

AFTERWORD

The Congress created SIGIR as a temporary organization to oversee and report on Iraq's reconstruction. Its mission was without precedent in U.S. history. I have had the rare and very great pleasure of leading this modest federal agency from its inception. We have accomplished much during our tenure, including:

- 35 Quarterly Reports to the U.S. Congress
- 220 audits, with over \$1.61 billion in financial benefits
- 170 inspections
- 82 convictions, with over \$191 million in financial results
- 9 lessons-learned reports
- 3 special reports and 1 evaluation
- 35 congressional testimonies
- 34 IG trips to Iraq

Hundreds of thousands served in Iraq carrying out an ambitious and challenging program to secure and rebuild that country, and hundreds served with SIGIR to oversee and report on those efforts. Ours was a special calling executed in accord with the core values I set for the organization: professionalism, productivity, and perseverance.

I thank President Bush and Secretaries Rumsfeld and Powell for their faith in selecting and appointing me to lead this mission. I thank President Obama and Secretaries Rice, Gates, Clinton, and Panetta for their support of SIGIR over the years. I thank Generals Sanchez, Casey, Petraeus, Odierno, and Austin, as well as Ambassadors

Bremer, Negroponte, Khalilzad, Crocker, Hill, Jeffrey, and Beecroft for their interest in and patience with our work. I thank our reporting committees in the Congress for sustainment and follow-through.

I thank all of those who faithfully served alongside me at SIGIR as we carried out our ever-challenging but ever-rewarding mission: oversight under fire. I am especially grateful for the long hours and hard work put in by my writing and production staff, led by Executive Editor Bill Maly, his Deputy Karen Burchard, and Christine Bath-Zachery, Leland Bettis, Michael Diakiwsky, Bradley Larson, Tyler Marshall, Kevin O'Connor, Claudia Smith, Bonnie Stephens, and Gwendolyn Toops. *Learning From Iraq* succeeds because of their collective commitment to excellence. I also thank my SIGIR leadership team for its many contributions to this final report: Deputy Inspector General Glenn Furbish, Chief of Staff Paul Cooksey, Assistant Inspector General for Audits Jim Shafer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations Dan Willkens, Assistant Inspector General for Congressional Affairs Hillel Weinberg, Assistant Inspector General for Management and Administration Christopher Williams, General Counsel Michael Mobbs, Director of Operations Karl Tool, Executive Assistant Dena Nevarez, and Special Assistant to the Inspector General Sahar Salem. Finally, and most of all, I thank my wife, Adriana, and my children for much love.

