

Iraq accord sets timeline for U.S. troop exit

Iraq's parliament has approved a security pact with the United States that lets American troops stay in the country for three more years – setting a clear timetable for a U.S. exit for the first time since the 2003 invasion

MAIN POINTS OF ACCORD

► **January 1, 2009:** Accord takes effect, replacing UN mandate which allows U.S. forces to operate in Iraq. Iraqi government would have power of veto over most U.S. troop operations

► **From January 1, 2009:** Iraq will take over responsibility for central Baghdad's **Green Zone**

► **By June 30, 2009:** All U.S. combat troops to leave Iraqi cities and towns

► **By July 30, 2009:** Iraqi government to hold referendum on accord. If pact is rejected, U.S. troops could only stay in Iraq until summer 2010

► **By December 31, 2011:** All U.S. forces are to withdraw from Iraq

Current control: Iraqi U.S.

