Commander's Conference (Luncheon)
10 Feb 07

Change of MNF-I Mission/Evolution of the Situation:
- Modification of priorities
- Level of violence invalidates strategy, in particular sectarian violence after Al Askari Mosque bombing
- Security is a prerequisite for the way ahead
- Transition still important, but must protect the population, particularly in Baghdad
- Maliki is our guy; time is right to move forward -- both U.S. and Iraqi governments understand this is the last chance

Increase in MNF-I Forces:
- 5 BCTs, plus 4K Marines (must hold CENTCOM to this)
- Not about plus-up, but about how we are using the forces

TTP for Population Security:
- Must position forces in the neighborhoods
- JSSs, combat outposts, patrol bases

Embrace Iraqi Units:
- Execute linked arms with Iraqi forces

Unity of Effort with ISF:
- Co-locate HQs, exchange liaison officers, shoved SA, etc.

Information Operations:
- React to insurgent/terrorist propaganda
- Got Iraqis doing the right things in front of the camera

Escalation of Force:
- Don't let subordinate commanders modify the ROE
- Shape the situation so as not to put our soldiers in questionable situations
- MNC-I modifying investigation policy

Importance of Continuity:
- Key leaders must remain for extended periods to maintain relationships with Iraqis
- Do not allow SA to drop off in transitions
- Intel analysis in particular have a hard time in transition; must keep experienced team in Iraq

Discussion:
- Must be able to manage relationships with Iraqis; Iraqis must lead when possible, but if we don't get a grip on the violence, then it doesn't matter who is in charge. Maliki understands this now
SECRET

We will stand behind our soldiers and their decisions on the battlefield.

1. We must improve our local engagement and local efforts. We cannot rely on the IGs to do the heavy lifting in the field.
2. We must improve our intelligence and surveillance efforts.
3. We must improve our logistics and supply chain.
4. We must improve our communication and coordination efforts.

The combination of these efforts will allow Iraqis in all aspects of fighting to succeed.

Over time, Iraqis will grow and develop their communities, build institutions, and take control of neighborhoods.

Some of the key elements include:

- Community-led initiatives
- Local governance structures
- Civil society organizations

We have a responsibility to support these efforts and provide the necessary resources.

We must continue to engage with our partners and coordinate our efforts.