President George W. Bush
Oral History Project

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Eric S. Edelman

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Prepared by Bryan Craig, Senior Researcher
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Presidential Oral History Program

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**ERIC S. EDELMAN NEWS TIMELINE**

*Prepared by Bryan Craig  
Miller Center, University of Virginia, 11/19/2012*

1972  
Eric S. Edelman receives a B.A from Cornell University.  
(http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/experts/2001/eric_s_edelman.html)

1980-1981  
Edelman is a member of the U.S. Middle East delegation to the West Bank/Gaza autonomy talks delegations.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1981  
Edelman earns a Ph.D. in U.S. diplomatic history from Yale University.  
(http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/experts/2001/eric_s_edelman.html)

1981-1989  
Edelman serves in various posts at State, such as watch officer in the State Department Operations Center, special assistant to Secretary of State George P. Shultz, in the office of Soviet Affairs, and in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1989-1990  
Edelman is special assistant (European Affairs) to Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt.

1990-1993  
Edelman is assistant deputy under secretary of defense for Soviet and East European Affairs.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1993  
Edelman serves as deputy to the ambassador-at-large and special advisor to the secretary of state on New Independent States.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1994-1996  
Edelman is deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in the Czech Republic.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1996-1998  
Edelman serves as executive assistant to Strobe Talbot, deputy secretary of state.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

1998-2001  
Edelman is ambassador to Finland.  
(http://www.defenselink.mil/bios/edelman_bio.html)

2001  

*January*  
Vice President Dick Cheney appoints Edelman as principle deputy assistant for national security affairs.

*Spring-Fall*  
The National Security Council’s (NSC) counter-terrorism expert, Richard Clarke, and CIA Director George Tenet warn National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice about Abu Zubaydah and al-Qaeda threats, including possible attacks on Israel and U.S. assets outside and inside the U.S.  According to the 9/11

**September**

On the 11th, al-Qaeda attacks the U.S. When the Secret Service thinks a plane might strike the White House, Cheney and Edelman go to the underground Presidential Emergency Operations Center (PEOC). Edelman gives Cheney a note from Deputy National Security Advisor Steven Hadley recommending they evacuate, but Cheney declines. Edelman calls up to the Situation Room where White House staffers are meeting, but the audio is too poor to hear anything. Bush calls Cheney as he leaves Florida and tells Cheney that the military has the authority to try to peacefully land suspicious aircraft, and if that fails, shoot them down. Cheney calls back a few minutes later asking to confirm that order and Bush says yes. Cheney and Rice recommend Bush not return to Washington right away. (*Dick Cheney, In My Time*, New York: Threshold, 2012, pp. 4, 7; *George W. Bush, Decision Points*, New York: Crown, 2010, pp. 130-131, 133)

On the 12th, Cheney meets with his chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby Jr., legal counsel, David Addington, Edelman, Chief of Staff Andy Card, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, and his deputy, Timothy Flanigan. (http://www.gwu.edu/)

On the 14th, a memorial service is held at the National Cathedral. Cheney is at Camp David for continuity of government purposes. (*Cheney*, p. 331)

On the 15th, Congress passes a joint resolution authorizing the use of force against those responsible for the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

On the 15th, Cheney attends an NSC meeting with Bush at Camp David. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, General Hugh Shelton, and incoming Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) Chairman Dick Myers give the president three options for Afghanistan: missile strikes on al-Qaeda camps, missile strikes plus manned bomber strikes, and missile strikes plus troops on the ground. Bush defers action against Iraq. (*Bush*, p. 185, 188-189)

**October**

On the 7th, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan begins.

On the 18th, Cheney tells Bush that traces of the botulinum toxin have been found at the White House. It is a false alarm. (*Bush*, pp. 152-153)

**November**

Patrick Philbin of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issues a memo supporting the use of military commissions to try terrorism suspects. When Attorney General John Ashcroft learns of this plan on the 10th, he reportedly raises his objections to Cheney. (*Jane Mayer, The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the*

### 2002

**February**  
On the 5th, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase meet with Edelman, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, and Hadley about Romania’s entry into NATO. (BBC, 02/05/2002)

On the 7th, Bush announces that the Afghan conflict will be governed by the Geneva Conventions and that the Taliban will receive humane treatment but not POW status. The Conventions will not apply to captured al-Qaeda members. (Doug Feith, **War and Decision**, New York: Harper, 2008, pp. 162-165)

