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## 2006 ambassador speeches

### Joint Statement by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad and Commander, MNF-I, General George Casey on the 4th Iraqi Army Division Headquarters

Baghdad, Iraq  
August 8, 2006



*The Commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Division greets Ambassador Khalilzad at a ceremony marking the formal transfer of security responsibility from U.S. forces to the Iraqi Army, August 8. (©AP/WWP/U.S. Army)*

Today, in another sign of progress toward a stable and secure Iraq, the Fourth Iraqi Army Division Headquarters officially assumed the lead in its area of responsibility from the 101st Airborne Division. This achievement represents the Division halfway mark of our joint goal of putting all Iraqi Security Forces in the lead in coordinating, planning and conducting security operations in Iraq. We congratulate the Iraqi people and the Government on Iraq on this important milestone.

Five of the Iraqi Army's ten division headquarters, 25 brigade headquarters, and 85 battalions in the Iraqi Army now have the lead for security responsibilities in their areas. Additionally, to date 48 of 110 Coalition Forward Operating Bases have been transferred to Iraqi control.

These turnovers from Coalition forces to Iraqi security forces reflect the increased operational capacity of the Iraqi security forces. Although these forces are increasingly capable of planning and conducting security operations independent of the Multinational Forces, we pledge our continued support to them and the Iraqi Government as they seek to provide peace and prosperity for all of Iraq's peoples.

May God bless the people of Iraq.

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