



## **FIVE YEARS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

### ***NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRESS UNDER REPUBLICAN STEWARDSHIP***

**September 7, 2006**

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During the five years since the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks on America, Congressional Republicans have taken bold strides to protect American citizens from future terrorist attacks and support our military men and women who are bravely fighting the Global War on Terror.

Specifically, Congressional Republicans have:

- ❖ Strengthened National Defense;
- ❖ Helped Our Troops Succeed in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- ❖ Increased Benefits for Our Men and Women in Uniform;
- ❖ Protected our Troops with State-of-the-Art Body Armor and Equipment; and,
- ❖ Streamlined Bureaucratic Red Tape to Ensure Our Service Members Have All That Is Necessary to Complete Their Missions.

### **STRENGTHENING OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE**

Congressional Republicans recognized that relying on the obsolete Cold War paradigm essentially unchanged during the Clinton Administration left us unprepared to confront 21<sup>st</sup> Century threats, including the waging of the Global War on Terror. Consequently, since 2001 Congressional Republicans have launched an aggressive strategy of:

- ❖ Increasing funding for necessary and state-of-the-art equipment;
- ❖ Modernizing acquisition and procurement programs;
- ❖ Enhancing quality of life for service members and their families; and,
- ❖ Steadily increasing the pay and benefits of the men and women who serve our nation.

**Focus on New Types of Asymmetric Threats.** Congressional Republicans and the Bush Administration have focused on the new types of asymmetric threats we face today and accordingly, have focused on

maintaining a high level of military readiness, the development of new weapon systems to ensure U.S. battlefield superiority, and the continued support of our service members and their families.

**Increased Defense Spending.** President Bush and Congressional Republicans have increased defense spending by more than \$111 billion — from \$310 billion in FY 2001, the first year of Republican control of both White House and Congress, to \$421 billion in FY 2006.

- ❖ According to the Congressional Budget Office, total defense spending has increased 61.3 percent since President Bush took office.

**Real Progress in Missile Defense.** Missile Defense is an important tool in our arsenal to counter rogue regimes like North Korea and Iran who want to join the nuclear club and seem undeterred by the threat of massive retaliation. Even though North Korea's recent launch of a long-range missile, supposedly capable of reaching the United States, was unsuccessful, Kim Jong Il's message to the West came through loud and clear: America's need for a system of missile defense is unequivocal.

- ❖ **Successful Missile Defense Tests.** In only four years since the President pulled the U.S. out of the obsolete ABM treaty, we have already developed the capacity to deter some missile strikes.
  - **Seven out of eight Aegis intercept tests have been successful** over the last three years—successfully stopping their targets, including the most recent test in late June.
  - **Successful Ground-based Interceptor Test last week.** On September 1, a missile launched from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base intercepted a dummy warhead from a target missile launched from Kodiak, Alaska, in a successful test of the ground-based defense system.
- ❖ **Ensuring Missile Defense Program goes Farther, Faster.** Republicans have supported putting adequate funding to keep missile defense moving forward:
  - Providing \$20 billion to fund the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Interceptor System;
  - Increasing by \$40 million the Navy's Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense program; and,
  - Providing \$140 million for procurement and upgrades of additional Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles.

## AMERICAN TROOPS SUPPORTING US: REAL PROGRESS IN IRAQ

In one of the key steps toward standing up Iraq's security forces, which will ultimately allow American forces to stand down, Iraq's Prime Minister took operational control of some Iraqi Forces on September 7.

**Iraqi Government Taking Control of Armed Forces: "Huge, Significant Event."** For the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, the Iraqi prime minister, through the Iraqi minister of defense, took operational control of Iraqi ground forces command structure and the country's air forces and navy.

- ❖ **According to Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, Multinational Force Iraq spokesman, this "huge, significant event" is "the one event that puts the prime minister directly in the operational control of his military forces as his role as the commander in chief."** Iraqi

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki took control of the air force, navy and one army division—the 8<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division.

- ❖ According to Caldwell, Maliki will decide how quickly he assumes control over more divisions, although Caldwell said the prime minister will probably take control of about two divisions a month. The chain of command will now run from Maliki, through the minister of defense and the joint force headquarters, to the Iraqi ground forces command headquarters, down to the division and the individual soldier, Caldwell said.
- ❖ **“This event, again, continues to show the progress as we move forward with the Iraqi army’s capabilities,” Caldwell said.** (Sept. 7, 2006, American Forces Press Service)

**Iraqis Overwhelmingly Reject Religious or Ethnic Breakup of Iraq.** “Iraqis overwhelmingly reject a breakup of their country along religious or ethnic lines,” according to an article published in the *Washington Times*, July 19, 2006, “and see some hope for progress with the formation of the new unity government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to a nationwide poll being released today.”

