



Highlights of [GAO-07-711](#), a report to congressional committees

# STABILIZING IRAQ

## DOD Cannot Ensure That U.S.-Funded Equipment Has Reached Iraqi Security Forces

### Why GAO Did This Study

Since 2003, the United States has provided about \$19.2 billion to develop Iraqi security forces. DOD recently requested an additional \$2 billion to continue this effort. Components of the Multinational Force-Iraq (MNF-I), including the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I), are responsible for implementing the U.S. program to train and equip Iraqi forces.

This report (1) examines the property accountability procedures DOD and MNF-I applied to the U.S. train-and-equip program for Iraq and (2) assesses whether DOD and MNF-I can account for the U.S.-funded equipment issued to the Iraqi security forces. To accomplish these objectives, GAO reviewed MNSTC-I property books as of January 2007 and interviewed current and former officials from DOD and MNF-I.

### What GAO Recommends

To help ensure that U.S.-funded equipment reaches Iraqi security forces as intended, GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense (1) determine what DOD accountability procedures apply or should apply to the program and (2) after defining these procedures, ensure that sufficient staff, functioning distribution networks, and proper technology are available to meet the new requirements.

DOD concurred with both recommendations.

[www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-711](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-711).

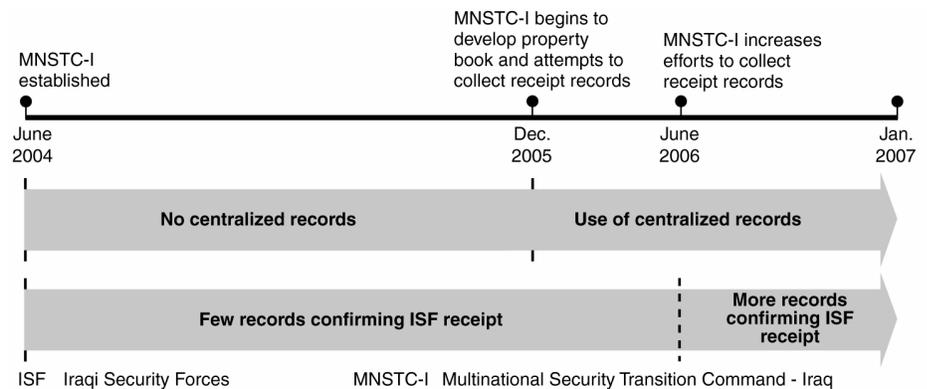
To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Joseph A. Christoff at (202) 512-8979 or [christoffj@gao.gov](mailto:christoffj@gao.gov).

### What GAO Found

As of July 2007, DOD and MNF-I had not specified which DOD accountability procedures, if any, apply to the train-and-equip program for Iraq. Congress funded the train-and-equip program for Iraq outside traditional security assistance programs, providing DOD a large degree of flexibility in managing the program, according to DOD officials. These officials stated that since the funding did not go through traditional security assistance programs, the DOD accountability requirements normally applicable to these programs did not apply. Further, MNF-I does not currently have orders that comprehensively specify accountability procedures for equipment distributed to the Iraqi forces.

DOD and MNF-I cannot fully account for Iraqi forces' receipt of U.S.-funded equipment. Two factors led to this lapse in accountability. First, MNSTC-I did not maintain a centralized record of all equipment distributed to Iraqi forces before December 2005. At that time, MNSTC-I established a property book system to track issuance of equipment to the Iraqi forces and attempted to recover past records. GAO found a discrepancy of at least 190,000 weapons between data reported by the former MNSTC-I commander and the property books. Former MNSTC-I officials stated that this lapse was due to insufficient staff and the lack of a fully operational distribution network, among other reasons. Second, since the beginning of the program, MNSTC-I has not consistently collected supporting records confirming the dates the equipment was received, the quantities of equipment delivered, or the Iraqi units receiving the items. Since June 2006, the command has placed greater emphasis on collecting the supporting documents. However, GAO's review of the January 2007 property books found continuing problems with missing and incomplete records. Further, the property books consist of extensive electronic spreadsheets, which are an inefficient management tool given the large amount of data and limited personnel to maintain the system.

**Efforts to Account for Equipment Distributed to the Iraqi Security Forces**



Source: GAO analysis of Department of Defense data.