

The recent discussion by Mr. Leopold about the Bush plan in Iraq, reminded me of the similar plan called NCLB, introduced by the Bush administration exactly 5 years ago - here follows both the Leopold discussion of the Iraq, and my variant, discussing the NCLB plan - the similarities are frightening to most of us

The Architect of Mr. Bush's Plan

By Jason Leopold, Truth-Out Report, Thursday 11 January 2007

Perhaps the most alarming element of Bush's "new" plan for stabilizing Iraq is how much it relies upon the recommendations of individuals who have never set foot on a battlefield. Much of what the president outlined in a prime-time speech Wednesday evening - specifically, sending more than 20,000 additional soldiers into Iraq - was culled from the white paper, "Choosing Victory: A Plan for Success in Iraq," written by Kagan last month.

Some of the key points of Kagan's proposal include:

- ◆ We must change our focus from training Iraqi soldiers to securing the Iraqi population and containing the rising violence. Securing the population has never been the primary mission of the US military effort in Iraq, and now it must become the first priority.
- ◆ We must send more American combat forces into Iraq, and especially into Baghdad, to support this operation. A surge of seven Army brigades and Marine regiments to support clear-and-hold operations starting in the spring of 2007 is necessary, possible, and will be sufficient.
- ◆ These forces, partnered with Iraqi units, will clear critical Sunni and mixed Sunni-Shia neighborhoods, primarily on the west side of the city.
- ◆ After the neighborhoods have been cleared, US soldiers and Marines, again partnered with Iraqis, will remain behind to maintain security.
- ◆ As security is established, reconstruction aid will help to reestablish normal life and, working through Iraqi officials, will strengthen Iraqi local government.

But these recommendations itself aren't new. In fact, this "new" plan has actually been collecting dust for two years.

The Architect of Mr. Bush's NCLB Plan

A variation on Jason Leopold's TruthOut Report of Thursday 11 January 2007

Perhaps the most alarming element of Bush's "new" **5-year-old NCLB plan** for stabilizing education is how much it relies upon the recommendations of individuals who have never set foot on a schoolhouse. Much of what the president outlined- specifically, sending more than 20,000 additional education testers into US schools - was culled from the original white paper of the US Department of Education.

Some of the key points of the NCLB proposal include:

- ◆ We must change our focus from training American students to securing the American population and containing the rising violence. Securing the population has never been the primary mission of the US administration's effort in America and now it must become the first priority.
- ◆ We must send more American testers into US schools, and especially into urban areas, to support this operation. A surge of Teacher tester regiments to support clear-and-hold operations starting immediately is necessary, possible, and will be sufficient.
- ◆ These forces, partnered with state administrators, will clear critical neighborhoods, primarily in the cities.
- ◆ After the neighborhoods have been cleared, more testing regiments, again partnered with state administrators, will remain behind to maintain security.
- ◆ As security is established, reconstruction aid will help to reestablish normal classrooms and, working through state officials, will strengthen US local education authorities.

But these recommendations themselves aren't new. In fact, this "new" plan has actually been collecting dust for a hundred and two years. And they should have remained there....