

THE FAILED REPUBLICAN RECORD: IRAQ

BUSH-CHENEY ADMINISTRATION TROOPS SENT INTO BATTLE UNPREPARED

The Bush-Cheney Administration rushed members of our military into battle without important lifesaving supplies and equipment support. Some 40,000 troops in the Iraqi theatre lacked protective plates for body armor vests. Portable electronic jammers for defeating roadside bombs were in woefully short supply. Only about 25 percent of the armored vehicles needed had been provided. The Bush-Cheney 2005 budget request included no funds for additional Army manpower, reconstituting our forces, jammers, or body armor.

ADMINISTRATION MISLED AMERICANS ABOUT THE COSTS OF THE WAR

Congress repeatedly requested that the Administration provide long-term war cost estimates and a plan for troop withdrawal. To date, the Bush-Cheney White House has provided neither. Indeed, when members of the Administration and the military have tried to level with the American people about the costs of the war they have been fired, such as former Bush economic adviser, Larry Lindsey. Instead, the architects of the war said that oil revenues would pay for Iraq's economic reconstruction. Yet to date, American taxpayers have spent \$200 billion on Iraq, as Lindsey correctly predicted.

WHITE HOUSE IGNORED THE INPUT OF CAREER MILITARY OFFICIALS

The Administration ignored the advice of Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki, who suggested that an Iraqi occupation force should number "several hundred thousand." Instead, the Administration sent to Iraq an undersized force. Forces in Iraq, including coalition partners, provide for only one soldier for every 150 Iraqis. In contrast, post-World War II reconstruction efforts provided for a one-to-40 ratio in Germany one year after the war's end. In Bosnia and Kosovo, there was a one-to-50 ratio for five years. Shinseki soon retired from the military after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld rebuked his comments as "wildly off the mark."

THE U.S. ARMY IS STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT

All branches of the United States Military operate under a traditional military doctrine that calls for a 3:1 troop rotation scheme in order to maintain a viable, ready force deployed abroad. This means that the military needs three units for every unit planned for deployment: one unit deployed, one unit recuperating from deployment, and one unit preparing for deployment. As of today, 12 brigades are deployed to Iraq and two in Afghanistan – a ratio of 2.3:1 – well below requirements. If you include the two brigades currently deployed to Korea, the ration falls to 2:1, making the U.S. Army's Iraq deployment unsustainable.

THE ARMY'S STEALTH DRAFT

Many Army units have had their deployments extended well beyond the 12-month rotation called for by Defense Department policy. Some units are being called back to Iraq earlier than planned. The Army is continuing its "stop-loss" program, which prevents officers or enlisted person in certain specialties from departing the service even after they are eligible to leave. In effect, the Administration has instituted a 'stealth draft' that will prevent Americans who have served their country honorably from returning to civilian life.

BUSH-CHENEY MISMANAGED IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

Rising violence in Iraq force the Administration to ask Congress to authorize the reprogramming of \$3.46 billion of the \$18 billion appropriated for Iraq reconstruction last year – shifting funds from reconstruction to basic security. Since then, the security situation in Iraq has been so volatile that only 5% of the \$18 billion in reconstruction funding has been used. For example, the pace of our police training operation is at full capacity, yet only about 10,000 of the 90,000 police officers hired already have been fully trained.

AMERICANS ARE NO SAFER AFTER IRAQ'S DEFEAT

After spending \$200 billion on Iraq, Osama bin Laden is still on the loose and Al Qaida's forces are growing stronger. The insurgency continues to rock Iraq and more than 1,000 Americans have been killed. Iran and North Korea are still building nuclear capabilities. Our military forces have been depleted and are less prepared to go to war today in another part of the world than any time in the past 20 years. The United States no longer has the international goodwill it had after 9/11. Our military might has suffered, but so has our diplomatic strength and influence in the world.

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