



Beyond the Call of Duty

*A Comprehensive Review of the Overuse of the Army
in the Administration's War of Choice in Iraq*

Lawrence Korb, Peter Rundlet and Max Bergmann
with Sean Duggan and Peter Juul

Beyond the Call of Duty

A Comprehensive Review of the Overuse of the Army in the Administration's War of Choice in Iraq

Lawrence Korb, Peter Rundlet and Max Bergmann
with Sean Duggan and Peter Juul
Center for American Progress

"The active Army is about broken."

Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CBS' Face the Nation, December 17, 2006

"To meet combatant commanders' immediate wartime needs, we pooled equipment from across the force to equip soldiers deploying in harm's way . . . This practice, which we are continuing today, increases risk for our next-to-deploy units and limits our ability to respond to emerging strategic contingencies."

*General Peter Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the United States Army,¹
January 23, 2007*

"We can't sustain the [National Guard and Reserves] on the course we're on."

Arnold L. Punaro, Chairman of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves,² March 2, 2007

Overview

By the Numbers

Four years ago this month, President Bush led our country into a war of choice against Iraq. Today, there are 135,000 American troops in Iraq and the president is now escalating this war, proposing to send an additional 30,000 combat and support troops. In addition to the costs in American lives and treasure, this war now places an enormous strain on our all-volunteer Army, stretching it to the breaking point.

But how bad is it overall? Although there has been much public debate about the overall readiness of the Army, only anecdotal evidence has been reported in the press. A composite picture is needed to inform that debate, and in fact this information should be readily available from the Department of Defense. But when the Center for American Progress approached the Pentagon our researchers were told this information is “classified” (the quotation marks were added by Defense Department officials)—even though this information is known by the families of individual troops deployed abroad.

In response, the National Security Team at the Center undertook a massive research project to identify, brigade by brigade, the number and duration of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan by the active Army. Our research team compiled the following facts through an extensive review of available information about individual brigade deployments in local news reports and elsewhere. Although we have high confidence that the information presented is accurate, we openly acknowledge that some pieces of information may be inaccurate or incomplete.

Possible errors or discrepancies could not be helped given the nature of the task and the fact that some brigades have changed designations or name since the war began due to the ongoing transformation of the Army. We have no doubt, however, that the overall picture of strain and fatigue that emerges is accurate. We expect to maintain and update this database and welcome corrections and additions from those who have more complete information.

The facts summarized below, and in our underlying data, reflect what we were able to learn. In some cases, the bottom-line totals would be worse if we had complete information (for instance, we could only count the tour extensions that we uncovered; very likely there are more). It is also important to note that our research focused on the *combat* brigades of the active Army, not the deployments of other services such as the Marines, the Air Force, the Navy, and the National Guard and Reserves. We have no doubt that many of these services have units that have also been overtaxed by this war.

As our full report describes in great detail, beginning on page 7, the focus of our research revolved around the concept of readiness for combat troops. Readiness requires:

- **Personnel:** Readiness requires that a given unit has an adequate number of personnel, that the personnel are appropriately trained using the equipment they will use in battle. Moreover, Army policy recommends that after serving 12 months in theater, troops come home to recuperate and retrain for 24 months before being returned to theater.

- **Training:** Readiness requires that Army troops are adequately trained to perform the duties they will be assigned to perform in theater and will be trained on the equipment they will use in combat.
- **Equipment:** Readiness requires that troops have a sufficient supply of appropriate equipment for combat and that the equipment be in good working order.

Alas, the active Army today is recklessly stretched far beyond recommended use, ultimately hurting our troops and dangerously depriving our country of the strategic reserves necessary to respond to true crises. The administration has done this for four years now in a war of choice. Here is a snapshot of the current state of our 41 combat brigades and three Cavalry Regiments in the active Army.*

All Combat Brigades By Division in the Active Army

1st Armored Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
12th Combat Aviation Brigade

1st Cavalry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

1st Infantry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
4th Brigade
1st Combat Aviation Brigade

2nd Infantry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

3rd Infantry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

4th Infantry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

10th Mountain Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

25th Infantry Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

82nd Airborne Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

101st Airborne Division

1st Brigade
2nd Brigade
3rd Brigade
4th Brigade

Additional Combat Units

173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team
2nd Cavalry Regiment
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

* For the sake of simplicity, we will hereinafter refer to these 44 units simply as “brigades.”

- Of the Army’s 44 combat brigades today, all but the First Brigade of the Second Infantry Division, which is permanently based in South Korea, have served at least one tour. Of the remaining 43:
 - 12 Brigades have had one tour in Iraq or Afghanistan
 - 20 Brigades have had two tours in Iraq or Afghanistan
 - 9 Brigades with three tours in Iraq or Afghanistan**
 - 2 Brigades with four tours in Iraq or Afghanistan

Of the brigades currently deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the following were:

Deployed for their second tour	Deployed for their third tour	Deployed for their fourth or more tour
1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade	3rd Infantry Division, 1st Brigade	10th Mountain Division, 2nd Brigade (including components to Afghanistan)
1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade	3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade	82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade (six deployments including components to Afghanistan)
1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Brigade	3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade	
1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Brigade	82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade (also, one battalion was sent for an additional tour)	
1st Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade	82nd Airborne Division, 4th Brigade	
1st Infantry Division, 4th Brigade	173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team	
2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade		
2nd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade		
25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade		
25th Infantry Division, 4th Brigade		

Of the brigades previously deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the following have been:

Deployed for two tours	Deployed for three tours
1st Armored Division, 2nd Brigade	10th Mountain Division, 1st Brigade
1st Armored Division, 3rd Brigade	82nd Airborne Division, 1st Brigade (two full tours, plus one battalion deployed for third)
1st Armored Division, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade	101st Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade
4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade	
4th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade	
4th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade	
101st Airborne Division, 1st Brigade	
101st Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade	
2nd Cavalry Regiment	
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment	

** In addition to these brigades, the First Brigade of the 34th Infantry Division, which is a National Guard brigade, has also had three tours to Iraq.

- Army policy recommends that after 12 months of deployment in a war zone, combat troops should come home for 24 months for recuperation and retraining before returning to combat. The Army has been forced to violate this policy many times.

