



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JUN 12 2009

Afghanistan

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY
SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN
RECONSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: Munitions Accountability in Afghanistan

Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office and DoD Inspector General released assessments of U.S. and Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) systems for munitions accountability and control, both finding lapses in security procedures and oversight. Corrective measures were taken over the last six months, and I am pleased to say that a more recent DoD IG in-theater assessment has found significant improvements in weapons accountability systems at Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and the Afghan Ministries of Defense (MoD) and Interior (MoI).

12 Jun 09

However, I remain concerned that further steps may still be required to ensure we have the necessary procedures, safeguards and capabilities in place to support the increased flow of material into theater. The assessment, while citing progress, also notes gaps in personnel, training, international cooperation and the long-term oversight capabilities of the ANSF. Increased activity in-theater and further growth of the ANSF are likely to stress the still nascent accountability systems, while building a culture of accountability may fall victim to more pressing concerns within the MoD and MoI over the next year.

The Department should be proactive in implementing existing recommendations and considering additional resources and systems necessary to guarantee continued progress. I ask that USD(P) and Joint Staff take the lead in assessing what other steps may need to be taken in the immediate future and over the long term. Please plan on briefing me on your recommendations by July 6, 2009.

19 May 09

Robert M. Gates

RC

cc:
Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy



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