**March**  
Cheney is on a Middle East tour. Edelman, John Hannah, a national security aide to Cheney, and Libby argue against the idea of Cheney meeting with Yasser Arafat, while Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns supports a meeting. A Palestinian suicide bomber derails a possible meeting. (Cheney, pp. 378-379)

**June**  
On the 22nd, Bush declares his support for a Palestinian state in a White House Rose Garden speech. Rice, Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Secretary of State Colin Powell had advised Bush not to give the speech. (Bush, p. 404)

**July**  
Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz fails to secure cooperation with Turkey for an Iraqi invasion. (http://www.gwu.edu/)

**August**  
An OLC advisory opinion drafted by John Yoo, and signed by Jay Bybee, supports the content of a classified memo that approves a list of interrogation techniques for CIA use. Addington is reportedly involved in meetings prior to the creation of the opinion and memo. (Charlie Savage, **Takeover**, New York: Back Bay Books, 2008, p. 155)

On the 26th, Cheney gives an address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention. He states that “A return of inspectors would provide no assurance whatsoever of Saddam’s compliance with U.N. resolutions. On the contrary, there's a great danger that it would provide false comfort that Saddam was somehow ‘back in his box.’” (http://www.guardian.co.uk) Bush feels this statement is ahead of policy as he is still deciding whether to send inspectors back. He calls Rice to tell Cheney not to make such statements. (Bush, p. 91)

**September**  
On the 7th, Bush holds a meeting on Iraq with the national security team at Camp David. Cheney advocates giving Saddam Hussein 30-60 days to reveal his weapons program or disarm him by force. Powell pushes for a UN resolution. Bush decides to go to the UN. Over the next six months, Cheney would ask Bush in his weekly meetings about Saddam and his reported concern over the slow
diplomatic process that might give Saddam time to continue his WMD program. (Bush, pp. 238-239, 251)

**October**
On the 12th, Congress passes a resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq.

**November**
On the 8th, the UN approves Resolution 1441 demanding immediate and unrestricted access for UN inspectors and requires Iraq to provide a declaration of its WMD program. (Cheney, p. 393)

**December**
On the 21st, Tenet presents his intelligence on Iraq’s WMD to Rice, Cheney, Card, and Bush, stating it is a “slam dunk” case. (Bush, p. 242)

2003

**January**

On the 31st, Prime Minister Tony Blair meets with Bush in Washington to argue for a second UN resolution against Saddam. Cheney, Rice, Powell, and Rumsfeld are against it, but Blair states he needs it for political support at home. The resolution negotiations fail by March. (Cheney, pp. 397-398)

**February**
On the 23rd, Bush nominates Edelman to be U.S. ambassador to Turkey. (http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu)

**March**
On the 19th, Bush gives the order to launch Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Rumsfeld, p. 460)

**April**

Plans to form a national government are delayed in favor of a U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) that will oversee reconstruction efforts. The CPA reports to Rumsfeld. (*Condoleezza Rice, No Higher Honor*, New York: Crown, 2011, p. 211)

On the 9th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holds confirmation hearings on Edelman to become ambassador to Turkey. The Senate confirms him on the 11th. (http://thomas.loc.gov)

**May**
On the 1st, Bush announces major combat operations in Iraq have ended.

On the 7th, Bush announces L. Paul Bremer as special envoy to Iraq.
June  

On the 13th, Edelman says that Turkey and the U.S. need to “rebuild the strategic partnership” in the aftermath of 9/11 and the Iraq War.  (*BBC*, 06/14/2003)

July  
Bob Novak reveals Valerie Plame’s identity as a CIA operative in his column on the 13th.  Plame is the wife of former U.S. Ambassador Joe Wilson, who had recently published an op-ed on the 6th charging Bush with misrepresenting the threat posed by Iraq in the 2003 State of the Union address.  In the address, Bush referenced reports that Iraq had tried to obtain uranium yellowcake from Niger, even though Wilson’s February 2002 trip to Niger found no evidence supporting the claim.  The Justice Department subsequently opens an investigation to determine whether Bush Administration officials intentionally leaked Plame’s identity in violation of federal law in retaliation for Wilson’s criticism.  (*The Washington Post*, 07/13/2003; *The New Yorker*, 11/07/2005)

On the 22nd, Edelman begins to serve as U.S. ambassador to Turkey.