Of the brigades currently deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the following were:

Deployed with less than two years (but more than one) at home since previous tour

1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade
 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade
 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Brigade
 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Brigade
 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade
 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade
 2nd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade
 3rd Infantry Division, 1st Brigade

3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade (two times)
 3rd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade (two times)
 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Brigade (two times)
 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade
 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade (at least two times)
 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team (at least two times)

Deployed one year or less at home since previous tour

3rd Infantry Division, 1st Brigade
 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Brigade
 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade (at least two times)
 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade

Of the brigades previously deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the following were:

Deployed with less than two years (but more than one) at home since previous tour

1st Armored Division, 2nd Brigade
 4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade
 4th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade
 4th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade
 10th Mountain Division, 1st Brigade (two times)
 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade (affected one battalion)
 101st Airborne Division, 1st Brigade
 101st Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade
 101st Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade
 2nd Cavalry Regiment
 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Deployed with less than one year at home since previous tour

1st Armored Division, 3rd Brigade
 25th Infantry Division, 172nd Stryker Brigade (recently converted into 1st Brigade)
 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade
 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Brigade
 101st Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade

- Army policy recommends that troops return home after 12 months of deployment in a war zone. Due to overextension, the Army has been forced to violate this policy many times.

Of the brigades currently or previously deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the following were deployed for longer than 12 months in theater:

1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade (two times – each deployment)
 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Brigade
 10th Mountain Division, 3rd Brigade
 25th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade (twice – once in Afghanistan, once in Iraq)
 1st Armored Division, 2nd Brigade
 4th Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade
 10th Mountain Division, 1st Brigade (one battalion)
 25th Infantry Division, 172nd Stryker Brigade (recently converted into 1st Brigade) (2 times)
 2nd Cavalry Regiment
 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

All Army Combat Brigades By Division Currently* Deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan

1st Armored Division

1st Brigade

1st Cavalry Division

1st Brigade
 2nd Brigade
 3rd Brigade
 4th Brigade

1st Infantry Division

2nd Brigade
 4th Brigade

2nd Infantry Division

2nd Brigade
 3rd Brigade
 4th Brigade

3rd Infantry Division

1st Brigade
 2nd Brigade
 3rd Brigade

10th Mountain Division

2nd Brigade
 3rd Brigade (in Afghanistan)

25th Infantry Division

3rd Brigade
 4th Brigade

82nd Airborne Division

2nd Brigade
 3rd Brigade
 4th Brigade (in Afghanistan)

Additional Combat Units

173rd Airborne BCT (in Afghanistan)

*Note: The above list of combat brigades does not include 1st BCT of the 34th Infantry Division, which is a National Guard brigade currently in Iraq, and it does not include Division Headquarters units. Furthermore, this list does not include other military service units (Marines, Air Force, etc.). It does include the 1st BCT of the 1st Armored Division, which was supposed to return home a few days ago, and it includes brigades about to deploy (i.e., 4th BCT of 2nd Infantry deploys in April, 2nd BCT of 3rd Infantry deploys in May).



- Because each brigade has ongoing rotations of *individual troops*, the fact that a given brigade has deployed three or four times does not necessarily mean that a particular soldier has also deployed that many times. Nonetheless, the number of troops that have served in Iraq—and who have served more than one tour—is staggering:
 - 1.4 million military (Army and other service) troops have served in Iraq or Afghanistan; 650,000 Army soldiers have been deployed to these countries
 - More than 420,000 troops have deployed more than once; 170,000 Army soldiers have been deployed more than once
 - 169,558 Marines have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan more than once
 - More than 410,000 National Guard and Reservists have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001, for an average of 18 months per mobilization; of these, more than 84,000 have been deployed more than once
 - Stop-loss (a policy that prevents troops whose enlistment end date has arrived from leaving) has been imposed on over 50,000 troops

- There is a *clear cost on the troops* as a result of the multiple deployments:
 - An Army survey revealed that soldiers are 50 percent more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder if they serve more than one tour.
 - The suicide rate among troops deployed to Iraq hit an all-time high in 2006

In the analysis that follows, the incredible strain of all of these repeat deployments on our men and women in uniform reveals just how misguided the president's escalation strategy in Iraq truly is for our all-volunteer Army. It is clear, after crunching the numbers, that the president's strategy is beyond the call of duty.



Introduction

Not since the aftermath of the Vietnam War has the U.S. Army been so depleted. As the United States enters its fifth year of combat in Iraq, more than 2,000 soldiers have been killed and another 15,000 wounded, with the Army bearing the brunt of President Bush's misguided war.³ Undeterred, the president is throwing another 30,000 combat and support troops into the chaos of Iraq's multiple wars. Bush's latest escalation threatens to inflict serious long term damage to the force.⁴

The reason: Army and Marine commanders are only able to provide these additional troops by cutting corners on training and equipment and by putting additional stress on those in uniform. As commander-in-chief, President Bush is almost certainly sending some units into intense urban combat operations even though they are rated as not "ready for combat" due to lack of proper equipment and training. This means other units fighting in Afghanistan and those stationed elsewhere around the world protecting vital American interests are also likely to lack the necessary personnel, equipment, such as armored vehicles and body armor, and proper training.

The president's escalation of the war is a reckless act that needlessly puts the lives of those serving our country in even greater danger. This is immediately true in Iraq and Afghanistan and any other place the United States would suddenly need to respond to a threat or engage an enemy, and extends over the long term for as long as our armed forces are mis-deployed in Iraq.

Congress must do everything in its power to diminish the damage to America's Army now and in the future by requiring that all units being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan be "combat ready." The president's escalation of troops into Iraq will have little if any meaningful effect on security on the ground in Iraq, but it will have a serious impact on the overall security of the United States. If the Army is asked to maintain the escalation throughout the course of this year and into 2008, our national security situation will only grow more dire.

An Army Not Ready

The military's definition of "readiness" is a complex measure of the ability of individual units to engage in combat. Combat readiness measures how well a unit is staffed, equipped, and trained. All of these elements are interconnected. A unit that lacks personnel or equipment will not be able to train as effectively as a unit that is fully staffed and equipped. Similarly, appropriate personnel and proper equipment are meaningless without proper and complete training (See page 15).

