

soldiers understand what their mission is. They look around everyday and they see the people of Iraq and they understand what Iraq would look like if they didn't have the coalition soldiers - the 135,000 American and the 20,000 from 30 other nations here. They know what could happen - it could be like Bosnia, it could be like Kosovo - all the sectarian violence could emerge.

So they understand the clear focus mission and they understand their purpose for being here. They also know they have the support of their friends and family back home, they have the support of the American people, they have the support of the American Congress and they have the support of the President of the United States. And when you have that great amount of public support and a clear focused mission and you understand your purpose for being over here that's what keeps morale high.

Bridget Kendall: General Kimmitt thank you. Well our next question for General Kimmitt is about the military operations there have been recently in Falluja and Najaf. And the first one, General Kimmitt, is from Abu in Arusha in Tanzania who asks: Why did American soldiers pull out of Falluja after a stand off, only later on to put a former Saddam Hussein general in control?

General Kimmitt: Well first of all we didn't pull out of Falluja, we had a cordon around Falluja, we were going to complete the operation to come back into the city of Falluja to rid it of the foreign fighters, to rid it of the people who had attacked and killed so many Iraqi policemen on the 14th February, to bring to justice those that had killed the contractors on March 31st.

But then the Iraqi governing council came forward and said - Look, we know you can do this militarily but let's see if we can do this peacefully. Perhaps the answer to this question does not rest with force of arms but perhaps we can find a peaceful solution. We said we'd be willing to listen . There was significant discussion between the people of Falluja and the governing council and local dignitaries. At that point the decision was made to allow a Falluja brigade of former regular army soldiers to come back on duty in an interim auxiliary brigade, occupy Falluja, become responsible for public security and slowly move to our other objectives of ridding that city of weapons, foreign fighters Iraqi control and bring in justice. Since May 3rd we've had no ceasefire violations during that time when the coalition announced a unilateral suspension of offensive operations.

So if you take a look at Falluja now what do you have? They have it placid, fairly peaceful, it's quiet. People aren't firing at each other. The Falluja brigade is inside. We also have the Iraqi police inside, we also have the Iraqi civil defence inside. Soon we will have soldiers inside conducting able to deploy large amount of reconstruction money into the city of Falluja. So the military option always remains. But this seems to use all the efforts, all of our capabilities, not only military but diplomatic and economic to try to bring Falluja back in line with the rest of Iraq and moving towards freedom and democracy.

Bridget Kendall: But General Kimmitt for all those watching and particularly Iraqis who had homes in Falluja who either lost their homes or some of them lost their lives, the lives of their relatives, they must ask - was the raid justified in the first place, why didn't you go for a peaceful solution in the