



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

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MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS OPPOSE ESCALATION

The Democratic opposition the President's escalation of the Iraq conflict is the mainstream position. It is the position shared not just by the American public, but also by America's leading military and foreign policy experts, including former and current Bush administration officials.

GATES, POWELL, RUMSFELD, JOINT CHIEFS SKEPTICAL OF SURGE

Robert Gates: Skeptical of More Troops. "According to two administration officials who asked not to be named, Robert Gates expressed his skepticism about a troop surge in Iraq on his first day on the job, Dec. 18, at a Pentagon meeting with civilians who oversee the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines."

[[New York Sun](#), 12/27/06]

General Colin Powell: Surge Will Not Work. Powell said, "I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work."

[[Face the Nation](#), CBS, 12/17/06]

Joint Chiefs: "Unanimous Disagreement" to a Surge. The Washington Post reported that White House officials were "aggressively promoting the concept [of troop escalation] over the unanimous disagreement of the Joint Chiefs of Staff" and that "Pentagon insiders say members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have long opposed the increase in troops" [[Washington Post](#), 12/19/06, 1/9/07]

CURRENT AND FORMER GENERALS OPPOSE AN ESCALATION IN IRAQ

General George Casey: Skeptical of Bush Troop Escalation Plan. Casey: "It's always been my view that a heavy and sustained American military presence was not going to solve the problems in Iraq over the long term" [[New York Times](#), 1/2/07]

General John Abizaid: More Troops Will Keep the Iraqis from Taking Responsibility. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, General Abizaid said, "Senator McCain, I met with every divisional commander, General Casey, the corps commander, General Dempsey, we all talked together. And I said, in your professional opinion, if we were to bring in more American Troops now, does it add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq? And they all said no. And the reason is because we want the Iraqis to do more. It is easy for the Iraqis to rely upon to us do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future." [Senate Armed Services Committee Testimony, 11/15/06]

General Joseph Hoar: Bush Troop Escalation Would Be "Too little and too late." Testifying before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2007, Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, a former chief of the Central Command, said of Bush's planned troop escalation in Iraq, "Too little and too late." General Hoar said American leaders had failed to understand the political forces at work in the country. "The solution is political, not military." [[New York Times](#), 1/18/07]

General Barry R. McCaffrey Opposes Bush Troop Escalation. Testifying before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2007, Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, who commanded troops in the first Gulf War called the surge “a fool’s errand.” The New York Times reported McCaffrey said other countries had concluded that the effort in Iraq was not succeeding, noting that “our allies are leaving us and will be gone by summer.” [New York Times, 1/18/07]

Major General Don Shepperd, USAF (Ret.): “Would Not Even Consider” Troop Escalation. Shepperd, who works as a CNN military analyst, offered his analysis of what should be done next after he was briefed by members of the Iraq Study Group. He wrote, "I would not even consider increasing troop strength in Iraq." [CNN.com, 12/11/06]

General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps: "We do not believe that just adding numbers for the sake of adding numbers—just thickening the mix—is necessarily the way to go." [Lou Dobbs Tonight, CNN 12/18/06]

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Michael Vickers: “All The Forces in The World” Won't Change Security Situation in Iraq. Vickers, a former special forces officer, said, "The security situation is inextricably linked to politics. If you can solve some of the Iraqi political problems, the security situation becomes manageable. If you can't...all the forces in the world aren't going to change that." [The Newshour with Jim Lehrer, PBS, 12/12/06]

Lawrence Korb, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense: Escalation Will Worsen Iraqi Dependence. Korb said, “we had a chance in the beginning to send the right number of troops. We didn't, and now I think it would only make the situation worse and it would make the Iraqis more dependent on us.” [Talk of the Nation, NPR, 9/18/06]

Ambassador Richard Holbrooke: 40,000 Troops Would Make Little Difference. “[Some people are] saying that 30,000 or 40,000 more troops would make a difference. I respectfully disagree. With the tooth-to-tail ratios of the military -- that is combat soldiers versus cooks, people who run the PX's and the bowling alleys and so on -- with the fact that the first thing they have to do is build barracks, which are bullet, bomb-proof to protect themselves, any military guy you talk to will tell you that 40,000 troops will not make that kind of difference.” [Charlie Rose Show, 8/14/06]

Michael E. O'Hanlon, Brookings Institute: Call for More Troops Repeats the Mistakes of Vietnam. O'Hanlon, said McCain's proposal to send more troops to Iraq "would just repeat the mistake of Vietnam," by sending an extra 100,000 troops. [Boston Globe, 10/24/06; New York Times, 11/14/06; Washington Post, 11/16/06]

Richard Haass, Former Bush Official and President of The Council On Foreign Relations: Even Doubling Troops Might Not Stabilize the Situation. "It's not clear to me that even if you double the level of American troops you would somehow stabilize the situation [in Iraq]." [Today, NBC News Transcript, 11/30/06]