The combat readiness of the total Army (active units, the National Guard, and the Army Reserve) is in tatters. In 2006, Marine General Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conducted his own review of the military and concluded that there has been an overall decline in military readiness and that there is a significant risk that the U.S. military would not be able to respond effectively if it were confronted with another crisis.⁵



While readiness information for individual units is classified, public statements by high ranking officials about overall readiness indicate that two-thirds of the Army—virtually all of the active Army’s combat brigades not currently deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan—are rated “not combat ready.”⁶ Even worse, General Pace’s review was conducted prior to the implementation of the president’s latest escalation plan. Pace concluded that it “may take several years to reduce risk to acceptable levels,” which means a prolonged new campaign in Iraq is guaranteed to increase that risk.⁷

The situation for the National Guard and Army Reserve is even worse. The National Guard and Reserve are already suffering from severe shortages of equipment and available combat personnel. Their situation will only worsen as the Bush administration moves forward to recall National Guard units to help support the escalation. Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard, said last August that the Guard is “in an even more dire situation than the active Army, but both have the same symptoms; I just have a higher fever.”⁸

The costs in casualties and lost or damaged equipment, as well as the dangers posed by hurried and abbreviated training of new recruits and repeated combat tours, clearly show that the entire Army is in crisis. Understanding how these interconnected threats to the all-volunteer Army are manifest in individual military units is critical if Congress is going to be able to improve the situation. That’s why the Center for American Progress examines the following issues for the Army in detail in this report:

- the accelerating pace of deployments for combat brigades;
- the deplorable and expanding equipment crisis;
- the increasing inability for combat units to train properly;
- the hollowing out of the U.S. strategic reserve of ground forces; and
- the deteriorating state of the National Guard and Reserve.

Our hope is that, with these details in hand, the Congress will be in a better position to understand the dangers posed by the administration’s escalation strategy in Iraq. The sobering analysis that follows should also brace Members of Congress for the critical debate to come over the need to redeploy our armed forces in Iraq to fight the war against terrorist networks around the globe.

Deployments Overstretch the Army and Inhibit Proper Recuperation and Training

According to the Pentagon’s readiness classification process, a combat unit that has been repeatedly deployed, had its tour extended, or has not had sufficient rest between deployments, may still be deemed “combat ready” if the unit has sufficient quantities of equipment and training. But this misleading definition of combat readiness does not take into account that individuals in the units may be suffering from severe battle fatigue because of the number and intensity of deployments.

This is ironic because Army doctrine maintains that soldiers need and should receive proper “dwell time.” According to the Army, after a unit is deployed for one year it should receive one year of recuperation followed by an additional year of training before being redeployed to theater. Because of the administration’s mismanagement of the war and failure to increase Army end-strength, the Army has been forced to ignore its own doctrine.

While the Army is engaged in two simultaneous combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is also making the conversion to a modular force that deploys smaller brigade combat teams, instead of deploying larger, bulkier divisions. Since 1999 the Army has been in the process of converting its 33 brigades into 42 smaller brigade combat teams comprising about 3,000 to 4,000 soldiers per brigade. The goal of the Army is to complete the transition by FY 2010.⁹ At present, the Army has 41 operational combat brigades along with three cavalry regiments.

The rationale behind this transition is to create a force with a common organizational design that will increase the Army’s pool of ready combat units that can deploy to battle without having to add additional personnel to the Army.¹⁰ One of the goals of this restructuring is to create a large enough pool of combat units that would enable the active Army units to receive adequate “dwell time” between deployments.

The current pace of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has forced the Army to disregard this sensible and important tenet of its doctrine. Currently, the Army is being deployed at a rate not seen since the advent of the all-volunteer Army. An examination of all available information on the total deployment of all of the Army’s combat brigades reveals that a disturbingly high number of them have been deployed to combat for repeated tours—and most of these brigades did not receive adequate dwell time between deployments. While the number of times a particular brigade has been sent may not be equivalent to the number of tours completed by any particular individual soldier (since there is personnel turnover in every unit after each deployment), the amount of combat deployments is a strong indicator of the strain being placed on the Army:¹¹ Here are the figures for the brigades today:

- Brigades with one tour in Iraq or Afghanistan: 12
- Brigades with two tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 20
- Brigades with three tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 9
- Brigades with four tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 2

The fact that so many units have been deployed multiple times illustrates that the Army has been forced to violate its own policy of providing units the proper time to recuperate and train following combat. As Major General Richard Formica admitted to Congress, the pace of deployments “has driven active component dwell time to well below the surge goal of one year deployed to two years back.”¹²



Army doctrine also dictates that for every unit deployed there must be two in reserve in order to respond to other emerging contingencies or crises in the world as well as provide sufficient dwell time. This means that, absent a war of necessity, no more than one-third of the active Army should be deployed in combat in any given year. This means that only a few brigades should have been deployed to Iraq more than once, and none more than twice.

Today, 20 of the active Army's 44 combat brigades and cavalry regiments are currently deployed or deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. Every one of the Army's 41 combat brigades and three cavalry regiments have had at least one tour in Iraq and Afghanistan (including current and planned near-term deployments), except for the First Brigade Combat Team, Second Infantry Division, which is permanently based in South Korea. Even the Second Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, which is supposed to reinforce the First Brigade in case of conflict on the Korean peninsula has been deployed to Iraq for a year.

Moreover, to comply with the president's current escalation plan, the Army has been forced to "short cycle" units, or deploy units back into battle with less than two years time for recuperation, rest and training—and in some cases, with less than even nine months. Moreover, at least 10 Army brigades have had their tours in Iraq and Afghanistan extended while abroad.

This lack of "dwell time" is also taking its toll on morale. One soldier, Specialist George Patterson, of the Second Brigade Combat Team, Third Infantry Division, said "I knew I would be going back" when notified last September that he was being called up again, but added, "Did I think I would leave and go back in the same year? No. It kind of stinks."¹³

The number of military personnel who have served multiple tours is also striking. Consider that:

- 1.4 million troops have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 420,000 have deployed more than once
- 25 percent of the soldiers who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan have gone more than once¹⁴
- 34 percent (or 169,558) of Marines that have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan have served more than once¹⁵
- More than 400,000 National Guard and Reservists have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001¹⁶
- 56,000 Army Reserve soldiers have served multiple tours.¹⁷

To meet the increased demand for troops, the Army has been forced to invoke the "stop-loss" policy that prevents troops whose enlistment dates are up from leaving the Army until three months after their unit returns from its deployment. Since 2001 the Army has invoked stop-loss for over 50,000 soldiers.¹⁸ Last fall, for example, the Second Brigade Combat Team of the Third Infantry Division



had only about half of the 3,500 soldiers it required.¹⁹ The commander of the Third Infantry Division, Major General Rick Lynch, in early February indicated that his division would have to operate on stop-loss: “For now, it is necessary that we retain every soldier in the division... We will receive new personnel, but there will not be further departures without my approval.”²⁰ The second brigade will return to Iraq in May for its third tour.²¹

Multiple tours and expedited or extended deployments have wreaked havoc in the personal lives of those in uniform, as well as on their families. An Army Survey revealed that soldiers are 50 percent more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), if they serve more than one tour.²² Divorces, which had hovered in the two percent to three percent range for the Army since 2000, increased in 2004 to six percent among officers and 3.6 percent among enlisted personnel.²³

Since the 2003 invasion, the suicide rate among troops deployed for the Iraq war reached its highest point in 2006, according to an Army mental health study.²⁴ Sometimes the trigger is news of a second or third deployment. Last Christmas, for example, Army Reservist James Dean, who had already served in Afghanistan for 18 months and had been diagnosed with PTSD, was notified that his unit would be sent to Iraq in three weeks on January 14. According to news reports, Dean barricaded himself in his father’s home with several weapons and threatened to kill himself. After a 14-hour standoff with authorities, Dean was killed by a police officer after he aimed a gun at another officer.²⁵ As Steve Robinson the Director of Veterans Affairs at Veterans for America explained, “We call that suicide by cop.”²⁶

Dangerous and Expanding Equipment Shortages

The most significant factor in the decline in readiness is the growing equipment crisis. The Army entered Iraq with a \$56 billion equipment shortfall. More than four years later, as a result of the Bush administration’s miscalculations and inept planning, the situation is even worse.

