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Mr. Chairman and other members of the Committee, thank you for your invitation to appear today.

The State Department is committed to supporting, in every way, America's men and women in uniform. And I thank you for your support of the 46,000 men and women of the State Department who defend our country every day in 258 diplomatic posts around the world.

After the defeat of the Taliban in Afghanistan, State Department people volunteered to staff our reopened Embassy in Kabul, where they endured, and still do endure, hard living conditions and danger.

Thirty-three State employees joined General Garner in Iraq in April. Forty-seven of my colleagues are there now with Ambassador Bremer, and 22 more are scheduled to go out in the next few weeks. Altogether, 282 have volunteered to go since July. That so many people have gone or volunteered to go to Iraq is a tribute to the professionalism and patriotism of State Department employees, civil and foreign service.

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Last September, the President signed the National Security Strategy of the United States. This document is the basis for the conduct of US foreign policy as well as military policy. It says that the primary aim of America's security strategy is to make the world not just safer, but better.

In order to bring about political and economic freedom, peaceful relations with other states, and respect for human dignity, the President has designated a number of tasks.

As Secretary Powell highlighted in his speech at George Washington University last Friday, these include strengthening alliances to defeat global terrorism, building cooperative partnerships with the other major powers, including Europe, Japan, Russia, China, and India, working with other nations to defuse regional conflicts, and preventing our enemies from threatening us, our allies, and our friends, with weapons of mass destruction.

America is not alone in its desire for a better and safer world, and so at the President's direction we seek partners and allies because it enables us to better achieve our national objectives.

You asked in your letter about cooperation with individual countries, with NATO, the UN and other multinational organizations.

All NATO countries contribute to the Global War against Terrorism. Indeed, Afghanistan represents an historic first out-of-area operation for the Alliance as a whole.

We work with the United Nations on Iraq. The UN has a vital role to play in the reconstruction of that country, and the criminal bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad only further shows the importance of galvanizing international support for Iraq's reconstruction.

As the President announced to the nation Sunday, we seek a new UNSC resolution on Iraq to build on UNSCRs 1441, 1483 and 1500.

This resolution should:

- 1) invite the Iraqi Governing Council to submit a plan and a timetable for them to write a constitution, develop political institutions, and conduct free elections, leading to the Iraqi peoples' resumption of sovereignty over their own country.
- 2) authorize a United Nations multinational force under a US commander.
- 3) afford the United Nations a more comprehensive and active role in the transition back to Iraqi sovereignty.

We are also working with friends and partners around the world for a successful Iraq donors' conference in Madrid in October. This conference should further mobilize international efforts to help the Iraqi people reconstruct their country and rebuild their lives.

In addition to using structures like NATO and the UN, we have reached out to our friends and allies, including many new partners, in order to attain the goals that are crucial to our national security and that of other nations in the world.

We are in constant coordination with the Combatant Commands to find out what is needed, and then we approach our friends to try to meet those needs.

We have sought troop contributions and for basing and staging rights, material support, overflight permission, and refueling.

The task of working with foreign governments intensifies with the termination of major combat, as both Afghanistan and Iraq have shown. In both these places we continue to call on our friends and allies to support stabilization and reconstruction. Many countries which were not in a position to offer combat troops have offered humanitarian and reconstruction relief.

As the President highlighted Sunday night, we do not underestimate the challenges: terrorists and Saddam loyalists have done great harm in Iraq; in Afghanistan, al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters seek to regroup and have attacked coalition and Allied forces and NGO workers and others trying to stop the essential work of reconstruction.

Our work at the State Department has two other dimensions that are key: we are working with allies and partners to help them to solve regional conflicts; and working with partners to address the internal security problems that can lead to terrorism and other transnational threats.

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As you requested in your letter, I would like now to highlight some of the activities that I have just mentioned, in particular, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Liberia.

Iraq: Forty-nine nations publicly declared their support for our policy by joining the Coalition for the Immediate Disarmament of Iraq. A number of other countries quietly cooperated with and supported the military operation in various ways. In total, there were 45 countries that provided access, basing, and/or over-flight rights, and 24 countries that contributed military assets in one form or another for operations in Iraq.

Additional countries have joined the stabilization effort. A total of 29 countries have now deployed approximately 23,000 troops for stability and humanitarian operations in Iraq; three more countries are in the process of deploying additional troops. We are in discussion with approximately ten other countries concerning additional potential contributions.

We have followed a clear strategy: we have taken the needs of the US military and the Coalition Provisional Authority as we seek to help the Iraqi people build a democratic and secure Iraq and have then sought assets other countries might be able to provide to meet those needs. These contributions have not only been support for US efforts. Other countries, such as Spain, Italy and Ukraine have taken key roles in providing brigade headquarters in the UK and Polish divisions. Other countries have offered to take on support functions such as engineering that contribute to reconstruction. And we continue to talk to a range of foreign governments about the possibilities for further contributions.

