

# PFAVF AD // FACT SHEET

\*UPDATED\*

## ***Progress in the War on Terror***

- Iraq is Taking Control of Its Own Security
  - The Defense Department recently announced plans to cut the number of troops in Iraq by 30,000 as Iraqis take greater responsibility for its own security (*USA Today*, 1/16/06)
  - Iraqi Forces Almost Doubled For December Elections (AP, 12/2/05)
  - Iraqi Government Recently Assumed Control Of Its Own Borders ([www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil), 12/15/05)
- Democracy is Taking Root
  - 11 million people voted with overall turnout at more than 70% (versus about 56% in the US in Nov '04)
  - "The day was strikingly peaceful, even in areas normally beset by violence. ..."
  - Significant numbers of Sunni Muslims, who had prior abstained from voting, participated in the December election

Source: *The New York Times*, 12/16/05
- Life in Iraq is Improving
  - "An estimated 310,000 Iraqi school children are benefiting from the 784 schools renovated and new schools completed to date" by American Soldiers and contractors ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov), 1/11/06)
  - "Per capita income should soon exceed \$1,000 -- nearly double the level in 2003....and more than 30,000 new businesses have been registered." (Robert M. Kimmitt, Op-Ed, "Iraq's Post-Saddam Economy," *The Wall Street Journal*, 12/9/05)

## ***American News Media Under-Reports the "Good News" in Iraq***

- A recent poll showed that by a 2-to-1 margin, more Americans believed that news reports were making the situation in Iraq seem worse than it really is (39%) than better than it really is (19%) (Pew Research Center, 12/14/05)
- "...Mr. Bremer said that the media have failed to convey the chaos in Iraq under Saddam Hussein and how much progress has been made. 'We had lots of good news stories every day, and I couldn't get the press to cover it,' he said." (*The Dallas Morning News*, 1/28/06)
- LTC John M. Kanaley (US Army in Baghdad) wrote of the "February 10th, 2006 press conference announcing the final verification of December's election results. Although the final allocation of parliamentary seats did not change from last month's tentative reports, the conference was nonetheless significant for American and Iraqi history. What was equally significant was the absence of members of the western press... Since they were unable to report a "disastrous" event of this war, apparently, their budgets did not allow for attendance in Baghdad. The true significance of this announcement is the underlying theme which the anti-war crowd refuses to recognize: the war has been successful and there is verifiable progress within the country of Iraq." ([www.RealClearPolitics.com](http://www.RealClearPolitics.com); 2/13/06)

## ***The Troops Support Their Mission***

A recent *Military Times* poll found that:

- Active duty troops "were more upbeat on the war's progress than the public as a whole"
  - 73% said the U.S. was very or somewhat likely to succeed in Iraq
  - 56% said the U.S. should have gone to war in Iraq
- Source: *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 1/6/06

## ***Saddam Hussein's Brutality in Iraq***

- "As Many As 1 Million People [Are] Believed Executed [Under Saddam Hussein's Reign]."
  - "17,000 'Disappeared' Iraqis According To Amnesty International." Human Rights Watch Estimates That Saddam Hussein's Regime Gassed At Least 40 Villages And Killed As Many As 100,000 Kurds.
  - In The Campaign Against Kuwait, Saddam's Troops Employed All Sorts Of Torture, Including Forced Self-Cannibalism.
- Source: "Under Saddam's Sword," *The Hartford Courant*, 6/5/05

## ***Our Enemy In Iraq Is Al Qaeda***

- BRIAN ROSS, ABC NEWS: "Zarqawi is the man known to be the al Qaeda chief inside Iraq who is blamed by the US for many attacks there." Source: ABC News' "Good Morning America," 5/13/04
- "[The] leader of the violent insurgent organization, al Qaeda in Iraq, has sworn to destroy the country's nascent democracy." (*The Washington Post*, 2/13/06)
- "Now you actually have a wedge, or a split, between the Sunni population and al-Qaeda in Iraq,' said Maj. Gen. Richard Zahner, deputy chief of staff for intelligence for multinational forces in Iraq." (*USA Today*, 1/26/06)
- PRESIDENT BUSH: "The outrage even reached the Jordanian town of Zarqa, birthplace of the terrorist Zarqawi, who heads al Qaeda in Iraq and who was the mastermind of the Jordanian bombing." (President's Speech To The National Guard Association, 2/9/06)

## ***Al-Qaeda's Long History of Terrorism***

Terrorist Activities Attributed To The Al Qaeda In The Last Ten Years:

- SAUDI ARABIA June 1996: Bomb at U.S. military base near Dhahran kills 19 soldiers.
- KENYA, TANZANIA Aug. 1998: U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombed, killing more than 250 people, including 12 Americans, and injuring 5,000.
- YEMEN Oct. 2000: Suicide bombing of USS Cole kills 17 U.S. sailors.
- UNITED STATES Sept. 11, 2001: Suicide plane attacks on New York's World Trade Center Pentagon near Washington hijacked plane's crash Pennsylvania almost 3,000 people.
- SPAIN March 11, 2004: 191 people killed, more than 1,800 wounded, in simultaneous explosions in packed trains at three Madrid stations.
- BRITAIN Thursday: (July 7, 2005) Four explosions hit London subway trains and bus.  
Source: "Major Attacks Blamed On Al Qaeda Network And Affiliates," *Detroit Free Press*, 7/8/05