



INSS Support to U.S. Policy on Iraq

May 2003

The national and international media have showcased the Middle East expertise resident in the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS) and other parts of the National Defense University in recent months. During this period, INSS also undertook a number of activities, largely outside the public eye, to support strategic planning for Operation Iraqi Freedom and post-war reconstruction.

Various elements of the U.S. government seeking insightful views, expert analysis, and strategic gaming support have increasingly turned to NDU. Melding the expertise of its research fellows and strategic gamers, INSS has been providing critical support over the past year to senior interagency officials in assessing policy options on Iraq and the greater Middle East.

In November 2002, at the request of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff, INSS brought together a group of Iraq specialists and seasoned post-conflict experts to assess the lessons of previous crises for application to post-Saddam Iraq. The proceedings were briefed to responsible interagency officials and produced both a short public report and a detailed handbook for senior officials slated for involvement in Iraq reconstruction and humanitarian relief. [Click here to view the workshop summary report.](#)

In December 2002, the Joint Staff and the National Security Council asked INSS to facilitate an interagency review and assessment of possible strategic and regional complications of military operations against Iraq. The Joint Staff also asked INSS to host a number of other Iraq-related planning events.

In February 2003, senior U.S. officials asked INSS to host and facilitate two interagency "rehearsals" of plans for post-war Iraq and to provide an independent assessment of these plans. At the behest of OSD, INSS also provided background briefings for military and civilian planners tasked with the job of designing programs for the post-war disarmament, demobilization and reconstitution of Iraqi armed forces.

INSS continues its support to the NSC, OSD and the Joint Staff on post-conflict Iraq operations with topical analyses, and events such as roundtables and experiential simulations. Whenever possible, INSS will publish the proceeding summaries of these on this web site.

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