The Army tries to ensure that all the soldiers in combat have all of the equipment (e.g., Humvees, tanks, communications devices, etc.) they need. To achieve this, the Army (and Marines) have been forced to take equipment from non-deployed active and reserve units and send them to units going to Iraq and Afghanistan. This deprives troops not in theater from training fully with proper equipment.

Under normal circumstances, when a combat unit finishes its tour it would return home with all of its equipment in order to ensure future unit cohesion. The Army and Marines, due to growing equipment shortages, have gradually abandoned this practice over the last four years, in large part due to the failure of the Bush administration and prior Congresses to allocate enough resources to the Army’s maintenance depots to fix and replace worn equipment.

For the past few years, units arriving in Iraq have been forced to use the equipment that departing units left behind. As a consequence, newly arrived units are forced to use equipment both unfamiliar and worn-out in battle. This dramatically increases the potential for casualties and accidents. The president’s escalation will only exacerbate the Army’s equipment crisis as the Army now has to scramble to find equipment to supply the additional combat units. Many of the additional “surge”



combat units are not replacing other units on the ground in Iraq, instead working alongside combat units that have had their own tours extended. This means the Army faces a real challenge in finding enough equipment to supply the new “surge” units since these units cannot simply take on the equipment of the departing unit. For example, as a result of the escalation, units in Iraq will be forced to share 500 up-armored Humvees.²⁷

Properly equipping the new troops could prove difficult or perhaps impossible. Many of the additional “surge” combat units are not replacing other units on the ground in Iraq, but rather are working alongside combat units that have had their own tours extended. This means the Army faces a real challenge in finding enough equipment to supply the “surge” units since these units cannot simply take the equipment of the departing units. General Lynch of the Third Infantry Division assesses the situation: “The Second and Fourth Brigades would say, ‘O.K., boss, but we’ve got no equipment. What are we going to use?’ So we’d have to figure out where we’re going to draw their equipment.”²⁸

This problem is highlighted with respect to armored trucks, for example. It is essential for the troops in combat to have all the necessary armor protection for themselves and their vehicles. In December, roadside bombs caused about 60 percent of all U.S. casualties in Iraq, the Pentagon reported.²⁹ Yet, as the Washington Post recently reported, “U.S. Army units in Iraq and Afghanistan lack more than 4,000 of the latest Humvee armor kit, known as FRAG Kit 5.”³⁰ The Army also needs an additional 1,500 up-armored medium and large trucks for surging units, but will probably not be able to make up the shortfall until the summer. As Lt. Gen. Stephen Speakes noted, “We don’t have the [armor] kits, and we don’t have the trucks.”³¹ Soldiers waiting for these additional trucks will probably be forced to share vehicles with units already on the ground, which will only further complicate operations and will create additional use and maintenance demands on the vehicles. Without properly armored vehicles and without necessary body armor the troops on the ground are put in much greater danger.

Training Hindered

Compressed time between deployments, multiple tours without the needed time for recuperation and training in between, along with shortages of equipment, have severely hindered the ability of Army combat units to train effectively. Under-trained units are more likely to have difficulty in carrying out their missions as well as experience higher casualty and accident rates in combat operations. It is a national disgrace to send our troops into battle unprepared, regardless of how brave they are.

With shortened time between deployments and without necessary equipment Army units are unable to complete necessary, but complex training exercises. Army leaders have witnessed declines in performance in some heavy combat brigades during crucial readiness tests at the National Training Center.

Soldiers of the First Brigade, Third Infantry Division, for example, had only four months between deployments in which they needed to perform a year’s worth of training.³² The brigade had such a short turnaround time that instead of going to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, to train in conditions that closely resemble the desert conditions of Iraq, the Army brought the trainers to the soldiers, where they trained for Iraq in the “piney woods of southeast Georgia.”³³

Even with proper time between deployments, almost all of the units outside of Iraq and Afghanistan lack the ability to train properly because they lack the proper equipment. For instance, one unit had no tanks or armored vehicles last fall to train with and, as a result, according to Colonel Tom James, commander of the Second Brigade, Third Infantry Division, the soldiers were evaluated as largely untrained in attack and defense.³⁴

Colonel James noted that a few years ago, a combat brigade in a mechanized infantry division at such a low state of readiness would have been “unheard of.”³⁵ Sending units into combat without proper training once again reflects a reckless approach to the use of the military.

Depleted Strategic Reserve

It is imperative for the United States to possess a strategic reserve of ground forces that can be called upon to deal with unforeseen contingencies. To equip those on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan the Army and the Marines have been drawing down their pre-positioned equipment stocks. These stocks are stored on ships or in strategic locations around the world to enable deploying units to be supplied rapidly. These stocks have been extensively diminished and limit the ability of the United States to respond to possible crises around the world.

For example, the Army and Marines have been so overstretched that the United States has no available reserve of ground forces to effectively deal with a potential crisis on the Korean peninsula, in Iran, or in unstable Pakistan, for example, or to help alleviate the grave humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The situation with the Army’s rapid response division, the 82nd Airborne, is illustrative of the problem. The 82nd Airborne is made up of four brigades, and at least one brigade is always designated the “ready brigade,” meaning it should be able to respond in an instant.³⁶ Yet by this spring all four brigades of the 82nd Airborne will either be in Iraq or Afghanistan, leaving the U.S. Army without a rapid response capability for other crises around the globe.

The situation is just as bad for the Marine Corps, America’s emergency response force. As the Marine Corps commandant, Gen. James Conway, told the House Armed Services Committee, “The response would be slower than we might like, we would not have all of the equipment sets that ordinarily would be the case, and there is certainly risk associated with that.”³⁷

National Guard and Reserve Overused, Overstretched, and Unprepared

The National Guard and Army Reserve is in even worse shape than the active Army. The Army Guard and Reserve have borne a substantial part of the burden in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their equipment stocks were among the first to be raided to supply the active duty combat troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, the National Guard is a shell of its former self and in many places around the country would only have a limited ability to respond to potential natural or man-made disasters.



