

**RE: DAY 6 & 7 TRAVELOGUE TO IRAQ**

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**From:** Jill Iscol

B6

RELEASE IN PART  
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**To:** hdr22@clintonemail.com

**Subject:** RE: DAY 6 & 7 TRAVELOGUE TO IRAQ

You are fabulous! And, Ken and I are coming to your swearing in on Monday.  
Love you,  
Jill

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From: H [mailto:hdr22@clintonemail.com ]  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:23 AM  
To: Jill Iscol  
Subject: Re: DAY 6 & 7 TRAVELOGUE TO IRAQ

You're not overloading, you're helping me by sharing Zach's observations. I can't wait to sit down and talk w him in depth.  
Thanks, my friend. Pls pass on my love to the Z Man!

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From: "Jill Iscol"  
Date: Thu, 29 Jan 2009 11:14:32 -0500  
To:  
Subject: FW: DAY 6 & 7 TRAVELOGUE TO IRAQ

I don't want to overload you but it's really amazing what he is doing and I think it is great information. I also want to thank you for taking the time to respond. Miss you and love you, Jill

From: Zachary Iscol [mailto: ]

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 11:47 AM

To: zachiscol

Family and friends,

I'm sorry that I haven't written in a few days. We've been busy traveling and in transit trying to make our way into Fallujah. We finally made it and are looking forward to seeing some of the city today.

I'm struggling to figure out the direction of the film, mainly because it is very hard to figure out what is going on here. On one hand, there is much to be hopeful about. At the surface, it appears most Iraqis have been able to return to their daily lives, they waive at Marines, casualties are way way down, and the presence of US and coalition forces has been drastically reduced. On the other hand, at what cost has this security arisen? Who are we leaving in power? Will security persist after we leave? Who will fill that vacuum? Unemployment is still high and targeted political violence still occurs. What lies beneath the surface in Iraq? I wonder how honest of a film can we make and is it arrogant to think that we can even attempt to figure any of this out?

In meetings and interviews with tribal leaders who participated in the Al Anbar awakening, I continue to ask them where the bodies are. They claim that there was vicious fighting between the tribes and Al Qaeda once the tribal leaders "woke up" and decided to switch allegiances. Perhaps there are questions we are not supposed to ask, but what did they do with the Al Qaeda dead? At the heart of the question I wonder whether they fought against Al Qaeda groups or if they were the ones following the Al Qaeda leadership, armed with money and ideology, down a treacherous path and when the Awakening occurred shot those leaders in the back of the head, about faced, and started following us down a different path. There is no doubt that it is not that simple, many Sheiks and tribesmen were killed in the fighting, but I desperately want to know what happened and am not satisfied by the answers we are getting. It has just got to be more complicated than the story of Abu Risha gathering the tribes to stand up to the brutality of Al Qaeda in Iraq. Did Al Qaeda's money supply get dried up? Did ours start flowing? Did the Marines win hearts and minds through innovative counterinsurgency tactics? Did the Iraqis decide to take matters into their own hands? Any ideas?

Onto our update...

Monday was rather uneventful except for one meeting in the morning with the director of the local radio station, the head of the Fallujah police, the local ePRT, and the Marine PTT. For laypersons among you, that is the State departments embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team and the Marine Police Transition Team. Fascinating study in the different approaches between state department personnel and the Marines. The purpose of the meeting was to help the police and the radio station director coordinate in the case of emergencies to get information out to the public. The Marine, being a Marine, was very direct and

comfortable with his Iraqi counterpart. It seemed the State Department official was less so, or at least took a decidedly different tact. It seems there is a growing popular consensus in the States that we need more foreign service off