- Afghanistan is a Narco-state which produced more than 9000 tons of opium in 2007 (95% of the world's opium poppy) -- and is also the world's largest heroin producing and trafficking country. \$4 Billion in criminal money. 900,000 drug users.
- The rapid creation of 50,000 troops for Afghan National Army Forces is an enormous success story. These soldiers are the most disciplined, and effective military force in Afghanistan's history. In general, these troops are very courageous, and aggressive in field operations. The Afghan Army is badly under-resourced. Fortunately -- new resources have been requested.
- The Afghan National Police are vital to establishing order in both urban and rural areas. (60,000 Afghan National Police nominally exist). They are badly equipped, corrupt, poorly led and trained, and lack adequate national police infrastructure. However -- help is on the way in terms of US military and civilian mentors, greatly increased equipment, and substantial new levels of funding.
- We must eradicate the opium crops each growing season -- and massively resource alternative economic development. The Administration has significantly increased their funding for this effort -- with State Dept. INL as the lead.

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PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Protecting America's critical infrastructure and key assets is a formidable challenge. Our open and technologically complex society presents a huge array of targets.
- The macro numbers are enormous: 87,000 communities; 1,800 federal reservoirs; 2,800 power plants and 104 commercial nuclear power plants; 5,000 airports; 120,000 miles of railroads; 590,000 bridges; 2 million miles of pipeline; 80,000 dams.
- 85% of our critical infrastructure is privately held. Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) must be a public-private enterprise. Owner-operators must protect their resources.
- It is impossible to defend everything against every conceivable threat. We must move beyond gates, guards, and guns. We need to design security features into new infrastructure. We need new technology to protect the tunnels, bridges, chemical plants, power stations, transportation hubs, and other potentially high-casualty targets.
- Federal Government support is vital in the transportation sector. Transportation choke points (e.g. critical bridges and tunnels, inter-modal terminals, border crossings, airports, seaports, rail terminals, and highway interchanges) are a particular concern. We must develop a coordinated mechanism for assessing choke-point vulnerabilities and evaluating risk mitigation activities.



LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

- The US economy will continue to do extremely well in the global marketplace – despite the looming US recession caused by: the credit market meltdown, oil price increases, trade balance deficits, tax revenue/expenditure shortfalls, and a grossly weakened US currency.
- US – Japanese economic, military, and political cooperation will grow even more intense.
- Saudi Arabia will continue to modernize, maintain stability, and greatly improve the capabilities of their Armed Forces and internal security.
- Relations with Europe will dramatically improve with the next Administration.
- Political and economic relations with China will continue to remain strong even as the PRC emerges as a major Pacific naval and air force military power.
- Political and economic relations with India are now immeasurably better than pre-9/11.
- The situation in Pakistan is unstable. Our position in Afghanistan would be untenable without Pakistani support.
- US-Russia relations will grow more hostile -- but will avoid dysfunctional military/political/economic confrontation.



LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE (Continued)

- North Korea will come apart. We must facilitate a soft landing for this dangerous regional nuclear power.
- Terrorists will strike at America during the next Administration's first term.
- The crisis in Iraq will stabilize and US forces will largely withdraw in the first 36 months of the next Administration. (34,000 US killed and wounded -- \$10 Billion per month).
- The next five years in Afghanistan will be dangerous. The situation may improve with massive new US resources. Our Allies will not step up to the challenge.
- The death of Castro -- meltdown of repression – 500,000 refugees within 36 months.
- Confrontation with Chavez -- instability and oil. We have no US Latin-America regional foreign policy strategy.
- Iran will go nuclear – instability in the Persian Gulf. The Sunni Arabs will create a nuclear-military coalition.