The president's latest escalation will force the Pentagon to recall some Guard and Reserve units that have already served in Iraq and Afghanistan to active duty. To do this, the Bush administration announced in January that it was revising rules that limited call-ups of Guard members. The Pentagon's previous policy limited mobilization of Guard members to no more than 24 months every five years. But since the average mobilization for soldiers in the National Guard and Reserve has been 18 months, the Pentagon has been forced to abandon that rule.³⁸ This only further illustrates the cascading effect of the president's surge.³⁹

The equipment situation for the National Guard is also a disaster, as much of its equipment has been cannibalized to support combat units in Iraq. Consider that:

- The Army National Guard has on-hand only 30 percent of its essential equipment here at home;⁴⁰
- 88 percent of the Army National Guard that is in the United States is very poorly equipped, according to the chief of the National Guard, Lt. General Blum;⁴¹
- Nearly nine out of every 10 Army National Guard units that are not in Iraq or Afghanistan have less than half the equipment needed to respond to a domestic crisis;⁴²
- Less than 45 percent of the Air National Guard's units have the equipment needed to deploy. According to Lt. General Blum, this is "the first time such a shortfall in equipment readiness has occurred in the past 35 years."⁴³
- One-third of the Oklahoma National Guard is lacking M-4 rifles;⁴⁴ and
- The Arkansas National Guard is short 600 rifles for the state's 39th Brigade Combat Team.⁴⁵

The lengthy and repeated deployments and the lack of equipment have also taken a toll on the people in the Guard and Reserve. The National Military Family Association released a survey on cycles of deployment that concluded: "Army National Guard and Reserve families reported the greatest stress concerning deployment length. Their service members typically experience family separations of close to eighteen months."⁴⁶

The families of the Army National Guard and Reserve are experiencing unexpectedly long periods of separation. This does not bode well for future recruitment and retention. As the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve recently concluded, "Overall, if the reserve component, including the National Guard, continues its high operational tempo, current indicators cast considerable doubt on the future sustainability of recruiting and retention, even if financial incentives continue to increase."⁴⁷ Moreover, these extended deployments violate the long standing deployment policy also have a detrimental impact on military families, as well as the civilian employers of Guardsmen and Reservists, who had reasonable expectations that they would not be deployed so often and for such long periods of time.



Readiness Explained⁴⁸

The concept of “combat readiness” is subjective and difficult to measure. By its very nature readiness is only truly determined once the unit is placed into combat. Even the best system to measure readiness can only do so through the use of surrogates or substitutes.

At present, the Pentagon places combat units into five categories of readiness:

- C-1: Fully combat-ready.
- C-2: Substantially combat-ready, that is, the unit only has minor combat-deficiencies.
- C-3: Marginally combat-ready, that is, the unit has major deficiencies but can still perform its assigned missions.
- C-4: Not combat-ready because the unit has so many deficiencies that it cannot perform its wartime functions.
- C-5: Not combat-ready because the unit is undergoing a planned period of overhaul or maintenance.

The Department of Defense uses a unit-reporting system that places units into one of these five categories. This system establishes standard criteria in four areas that compare the unit’s actual resources with those considered necessary to perform its wartime mission. The four areas that are evaluated are personnel, equipment and supplies on hand, equipment readiness, and training. These four categories are defined as:

Personnel: The unit commanding officer compares the people he or she has in the organization with the number and type of people that he or she is supposed to have when the unit deploys.

Equipment on Hand: The commanding officer compares the amount of combat-essential equipment (tanks, armored Humvees, body armor, night vision goggles, rifles), support equipment (fueling trucks, wheeled vehicles), and organic supplies (spare parts) that he or she actually possesses with the total that is required for the unit’s wartime mission. This measurement does not evaluate the condition of the equipment.

Equipment Readiness: The commanding officer evaluates the actual condition or the quality of the weapon systems supporting elements in the unit. As in other areas, he or she does this by comparing the actual condition of the equipment with that prescribed by the service for a wartime situation.

Training: This is the most complex area of readiness to quantify. Under the classification system the commanding officer is asked to evaluate his level of training by employing one of two criteria. He can estimate the time required for his present unit to achieve what his service defines as full training, or he or she can evaluate the percentage of full training that his unit has completed.

In looking at the actual readiness ratings of U.S. forces, four points are important to keep in mind. First, the individual services determine, subject to Defense Department approval, what constitutes the criteria against which the commanding officer judges the unit. These criteria are somewhat arbitrary and are subject to varying degrees of interpretation—and, at times, manipulation.

Second, readiness is an ephemeral indicator; it can and does change almost daily. Third, a unit can be rated combat-ready or mission-capable if it is C-3 or above. This allows many units with barely half of their required assets to be judged mission-capable.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the classification system, like any system that attempts to measure effectiveness through the use of surrogates, is subject to intentional or unintentional abuse.

Such things as a “can do” spirit, pride of command, fear of being relieved, careerism, or just plain dread of passing bad news to the top can make it very difficult for officers in the field to inform their superiors they cannot carry out their assigned mission.



Recommendations

Throughout the invasion and occupation of Iraq the Bush administration has continuously miscalculated. The administration believed that the bulk of U.S. forces would be able to leave Iraq shortly after the initial invasion. As a result of this unrealistic assumption, the administration never allocated sufficient resources or prepared to deal with effects of a long, drawn out war. The Army has been playing catch-up ever since and has become a “hand to mouth” organization.

As a result, the war in Iraq is destroying our ground forces and leaving the United States without a strategic reserve of forces to respond to new crises. The president, as commander in chief, is now sending some troops into combat without proper equipment or training. He has chosen to adopt a reckless policy that is further endangering their lives. Congress should take the following steps protect our soldiers and our country.

Ensure Combat Readiness. Sending combat units into battle that are rated “not combat ready” (either C3 or C4, in Army parlance; see explanatory text box on page 15) is a dangerous and risky act that puts our brave men and women in uniform in even greater jeopardy. Each time the president deploys a unit to Iraq or Afghanistan whose readiness is rated C3 or C4, Congress should require that the president certify that, despite their insufficient preparedness, the national interest is so great that it is necessary to deploy these units. Moreover, he must provide Congress with written justification for deploying forces in harm’s way that are not combat ready. The president’s written justification shall include: complete explanations for why the national security interest is so paramount that units must be deployed notwithstanding concerns about their readiness; his plan to achieve readiness during the deployment; and the efforts undertaken to find another unit for deployment that met readiness requirements for this assignment.

