



ITAG

**Iraq Transitional
Assistance Group**

A map of Iraq and its neighbors, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The cities of Mosul and Arbil are labeled in Iraq. A scale bar at the top right shows distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200) and miles (0, 100, 200).

ITAG

A description of the proposed regional political and military supervisory functions argued for in **“Winning in Iraq: Enlisting Iraq’s neighbors in facilitating the International Compact with Iraq and enabling a US exit”** by:

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A map of Iraq and its neighbors, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Arbil, and includes a scale bar at the top right indicating distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200) and miles (0, 100, 200).

Guarding Against Chaos

- A US exit may leave consequences that Iraqis and their neighbors cannot escape
 - Wider, deeper, bloodier civil war(s)
 - Conflict crossing borders of US allies
 - International flow of oil constrained/cut off
 - The world's worst extant refugee problem
- Iraq and its neighbors must be prepared to manage/avoid repercussions
 - Iraq Transitional Assistance Group (ITAG)

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ITAG

The Iraq Transitional Assistance Group enrolls Iraq's neighbors in political and military supervisory functions to:

- Build confidence among Iraqis
- Work toward the benchmarks and goals found in the International Compact with Iraq
 - “To build a secure, united, federal and democratic nation, founded on the principles of freedom and equality, and providing peace and prosperity for its people”
- Enable the reduction and phased (specified) removal of most or all US forces from Iraq

A background map showing the Middle East region, including Turkey, Iraq, and Kuwait. The map features a scale bar at the top right with markings for 0, 100, and 200 kilometers. The word 'TURKEY' is visible in the upper left, 'Mosul' and 'Arbil' are labeled in Iraq, and 'KUWAIT' is visible in the lower right. The title 'ITAG General Functions' is overlaid on the map in a large, bold, dark blue font.

ITAG General Functions

- **ITAG-Political:** Engage Iraq's government to:
 - Monitor Iraqi government actions and verify their inclusive, unbiased character
 - Advocate rights of ethnic and confessional allies
 - Convince allies to join the central government
 - Moderate factional demands/expectations
- **ITAG-Military:** Embed with and monitor:
 - Ministry of Defense and all assigned forces
 - Ministry of Interior and all assigned forces
 - Those militia/insurgency groups accepting ITAG-Mil supervision willingly or as a term of surrender

A map of Iraq and surrounding regions, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Arbil, and a scale bar indicating distances up to 200 km and 200 miles. The title 'ITAG-Political Value' is overlaid on the map.

ITAG-Political Value

- **Build Confidence**
 - Convinces minority factions in Iraq that the central government is not an existential threat
- **Ensure fair distribution of public goods and services**
 - Attests to Iraqi factions that oil revenue, water distribution, sewage and trash removal are equally available to all Iraqis irrespective of religion or ethnicity
- **Measure compliance with International Compact with Iraq (ICI) commitments**
 - Assures ICI signatories that the Iraqi government is meeting benchmarks and operating in the open and transparent manner called for in the ICI
- **ITAG members' ability to draw Iraqis into peaceful political participation will be affected by the perceived level of influence they have with the central government**

A map of Iraq and Turkey is visible in the background. The word 'TURKEY' is written in large, light blue letters across the top left. Below it, 'Mosul' and 'Arbil' are labeled. A scale bar at the top right shows distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200 km) and miles (0, 100, 200 mi).

ITAG-Military Value

- **Build Confidence**
 - Multi-national observer teams demonstrate to minority groups that national forces pose no existential threat
 - Eg: Jordanian and Saudi observers will reassure Sunni groups about Shi'a-dominated national police force actions
- **Extend control**
 - Covers militia-corrupted police and facilities protection forces
- **Ally groups to central government**
 - ITAG supervision identifies group as loyal to central government
 - Militia and insurgency groups are constrained to defensive actions and inhibited from conducting retaliatory attacks
- **Provide means of survival**
 - ITAG supervision brings legitimacy, logistical support, aid, salaries, and peace

A map of Iraq and surrounding regions, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Arbil, and includes a scale bar at the top right indicating distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200 km) and miles (0, 100, 200 mi).

ITAG-Military Value

“Much depends on whether it is possible to create a genuine national army rather than an agglomeration of competing militias.”

Henry Kissinger “The Disaster of Hasty Withdrawal” (Washington Post 9/16/07)



Making ITAG



ITAG Membership

- Iraq's immediate, contiguous neighbors
 - If Iraq's neighbors lack adequate resources, additional support should be approved by Iraq, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the UN
- Joining serves the interests of all neighbors
 - “Iran...would be unlikely to isolate itself from a broad international program aimed at reconciliation. If it does, it would only hand a political victory to us and to the many Iraqi leaders, Shiite and Sunni alike, who would prefer to minimize Iranian influence.”
 - Madeleine Albright “How to Change Iraq” (Washington Post 9/6/07)

A map of Iraq and surrounding regions, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Arbil, and a scale bar indicating 100 and 200 kilometers. The title 'ITAG Support' is overlaid on the map.

