

Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing

“An Oversight Hearing on the Planning and Conduct of the War in Iraq”

Witness Biographies

John R.S. Batiste

Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)

General John Batiste recently joined Klein Steel as its president after 31 years of service in the U.S. Army. He retired from active duty on November 1, 2005. General Batiste is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and the Army War College. He also earned a master's degree in financial management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

General Batiste has served in multiple assignments in the Army, including infantry officer, executive officer of the Fort Benning Infantry School, brigade operations officer, plans officer for the NATO Southern Region, assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, and senior military assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. He has served in Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

General Batiste's most recent assignment was as commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division from August 2002 to June 2005. During this timeframe, the “Big Red One” conducted successful peace enforcement operations in Kosovo and combat operations in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. In Iraq, the division was deployed to north-central Iraq from February 2004 until February 2005, and included 22,000 soldiers from active and reserve component units from throughout the United States. General Batiste and his wife Michelle have been married for 29 years and have five children.

Paul D. Eaton

Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)

Major General (Retired) Paul D. Eaton recently retired after more than 33 years of service. His assignments included Infantry command from the company to brigade levels, command of the Infantry Center at Fort Benning, and Chief of Infantry. His most recent operational assignment was Commanding General of the command charged with reestablishing Iraqi Security Forces. Other operational assignments include Somalia, Bosnia and Albania. He is a 1972 graduate of West Point, married to P.J. Eaton and father to one daughter, Gina, and two sons, Shane and Josh, both Soldiers.

Thomas X. Hammes
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

Colonel Thomas X. Hammes was born in American Falls, Idaho. He was commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975. In his thirty years in the Marine Corps, he served at all levels in the operating forces to include command of a rifle company, weapons company, intelligence company, infantry battalion and the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force. He also has served as intelligence officer, fire support coordinator, plans officer, and current operations officers at levels from battalion to Marine Expeditionary Force. He participated in stabilization operations in Somalia and Iraq as well as training insurgents in various places.

Colonel Hammes has attended The Basic School, US Army Infantry Officers Advanced Course, Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Canadian National Defense College. He also spent one year on a Research Fellowship with the Mershon Center for Strategic Studies. His final tour in the Marine Corps was as Senior Military Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University. He has lectured widely at U.S. and International Staff and War Colleges.

Colonel Hammes is currently reading for a Ph.D. at Oxford University. He is the author of *"The Sling and the Stone: On War in the Twenty-First Century."* He has published numerous articles and opinion pieces in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Jane's Defence Weekly*, and professional journals. He has appeared on CNN, ABC, The News Hour, PBS Frontline, All Things Considered, and through numerous other media outlets.