



Third Army/U.S. Army Central
Public Affairs Office
1881 Hardee Ave. SW
McPherson, Ga 30330-1062
www.arcent.army.mil

News Release # 20100611-1
Date June 11, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Third Army conducts Nickel II R3 Conference
Third Army – PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Third Army hosted key leaders from throughout United States Central Command's Area of Responsibility, June 8-9 in Kuwait, at the forward headquarters to take part in a conference as part of the ongoing activities to facilitate the drawdown in Iraq, buildup of forces in Afghanistan and reset of our Army. This was the third senior leader conference of this type that Third Army has conducted.

Third Army continues to set the theater in Southwest Asia in coordination with many other organizations throughout Central Command's AOR by conducting the extensive planning required to execute a move of this magnitude. Senior military and civilian leaders from across the AOR and Department of the Army and Department of Defense participated in the conference detailing the coordination and synchronization necessary for success of the operation.

"Our priorities are the same priorities that Gen. Petraeus, Gen. Odierno and Gen. McChrystal have. Our staffs are working their tails off with each other, and I really do applaud the team effort that all have been making here," said Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, Third Army Commanding General.

"We have the capacities necessary to achieve the personnel drawdown in Iraq by the end of August as the President has directed. We're going to do our best to continue to stay ahead of

schedule so that those warriors out there have what they need before they realize they need it, and we would have been able to anticipate that and push it forward," Webster said.

The improved security situation and the increasing capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces allows U.S. Forces - Iraq to transition its mission from combat to stability operations to pave the way for the U.S. Embassy to build a long-term partnership with a sovereign, stable, self reliant Iraq that contributes to peace and stability in the region.

U.S. Forces - Iraq is leading the responsible drawdown in Iraq. Third Army's mission is key to the transition from combat to stability operations in Iraq, and supports that mission by effectively transferring equipment from the Iraqi theater back to the U.S. or to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Third Army's effort in the Responsible Drawdown mission, since October 2009, have resulted in a reduction of force more than 42,000 service members (more than 30% total) and the withdrawal of more than 35,000 containers (nearly 40% total) and nearly 18,000 or 43% rolling stock items. In addition, more than 139,000 items have been processed for disposition.

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Note: For further information please contact the press office at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait at 011 965 9788 1625; or (DSN) 318-430-6331; or at Ft. McPherson, Ga at (404) 464 3832; or send an email to david.rhodes@arcent.army.mil