

Iraq: Impediments



- **Failure to recognize the Nature of the War.** We have not accepted the implications of an intensifying civil war and the strength of rejectionist sentiment in the Sunni Arab community... leads to unrealistically sanguine assessments and projections.
- **Failing Strategy.** “Short war” approach to a “long war” problem. Allowed political development to outpace security and other lines of operations. Aims to neutralize rather than defeat the insurgency, fails to address the civil war, and views exiting Iraq as an end unto itself.
 - *Circumscribes the will to win*
 - *Undermines Iraqi confidence*
 - *Self regulates how we define requirements (forces and resources)*
 - *Falls to generate sufficient resources and apply them to the problem (e.g. intel, inter-agency effort, troops, reconstruction)*
- **We are losing** because we are not winning and time is not on our side. We are not gaining the needed traction and are running out of time with US and Iraqi publics.