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# **IRAQ SURVEY GROUP**



## **STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD**

**OCTOBER 2004**

**Brigadier General Joseph J. McMnamin, U.S. Marine Corps**

**Commander**

**Iraq Survey Group**

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BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH J. MCMENAMIN, U.S. MARINE CORPS

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to meet with the Committee today. It is a pleasure to speak with all of you today about the efforts of the great American, Australian and British members of the Iraq Survey Group, or ISG.

I have been in position since June of this year when I replaced Major General Keith Dayton. During these months, the Iraq Survey Group has remained focused on searching for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and associated WMD programs, supporting the effort to defeat the insurgency in Iraq and pursuing any additional leads concerning the fate of US Navy Captain Michael Scott Speicher. In addition, the ISG has been supporting the Regime Crimes Liaison Office in its efforts to assist the Iraqi Special Tribunal.

As the Special Advisor to the DCI on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs, Mr. Duelfer will discuss the ISG's substantive findings, which are treated in detail in his Comprehensive Report. My job has been to lead the military and civilian personnel who implement his collection and analytical guidance in a bid to uncover the truth about Iraqi WMD. I am also personally responsible for a wide range of other mission areas outside of Mr. Duelfer's responsibilities, as well as the safety and security of ISG personnel throughout Iraq and all personnel living at Camp Slayer.

Since Major General Dayton left three things have changed that bear on the mission of the Iraq Survey Group. First, the *U.S.* transferred sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government on 28 June 2004. While we did not anticipate any major changes to our operating procedures, we did carefully consider the conduct of post-transfer missions and have worked to incorporate coalition combat units and the Iraqi Police Service wherever possible and practical. Second, United States

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Central Command transferred Operational Control of the ISG to Multi-National Force Iraq. This shift was undertaken in conjunction with the transfer of sovereignty and occurred when all forces in Iraq were placed under the command of the Commanding General, MNF-I. Third, there has been increasing violence by former regime elements, foreign fighters, and common criminals seeking to undermine and discredit the new government.

The ISG currently consists of approximately 1750 people, including personnel from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, of whom approximately 750 work in Iraq. Except for a handful of logistics personnel in Kuwait, the remaining 1,000 personnel work in Qatar. We employ over 770 linguists from a wide variety of Arabic speaking countries at our Qatar and Iraq locations. The United States contingent continues to represent a strong multi-disciplinary, interagency team with participation from the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, all the armed services (to include active, guard and reserve components), and the Departments of Justice, Treasury, and Energy. We expect *our* manning in Qatar to remain constant, but anticipate that *our* numbers in Iraq will decrease as we identify post Comprehensive Report requirements.

The Iraq Survey Group is still based out of Camp Slayer, Iraq, near the Baghdad International Airport. We continue to conduct debriefings of the High Value Detainees at Camp Cropper. Initially, there was some confusion as to our ability to continue debriefings after the assumption of sovereignty by Iraqi authorities. We quickly determined, however, that we could conduct the debriefings under UNSCR 1546 and the letters annexed to the resolution. The only detainees we cannot interview are those who have been charged with crimes by the Interim Iraqi Government. Our expertise with the HVDs has been invaluable to the Regime Crimes Liaison Office and its support of the Iraqi Special Tribunal. We maintain a very good relationship with

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MNF-I's Detainee Operations and the Military Police assigned at Camp Cropper. This relationship is an example of unity of effort by several commands for a single purpose.