September  
On the 29th, Edelman says the U.S. will remain Turkey’s partner against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).  (*BBC*, 09/29/2003)

October  
On the 9th, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announces that Turkey will send troops to Iraq.  Edelman meets with Turkey’s Foreign Ministry to set a timetable for talks between Turkish and U.S. military officials.  (*The New York Times*, 10/10/2003)

November  
Four truck bombs on the 15th and 20th kill over 60 people in Istanbul.  Edelman says the attacks are “consistent with the pattern we have seen in attacks launched by al-Qa’ida.”  (*The Independent*-London, 11/25/2003)

2004

January  
Edelman meets with U.S. State Department Special Coordinator for Cyprus Thomas Weston and Turkish Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ugur Ziyal.  (*BBC*, 01/22/2004)

April  
The TV show, *60 Minutes*, runs a segment on prisoner abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison.  (Rumsfeld, pp. 593-594)

On the 24th, a UN-backed referendum on a reunited Cyprus fails.  Edelman had hoped both Greeks and Turks would support the plan.  (*BBC*, 04/02/2004, 04/25/2004)

May  
On the 4th, Edelman sends a cable to the State Department saying many members of non-governmental organizations, the press, parliament, and the general
community in Turkey are “expressing their disgust” with the torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners. (http://www.torturingdemocracy.org)

On the 20th, Edelman asks Turkish officials to send troops to Afghanistan. (BBC, 05/20/2004)

September
On the 9th, major military operations begin in the city of Tal Afar in northern Iraq. Although Edelman says no actions are committed against Iraqi Turkmen, Turkish officials claim that over 50 of them are killed. The U.S. and Turkey coordinate humanitarian aid. (BBC, 09/13/2004)

December
Edelman meets with Erdogan on Iraq and the European Union (EU). Talks began on giving Turkey full membership in the EU, which the U.S. supports. Edelman reportedly supports a tripartite meeting with the U.S., Turkey, and Iraqi officials. (BBC, 12/14/2004)

2005

February
On the 5th, Rice visits Turkey. Edelman briefs Rice on the plane before she meets with Erdogan, Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer, and other Turkish officials. (BBC, 02/05/2005)

On the 14th, Lebanon’s former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is assassinated in the wake of the demand for Syria to pull out of Lebanon. (AP, 02/15/2005)

March
Edelman fails to dissuade Sezer to cancel a trip to Syria in the wake of Hariri’s assassination. (International Affairs, 03/2007, p. 296)


April
On the 26th, Turkish National Defense Minister Vecdi Gönül and Edelman announce that the U.S. will modernize 117 Turkish F-16 fighter jets. (BBC, 04/26/2005)

June
On the 8th, Bush meets with Erdogan and Edelman in Washington. (BBC, 06/08/2005)

Edelman meets with senators on the Senate Armed Services Committee in preparation for his confirmation hearings. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), chairman of the committee, warns Edelman that his confirmation might be delayed due to the Bush Administration’s refusal to turn over documents from the Defense Policy Office related to a possible link between al-Qaeda and Iraq. (The Washington Post, 06/25/2005; http://www.defenselink.mi)
On the 29th, the Senate Armed Services Committee conducts hearings on Edelman’s nomination.

**August**

On the 9th, Edelman becomes under secretary of defense for policy by a recess appointment. *(The Washington Post, 08/10/2005)*

Edelman begins to reorganize the Policy Office. He adds a new assistant secretary for global security affairs and rearranges duties for the assistant secretaries for Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. *(The Washington Times, 09/18/2005)*

**September**

Hadley and Edelman meet with Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet to discuss Estonia’s continued efforts to keep troops in Iraq. *(Baltic News Service, 09/08/2005)*

Thomas O’Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, and Paul McHale, assistant secretary for homeland defense, tell Edelman they are resigning. O’Connell states that he was not pushed out due to Edelman’s reorganization of the Policy Office. *(The Washington Times, 09/18/2005)*

Rumsfeld tells NSC staffer Peter Feaver, who is looking for people to work on his national strategy review, to contact Edelman for a candidate from Defense. *(http://library.rumsfeld.com)*

**October**

Libby is indicted by a federal grand jury for his role in leaking the identity of CIA officer Plame. *(The New York Times, 10/30/2005)*