*Other excerpts from the article include:*

- ❖ The mid-June survey of nearly 3,000 Iraqis, conducted for the Washington-based International Republican Institute (IRI), found that **78 percent of Iraqis either disagree or “strongly disagree” with the idea of segregating the country by religious or ethnic sect.** Large majorities in both Sunni and Shi’ite Arab regions of the country rejected the idea, while reaction was more mixed in the Kurdish-dominated north.
- ❖ **About 55 percent of Iraqis approved of the job Mr. al-Maliki had done in his first month,** compared with 20 percent who disapproved and an additional 25 percent who had no opinion or declined to answer.
- ❖ The polling was conducted immediately after Mr. al-Maliki announced a major security crackdown but before the latest wave of ethnic violence, which included more than 100 people killed in the past two days.
- ❖ Of those polled, **89 percent said the formation of a national government** including the country’s main ethnic and religious communities was **“extremely important to the future peace and stability of Iraq.”** “The polls show the security and economic situations remain dire, but even so, there is a lot of hope among ordinary Iraqis about the future,” said IRI Executive Vice President Judy Van Rest. “Through everything that’s gone on, there’s a strong feeling that the country should stay together.” The formation of the unity government in May, after lengthy political horse-trading, and the June 7 killing of al Qaeda leader Abu Musab Zarqawi appear to have boosted public confidence, despite the daily toll of violence.
- ❖ **By a 41 percent to 35 percent margin, Iraqis said they thought the country was “headed in the right direction”**—a reversal from a survey in late March.
- ❖ At that time, a record-high 52 percent said the country was headed in the wrong direction compared with 35 percent who said it was going in the right direction.

**The New York Times also reports progress in multiple sectors:**

- ❖ **Progress in Schools.** As reported in the *New York Times*, June 26, “Enrollment in Iraqi schools has risen every year since the American invasion, according to Iraqi government figures, reversing more than a decade of declines and offering evidence of increased prosperity for some Iraqis.” The article goes on to say that “while some parents have held their children out of school at times because of safety concerns, especially in parts of Baghdad, direct attacks on schools have been relatively rare, allowing the school year to continue without major interruption in some parts of the country.”

- ❖ **Rising Numbers of Students.** The largest change among Iraq’s approximately five million schoolchildren was in secondary schools and high schools, the equivalent of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Iraq, where **numbers of enrolled students rose to 1.4 million in 2005 from 1.1 million in 2002.** Primary school enrollment rose to 3.7 million from 3.5 million. The numbers do not include the students in the northern Kurdish region, which is administratively separate.” “High school enrollment increased more for girls than for boys, while boys made bigger gains in primary school — in Iraq, first grade through sixth grade.”
- ❖ **Iraqi School System Degraded Significantly Under Saddam.** The article continues: “By 2000, only 33 percent of all high-school-aged Iraqis were enrolled in school, compared with 75 percent in Jordan, according to Unesco figures published in a 2004 report by the Ministry of Education. The overall enrollment rate appears to have risen since then, according to the best estimates available. Unicef estimated that in 2004 about 50 percent of all school-age Iraqi boys and 35 percent of school-age girls were enrolled.”
- ❖ **Iraqi Schools Experiencing Swelling Attendance Now.** The New York Times article goes on to say: “Teachers and administrators interviewed in four Iraqi cities said their classrooms were more full than they had ever been—a continuation of a pattern they began to see just months after the American invasion in 2003, when class sizes began swelling again.” “Fathers can provide food for their families,” said Abdul Zahra al-Yasiri, a teacher in Karbala in southern Iraq. “Kids don’t have to work to help their parents anymore.”
- ❖ **Progress in Oil Sector.** “Income from oil covers more than 90 percent of the Iraqi government’s spending, officials say. American money finances investment and reconstruction projects, but no current costs, like salaries.” (*all above quotes, New York Times, June 26*)

## IN BRIEF: MAJOR RECENT EVENTS IN IRAQ

**Completion of Iraq’s National Unity Government, June 8<sup>th</sup>.** Just three months ago, another key milestone for Iraqis occurred when the Iraqi Council of Representatives overwhelmingly approved nominees for the three remaining ministerial positions in Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s cabinet.

**Naming of Key Ministers.** The defense and interior ministers, who oversee Iraq’s military and security forces, respectively, as well as the minister of national security, are critical to what the Prime Minister has called “an uncompromising agenda to deliver security and services to the Iraqi people.”

