



Office of the Commanding General  
Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq  
NATO Training Mission – Iraq  
Baghdad, Iraq  
APO AE 09316



15 March 2005

Secretary Michael Chertoff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

*SM* I wanted to thank you for the Department of Homeland Security's contribution to the training and mentoring of Iraqi border security forces. Under the leadership of your Country Director in Baghdad, Doug Melvin, DHS has been truly instrumental in developing a highly successful and positive program that has received overwhelming praise and appreciation from both the Iraqi government and the senior Coalition leadership. The DHS contribution has become a critical component in improving the effectiveness of Iraqi customs, immigration, and border patrol forces. As a result, DHS has been recognized by all stakeholders for greatly improving the security of Iraq's Ports of Entry. It is with the utmost importance that I ask for the continued support the DHS mission in Iraq. In particular, the immediate deployment of the five remaining DHS Border Support Teams – whose predecessors have already proven their immense worth in Iraq – will, at a critical juncture, reinforce the recent gains made by increasingly capable Iraqi Security Forces and their Coalition partners.

I would also like to highlight the efforts and accomplishments the DHS team has made in working with other government agencies on programs that not only benefit the Iraqi government, but also have significant benefit to the US global war on terrorism. Specifically, frontline information on terrorists and other persons of interest in Iraq will soon be made accessible to U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The interagency coordination of your forward-deployed agents is obviously producing significant security benefits that reinforce the homeland security mission of DHS.

Finally, I wanted to express my personal appreciation for the significant contributions of Doug Melvin. Over the past 10 months, he has done a truly magnificent job in developing effective, adaptable programs that have greatly enhanced the security of Iraq's borders, immigration service, customs inspections, critical infrastructure protection, airport security, and emergency response forces. While operating in this austere and complex environment, he has almost single-handedly willed the border enforcement process forward, helped secure Iraq's international airport, and made a lasting impact on Iraqi Ports of Entry. Doug is not only a first-class leader but also a team player who has demonstrated through his commendable performance in the past ten months that he is truly dedicated to helping Iraqis make Iraq more secure. He is a genuine national asset and true credit to DHS, and I hope you'll keep him in Iraq.

*Very respectfully,  
Dave Petraeus*

DAVID H. PETRAEUS  
LTG, USA  
Commanding