**November**


**December**

Edelman is among 26 Defense Department officials to review a new army field manual that sets new guidelines for interrogation procedures. *(http://library.rumsfeld.com)*


2006

**February**

On the 1st, the National Military Strategic Plan is released. It focuses on a strategy to protect the homeland, attack terrorist networks, and support mainstream Muslim efforts. (http://www.defense.gov/qdr/docs/2005-01-25-Strategic-Plan.pdf)

On the 6th, the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review is released. (http://www.defense.gov)

On the 9th, Edelman is confirmed by the Senate. (Technews, 02/10/2006)

On the 22nd, al-Qaeda bombs the al-Askari Golden Mosque. Rumsfeld asks Edelman and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace to look into an immediate U.S. response. (Rumsfeld, p. 659)

**March**

The 2006 National Security Strategy is released. It focuses on preventing the proliferation of WMDs, strengthening alliances, promoting open societies and free trade and markets, and reforming national security institutions. (http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/nsc/nss/2006/sectionI.html)

On the 13th, Edelman meets with Seoul Mayor Lee Myung-bak. The U.S. wants to scale back the number of U.S. troops in South Korea. (BBC, 03/14/2006)

**April**

On the 7th, Edelman outlines a $100 million program to the House Armed Services Committee to train and equip foreign militaries to fight terrorism in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Africa. Edelman explains, “Many global-war-on-terrorism tasks are best accomplished by and with partner nations who know the local geography, language and culture.” (The Washington Post, 04/08/2006)

**May**

Edelman leads the U.S. delegation of the Joint Defense Consultative Group with Pakistan. The group’s focus is on Pakistani needs to fight terrorism. (BBC, 04/03/2006)

**June**

On the 12th, Rumsfeld joins the NSC members at Camp David to discuss Iraq strategy in light of increasing sectarian and insurgent violence. Rumsfeld supports additional resources for Iraqi security forces with a careful and measured withdraw of U.S. troops. (Rumsfeld, pp. 694-697)

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that detainees have the right of due process in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, a decision that necessitates congressional legislation to
define procedures for trying the prisoners detained at Guantánamo Bay.  (*The Washington Post*, 07/05/2006)

**July**

On the 9th, Shiite militiamen raid a Sunni neighborhood in Baghdad, killing at least 50 residents. It touches off another round of violence. (*The Washington Post*, 07/13/2006)

**August**

Operation Together Forward II begins. Rumsfeld deploys five thousand more U.S. troops and six thousand additional Iraqi troops to curb the violence in Baghdad. (Rumsfeld, p. 703)

On the 17th, Dr. Marin Strmecki, an expert on Afghanistan, briefs Rumsfeld after a fact-finding mission to the country. Strmecki reports that the security situation is deteriorating and that the Taliban has created a shadow government in the southern part of the country. Rumsfeld sends the report to the White House. (Rumsfeld, pp. 687-688)

**September**

On the 6th, Bush acknowledges for the first time the CIA’s program of secret detention of terrorist suspects in foreign prisons and the use of harsh interrogation methods to collect intelligence. The president expresses a willingness to work with Congress to authorize new military commissions and transfers fourteen high-value CIA detainees to Guantánamo. However, Rumsfeld believes having the CIA program side by side with the military detention operations would further damage the military. (Rumsfeld, pp. 584-585)

On the 11th, Edelman testifies before the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations. He says progress has been made since July on Iraqis maintaining their own security. The U.S. led coalition has been a key player in training Iraqis in counterinsurgency operations. He is optimistic that more progress can be made in the next 12 to 18 months and argues “conditions on the ground, not arbitrary timelines, will determine our success in Iraq.” (*State Department*, 09/11/2005)

On the 19th, Rumsfeld meets with General Jack Keane (ret.) who supports a change in course to bring in more troops to focus on protecting Iraqi civilians, and to remove General John Abizaid and General George Casey. (Rumsfeld, p. 701)

On the 29th, Edelman and Meghan O’Sullivan, deputy national security adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan, attend a State Department conference on counterinsurgency campaigns. Edelman urges cooperation between State and military officials: “We don't sufficiently have unity of effort yet.” (*The Washington Post*, 09/30/2006)

**October**

On the 20th, Edelman, Rumsfeld, and Pace are briefed by Abizaid and Casey on a new military strategy review. Rumsfeld raises the possibility of more troops to Iraq, but Casey says it is not necessary. (Rumsfeld, p. 702)

