

Note from AFA President -- Security Assistance

AFA Members, Congressional Staffers, Civic Leaders, DOCA members, this week an important piece was published in Foreign Affairs. It was written by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. In the piece, Sec Gates calls for an improved process in the US government for building partner capacity. He, like Sec Rumsfeld before him, believes that the security sectors of at-risk countries are really systems of systems tying together the military, the police, the justice system, and other governance and oversight mechanisms. As such, building a partner's overall governance and security capacity is a shared responsibility across multiple agencies and departments of the US national security apparatus. And that process is cumbersome and needs improvement.

I urge you to read the piece - carefully and critically. As with all pieces I send you, I don't expect you to necessarily agree ... and I urge you to look for assumptions in the piece. These assumptions may prove to be accurate ... but they are assumptions none-the-less. I found many, such as:

- The best way to take down terror networks is to do nation-building
- The best way to do nation-building is to improve over-all governance and security capacity
- The best way to improve over-all governance and security capacity is to share doing that across multiple agency and departments of the US national security apparatus

You can find the piece at: http://www.afa.org/EdOp/2010/edop_42210.asp

For your consideration.

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