Protect the National Guard and Reserve. Congress should clarify the law (10 U.S.C § 12302) that allows the president to mobilize Guard and Reserve units for up to two years. Congress should place an amendment in the Fiscal Year 2007 supplemental budget that makes clear that the total mobilization time for Guard and Reserve units after September 11, 2001, can not exceed 24 months in total, even if they are not consecutive, without the approval of Congress. This would prevent the administration from calling up Guard and Reserve units for a second time without congressional approval. This will prevent further disruption in the lives of these citizen soldiers and their families, as well as the deterioration of our homeland defense.

Prevent Extended Deployments. The current Pentagon deployment policy is that an Army unit shall be deployed for no more than 12 months and a Marine Corps unit shall be deployed for no more than seven months. Congress should require written certification each time the president extends an Army unit’s deployment in Iraq beyond 12 months and a Marine unit’s deployment in Iraq beyond seven months. The written justification shall include explanations of why the president has extended the deployment, the impact of the extension on the morale in the unit in question, and the impact of the extension on the families of the unit in question, including steps the Department of Defense is taking to mitigate any potential negative impacts on unit and family morale. Furthermore, the president must



also certify to Congress every quarter that extended deployments of active personnel to Iraq or repeat deployments of personnel to Iraq are not adversely affecting the Department of Defense's ability to supply active and reserve forces that are ready to deploy in response to other contingencies.

Stop Stop-Loss. The Congress should place an amendment in the Fiscal Year 2007 supplemental budget that revokes the president's authority to invoke "stop loss." The Pentagon's stop-loss policy prohibits military personnel from leaving their unit to return to civilian life once the unit is notified that it will be deployed, even though their term of enlistment has expired, until three months after the unit returns from deployment. This policy has been invoked for people in units that have received notification of being sent to Iraq or Afghanistan or are already in one of those countries. Even high-ranking Pentagon officials have admitted that the stop-loss policy is a backdoor draft inconsistent with the principles of voluntary service. This policy is a disservice to the men and women in uniform who have already made tremendous sacrifices.



Appendix: Recent Deployment History of U.S. Army Combat Brigades

Combat Units Currently Deployed to Iraq



1 Armored Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served two previous tours in Iraq.
Most recent deployment lasted 14 months and was extended 46 days.
Second Deployment from January 2006 until March 2007.
First Deployment from May 2003 until August 2004.

Unit Function

Heavy Armor Brigade

Based

Rebasing from U.S. Army Garrison Giessen in Friedberg, Germany to Fort Bliss, Texas



1 Cavalry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving second tour in Iraq.
Current deployment began October 2006.
Served one previous tour in Iraq.
First Deployment from March 2004 to March 2005.

Unit Function

Heavy Armor Brigade

Based

Fort Hood, Texas

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving second tour in Iraq
Current deployment began October 2006
Served one previous tour in Iraq.
First Deployment from January 2004 to April 2005

Unit Function

Heavy Armor Brigade

Based

Fort Hood, Texas

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving second tour in Iraq
Current deployment began October 2006
Served one previous tour in Iraq.
First Deployment from April 2004 to April 2005

Unit Function

Heavy Armor Brigade

Based

Fort Hood, Texas

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Unit serving first tour in Iraq.
Current deployment began October 2006
Unit created in 2005.

Unit Function

Heavy Maneuver Brigade

Based

Fort Bliss, Texas



Combat Units Currently Deployed to Iraq (cont.)



1st Infantry Division

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Serving second tour in Iraq



Current deployment began August- October 2006

Served one previous tour in Iraq.

First Deployment from February 2004 to February 2005

Unit Function

Heavy Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Based

Schweinfurt, Germany

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Serving second tour in Iraq



Current deployment began February 2007

One previous year long tour in Iraq from 2003-2004

Unit Function

Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Unit was reactivated in January 2006 as part of Army transformation program

Based

Fort Riley, Kansas



2nd Infantry Division

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served one previous tour in Iraq.



Current deployment began November 2006

First Deployment from August 2004 to August 2005

Unit Function

Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Based

Fort Carson, Colorado

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served one previous tour in Iraq.



Current deployment began June-July 2006

First Deployment from November 2003 to November 2004

Unit Function

Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Based

Fort Lewis, Washington

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Restructured unit formed in June 2006

Scheduled to deploy to Iraq in April 2007

Unit Function

Stryker Brigade Combat Team

Based

Fort Lewis, Washington



Combat Units Currently Deployed to Iraq (cont.)



3rd Infantry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Currently serving third tour in Iraq
 Current deployment began January 2007
 Served 2 previous tours in Iraq.
 First Deployment from January 2003 to August 2003
 Second Deployment from January 2005 to January 2006

Unit Function

Heavy Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Stewart, Georgia

2nd Brigade (deploying to Iraq)

Recent Deployment History



Served two previous tours in Iraq.
 Scheduled to deploy for third tour in Iraq in May 2007
 First Deployment from September 2002 to August 2003
 Second Deployment from January 2005 to January 2006

Unit Function

Heavy Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Stewart, Georgia

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served two previous tours in Iraq.
 Scheduled to deploy for third tour in Iraq March 2007
 First Deployment from January 2003 to August 2003
 Second Deployment from January 2005 to January 2006

Unit Function

Heavy Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Benning, Georgia



10th Mountain Division

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving fourth tour since 2001
 Served two previous tours in Afghanistan and one previous tour in Iraq.
 Current deployment to Iraq began August 2006
 First Deployment to Afghanistan from December 2001 to April 2002 (Brigade headquarters)
 Second Deployment to Afghanistan from May to December 2003 (one battalion)
 First Deployment to Iraq from July 2004 to June 2005

Unit Function

Light Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Drum, New York



Combat Units Currently Deployed to Iraq (cont.)