**November**

The U.S.-India Defense Policy Group meets in New Delhi. Edelman and Indian Defense Secretary Shekhar Dutt agree to upgrade joint military exercises from platoon/company level to battalion/command level. (*Asian Survey*, January/February 2007, p. 117)

On the 10th, Bush meets with Cheney, Rice, Rumsfeld, Hadley, Pace, Deputy National Security Advisor J.D. Crouch, and John Negroponte. The president reportedly assigns Crouch to lead an Iraq strategy review group. The Pentagon is also undergoing an Iraq review led by Peter Rodman. (Bob Woodward, *The War Within*, New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009, p. 207; Rumsfeld, p. 713)

On the 26th, Rumsfeld attends an Iraqi strategy meeting with Bush, Rice, Hadley, Crouch, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and others. Crouch suggests accelerating the transfer of security responsibility to the Iraqis and a troop “surge” to increase security. (Woodward, pp. 244-245; *The Washington Post*, 11/15/2006)

The Nuclear Weapons Council, a group of Defense officials that includes Edelman and members of the National Nuclear Security Administration, endorses a new replacement warhead. The council has been reviewing designs for more than a year. (*Defense Daily*, 12/04/2006)

**December**

On the 6th, Edelman tells the House International Relations Committee that Rumsfeld has authorized troops in Afghanistan to embed Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents and to notify DEA agents when they find drugs. (*The Washington Times*, 12/22/2006)

On the 15th, Rumsfeld leaves office.

On the 18th, Robert Gates officially takes over for Rumsfeld. The next day Bush asks Gates to report back to him on possibly increasing troop strength in Iraq. (*AP*, 12/18/2006)

On the 20th, Gates and Edelman visit Iraq. Reportedly, Edelman gives Gates the American Enterprise Institute study headed by Keane. The report argues for a surge to protect the population. Casey reportedly states he only needs one or two additional brigades for several months. (*The International Herald Tribune*, 09/01/2008)

December


2007

January

Edelman responds to the Pentagon inspector general’s draft report on Doug Feith’s Iraq-al-Qaeda briefings. The report suggests that although legal, Feith’s work was “inappropriate” and recommends new internal controls to make sure the Policy Office does not participate in intelligence activities. Edelman defends Feith’s work by saying the briefings were not conducting intelligence, but making an assessment of existing intelligence work. The report is released in February. *(The New York Times, 02/09/2007)*

On the 10th, in a televised speech to the American public, Bush declares that the U.S. will send over 20,000 new troops to Iraq in order to stabilize the country. *(AP, 01/10/2007)*

On the 12th, Gates states that the U.S. will cooperate with Pakistan in an effort to secure Afghanistan. *(AP, 02/12/2007)*

March

On the 7th, Gates approves a request to send more military police to Iraq prior to a security crackdown in the country. *(AP, 03/07/2007)*

Edelman visits Berlin to make a case to the Germans to help build part of a missile defense shield. *(The Washington Post, 03/29/2007)*

April

To drop Russia’s opposition to American missile sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, Edelman travels to Russia to discuss a new package of incentives, including joint defense technology. *(The New York Times, 04/21/2007)*

Gates suggests that the U.S. should stop holding terrorist suspects at Guantánamo Bay and transfer them to the mainland in order to quell global criticism of the U.S.’s terrorism detention policies. *(The Washington Times, 04/02/2007)*

On the 18th, Gates declares the diplomacy between the U.S. and Iran over Iran’s nuclear programs is working but needs more time to succeed. *(AP, 04/18/2007)*

On the 19th, Gates travels to Israel in an effort to discuss a deal that would send a large number of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia. While in the Middle East, Gates also travels to Iraq to assess how the “surge” is working. While in Iraq, Gates posits that the troop buildup commitment is not “open ended” and is contingent on Iraq’s political progress. *(AP, 04/19/2007; AP Online, 04/21/2007)*

On the 25th, by a vote of 218-208, the House of Representatives passes legislation to fund the war in Iraq. However, as part of the legislation, the bill requires the U.S. to start bringing troops back from Iraq starting on October 1, 2007. *(AP, 04/26/2007)*
May

On the 8th, the Pentagon announces that the U.S. may continue the troop buildup in Iraq through December 2007. (AP, 05/08/2007)