Afghanistan: In the wake of 9/11, the international community worked with us in the fight against Al Qaeda and the Taliban regime. Over 70 countries joined our coalition and over 34 countries have contributed forces to Operation Enduring Freedom and to the International Stabilization Force for Afghanistan (ISAF). In an historic milestone for the North Atlantic Alliance, NATO as an organization has recently taken over the lead role in ISAF after supporting NATO members Germany and the Netherlands in their co-leadership of the force.

Currently, 15 NATO countries make up ISAF, providing some 5,800 troops on the ground. The main contributors to this force include Canada with almost 900 soldiers, France with more than 500, and the UK with approximately 400 troops.

It is crucial for Afghanistan's long term security and prosperity that Afghan citizens themselves be prepared to take responsibility for maintaining peace and order in their own country. This will require a national army that is multi-ethnic, subordinate to civil authority, subject to rule of law and international norms of human rights. The Afghan National Army (ANA) Train and Equip Program, initiated for this purpose, will establish a Central Corps of sufficient size and military capability (10,000+ soldiers) to provide security for the June 2004 elections and eventually relieve the International Security and Assistance Force and OEF elements of security duties. With over two dozen countries contributing to the establishment of the ANA we have made significant progress toward our goal of a Central Corps by June 2004.

One crucial project is the establishment of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. The U.S. has already set up three of these, in Gardez, Bamiyan, and Kunduz. The U.K. has recently opened a PRT in Mazar-e-Sharif, and New Zealand will relieve U.S. forces in Bamiyan later this year. The mission of the PRTs is to provide additional stability to provincial areas, allowing for increased reconstruction and assisting the expansion of central authority and linkage to local governments. Each team includes State Department and AID officers working side by side with military personnel.

Against these efforts we face al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters determined to regroup and to attack coalition and Allied forces, NGO workers and the international community. Recent attacks on the critical Kandahar-Kabul highway and killing of international workers show us the threat continues.

Liberia: The Liberian civil war has generated unrest and misery throughout West Africa. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced internally and in neighboring countries. Participants in the Liberian conflict have destabilized Liberia's neighbors, and gross violations of human rights have occurred. With the departure of Charles Taylor and the decision by the parties to sign the Accra peace agreement, there is an historic opportunity to restore peace to Liberia and to the region.

On August 1, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1497, authorizing deployment to Liberia of a Multinational Force (MNF) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and a follow-on UN PKO. The West Africans have stepped up to the challenge, using their regional Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), providing the MNF that will help restore order and separate the parties pending the arrival of UN peacekeepers. Led by Nigeria, over 3,000 troops from Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Benin are deploying to the region with US assistance and will likely be subsumed into the UN mission.

Because of this positive action by ECOWAS, and since the UN is planning to take over responsibilities from ECOWAS by October 1, there has been a decreased need for the U.S. to send troops. An Amphibious Readiness Group comprised of 3 ships and more than 4,000 service members is standing by off Monrovia to respond to emergencies, but our work has been primarily in logistics support and diplomatic coordination. We have

assisted with the deployment and sustainment of the West African troops, and expect to continue to do so until the transition to the UN PKO is complete.

To date, the U.S. has committed over \$15 million for this effort. We are in the process of identifying additional resources to ensure the ECOWAS force is able to fulfill its mission until the UN PKO is in place.

Bosnia/Kosovo: The U.S. remains committed to ensuring peace and stability in the Balkans and remains an active participant in the NATO-led operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. Through intense diplomatic activity and coordination with our allies, we have been able substantially to reduce the number of U.S. troops in the region as the security situation in the region improves. In January 2001, the U.S. provided 9,600 of the roughly 56,000 troops in the Balkans. Today, the United States contributes 4,050 troops to those same missions -- 1,800 U.S. troops in Bosnia and 2,250 U.S. troops in Kosovo. The total size of the forces will drop below 30,000 by the end of the year. In recent years, the U.S. has generally tried to keep our forces in the Balkans at approximately 15 percent of the overall, although, originally, we provided one-third of the forces in Bosnia. We continue to work within NATO to restructure and reduce the forces, lowering our contributions in line with the overall reductions of the Alliance. At present, the French, German and Italian contribution to KFOR surpass that of the U.S. In Bosnia, where the U.S. commands SFOR, we are among the largest contributor of troops.

There are many other areas in which we work to support the President's vision in the National Security Strategy. North Korea. Colombia. The Philippines. Georgia. I would be glad to discuss these with you if you wish during the hearing.

Resources:

As the President indicated in his recent address, \$87B will be needed to accomplish Administration goals in Iraq and address other complex contingencies. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to make that pledge a reality. We also welcome your support for our Foreign Operations budget request, which has passed the House and is awaiting floor action in the Senate.

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The world is a dangerous place. The President has made it clear that we will do what it takes to make it safer and better, by working to rid it of terrorists and tyrants who threaten the United States, their neighbors, and their own people. By fostering democracy and rule of law, by building coalitions with allies and friends, and by pursuing regional stability through funding military aid programs and training, the State Department actively pursues the President's goals of peace and security. Together with the Department of Defense and our military colleagues, we are committed to these goals and will continue to work unceasingly to attain them.