



PRESS RELEASE

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April 14, 2008

The United States is pleased to participate as an observer in the second Border Security Working Group of the Expanded Neighbors Process. Charge d'Affaires Michael Corbin led the U.S. delegation. After the conclusion of the meetings, Charge Corbin delivered the following remarks to the media:

“The United States strongly supports the efforts of this group to improve cooperation in securing borders throughout the region with particular emphasis on helping the Government of Iraq overcome threats to the security of its people caused by foreign terrorists and illegal armed groups.

Terrorist facilitation networks operating throughout the region continue to be a significant threat to the stability of Iraq and, by extension, the entire region.

The influx of foreign-made weapons used by and seized from criminal militia elements involved in fighting Iraqi Security Forces, which was thrown into stark relief during the recent flare-up of violence in Basrah, the southern provinces, and Baghdad, is another serious threat which this group should address.

We hope that this meeting will result in a strong commitment by all parties to stop the flow of both terrorists and the weapons they use across Iraq's borders and throughout the region.

As an observer at this working group, the United States stands ready to assist in any way possible.”