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## CSBA AND LIEBERMAN HOST CAPACITY CROWD ON IRAQ STRATEGY

The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments hosted Senator Joe Lieberman and a capacity crowd on Capitol Hill this morning for a briefing and discussion on how to win the war in Iraq.

Senator Lieberman called for creation of a Bipartisan Victory Working Group of congressional leaders and Administration officials. Emphasizing that the vast majority of Americans and members of Congress agree on the goals for the War in Iraq, Lieberman offered the working group as a way to reach past political differences to focus on strategic interests.

*"Iraq has become a war of necessity played for high stakes by both sides."*

*Andrew Krepinevich*

CSBA Executive Director Andrew Krepinevich remarked that Lieberman's panel would foster a bipartisan consensus similar to that which enabled the Truman Administration to organize NATO and develop a Cold War strategy.

"This proposal has the potential to bring the public behind a bipartisan plan for securing victory in Iraq, a crucial component to winning the hearts and minds of the American people," Krepinevich said. He argued that the centers of gravity for accomplishing the mission in Iraq are sustaining the support of the American and Iraqi publics and the US military.

Support for the war among the U.S. public and the military is under strain because the Army and Marine Corps are being stressed in order to sustain the current force level in Iraq, Krepinevich said. He called for embedding larger numbers of US troops with Iraqi forces and ministries while reducing the overall number of troops deployed to Iraq. This also would bolster the Iraqi military and give Iraqi citizens more confidence in their security.

Krepinevich also provided insight into the Administration's "clear, hold and build" strategy, which bears a striking resemblance to his "oil spot" approach highlighted in his "How to Win in Iraq" essay published in the fall issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

"The President is finally providing a roadmap for going forward, but developing a strategy is only half the battle. Now, we must execute it well," Krepinevich concluded.

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