NECESSITY FOR FULL RANGE OF TRAINING FOR IRAQI OPPOSITION

From: Assistant Secretary of Defense, International Security Affairs
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- The authors of the Iraq Liberation Act (ILA) say their intent was to provide the full range of military training to the Iraqi opposition.

- The ILA as written does not prohibit using Drawdown Authority for the full range of military training. The current policy to provide only "non-lethal" assistance was a policy decision of the last administration (based on the UN arms embargo on the Saddam regime).

- The Office of the DOD General Counsel advises that the full range of military training assistance to the opposition can be provided consistent with UN Resolutions.

- Providing the full range of military training to the opposition is a necessary first step in implementing the President's guidance to DOD as laid out in (e.g., "capitalize in our planning on particular lessons learned from our recent support for Afghan opposition forces").

- One of the lessons from working with the Afghan opposition is that early coordination of effort between SOF forces and opposition forces:
  - Builds trust between U.S. and opposition forces.
  - Reduces the possibility of fratricide and collateral damage.
  - Increases the effectiveness of operations.

Attachment:
DOD Decision Package on Removal of Restrictions on ILA Drawdown Authority