

Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing

“An Oversight Hearing on the Planning and Conduct of the War in Iraq: When Will Iraqi Security Forces Be Able to ‘Stand Up,’ So American Troops Can Begin to ‘Stand Down’?”

Witness Biographies

Nathaniel Fick

Former Infantry Officer, United States Marine Corps

Nathaniel Fick was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps after graduating with high honors from Dartmouth College in 1999. He led his infantry platoon in Afghanistan and Pakistan only weeks after the 9/11 attacks, and later led a Marine Recon platoon during the earliest months of the war in Iraq.

Mr. Fick left the Marines as a captain in 2004, and earned a master’s degree in International Security Policy at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a member of the Board of Visitors at the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth, and served as a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington. He is now an MBA candidate at the Harvard Business School and author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *One Bullet Away*.

Gerald F. Burke

Former National Security Adviser, Iraqi Ministry of the Interior

In May 2003, Gerald Burke was one of six law enforcement specialists selected by the Department of Justice to conduct an on-the-ground assessment of the Iraqi criminal justice system. That assignment led to his selection as senior police advisor to the Baghdad Police Chief, a position he held through June 2004. In February 2005, the Department of State asked Mr. Burke to return to Iraq as a National Security Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. He returned from Iraq in February 2006.

Mr. Burke was an active law enforcement officer for twenty-five years. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1970 and rose to the rank of Deputy Superintendent, commanding the Bureau of Administrative Services. He retired as a Major from the Massachusetts State Police in 1994. He is a veteran of the United States Army and served on active duty from 1968 to 1970.

Mr. Burke holds a Bachelor Degree in Secondary Education from Boston State College and a Master Degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College. He is a graduate of the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management’s Command Training

Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, and the United States Secret Service's Dignitary Protection School.

Stephen Pierson

Former Non-Commissioned Military Police Officer, U.S. Army

Stephen Pierson served as non-commissioned military police officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom, from March 2003 to August 2004, with responsibility for training Iraqi police recruits. Prior to his deployment in Iraq, Mr. Pierson served in the Army for five years and spent one year with the New York National Guard. Mr. Pierson left the Army in 1988 to pursue a civilian police career, working as a uniformed officer, investigator, instructor, and supervisor, and as the executive officer of a police training academy. Mr. Pierson has taught at numerous police academies, including supervisor schools.

Phillip Carter

Former Military Police and Civil Affairs Officer, U.S. Army

Phillip Carter served in the Army for nine years as a military police and civil affairs officer. He was on active duty in Iraq from October 2005 to September 2006, as an adviser to the Iraqi police with the Army's 101st Airborne Division. As the S3 (Operations Officer) for Task Force Blue, Mr. Carter was responsible for advising the Iraqi police in the Diyala province of Iraq.

Mr. Carter is currently an attorney and writer in Los Angeles, where he practices government contracts, national security, and international law with McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP. His practice recently included the representation of several military law scholars and practitioners as *amici curiae* in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*. He also consults for the Los Angeles County Terrorism Early Warning Group, an interagency task force headed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, on law and terrorism issues.

Mr. Carter contributes regularly on national security issues to *Slate*, the *Washington Monthly*, NPR, and the *New York Times*.