**Recent Capture of High-level Al Qaeda in Iraq Leader.** Although the Iraqi Government announced Abu Humam’s capture was announced on September 3, he was actually captured in mid-June, and, according to a Multinational Force Iraq spokesman, he has been yielding valuable intelligence since then. Since his capture near Baquba June 19, Humam has been in the custody of the Iraqi government and has provided intelligence that has led to the capture of 11 mid-level and 9 lower-level Al Qaeda in Iraq members, according to U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell.

- ❖ “[Abu Humam] was the most significant al Qaeda leader captured since the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi,” Caldwell said. “Abu Humam admitted to being a senior leader within the

terrorist organization, particularly in the Saladin region, where he had several terrorist cells reporting directly to him.”

**Death of Zarqawi, June 7th.** In an ironic twist of fate, Jordanian terrorist leader Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi, along with seven of his aides, died June 7, on the eve of the completion of Iraq’s democratically elected government. The man Osama bin Laden called “the prince of al Qaeda in Iraq” arguably had more innocent blood—including that of innocent Muslims—on his hands in the last few years than any other terrorist. Zarqawi led one of the most deadly insurgent groups in Iraq in a bloody campaign of bombings, shootings, beheadings, and kidnappings aimed at killing Iraqi Shi’as to incite sectarian violence and derail democracy in Iraq.

## **SUPPORTING THE HOME FRONT: INCREASING BENEFITS FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM**

Congressional Republicans have actively supported the men and women in our Armed Forces by expanding compensation and support programs and enhancing a wide range of benefits.

**Increased Pay and Incentives.** Since 2001, a Republican Administration and Republican Congress have increased overall pay for service members by 29 percent. With the recently House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2007 that contains a 2.7 percent across-the-board-pay increase, average pay levels have increased 41 percent over the last eight years.

- ❖ According to the Government Accountability Office, the average amount of pay and benefits for each active duty service member was \$112,000 in 2004.
- ❖ In Fiscal Year 2006, Congressional Republicans doubled the enlistment bonuses for active duty and reservists. Re-enlistment bonuses as well as hardship duty pay were also increased.

**Increased Housing, Healthcare and Other Benefits.** Under Republican leadership, Congress increased the Basic Allowance for Housing and reduced out-of-pocket housing expenditures for active duty service members to practically zero. Congressional Republicans have expanded TRICARE benefits and expanded eligibility for active duty, military retirees, reservists and their families.

**Expanded TRICARE benefits.** Congressional Republicans initiated TRICARE for Life, which brought disenfranchised Medicare-eligible military retirees back into the TRICARE system as well as provided them access to the most comprehensive pharmaceutical benefits available today.

- ❖ H.R. 5122, the House-passed FY 2007 NDAA, blocked the Department of Defense’s proposed TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Standard fee increases and zeroed out co-pays for generic and formulary mail order prescriptions for military beneficiaries.

**Improved Housing.** Due to the cuts in defense spending during the Clinton era, military housing on and off base was frequently substandard and dated.

- ❖ Congressional Republicans have:
  - Increased funding for military construction and family housing;
  - Initiated programs to dismantle inadequate housing;
  - Privatized units;
  - Built new housing units; and,

- Increased housing allowances which give service members the ability to purchase housing off base.
- ❖ Since FY 2001, Congressional Republicans have supported the DOD's proposal to eliminate substandard housing units and will complete its goal of total elimination at U.S.-based installations by FY 2007. The elimination of inadequate housing overseas is scheduled to be complete by 2009. H.R. 5122, the House-passed 2007 NDAA recommended \$16.7 billion for military construction and family housing.
- ❖ Since FY 2001, over 24,000 barracks have been built and modernized. In addition, 69,500 sets of living quarters have been privatized through the Residential Communities Initiative to improve family housing.

**Helping Members of the Guard and Reserve.** Congressional Republicans have enhanced benefits for the families of active duty members, National Guardsmen and Reservists. Recognizing the impact of deployments on military families, Republicans have:

- ❖ Sought to minimize the disruption of these deployments;
- ❖ Improve the quality of life for our service members and their families; and,
- ❖ Ensure that those who guard the home front receive ample support and assistance.

**Easing Deployment Strain.** The average age in the military is 28 years, and 55 percent of military personnel are married. The military's extended family now includes 1.23 million children. To ease deployment strain, the services have implemented extensive family counseling and support programs while providing video teleconferencing and e-mail service for those stationed in combat zones.

**Improving Education Benefits.** Congressional Republicans have increased the monthly education benefit by 40 percent for Reservists and members of the National Guard who have been mobilized by waiving the two-year active duty service obligation required as a condition for receiving tuition assistance.

## **PROTECTING OUR TROOPS**

Congressional Republicans have initiated force protection measures to reduce casualties and save lives as well as give our troops a combat edge over a ruthless and adaptive enemy. American warfighters have had to quickly adapt to fighting and surviving in a complex environment where land mines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have become the enemy's weapon of choice.

