

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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Subject: Fw: (Reuters) U.S. VP Biden visits Iraq as troops withdraw

From: Simmons, Krista M
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Sent: Mon Aug 30 11:04:13 2010
Subject: (Reuters) U.S. VP Biden visits Iraq as troops withdraw

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Vice President Biden arrived in Iraq on August 30 as U.S. troops prepared to end combat operations on August 31.

Biden was expected to hold talks with Iraqi leaders during a period of political deadlock, almost six months after an inconclusive election in March, over forming the country's next government.

His visit comes at a time when Iraq is on high alert for attacks by insurgents after a series of bombings that killed dozens of people and underscored the fragility of Iraq's recent security gains.