

**Sent:** Thu, 11 Sep 2003 18:32:39 -0400

**From:** "Besanceney, Brian R." </O=EOP/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BRIAN R. BESANCENEY>

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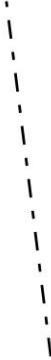
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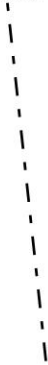
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[09-11 Talking Points.pdf](#)

## Talking Points: Progress in the War on Terror

September 11, 2003

*The memories of September 11th will never leave us. We will not forget the burning towers, and the last phone calls, and the smoke over Arlington. We will not forget the rescuers who ran toward danger, and the passengers who rushed the hijackers. We will not forget the men and women who went to work on a typical day and never came home. We will not forget the death of schoolchildren who were on a school trip....[The] anniversary is a time for remembrance; yet history asked more than memory. The attacks on this nation revealed the intentions of a determined and ruthless enemy that still plots against our people. The forces of global terror cannot be appeased, and they cannot be ignored. They must be hunted, and they will be defeated. – President George W. Bush, September 10, 2003*

### Message of the Week

- President Bush underscored America's commitment to taking necessary action – at home and abroad – to win the War on Terror. As President Bush said yesterday at the FBI Academy, "We will not wait for further attacks on innocent Americans. The best way to protect the American people is to stay on the offensive – both overseas and in our homeland."
- America has made significant progress in securing the homeland since September 11, undertaking the largest transformation of the federal government in 50 years by creating the Department of Homeland Security, strengthening intelligence sharing and analysis, transforming the FBI to make stopping terrorism its top priority, and convicting or securing confessions from more than 140 individuals who aided or supported terrorists.
- We are taking the fight to the terrorists where they live and receive support. President Bush



said, "Iraq is now the central front. Enemies of freedom are making a desperate stand there – and there they must be defeated." Our armed forces in Iraq are on the "front lines of freedom," and, tomorrow, President Bush will visit Fort Benning, Georgia, the home of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, to present the Presidential Unit Citation and to thank them and their families for their courageous service and support in the War on Terror.

- President Bush also outlined the clear strategy for meeting our three major objectives in Iraq: 1) improving security by aggressively hunting down terrorists; 2) expanding the contributions of the international community beyond the 40 countries that have responded and are helping the Iraqi people build security and sovereignty in their nation; and 3) accelerating efforts to transfer power and responsibility to the Iraqi people.

## **Recent Progress in Iraq**

- *Providing Needed Healthcare for the Citizens of Iraq:* The Saddam Hussein regime only spent \$16 million per year to provide health care for 24 million Iraqi citizens. Even these scarce resources were subject to rampant corruption and mismanagement by the Ba'ath Party. The Coalition Provisional Authority will provide \$210 million for health care alone in the last six months of this year – more than 20 times what Saddam spent during a similar period.
- *Food for the Iraqi People:* Through the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States has provided \$431,758,600 in cash and commodities to the World Food Program (WFP) to mobilize and support Iraq's public food distribution system, as well as to implement a safety net for those Iraqis who do not have access to the distribution system.

## **In Case You Missed It**

- "What Iraqis Really Think" by Karl Zinmeister, *Wall Street Journal*, September 10: "Some of us who have spent time recently in Iraq -- I was an embedded reporter during the war -- have been puzzled by the postwar news and media imagery, which is much more negative than what many individuals involved in reconstructing Iraq have been telling us.... Well, finally we have some evidence of where the truth may lie. Working with Zogby International survey researchers, The American Enterprise magazine has conducted the first scientific poll of the Iraqi public.... The results show that the Iraqi public is more sensible, stable and moderate than commonly portrayed, and that Iraq is not so fanatical, or resentful of the US, after all... If the small number of militants conducting sabotage and murder inside the country can gradually be eliminated by American troops (this is already happening), then the mass of citizens living along the Tigris-Euphrates Valley are likely to make reasonably sensible use of their new freedom. "



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