

he is committed to helping the people that have helped us provide for an increased level of security.

What we will look to do with the Sons of Iraq is to place about 20 percent of them into security force positions with the police or the army. And then the remainder of those Sons of Iraq's -- Sons of Iraq we hope to help find jobs, meaningful jobs that can help them provide for their families.

And we're committed to helping the people that have helped us. And you know, we're working hard along with the -- with the government officials from Iraq to move this process along. And I really -- I feel very confident, again, that the prime minister is committed to helping and I think we'll have a measured process of transitioning people from security -- the security line of work into civilian jobs over time.

Q Do you have a timetable that you're aiming at?

GEN. AUSTIN: Well, you know, it's very difficult to lay a timetable out on when you're going to be able to transition all the Sons of Iraq, because as you're placing people into jobs, you have to create those jobs for people to go into.

I can tell you, we'll transition them as quickly as we can in a smooth and measured fashion so that we can still provide for security and ensure that people have meaningful jobs. So, I mean, it'll take us some time to be able to do that, but we'll transition them as soon -- as fast as is feasible.

Q Kimberly Dozier with CBS News. Sir, you mentioned that there were fewer lethal accelerants coming up from the south to Baghdad and creating violence. I assume you mean units trained by Iran. One of your military analysts gave an on-the-record interview last week and spoke of hit squads spread throughout the country that have been trained in four bases in Iran. Can you give us some more detail on that -- (off mike) -- Iraqi targets?

GEN. AUSTIN: First of all, I don't know of any analysts that have given on-the-record interviews, but I don't claim to know everything.

By lethal accelerants, what I mean is munitions and weapons, such as explosively formed penetrators or EFPs. And as you know, those are IEDs that are anti-armor IEDs that have the ability to penetrate our armored vehicles. And they are absolutely -- they've been absolutely lethal on the battlefield.

And we've seen a number of rockets that have moved from the southern region up into the Baghdad area, and we saw a lot of those rockets last March. In the last several months, we've seen a much decreased flow of those types of weapons, in part because we've been very successful in finding a number of caches that had large stores of those types of munitions and weapons. We've taken those off the battlefield. And we've also taken off -- taken a number of people who were using those weapons off the battlefield, and so that's greatly improved the security situation.

Q (Off mike) -- address, the units that might be trained in Iran, what sort of violence they're presenting?

GEN. AUSTIN: As the security improved in the south, in places like Sadr City and in Basra, we saw that the leadership of the special groups criminal elements left the country, and we think that they went into Iran for additional training and to be resourced. And we expect that those leaders will try to come back at some point in time in the future. When they come back, we hope that they'll find a much changed environment, an environment that's a lot more hostile to their types of activities.

And what will cause that change, I think, is a change in attitude of the people. You know, over the last several months, the people have been able to enjoy a much more peaceful environment. I think the people