**Countering Number One Battlefield Threat.** The House-passed NDAA included a take back the roads initiative which provides \$109.7 million for radio signal jamming devices that will prevent the radio-initiation of roadside bombs, including \$69 million to purchase jammers that can be carried by individual personnel.

- ❖ **Countering IEDs.** The initiative also includes \$100 million for at least 10 manned persistent surveillance aircraft to patrol road segments and other areas where IED activity is greatest. With a Fiscal Year 2006 budget of \$3.3 billion, the Joint IED Defeat Task Force has been charged with targeting and eliminating terrorists and bomb-makers; providing our forces specialized training to identify and remove IEDs before they explode; and finally, developing new technologies to defend against IEDs.

**Providing State of the Art Body Armor.** Led by the House Armed Services Committee, Congressional Republicans have worked with the Department of Defense (DOD) since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan to continuously upgrade existing body armor to address emerging threats. In the House-passed 2007 NDAA, **force protection funding was increased by \$364 million, and an additional \$930 million was included for state-of-the-art body armor.**

- ❖ Congressional Republicans have authorized and appropriated over \$1 billion since Fiscal Year 2004 for state-of-the-art body armor and body armor enhancements.
- ❖ Since April 29, 2004, **ALL** military personnel and DOD civilians operating in Iraq and Afghanistan have been issued a complete set of body armor.
- ❖ Since 2001, the Army and Marine Corps have fielded over 1 million outer tactical vests and over 720,000 sets of small arms protective insert (SAPI) plates. These body armor sets consist of one vest and two plates—one for the front of the vest, and one for the back.
- ❖ In 2005, the SAPI plate was upgraded to provide added protection against heavier, stronger rounds of small caliber munitions. The Army and Marine Corps have fielded over 292,000 of these enhanced sets, or ESAPI plates. Current production is averaging an additional 25-30 thousand sets per month.
- ❖ The Army has continuously upgraded armor to include shoulder and torso attachments to better protect against IEDs and small arms fire. In fact, both the Army and the Marine Corps use state-of-the-art body armor which is heavier and built to even higher and more stringent specifications than earlier sets.

**Providing Improved Armored Vehicles.** The House Armed Services Committee has been instrumental in ensuring that the up-armored vehicles and kits are quickly sent to the battlefield. Due to the Committee's diligence, since February 15, 2005, no vehicle has traveled outside a secure area unarmored in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In fact, practically 99% of vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan have some level of armor protection, including National Guard and Reserve equipment as well.

- ❖ Since operations in Iraq and Afghanistan began, Congressional Republicans have authorized and appropriated over \$2 billion for the up-arming of vehicles used in the combat theatre.

## **STREAMLINING BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE THROUGH EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT**

The Republican leadership has worked with the Armed Forces to implement institutional changes that ensure our troops have access to state-of-the-art equipment when and where they need it. This has prompted a complete re-evaluation of equipment and weapons to ensure that our men and women will be adequately supplied and prepared in a new and volatile threat environment.

**Rapid Acquisition Authority.** Congressional Republicans have implemented Rapid Acquisition Authority — a streamlined process that facilitates the acquisition of critical war fighting equipment to ensure that the products don't languish in labs or on supply lines — but rather, are expeditiously sent to the battlefield.

**Energizing Key Suppliers to Produce Critically-needed Jammers.** When improvised explosive devices emerged as the deadliest battlefield threat, Congressional Republicans set aside funding—since it

didn't exist in the Army budget—to develop equipment that would jam radio waves used to trigger makeshift bombs. When the House Armed Services Committee learned that the necessary jammers could take some 12 months to field, the Committee took the case directly to suppliers, who embraced the wartime need to shift from commercial to military production.

- ❖ The result: 10,000 jammers to warfighters in just 70 days.

**Getting Humvee Armor Kits to the Frontline, Fast.** When U.S. Central Command needed more vehicle armor to protect troops, the Army said reinforcement kits would be ready in a year. Congress compared this sluggish estimate with World War II efforts, when industry filled the huge demand for cargo transports, for example, in just over 30 days.

- ❖ The House Armed Services Committee went directly to manufacturers, and explained that the lives of our Soldiers and Marines depended on armor kits which, in turn, depended on their steel production rate. Manufacturers and union leaders quickly rose to the challenge and assured the Committee that they would do whatever was needed to support our troops.
- ❖ With Congressionally-earmarked funds to accelerate the program and a shift in manufacturing priorities, some 7,000 Humvee armor kits went to the field in less than 6 months.

**House Armed Services Committee Communications Office  
Duncan Hunter, Chairman**