

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 184

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding additional steps to expedite the success of the United States in Iraq, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2005

Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Ms. HARMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding additional steps to expedite the success of the United States in Iraq, and for other purposes.

Whereas the key to the success of the United States mission in Iraq and of the Iraqi nation in the long-term is the development of self-sustaining and operationally capable Iraqi security forces able to provide for the independent security of their country;

Whereas the achievement of this goal will require additional improvements in the quality of the Iraqi security forces, as well as increasing the numbers of such security forces,

and the acceleration of training efforts for such security forces;

Whereas the United States military needs better intelligence regarding the insurgent forces that it is facing in Iraq;

Whereas the embedding of United States military forces in “transition teams” is an effective technique for the training and mentoring of Iraqi security forces;

Whereas the effort to stand-up viable Iraqi security forces able to provide for their own security will still take many months and perhaps years unless there is a substantial infusion of additional resources and trainers as soon as possible;

Whereas the time and difficulty associated with the training of Iraqi security forces to the point where such security forces can sustain themselves and provide security for themselves and their country will require the continued rotation of United States military forces to fight the insurgency in Iraq;

Whereas the United States military, and United States Army in particular, continue to show increasingly dangerous levels of strain as the war in Iraq and the global war on terrorism continue to demand sustained high levels of operational tempo;

Whereas to meet a critical need in the short term, the United States Army has reduced quality standards by enlisting fewer high school graduates, retaining problematic recruits, and relaxing commissioning qualifications for officers;

Whereas these measures by the United States Army raise concern about whether the Army will continue to be as effective in its operations in Iraq as it has been, as well

as about the future ability of the Army to operate in high technology battlefield environments; and

Whereas support by the people of the United States is vital to sustaining the war effort in Iraq, and that support must be reinvigorated if it is to sustain the United States military through current and future operations in Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should deploy additional
4 transition teams to accelerate the training of Iraqi
5 security forces and should backfill those personnel
6 with personnel from other services if needed given
7 the critical nature of this mission;

8 (2) the United States should urge the North
9 Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other
10 international organizations to take a more prominent
11 role in the training of Iraqi security forces as the
12 most direct way to expedite the establishment of
13 Iraq's long-term security;

14 (3) the President and the Secretary of Defense
15 should develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the
16 urgent problems that the United States military, in
17 particular the United States Army, is experiencing
18 as a result of continued high operational tempo; and

1 (4) the President should develop and explain to
2 the people of the United States a strategy for suc-
3 cess in Iraq which includes, at a minimum—

4 (A) a plan to train Iraqi Army and police
5 forces faster and more effectively;

6 (B) identifiable milestones by which
7 progress in the training of Iraqi Army and po-
8 lice forces may be assessed; and

9 (C) a plan providing for the withdrawal of
10 United States military forces from Iraq after
11 the milestones described in subparagraph (B)
12 are achieved and Iraqi security forces are capa-
13 ble of providing for Iraq's security on a self-sus-
14 taining basis.

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