

Although the Pentagon officially has welcomed the new accord on a U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq, senior military officials are privately criticizing President Bush for giving Iraq more control over U.S. military operations for the next three years than the U.S. had ever contemplated.

This official, and others, all who spoke anonymously to be candid, offered a first glimpse into the dynamics of the secret negotiations, which **gave Iraq almost unprecedented control over U.S. troops** in the period between Jan. 1 and a final U.S. withdrawal from Iraq on Dec. 31, 2011.

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