

### Timeline 3. Iraq: December 2002–December 2003

#### 2002

Dec. 14–16    Iraqi Opposition Political Conference, London

#### 2003

Jan. 20    National Security Presidential Directive 24, creating ORHA (headed by Gen. Garner)

Feb. 24–28    Iraqi Opposition Political Conference, Salahuddin (northern Iraq)

Mar. 19    Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Apr. 9    Liberation of Baghdad; toppling of statue

Apr. 16    Freedom Message published by General Franks: establishes Coalition Provisional Authority (occupation government headed by Franks)

Apr. 28    Baghdad conference—resolved to create the Iraqi Interim Authority (which never materialized)

May 9    Presidential letter of appointment for Bremer as Special Envoy to Iraq

May 12    Bremer arrives in Baghdad

May 13    Letter from Secretary of Defense naming Bremer the head of CPA (replacing Franks)

May 16    CPA Order No. 1: De-Baathification

May 23    CPA Order No. 2: Dissolution of the Iraqi army

Jul. 13    Iraqi Governing Council created

Aug. 19    Bombing of UN Headquarters, killing Special Representative Vieira de Mello

Aug 28    Bombing of shrine at Najaf, killing Hakim

Sept. 8	Bremer op-ed appears in Washington Post
Oct. 26–28	Meetings in Washington: Rumsfeld, Bremer, Abizaid, et al.
Nov. 15	Agreement with Iraqi leadership on terminating CPA and launching Iraqi Interim Government