

MILITARY LEADERS RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT PRESIDENT'S ESCALATION PLAN

Gen. Colin Powell (retired)

Former Secretary of State;

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

“I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work.” [[AP, 12/19/06](#)]

Gen. Wesley Clark (retired)

Former Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO

“Without such fundamental change in Washington's approach, there is little hope that the troop surge, Iraqi promises and accompanying rhetoric will amount to anything other than "stay the course more". That wastes lives and time, perpetuates the appeal of the terrorists, and simply brings us closer to the showdown with Iran. And that will be a tragedy for not just Iraq but our friends in the region as well.”

[[The Independent, 1/8/07](#)]

Gen. Barry McCaffrey (retired)

Adjunct Professor at the United States Military Academy;

Commanded 24th Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm

“It's a fool's errand...Our allies are leaving us...Make no mistake about that. Most will be gone by this summer.” [[AP, 1/18/07](#)]

Gen. Joseph P. Hoar (retired)

Former Commander in Chief of United States Central Command

“The new strategy reflects the inability of the administration to get it right...The proposed solution to send in more troops won't work. It is far too little and too late.” [[AP, 1/18/07](#)]

Gen. John P. Abizaid

Commander of United States Central Command

"I do not believe that more American troops right now is the solution to the problem. I believe that the troop levels need to stay where they are." [[Senate testimony 11/15/06; quoted in Washington Post, 12/21/06](#)]

Gen. James T. Conway

Commandant of the Marine Corps

“We would fully support, I think, as the Joint Chiefs, the idea of putting more troops into Iraq if there is a solid military reason for doing that, if there is something to be gained...We do not believe that just adding numbers for the sake of adding numbers – just thickening the mix – is necessarily the way to go.” [[AP, 12/19/06](#)]

Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Former Commander of Multinational Corps Iraq

“The proper political pieces must be in place in order for any of the military, economic or social initiatives to take hold and to flourish. We need to get out of thinking this is solely a military conflict where we must simply apply more U.S. or coalition and Iraqi forces against an enemy that we can destroy. All our nation's strengths -- diplomatic, economic, political -- must be leveraged to help the Iraqis find their way through this process.” [[DoD briefing transcript, 12/8/06](#)]

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno

Commander of Multinational Corps Iraq

“It's clear you cannot solve this problem militarily. You have to have the combination of military, economic and diplomatic things that we have to do.” [[Newsweek, 12/31/06](#)]

Col. Douglas MacGregor (retired)

Former Chief of Strategic Planning, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe;

“Surge? Yes, we can. It will break the force, which in my estimation is broken already. It will leave you with no strategic reserves.” [[Fox News, 1/3/07](#)]

Col. David Hunt (retired)

Served as Tactical Advisor in Bosnia; Special adviser to the F.B.I.;

Counter Terrorism Coordinator for Olympics in Seoul, Korea

“Everyone we met was on a second tour, at least, and many were on their fourth or fifth combat tour in either Iraq or Afghanistan. The soldiers are tired; the families are going nuts. [The surge is] not the solution.” [[Fox News, 1/3/07](#)]

Col. Paul Hughes (retired)

Served as the first director of strategic planning for the U.S. occupation authority in Baghdad

“Just sending more troops to Baghdad is like pouring more water in the sands of Al-Anbar. It's just going to disappear without accomplishing anything.” [[Christian Science Monitor, 1/8/07](#)]