25th Infantry Division

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Deployed to Iraq July 2006
Served one previous tour in Afghanistan
Deployed to Afghanistan (February-April 2004 - June 2005)

Unit Function

Light Infantry

Based

Schofield Barracks, HI

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Currently serving in Iraq
Deployed October 2006
Core of Brigade (one battalion) served one previous tour in Afghanistan
Battalion deployed to Afghanistan (October 2003 - August 2004)
Reorganized as a new unit in July 2005

Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Richardson, AK



82nd Airborne Division

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving its fourth tour since 2001.
Deployed to Iraq as part of escalation January 2007
Served two previous tours in Iraq
Served one previous tour in Afghanistan
Deployed to Iraq (February 2003 - February 2004 and December 2004 - March 2005)
3 battalion-sized deployments to Afghanistan (July-November 2005) and Iraq (September - December 2005 and August - December 2006)

Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Bragg, NC

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving its third tour since 2001
Deployed to Iraq since August 2006
Served one previous tour in Iraq
Deployed to Iraq (August 2003 - April 2004)
Served one tour in Afghanistan
Deployment to Afghanistan (July 2002 - January 2003), one battalion-size deployment to Afghanistan (September - October 2004)

Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Bragg, NC



Combat Units Currently Deployed to Afghanistan



82nd Airborne Division

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving its third tour since 2001
 Deployed to Afghanistan in January 2007
 Served one previous tour in Afghanistan
 Served one previous tour in Iraq
 One battalion moved into 4th brigade has previously deployed to Iraq (September 2005 - January 2006)

Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Bragg, NC



173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team

Recent Deployment History



Serving its third tour
 Currently deploying to Afghanistan
 Served one previous tour in Iraq from 2003-4
 Served one previous tour in Afghanistan from 2005-6

Unit Function

European Command's only conventional airborne unit.

Based

Caserma Ederle, Italy



10th Mountain Division

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Serving first tour in Afghanistan
 Current deployment to Afghanistan began February 2006
 Deployment in Afghanistan extended 120 days to May-June 2007

Unit Function

Light Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Drum, New York



Combat Units Previously Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan



1 Armored Division

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours in Iraq
 Second Deployment to Iraq from November 2005 until November 2006.
 First Deployment to Iraq from May 2003 to August 2004



Unit Function

Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based

Baumholder, Germany

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours in Iraq.
 Second Deployment from January 2005 until February 2006.
 First Deployment from May 2003 to August 2004



Unit Function

Heavy Armor Brigade

Based

Fort Riley, Kansas

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.



Unit Function

Combat Helicopter Brigade

Based

Katterback and Illesheim Army Air Fields, Germany



1 Infantry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served one previous tour in Iraq.
 First deployment from September 2003 to September 2004



Unit Function

Heavy Brigade

Based

Fort Riley, Kansas

1st Combat Aviation Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served one previous tour in Iraq
 Deployed to Iraq from April 2003 until July 2004 when unit was 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division
 Unit was reflagged as 1st Combat Aviation Brigade August 2006



Unit Function

Combat Helicopter Brigade

Based

Fort Riley, Kansas since August 2006 (up until July 2006 unit was based in Erlensee, Germany)



Combat Units Previously Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan (cont.)



2nd Infantry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History Permanently stationed in South Korea



Unit Function Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based Camp Hovey, South Korea



3rd Infantry Division

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History Served one previous tour in Iraq.
First Deployment from January 2005 to January 2006



Unit Function Heavy Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Based Fort Stewart, Georgia



4th Infantry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History Served two previous tours in Iraq.
First Deployment from March 2003 to March 2004
Second Deployment from January to December 2006



Unit Function Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based Fort Hood, Texas

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History Served two previous tours in Iraq.
First Deployment from April 2003 to April 2004
Second Deployment from January to December 2006



Unit Function Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based Fort Carson, Colorado

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History Served two previous tours in Iraq.
First Deployment from March 2003 to April 2004
Second Deployment from January to December 2006



Unit Function Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based Fort Carson, Colorado

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History Served one previous tour in Iraq.
Deployed from January to December 2006
Restructured under modularity transformation December 2004



Unit Function Heavy Brigade Combat Team

Based Fort Hood, Texas



Combat Units Previously Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan (cont.)



10th Mountain Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served two previous tours in Afghanistan and one previous tour in Iraq.
 First Deployment to Afghanistan from October 2001 to April 2002 (one battalion)
 Second Deployment to Afghanistan from July 2003 to April 2004
 First Deployment to Iraq from August 2005 to August 2006

Unit Function

Light Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Drum, New York

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served one previous tour in Afghanistan.
 First deployment ended December 2006

Unit Function

Light Infantry Brigade

Based

Fort Polk, Louisiana



25th Infantry Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



The 172nd Stryker Brigade was converted to the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry
 172nd Stryker Brigade recently completed a deployment in Iraq (August 2005 - December 2006;
 15 months after being extended 120 days in July 2006)
 Previous 1st Brigade had one deployment to Iraq (October 2004 - October 2005)
 Deployed to Iraq (January 2004 - February 2005)

Unit Function

Stryker Brigade

Based

Wainwright, AK

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served one previous tour in Iraq
 Deployed to Iraq (January 2004 - February 2005)

Unit Function

Stryker Brigade

Based

Schofield Barracks, HI



82nd Airborne Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History



Served two previous tours, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan
 Deployed to Iraq (January - April 2004); one battalion-size deployment to Iraq (October 2005 - February 2006)
 Deployed to Afghanistan (December 2002 - May 2003)

Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Bragg, NC



Combat Units Previously Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan (cont.)



101st Airborne Division

1st Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours in Iraq

Deployed to Iraq March 2003, October 2005



Unit Function

Airborne infantry

Based

Fort Campbell, KY

2nd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours in Iraq

Deployed to Iraq March 2003, October 2005



Unit Function

Rapidly deployed air assault

Based

Fort Campbell, KY

3rd Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served three previous tours since 2001

Served two previous tours in Iraq

Served one previous tour in Afghanistan

Deployed to Afghanistan in Oct/Nov 2001, Iraq March 2003, Iraq October 2005



Unit Function

Air assault division

Based

Fort Campbell, KY

4th Brigade

Recent Deployment History

Served one previous tour in Iraq

Deployed to Iraq October 2005

Recently Organized



Unit Function

Rapidly deployed air assault unit

Based

Fort Campbell, KY



2nd Cavalry Regiment

Recent Deployment History

Served two previous tours in Iraq

Served one previous deployment to Iraq (May 2003-July 2004)

Previously 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry, which had one deployment to Iraq (October 2004 - October 2005)

Unit Function

Executes reconnaissance and security operations

Based

Vilseck, Germany



Combat Units Previously Deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan (cont.)



