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**Nakata Planning Group, LLC**

## **BAGHDAD'S INTERNATIONAL ZONE TRANSITION PLAN COMPLETE**

### **U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence Engaged Award-Winning Nakata Planning Group to Guide "What's Next" for Iraq's Largest City**

**Colorado Springs, CO (September 13, 2005)** -- Nakata Planning Group announces the completion of the Transition Plan to return property and control of the International Zone in Baghdad back to the Iraqi people and their government. The Transition Plan will serve as a reference document for a planning commission to steward resources for support and implementation of the transition.

Subcontracted by Tetra Tech, Inc. and the U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Nakata Planning Group has outlined guidelines to ensure an effective, efficient transition of the current operational environment formerly known as the "Green Zone" back to the Iraqi people. Each phase will shrink the distinct boundaries of the International Zone until it eventually disappears. The timing and duration of the several phases of the plan are determined by the level of "safety and security" in Baghdad.

"We are proud to have participated in this significant project. We took every measure to develop an effective plan while remaining sensitive to the particular environmental, cultural, and historical context of this very complex region," said Charles Doll Jr., AICP, president of Nakata Planning Group.

The four square mile International Zone is located in the center of Baghdad, bordered to the north and west by urban development and to the east and south by the Tigris River. Sealed off from the rest of the city for protection, it is occupied by 35,000 people including Iraqi citizens, multi-national military forces, the Iraqi Transitional Government, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), United Nations (UN) and United States Mission Iraq, which includes the U.S. Embassy, Chancery and the Ambassador's residence.

Nakata Planning Group took three trips to Baghdad between February through June of 2005 to evaluate existing facilities (both military and community) and to interview representatives from the U.S. Military, U.S. State Department, and Iraqi government. The result of this research led to the recommendation for a series of transition phases.

The first phase of the transition plan comprises returning property and security responsibilities of several public buildings back to the Iraqi Government. Phase two

includes the return of one military area, residential housing north of the Presidential Palace, and a training area. In the final stage of the plan upon the completion of a new U.S Embassy complex, the Presidential Palace, which is currently occupied by the U.S. Embassy, will be returned to the Iraqi government.

Nakata Planning Group is the recipient of numerous accolades for their work on government, public and private projects, including the prestigious American Planning Associations Federal Planners Division Awards Program, the United States Air Forces in Europe Design Awards Program, the Alaska United States Air Force Design Awards Program, the United States Air Force Design Awards Program, the OCONUS Installation Awards Program, and the Air National Guard Awards Program.

### **About Nakata Planning Group, LLC**

Located in Colorado Springs, Nakata Planning Group is an industry leader in master planning, land use planning, airfield planning, landscape architecture and community design. Since 1979, their staff of experts has used state of the art technology on hundreds of sites around the world, including locations in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories as well as Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Iraq, Belgium, the Netherlands, Korea, Algeria, Japan, Guam, and Malaysia.

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