

Bush to the Middle East: Previewing a Presidential Visit

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Robert Satloff is executive director of The Washington Institute, a post he assumed in January 1993.



Brief Analysis

As he enters his final year in office, President Bush is embarking on his first visit to the Israeli-Palestinian arena in a high-profile effort to pump energy into the Annapolis peace process. In addition to a stop in Egypt, he will also travel to the Gulf, making stops in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, where Iraq and Iran are sure to top his agenda.

To preview the president's Middle East trip and what it may suggest about the administration's regional policy for 2008, The Washington Institute invited Robert Blackwill, Patrick Clawson, and Robert Satloff to address a special policy forum on January 7, 2008.

Robert Blackwill served in the Bush administration as deputy national security advisor for strategic planning, presidential envoy to Iraq, and U.S. ambassador to India. He is currently president of Barbour Griffith & Rogers International, a consulting firm. His remarks were off the record.

Patrick Clawson is deputy director of The Washington Institute and author, most recently, of [Deterring the Ayatollahs: Complications in Applying Cold War Strategy to Iran](#) (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC04.php?CID=280>) (with Michael Eisenstadt).

Robert Satloff is executive director of The Washington Institute and host of Dakhil Washington, a weekly public affairs show broadcast on al-Hurra satellite television. ❖

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