

FACT

OR

FANTASY

*The Administration's
Vision on Progress
in Iraq*

Center for American Progress



MARCH
2005

36 U.S. soldiers killed;
370 wounded¹

200 Iraqi security forces killed²

307 Iraqi civilians killed³

3/01: General John Abizaid, Commander, U.S. Central Command: "...I don't think that they're [the insurgency] growing. I think that they're desperate..."⁴

3/17: General Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: "I came away more positive than I've ever been – I think we're getting some momentum built up against the insurgency."⁵

APRIL
2005

52 U.S. soldiers killed;
595 wounded

199 Iraqi security forces killed

283 Iraqi civilians killed

4/26: Gen. Myers: "I think we are winning. Okay? I think we're definitely winning. I think we've been winning for some time."⁶

4/29: Maj. Gen. William Webster, Jr., Commander, 3rd Infantry Division: "We think the insurgency is weakening over time. Some of these attacks appear to be very spectacular and well-coordinated, but, in fact, are not..."⁷

MAY
2005

80 U.S. soldiers killed;
571 wounded

259 Iraqi security forces killed

653 Iraqi civilians killed

5/13: Colonel Joseph DiSalvo, Commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, US Army: "[T]here's a lot of progress being made. What we're seeing is the terrorists are in desperation."⁸

5/23: Col. DiSalvo: "By the end of the summer, the terrorists will be captured, dead or, in the least, severely disrupted..."⁹

5/30: Vice President Dick Cheney: "[T]he level of activity that we see today, from a military standpoint, I think will clearly decline. I think they're in the last throes, if you will, of the insurgency."¹⁰

JUNE
2005

78 U.S. soldiers killed;
508 wounded

296 Iraqi security forces killed

497 Iraqi civilians killed

6/27: Scott McClellan, White House Press Secretary: "I think we have a clear strategy for success [in Iraq]... and there is great progress being made on the ground... We are succeeding and we will succeed..."¹¹

6/27: Gen. Casey: "Iraq slowly gets better every day... [T]he terrorists and insurgents... will not succeed."¹²

6/28: President Bush: "The progress in the past year [in Iraq] has been significant, and we have a clear path forward."¹³

JULY
2005

54 U.S. soldiers killed;
477 wounded

304 Iraqi security forces killed

625 Iraqi civilians killed

7/21: Assistant Secretary of Defense Peter Rodman: "And the fact that they [the insurgency] have failed with repeated violence to derail or slow down or disrupt the political process is an important indicator of – I think – of their failure."¹⁴

7/27: General George Casey, Commander of the Multinational Forces in Iraq: "Insurgencies need to progress to survive and this insurgency is not progressing. What you're seeing is a change in tactics for more visible attacks against civilians, and that's a no-win strategy for the insurgency."¹⁵

AUGUST
2005

85 U.S. soldiers killed;
537 wounded

282 Iraqi security forces killed

1,494 Iraqi civilians killed

8/03: President Bush: "These terrorists and insurgents... will fail.... We have a strategy for success in Iraq.... As Iraqis stand up, Americans and coalition forces will stand down. And we're making progress. More and more Iraqi units are more and more capable of defending themselves."¹⁶

8/28: President Bush: "As democracy in Iraq takes root, the enemies of freedom, the terrorists, will become more desperate..."¹⁷

SEPTEMBER
2005

49 U.S. soldiers killed;
544 wounded

233 Iraqi security forces killed

710 Iraqi civilians killed

9/15: Major General Rick Lynch, chief military spokesman in Iraq: "We believe we are experiencing great success against the most crucial element of the insurgency, which is the terrorists and the foreign fighters.... Zargawi is on the ropes."¹⁸

9/29: Gen. Casey: "[The insurgency is] failing in Iraq.... [W]e are more relentless in our progress than those who seek to disrupt it. We have a strategy and a plan for success in Iraq, and we're broadly on track in achieving our goals."¹⁹

OCTOBER
2005

68 U.S. soldiers killed;
311 wounded

190 Iraqi security forces killed

254 Iraqi civilians killed

10/02: Gen. Abizaid: "[A]s long as politics continues to move in the direction that it appears to be moving and the Iraqi security forces continue to move in the direction that they're moving, the insurgency doesn't have a chance for victory."²⁰

10/19: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice: "Time and time again, people are coming now to support for Iraq.... [W]e have made significant progress."²¹

¹ All U.S. soldier casualty statistics from "Iraq Coalition Casualty Count," updated October 25, 2005. <http://icasualties.org/oif/>

² All Iraqi security forces casualty statistics from "Iraq Coalition Casualty Count," updated October 25, 2005. <http://icasualties.org/oif/>

³ All Iraqi civilian casualty statistics from "Iraq Body Count," updated October 25, 2005. <http://www.iraqbodycount.net>

⁴ Newshour with Jim Lehrer, March 1, 2005. http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/jan-june05/abizaid_3-1.html

⁵ Robert Burns, "Top U.S. General Offers More Optimistic Assessment of Progress Against Iraqi Insurgency," Associated Press, March 17, 2005.

⁶ Department of Defense briefing with Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers, April 26, 2005. <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050426-secdef2601.html>

⁷ CNN American Morning, April 29, 2005.

⁸ CNN American Morning, May 13, 2005.

⁹ "Operation Squeeze Play Aims to Crack Down on Terrorists," American Forces Press Service, May 23, 2005. http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2005/20050523_1282.html

¹⁰ Larry King Live, May 30, 2005. <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0505/30/lk1.01.html>

¹¹ White House press briefing, June 27, 2005. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050627-3.html>

¹² Department of Defense news briefing, June 27, 2005. <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050627-secdef3161.html>

¹³ Presidential Address to the Nation from Fort Bragg, NC, June 28, 2005. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050628-7.html>

¹⁴ Department of Defense briefing, "Report to Congress Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq," July 21, 2005. <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050721-3441.html>

¹⁵ Department of Defense briefing, "Secretary Rumsfeld Stakeout with U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and Gen. George Casey in Baghdad, Iraq," July 27, 2005. <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050727-secdef3561.html>

¹⁶ "President Discusses Second Term Accomplishments and Priorities," presidential address to the American Legislative Exchange Council, August 3, 2005. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/08/20050803.html>

¹⁷ "Bush, Rice Congratulate Iraq on Completion of Draft Constitution," August 29, 2005. <http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2005/Aug/29-563801.html>

¹⁸ Briefing by Maj. Gen. Ricky Lynch, Multinational Forces-Iraq, Combined Press Information Center, September 15, 2005. <http://www.mnf-iraq.com/Transcripts/050915a.htm>

¹⁹ Senate Armed Services Committee testimony, September 29, 2005.

²⁰ "Meet the Press," October 2, 2005. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9542948/>

²¹ Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony, October 19, 2005.