June

On the 3rd, Gates warns Turkey not to invade northern Iraq to attack Kurds that Turkey suggests are committing terrorist attacks in Turkey. His comments come after a military buildup by Turkey along northern Iraq. Days later, Turkish forces raid northern Iraq. (AP, 06/03/2007, 06/07/2007)

On the 5th, Gates visits Iraq. (AP, 06/05/2007)

On the 8th, Gates recommends Admiral Mike Mullen of the Navy to replace Pace. (AP, 06/08/2007)

On the 14th, Gates says that the U.S. will continue with its plan to implement an anti-missile defense shield system in Eastern Europe and not to participate in a proposed counter-offer by Russia whereby a radar site would be set up in Azerbaijan for dual country use. (AP, 06/15/2007)

On the 26th, Edelman, the Missile Defense Agency, and Tomas Klvana, Czech’s special government communications envoy to the Missile Defense Program, meet to discuss building a radar base in the Czech Republic. (BBC, 06/27/2007)

July

A progress report on Iraq is released in mid-July. It states that the Iraqi government has failed to meet many benchmarks previously set by the Bush Administration. In response to the report and growing anxiety surrounding the war, Senators Warner and Richard Lugar (R-IN) draft legislation requiring Bush to narrow the scope of the mission in Iraq by October. (AP, 07/13/2007)

On the 16th, Edelman creates controversy when he responds to Senator Hillary Clinton’s (D-NY) May request for the Pentagon’s plans for troop withdrawal in Iraq. Edelman writes, “Premature and public discussion reinforces enemy propaganda that the United States will abandon its allies in Iraq, much as we are perceived to have done in Vietnam, Lebanon, and Somalia.” (The Washington Post, 07/20/2007) Gates makes a statement saying he has not seen Edelman’s letter and will look into her request. (The Washington Post, 07/21/2007)

August


On the 30th, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report finds that Iraq has made little political progress despite the “surge.” (AP, 08/31/2007)

On the 31st, Bush meets with Gates and the JCS to discuss how long to sustain the “surge” in Iraq. During the meeting, military leaders inform Bush that the “surge” is leading to a heavy level of stress on troops in Iraq. (AP, 09/01/2007)
September

On the 3rd, Bush, Gates, and Rice visit Iraq. During the visit, Bush suggests that a troop withdrawal may be possible in the future but he gives no particulars. On the 14th, Gates says that if conditions improve in Iraq, he hopes to decrease the number of troops in Iraq to 100,000 by 2008. On the 15th, Bush states that the U.S. is shifting more troops to support roles in Iraq in lieu of combat roles. (AP, 09/03/2007, 09/14/2007, 09/15/2007; USA Today, 09/04/2007)

On the 28th, Edelman and Krgyz Foreign Minister Ednan Karabayev discuss closer bilateral cooperation on international terrorism. (BBC, 09/28/2007)

October

Cheney, Rice, Ambassador Chris Hill, Hadley, Josh Bolten, and Edelman have breakfast with Bush to go over the status of the six party talks with North Korea over North Korea’s nuclear program. (http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov)

On the 13th, Edelman and Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried travel to Turkey in response to the recent congressional resolution declaring Armenian massacres by Turkish forces in and around World War I as genocide. They tell Turkish officials that the Bush Administration does not support the resolution. Relations remain strained over rebel Kurds in northern Iraq. (The International Herald Tribune, 10/15/2007)

November

On the 6th, Gates visits China to discuss U.S.-Sino military cooperation concerning Iran’s nuclear ambitions. One of the key achievements of the meeting is an agreement to create a “hotline” between the U.S. and China to increase communication efficiency. (AP, 11/05/2007; The Frontrunner, 11/06/2007)

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf declares a state of emergency and calls off upcoming elections. (AP, 11/05/2007)

December

On the 3rd, Gates visits Afghanistan to discuss the U.S.’s role in the country after a recent poll in Afghanistan found that nearly half are growing increasingly unhappy with foreign troops in the country. After the meeting, Gates posits that although he does not have evidence, he believes attacks by al-Qaeda are increasing in the country. In response, Karzai asks for more equipment and trainers to help improve security. After his visit to Afghanistan, Gates makes a surprise trip to Iraq to assess the surge. (AP, 12/03/2007, 12/04/2007, 12/05/2007; The Washington Post, 12/06/2007)