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Recent Deployment History Served two previous tours in Iraq
 April 2003 - March 2004 and February/April 2005 - April 2006

Unit Function Heavily armored cavalry regiment

Based Fort Hood, TX



11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Recent Deployment History Served one previous tour in Iraq
 Previous deployment to Iraq (January 2005 - March 2006)

Unit Function Army's premier maneuver unit

Based Fort Irwin, CA, at the National Training Center



Endnotes

- 1 Ann Scott Tyson, "Equipment for Added Troops is Lacking," *The Washington Post*, January 30, 2007.
- 2 Ann Scott Tyson, "Shortages Threaten Guard's Capability," *The Washington Post*, March 2, 2007.
- 3 These figures only refer to Army soldiers and does not include deaths and casualties in other military services. While the Department of Defense reports that more than 3,160 American service people have died as of March 2, 2007, and the number of wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan at about 23,000, the Department of Veterans Affairs has recorded treating more than 200,000. [Alessandra Stanley, "One man's survival story becomes a rallying cry," *New York Times*, February 27, 2007.]
- 4 Congressional Budget Office, *Memorandum to John M. Spratt*, February 1, 2007, <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/77xx/doc7778/TroopIncrease.pdf>
- 5 Lolita Baldor, "Gen. Peter Pace: Military Capability Eroding," *The Washington Post*, February 27, 2007.
- 6 *USA Today*, "General: Guard Units not Ready for Combat," August 1, 2006.
- 7 Lolita Baldor, "Gen. Peter Pace: Military Capability Eroding," *The Washington Post*, February 27, 2007.
- 8 *USA Today*, "General: Guard Units not Ready for Combat," August 1, 2006.
- 9 The Bush administration's recent announcement that it supports the growth in Army authorized end-strength by an additional 92,000 troops, if implemented, should result in approximately six additional combat brigades, leaving the active Army with a total of 48 brigade combat teams.
- 10 GAO, *Force Structure: Capabilities and Cost of Army Modular Force Remain Unclear*, April 4, 2006, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06548t.pdf>
- 11 Figures include units that are in the process of serving their first, second, third, or fourth tours. It is important to note that in the transition to a more modular force, some brigades have been restructured or transformed since serving in Iraq.
- 12 Jim Tice, "'Dwell time' back to normal by 2013, two-star testifies," *Army Times*, February 12, 2007.
- 13 David S. Cloud, "Unit Makes Due as Army Strives to Plug Gaps," *New York Times*, September 25, 2006.
- 14 Michelle Tan, "By the numbers: Who's fighting; a third of deployed Marines pulled multiple combat tours," *Marine Corps Times*, January 15, 2007.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Congressional Research Service, "U.S. Forces in Iraq," January 11, 2007.
- 17 Statement by General Peter Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, before the Commission on National Guard and Reserve, <http://www.army.mil/-speeches/2006/12/14/989-statement-by-general-peter-schoomaker-chief-of-staff-united-states-army-before-the-commission-on-national-guard-and-reserves/>.
- 18 Tom Regan, "Stop-Loss used to retain 50,000 troops," *Christian Science Monitor*, January 31, 2006.
- 19 David S. Cloud, "Unit Makes Due as Army Strives to Plug Gaps," *New York Times*, September 25, 2006.
- 20 *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* (Georgia), "Commander halts transfers, exits before deployment; Lynch says all soldiers needed during time of war," February 3, 2007.
- 21 *The Associated Press*, "In Their Rush to Reach Baghdad, 2 Army Units Will Forgo Desert Training," February 28, 2007.
- 22 Ann Scott Tyson, "Repeat Iraq tours raise risk of PTSD, Army finds," *The Washington Post*, December 20, 2006.
- 23 Lizette Alvarez, "Long Iraq Tours Can Make Home a Trying Front," *New York Times*, February 23, 2007.
- 24 Gregg Zoroya, "Suicide Rate Spikes Among Troops Sent to Iraq War," *USA Today*, December 19, 2006.



- 25 Aaron Glantz, "Iraq Vets Left in Physical and Mental Agony," *Inter Press Service*, January 4, 2007.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ann Scott Tyson, "Thousands of Army Humvees Lack Armor Upgrade," *The Washington Post*, February 12, 2007.
- 28 David S. Cloud, "Unit Makes Due as Army Strives to Plug Gaps," *New York Times*, September 25, 2006.
- 29 Anna Badkhen, "Corners Cut in Rush to Add Troops," *San Francisco Gate*, February 4, 2007.
- 30 Ann Scott Tyson, "Thousands of Army Humvees Lack Armor Upgrade," *The Washington Post*, February 12, 2007.
- 31 Ann Scott Tyson, "Equipment for Added Troops is Lacking," *The Washington Post*, January 30, 2007.
- 32 Anna Badkhen, "Corners Cut in Rush to Add Troops," *San Francisco Gate*, February 4th 2007.
- 33 Ron Martz, "Unit Due for Third Iraq Tour as Troops' Burden Deepens," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, October, 7, 2006.
- 34 David S. Cloud, "Unit Makes Due as Army Strives to Plug Gaps," *New York Times*, September 25, 2006
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Estes Thompson, "New Iraq Deployment Stresses 82nd Airborne's Quick Reaction Time," *Associated Press*, January 15, 2007.
- 37 Kimberly Johnson, "Commandant Wants Limit to Anbar Buildup," *Marine Corps Times*, February 5, 2005.
- 38 Ann Scott Tyson, "Possible Iraq Deployments Would Stretch Reserve Force," *The Washington Post*, November 11, 2006.
- 39 David S. Cloud, "Units of National Guard May Return to Iraq Early," *New York Times*, February 22, 2007.
- 40 Government Accountability Office, "Reserve Forces: Army National Guard and Army Reserve Readiness for 21st Century Challenges," September 21, 2006, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d061109t.pdf>
- 41 Drew Brown, "Wars are Depleting the National Guard's Equipment Stocks at Home," *McClatchy Newspapers*, January 31, 2007.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 David S. Cloud, "Units of National Guard May Return to Iraq Early," *New York Times*, February 22, 2007.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 National Military Family Association, "Report on the Cycles of Deployment: An Analysis of Survey Responses from April through September, 2005" (www.dtic.mil/dacowits/docs/apr2006/NMFACyclesofDeployment9.pdf), pp. 7-8.
- 47 Commission on the National Guard and Reserve, Report to Congress, March 2, 2007, pp. 30, <http://www.congr.gov/Worddocs/March%201%20Report/CNCR%20Second%20Report%20to%20Congress%20.pdf>.
- 48 This section is based upon (Former Secretary of Defense) Melvin R. Laird, "The Problem of Military Readiness," *American Enterprise Institute*, 1980, pp. 17-26.

Center for American Progress



ABOUT THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

The Center for American Progress is a nonpartisan research and educational institute dedicated to promoting a strong, just and free America that ensures opportunity for all. We believe that Americans are bound together by a common commitment to these values and we aspire to ensure that our national policies reflect these values. We work to find progressive and pragmatic solutions to significant domestic and international problems and develop policy proposals that foster a government that is “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

**Center for American Progress
1333 H Street, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202.682.1611 • Fax: 202.682.1867
www.americanprogress.org**