



MULTI-NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-IRAQ
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09316

Tom Murphy

August 15, 2004

Secretary Tom Ridge
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I wanted you to know that SES Doug Melvin, Country Team Director for the Department of Homeland Security here in Baghdad, has done a magnificent job in developing the way ahead for Iraq's border control, immigration, customs, critical infrastructure security, and emergency response forces. Although he arrived only two months ago, he has already traveled widely in the country and has been a central figure in pulling together many disparate efforts. Almost single-handedly, he has willed the border enforcement process forward.

While working with the border enforcement working group, Doug has met numerous times with the senior officials of the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) to discuss their functions and organization, ensure close coordination between DBE personnel and coalition efforts on the borders, and identify prospective problem areas. His skillful negotiation is already helping to resolve some of the issues of jurisdiction at Iraq's air and sea Ports of Entry (POEs). He is also working closely with the Minister of Transportation to revamp security at Iraq's airports and develop training programs for the Ministry's personnel.

In the past month, Doug has developed the Iraqi Border Enforcement Training and Mentoring Program. The concept was briefed and received enthusiastic support from the Iraqi Government and one of my elements, the Coalition Police Assistance Training Team (CPATT), which is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping all Iraqi police and border enforcement personnel. Thanks to his efforts and initiative, 22 DHS customs, immigration, and border patrol experts are already writing lesson plans for four-week courses on customs, immigration, and border patrol procedures. These DHS personnel will arrive in Jordan in late August and will begin teaching classes to future Iraqi DBE employees in early September; the students will be the first Iraqis who will be professionally trained on border enforcement. Doug has also arranged for an additional 26 DHS personnel to come to Iraq in September to mentor other DBE employees in the Multi-National Division areas of operations.

In conjunction with the training programs, Doug has developed proposals for specific technology required at the border forts and other POEs based on an in-depth analysis and detailed understanding of the threat and infrastructure. As part of this effort, Doug has coordinated the employment of the soon-to-arrive PISCES system in a working group he personally organized between CENTCOM representatives, OGA, and the Joint Inter-Agency Coordination Group (JIACG). As a result of his efforts, the PISCES system will be in place at select locations by mid-October; had it not been for his strong and well-informed insights, the program's implementation would have languished.

Doug is not only a first-class leader but also a team player who has demonstrated through his commendable performance in the past six weeks that he is truly dedicated to helping Iraqis make Iraq more secure. His capabilities and dedication to this end identify him as a genuine national asset and a true credit to DHS.

Very respectfully,

David H. Petraeus

DAVID H. PETRAEUS

LTG, USA

Commanding