2008

January

The Pentagon announces that it plans to send an additional 3,000 troops to Afghanistan to help the country fight insurgents. (AP, 01/10/2008)
On the 3rd, Edelman has a meeting with Bulgaria’s deputy foreign minister, Iвайло Калфин, to review Bulgarian operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and NATO enlargement.  (*BBC*, 01/05/2008)

On the 30th, Edelman and General Ergin Saygun of Turkey meet to discuss Turkish-U.S. defense relations and cooperation against the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).  (*BBC*, 01/30/2008)

**February**  
On the 1st, after receiving a letter from Gates asking for help in the south of Afghanistan, German military leaders say that they will remain in the north. Germany, France, Italy, and Turkey have refused to send troops to the war-torn south. On the 8th, Gates says that European countries may not want to help out in Afghanistan due to the war in Iraq.  (*AP*, 02/01/2008, 02/08/2008; *USA Today*, 02/08/2008)

Near the end of February, Turkey steps up military incursions into northern Iraq. In response, Gates argues that military pressure will not solve Turkey’s Kurdish problems.  (*AP*, 02/27/2008)

**April**  
On the 9th, Gates states that pre-surge troop levels will be reached by the end of the year.  (*AP*, 04/10/2008)

**June**  
On the 3rd, Pakistan’s prime minister, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Ambassador Anne W. Patterson, and Edelman agree to cooperate further in a three-pronged strategy comprising of political dialogue, economic development, and a continued campaign against terrorism.  (*BBC*, 06/03/2008)

**July**  
On the 9th, Iran tests a missile capable of reaching Israel.  (*AP*, 07/09/2008)

On the 31st, Edelman testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee on funding for joint State and Defense programs to rebuild Iraq and increase security. Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) argues a militarization in U.S. civilian agencies has started due to this joint partnership. Traditionally, State would direct the support of development funds. However, by 2006, both the Pentagon and State must approve development funds. Edelman responds that these programs were “born of a fundamental mismatch of authorities, resources and capabilities.”  (*The Washington Post*, 08/04/2006)

**August**  
On the 5th, Gates extends the deployment of 1,250 marine trainers in Afghanistan and announces an additional 200 troops to support the trainers. According to reports, the move is an effort to bolster support for the trainers after positive gains.  (*AP*, 08/05/2008)

On the 8th, Gates endorses an Afghan proposal to increase the size of its army by 50,000 troops.  (*AP*, 08/08/2008)
Fighting breaks out between Russia and South Ossetia, Georgia. Rice visits Georgia on the 15th to help facilitate a cease-fire agreement. *(The New York Times, 08/16/2008)*

**September**

On the 10th, Gates defends the military’s recommendation to delay troop withdrawal from Iraq in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee despite improved security in the country. *(AP, 09/10/2008; USA Today, 09/05/2008)*

On the 9th, Edelman testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee about rebuilding Georgia’s military in the wake of Russian hostilities. He states the Pentagon will send a representative to Tbilisi to assess their needs. The U.S. is sending over $700 million in aid. *(The New Zealand Herald, 09/11/2008)*

On the 16th, Gates travels to Afghanistan to assess the security of the country. During his visit, Gates meets with Karzai as well as top military leaders. During his trip, General David McKiernan, the commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, asks for more troops. On the 19th, Gates says that NATO states should help with financial burden sharing in Afghanistan. *(AP, 09/16/2008, 09/19/2008; The Frontrunner, 09/17/2008)*

**October**

On the 17th, Edelman visits Lebanon to discuss $410 million aid to the Lebanese army for the country’s security forces. *(BBC, 10/20/2008)*

**November**

On the 5th, the Pentagon announces that the U.S. military will pull out two combat brigades from Iraq in November. The withdrawal comes two months earlier than originally anticipated. *(AP, 11/05/2008)*

On the 14th, Edelman tells reporters that the Pentagon is finishing an Afghanistan policy review. It will result in a significant increase in troop levels and improving counterinsurgency tactics. Although there was a “surge” from 2006 to 2008, Edelman argues the insurgency “outpaced the surge.” He also suggests that Pakistani peace deals with militants did not to help security. *(The Washington Times, 11/27/2008)*

**2009**

**January**


**May**

Edelman retires from the Foreign Service. He becomes a distinguished fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, visiting scholar at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at the Johns Hopkins University, and a senior associate of the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. *(http://www.usip.org/experts/eric-s-edelman)*
TIMELINES

- Eric S. Edelman News Timeline, prepared by Bryan Craig, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 08/24/2012.