The ISG continues to operate the Combined Media Processing Center-Main (CMPC-M) at Camp As Saliyah in Qatar. We also operate Combined Media Processing Center-Baghdad (CMPC-B) with three satellite locations. The numbers of personnel in Qatar have risen and we now have hundreds of linguists, analysts and administrators working to triage, gist, and load the documents and other media into national databases. We completed scanning the bulk of the initial captured material during June, but we have recently acquired a large amount of additional material from various locations that needs to be triaged and scanned. Our document exploitation effort also supports the work of the Iraqi Special Tribunal through the Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO) and the US Department of Justice has established a cell located within our Qatar operation to support the prosecution of regime officials. The Department of Justice provides funding for all RCLO and DOJ support, no intelligence funds are used to support these law enforcement activities. To date 91 % of the material translated or gisted has related to the search for WMD, principally in the areas of procurement and delivery systems. We have loaded close to 150,000 files into the Harmony database, each of which consists of the original scanned document, the meta-file describing the document, and a gist or full translation.

Our location at Camp Slayer is the hub for conducting ISG operations, analyzing the information gathered and providing command and control for the Iraq Survey Group. While our structure continues to evolve, we continue to maintain the organization of functional teams that conduct analysis and identify requirements for the collectors. Once a requirement is identified, an Operational Planning Team is formed from internal and, as required, external units. A task organized team with supporting units is built around analysts and subject matter experts, interrogators/debriefers, linguists, document exploiters, a chemical exploitation team and a Mobile

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Collection Team Commander. NOA provides mapping support and NSA provides target coverage. These task organized teams are led by and composed of coalition members and U.S. intelligence organizations.

While Mr. Duelfer will address the ISO's substantive findings, let me provide some information on the scope of work that went into supporting the writing of the report as of 24 September. In recent months the ISO has:

- Executed 2,700 Missions
- Visited 1,200 different WMD Sites (Some more than once)
- Published 4,000 Intelligence Information Reports
- Conducted 4,100 Debriefings
- Scanned and Processed over 40 Million Pages of Documents
- Processed 28,000 Digital Media Sources
- Processed over 4 Million Analog Media Sources

ISG was given commander's guidance from MNF -I in two areas related to counterterrorism. The first was to assist in the defeat of Former Regime Elements. The second part of the commander's guidance was to assist in preventing a strategic surprise from Anti-Iraqi Forces using WMD. Through 21 September, ISO has published 680 intelligence reports supporting the counterterrorism/counterinsurgency mission. To reduce the chance of former regime scientists from linking with Anti-Iraqi Forces we developed contacts with the Iraq Ministry of Science and Technology and continue to work with the American Embassy on the scientist redirection program.

The Speicher team exhausted all in-country leads regarding the fate of Captain Speicher and departed the ISO in May. No new leads have been developed since their departure. All data previously collected with regard to the status of Captain Speicher is with DIA which is in the process of writing an update report. As stated during previous testimony on this topic, the ISG will immediately pursue any new leads or data generated in Iraq on the status of Captain Speicher.

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In the area of security, we continue to make improvements in force protection measures to protect our people, whether they are on the road or in garrison. Although Camp Slayer has been attacked by both mortars and rockets, thankfully there have not been any casualties. I can't say enough about the support of the fine soldiers of the Pennsylvania and Kansas Army National Guardsmen and Reserve Component on whom I rely on heavily for force protection, escort missions and supporting camp operations.

There continue to be many challenges facing the Iraq Survey Group. We are currently developing a collection plan to gather information on the intelligence gaps identified in the Comprehensive Report. We will need to reevaluate the work load and processing time it will take to triage, scan, and gist the additional documents recently turned over to the ISG. We will need to balance our work load to ensure that MNF-I is supported during the crucial periods between now and the Iraqi elections. Both the Iraqi government and MNF-I are focused on protection of key leaders and infrastructure, census taking, elections, rebuilding, and a rising level of violence that the Iraqi government needs to counter by establishing and training effective security forces.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to speak to the Committee today. The dedication and enthusiasm of all members of the team have ensured that the search for the truth about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has been carried out thoroughly and in a professional manner. I will finish this statement by thanking all of you for your support for what we have undertaken in the Iraq Survey Group and the continuing support you provide to the Americans, Australians and British, both military and civilian, who risk their lives daily in this endeavor.