

IRAQ TIMELINE

Red – Intelligence **Black – Policy** **Blue – Key decision**

2 0 0 1

- Mar** Reporting suggested, that Iraq was seeking high-strength aluminum tubes
- Apr** Department of Energy (DOE) Intelligence Highlight discussing Iraq's interest in procuring aluminum tubes
- Jun** IC obtained samples of the aluminum tubes
- Aug** NGIC had concluded the tubes could not be used for conventional rockets
- Aug** DOE published a technical note, asking if nuclear reconstitution was underway
- Sep 11** Rumsfeld muses about attacking Iraq
- Sep 12** Rumsfeld brings Iraq up at Principals Meeting.
- Sep 13** DIA reported on the aluminum tubes
- Sep 16 At Camp David Wolfowitz brings up Iraq. All the principals except Rumsfeld oppose attacking Iraq. Rumsfeld doesn't express an opinion.
- Nov 21** President asks Rumsfeld to begin planning for a possible war in Iraq
- Dec** Senior Executive Memo discussing the implications of the tubes
- Dec 28** President receives his first briefing from General Franks in Crawford. Other principals participate via video.

2 0 0 2

- Jan 3** CIA (Saul) briefs VP and then the President on Iraq -- indicates that Saddam cannot be removed by covert actions.
- Jan 29** State of the Union (Axis of Evil speech).
- Feb 7** Franks briefs President at the WH on war plan.

mid-March VP travels to the Middle East (if we use force, we will be serious about it).

Mar Agencies had taken sides on nuclear reconstitution.

Mid-March Tenet meets with Kurdish leaders -- tells them the U.S. is serious, the CIA and the military were coming.

Mar 21 Franks tells his subordinate commanders that it looks to him that a war is going

to happen and they should take the plans and other preparations seriously.

Apr 6-7 PM Blair meets with President at Crawford -- President tells UK TV that he had made up his mind that Saddam must go.

Apr 20 Franks briefs President at Camp David

Jun 1 President delivers West Point speech (preemption rationale).

Jun 19 Franks presents latest version of the war plan at the White House (by end of

July President had approved 30 projects (\$700 million) needed to implement the war plan)

June-July: A flurry of IC papers and briefings hammered home agency positions on WMD.

Mid-July CIA teams enters Iraq

August 1: CIA Distributes A. Tube Memo

Aug 5 Franks briefs President at White House (that evening Secretary Powell presents his concerns and reservations about Iraq—you break it you own it).

Aug 14 Rice chairs Principals Meeting to discuss NSPD Iraq: Goals, Objectives, Strategy.

Aug 16 Powell makes pitch on UN

Aug 26 Cheney's VFW speech

Aug 29 President signs Iraq NSPD.

Sep 3 Decision made to approach Congress for a use of force resolution.

Sep 4 Bush meets with top congressional leaders

Sep 6 Franks briefs President at White House.

Sep 7 President meets with NSC to hear arguments for and against a UN resolution -- no decision made.

Sep 7 President meets with PM Blair -- asks for his support and indicates he will need British troops. Blair agrees.

Sep 8 NY Times article on aluminum tubes.

Sep 12 Bush speech/U.S. asks for UN resolution.

Sep 21 For the first-time White House doesn't deny that the President has a war plan on his desk.

Oct 1 Iraq WMD NIE approved by NFIB

10/1 President and VP meet with senior members of Congress to ask for their support and to give them an informal brief on WMD.

Oct 2 SSCI Briefing

Oct 7 Cincinnati speech (rationale for war)

Oct 10 House approves use of force (296-133)

Oct 11 Senate approves use of force (77-23)

Oct 18 Gen. Hayden briefs NSA – can't wait for political decision

Oct 29 Franks updates Bush on his means to respond to the use of WMD by Saddam

Nov 8 UN Resolution 1441 passes 15-0.

Dec 6 First deployment order -- others to follow slowly so no one will notice.

Dec 13 President announces that he and all the troops were going to receive smallpox vaccinations.

Dec 19 Franks briefs President on war plan.

Dec 21 Tenet's "slam-dunk" moment "I've been told all this intelligence about having WMD and this is the best we've got?"

.

2 0 0 3

Jan 11 VP, Rumsfeld, and Chairman of the Joint Staff brief Bandar that President has decided that he must use force.

Jan 12 President meets with Bandar

Jan 13 President meets with Secretary Powell to tell him that he has decided to use force.

Feb 6 Powell UN Speech

Mar 19 Iraq War begins