- Timeline of the Bush Presidency, prepared by Justin Peck and Bryan Craig, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/30/2010.

SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ERIC S. EDELMAN


VICE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY


KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS IN VICE PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

September 11 Terrorist Attacks

Valerie Plame Affair


Foreign Policy
KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS AS UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Relations with Congress


Policy Office Reorganization


Iraq


Joining the Administration

- When did you first meet George W. Bush? What were your early impressions of him?
- Comment on how you first become involved with Dick Cheney
- What were your first impressions of the vice president?

Vice President’s National Security Advisor

- Discuss how you became the vice president’s principle deputy assistant for national security affairs. What kinds of discussions and understandings did you have with Bush and Cheney about your role?
- What were your primary duties? How were responsibilities divided between you and other staff?
- With whom did you work most closely? Describe your relationship and interactions with Dick Cheney, David Addington, and I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby.
- How did the relationship between the vice president and the president develop during your tenure there? What influence did the Office of the Vice President have on the direction of policy?
- How did you perceive Cheney’s relationships with Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, and Colin Powell? What about other cabinet members and White House staff?
- Describe your personal experience on September 11, 2001. What role did you and the Vice President’s Office play in the policy discussions that immediately followed the attacks? What issues preoccupied you in the days and weeks immediately following? How did 9/11 affect your thinking on national security? Did it influence your views on executive power and its manifestation? How involved were in War on Terror issues such as Afghanistan, expanding wiretap surveillance by the National Security Agency, detainees, and the Patriot Act?
- What other issues and events most occupied your time during your tenure?

Ambassador to Turkey

- Discuss your appointment as ambassador to Turkey. Did your 2003 appointment signal any change of course for the administration’s policy towards Turkey?
- What were the main policy issues that you confronted upon arrival in Turkey in 2003, and how did you conceive of your primary objectives?
- How closely did you work with General Jay Garner, Paul Bremer, and the Iraqi Governing Council? How much direct interaction did you have with the White House while you were ambassador?
- Tell us your role in getting Turkey to send troops to Iraq. What were the biggest challenges in accomplishing this and having Turkish troops fighting in Iraq?
- Why did you leave this post in 2005?
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

- Describe your appointment as under secretary of defense for policy. Did you have any discussions with President Bush about the delay in your confirmation and what he expected from you in this position?
- Describe your major duties. What changes did you make to the Policy Office during your tenure? How was your prior service in the State Department helpful in this post? How often did you talk with your predecessor, Doug Feith?
- Compare the operating styles of Defense Secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates. What role did you play in the transition? From your perspective, how was the change in leadership viewed by the rest of the Pentagon? How often did you meet with Rumsfeld and Gates? On what occasions would you typically meet with them?
- Evaluate your relationship with key members of the White House staff, NSC, State Department, Homeland Security, CIA, and the Vice President’s Office.
- Discuss your working relationship with members of the joint chiefs, the service secretaries, and other DOD offices.
- Characterize your working relationship with members of Congress. Did your relationship with Congress change over time?
- Describe the process that produced the surge in Iraq. How did it affect the sectarian violence and political reconciliation in Iraq? During the surge, how effectively did the different components of the executive branch—the State Department, the White House, and Defense—work together, and did this represent an improvement over earlier situations?
- Tell us about your efforts in Afghanistan, in particular about securing and engaging in local communities. How involved were you in the White House’s strategy review? How did these strategies affect the U.S.’s relationship with Pakistan?
- Describe your efforts in reviewing the strategy in areas such as missile defense and overall national security.
- What other important policy issues were you involved with that the press has overlooked?

The Bush Presidency in Retrospect

- What were the chief strengths and weaknesses of the Bush administration in the realm of foreign affairs? How would you rate the president as a strategic thinker?
- Discuss broadly President Bush’s relationship with State and the Pentagon during your time there.
- Has the role of “neoconservative” influence within the administration been accurately described? If not, how would you characterize it?
- Evaluate President Bush as a world leader. Are there any common misconceptions?
- What features of the Bush administration were misunderstood by the press? How should the Bush administration be viewed by future historians and policy makers?