ITAG Support

- Iraqi government
 - Approve ITAG and neighbors' participation
 - Agree with ITAG on rules of engagement
- United Nations Security Council
 - Enact resolution detailing ITAG membership and roles and requiring annual UNSC reauthorization
- Organization of the Islamic Conference
 - Endorse the ITAG role in stabilizing Iraq
 - Obtain additional support and membership as requested by Iraq and ITAG

A map of the Middle East region, showing Turkey to the north, Iraq in the center, and Kuwait to the south. A scale bar at the top indicates distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200) and miles (0, 100, 200). Major cities like Mosul and Arbil are labeled in Iraq. The title 'United States Role' is prominently displayed in the upper center.


United States Role

- Secure UNSC resolution approving ITAG membership and roles
- Encourage Iraqi approval and neighbor participation
- Encourage OIC support and participation
- Monitor ITAG-Pol and ITAG-Mil activities
- Support ITAG-Mil operations
 - Logistics, heavy- and airborne-attack capabilities
- Accomplish remnant military roles as called for in legislation such as the ISG Implementation Act sponsored by Senator Salazar, et al

A map of the Middle East region is visible in the background. It shows the borders of Turkey, Iraq, and Kuwait. The word 'TURKEY' is written in large letters at the top left. Below it, 'Mosul' and 'Arbil' are marked in Iraq. At the bottom right, 'KUWAIT' is partially visible. A scale bar at the top right shows distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200 km) and miles (0, 100, 200 mi).

United States Controls

- Superior force
 - The US has and will continue to maintain the dominant military force in the region
- UN Security Council veto
 - The US retains the ability to veto UNSC reauthorization of the ITAG mission
 - This opportunity is lost if Iraq and its neighbors pursue an ITAG-like solution on their own
- Allies as members of ITAG
 - Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey

A map of Iraq and its surrounding regions, including Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. The map shows major cities like Mosul, Arbil, Karkuk, As Sulaymaniyyah, Baghdad, An Najaf, An Nasiriyah, Al Basrah, and Umm Qasr. A scale bar at the top right indicates distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200) and miles (0, 100, 200). The title 'Making Iraq Whole' is overlaid in large, bold, blue text.

Making Iraq Whole



The Importance of Surrender

- 1991 – Iraq: Surrender by strong central government (Saddam)
 - led to end of conflict, controlled uprisings and UN inspections
- 1995 – Bosnia: Surrender by strong central government (Milosevic)
 - led to end of conflict, quiet peacekeeping mission
- 1999 – Kosovo: Surrender by strong central government (Milosevic)
 - led to end of conflict, quiet peacekeeping mission



The Importance of Surrender

- 2001 – Afghanistan: No surrender, Taliban flee from power centers
 - Continuing, escalating conflict
- 2003 – Iraq: No surrender, Saddam flees
 - Continuing, escalating conflict
 - President Bush “surrenders” for Iraqis 5/1/03: they pay no heed, resistance intensifies
 - Ground execution of air doctrine failed due to absence of surrender by strong central government (Saddam)



Persistent Conflict

- Somalia: initially a clan versus clan fight for political power (1991 coup)
 - Then, sub-clan versus sub-clan
 - Then sub-sub-clan versus sub-sub-clan, and on...
 - *US intervention did not end conflict*
- Iraq: initially a Sunni versus Shi'a versus occupation forces fight for political power
 - Then Shi'a versus Shi'a versus Shi'a (Basra)
 - Then Sunni versus Sunni (Al Anbar)

A map of Iraq and surrounding regions, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Arbil, and a scale bar indicating distances up to 200 km and 200 miles. The title 'Getting Surrenders' is overlaid on the map.

Getting Surrenders

- ITAG-Mil Supervision
 - Acceptance of ITAG-Mil observers identifies groups as loyal to Iraq central government; focuses operations on recalcitrant groups
 - Secure surrenders from strong tribal governments
 - Allow militia and insurgency groups defensive roles
 - Verify continued compliance with ITAG-Mil monitors
 - Recidivist groups: Remove ITAG-Mil monitors and target for defeat and renewed surrender

A map of Iraq and its neighbors, including Turkey to the north and Kuwait to the south. The map shows major cities like Mosul and Baghdad, and includes a scale bar at the top right indicating distances in kilometers (0, 100, 200) and miles (0, 100, 200).

Peaceful IRAQ

A peaceful Iraq depends upon:

- Iraqi access to the central government and confidence in its unbiased, democratic nature
- Freedom from fear of existential threats
- Joining all fighters to the Iraqi government
- Cooperation from Iraq's neighbors
- Perception that solutions are regional and voluntary, not western and imposed
- A large, perhaps complete US military exit

A map of Iraq and its surrounding regions, including Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. Major cities like Mosul, Arbil, Karkok, Samarra, Karbala, Al Kufa, An Nasiriyah, Al Basrah, and Umm Qasr are labeled. A scale bar at the top right shows 0, 100, and 200 km and 0, 100, and 200 miles. The text 'The ITAG Makes a Peaceful Iraq Possible' is overlaid in large, bold, blue letters.

**The ITAG Makes
a Peaceful Iraq
Possible**