

**EXPERTS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE “WINNING THE PEACE ACT OF 2003”
AND ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION**

“The ‘Winning the Peace Act of 2003’ is a good step towards ensuring that we get post-conflict reconstruction right. We simply cannot allow countries emerging from wars to slide back into violence for the sake of the people of these lands and the safety and security of Americans around the world.”

-- Dr. John Hamre, former Deputy Secretary of Defense and president of CSIS.

"This bipartisan legislation addresses major shortcomings in the way our government handles the challenge of postwar reconstruction. It is critically important, and could not have come at a more urgent moment. It deserves serious attention, and my hope is that the Congress will act rapidly."

-- Richard C. Holbrooke, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

"The last two years of American and coalition military action have shown us that focus and perseverance can jump start the transformation of national institutions. Our military capabilities are paramount in the world today. But we are having difficulty bringing the same focus and perseverance to building capable institutions that can seal the peace. We had three years to get ready for the end of WWII, three years to prepare for the end of the Korean War, years to prepare for the aftermath in the Balkans, a three month air and ground campaign in Kosovo, two months in Afghanistan and six weeks in Iraq. To win the peace we must move our preparation for Post-Conflict Reconstruction up in our planning cycle so that we can equal our war making capability with a comparably unequaled peace building capacity. This bi-partisan, broadly inclusive commission report details seventeen key recommendations to improving US interagency capability to respond when the nation calls for peace as effectively as when the nation calls for war. Winning the peace seals the victory."

-- General Gordon R. Sullivan, former U.S. Army Chief of Staff and president of Association of United States Army.

"Unless the U.S. decides to equip itself to win the peace, we will be chasing bad guys around rough neighborhoods for the rest of this century and have little to show for it."

-- Chester Crocker, former assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Schlesinger Chair at Georgetown University.

“As Afghanistan and Iraq both demonstrate, the United States needs better-balanced tools for post-conflict security and reconstruction, with much heavier investment in civilian capacity. Establishing and maintaining, within USAID, an on-call roster of field-experienced individuals; creating reconstruction-focused training programs; and building a post-conflict security support element within NATO, would boost the ability of the United States and its allies to respond quickly and effectively to future post-conflict requirements, whether on their own or in support of the United Nations.”

-- Victoria K. Holt and William J. Durch, Co-Directors, Future of Peace Operations Project, The Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington, DC