



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005

Bush: Lame Duck And Lame Commander In Chief

by Michael in New York on [6/29/2005 07:00:00 PM](#)

Why are Bush's numbers falling? Why do the American people grow increasingly concerned about Iraq?

It isn't about people who supported the war but now have their doubts. It isn't about people who never supported the war and have seen their fears realized. It isn't about people who weren't sure about the war and still don't know what they think. It isn't about the people who get confused every time Bush's rationalization for why we invaded Iraq changes.

Ultimately, it's about George Bush.

The American people have lost confidence in George Bush as our Commander in Chief. The American people are reluctant to admit it, but they realize George Bush is a weak military leader.

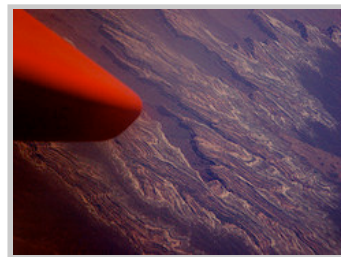
Last night, Bush had a chance to restore our confidence. He failed. Bush gave the same tired speech he's been giving for the past few years. His idea of confronting cold, hard facts is to say that war is "tough" and "hard," as if this were news to the American people. Bush could have acknowledged mistakes, but he is incapable of that. Bush might have given a realistic picture of where we stand in Iraq and offered concrete proposals for making it better, but he only offered blithe happy talk that everything is great and we're going to prevail.

A real military leader faces the facts on the ground. Problems arise -- they always do -- and have to be dealt with. A real leader recognizes problems, attacks them and solves them. But Bush refuses to acknowledge any problems.

For example, the training of Iraqis to take over their own security -- the single most important task in that country -- is proceeding at a punishingly slow rate. Bush threw out the number of 160,000 troops and then casually mentioned they fall into three categories: trained and ready to fight on their own, trained and capable of fighting with our help and not ready to fight at all.

How many of those Iraqis are trained and ready to fight on their own? Half? A third? A tenth? After the speech, we're told the truth. According to Sen. Joe Biden, **only 2,500 are fully trained -- less than two percent.** How many can fight with our help? About 8,900. In total, only about 8 percent can fight in any way. Of that 160,000 number he threw out, almost **150,000 are not trained in any meaningful way.** Bush refuses to say what's going wrong, how he'll speed up the training or explain why he is refusing the offers of Germany and Italy and others to train soldiers in their own countries. But

JOHN'S PHOTOS



HOT OFF THE WIRE

- H HuffPost Politics**
Huckabee's Huck Pac In Turmoil With Staff Turnover, Mounting Debts - Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's political action committee, Huck Pac, is undergoing a "restructuring." Executive Director Sarah Huckabee said Wednesday...
11 minutes ago
- P Ben Smith**
Going small - My story tonight: President Barack Obama came alive about 50 minutes into Wednesday night's news conference - when somebo
15 minutes ago
- Daily Kos**
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...
52 minutes ago
- E Eschaton**
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.
1 hour ago
- C Crooks and Liars**
Open Thread - Open Thread below...
1 hour ago

Show All

AMERICABLOG TV



Next 6



In honor of Senator DeMint



Despite insurance premiums doubling over the past decade, Republicans want to see health care reform fail.
For the GOPers, health care is politics. They just




Traditional media has to debunk the birthers



One small step...



The right-wing media, the voices of the GOP, in

I collect with  vodpod Visit our see all 323 videos > AMERICAblog TV site.

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS



Blog RSS



1,423 readers



BY FEEDBURNER
AMERICAblog TV RSS



Twitter RSS

Twitter Feed



Mobile Version



Google

Get the blog by email:

Subscribe me!

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Treatment

Obama Has a Grown-Up Talk With America (Gulp)
1 hour ago

Ezra Klein

Tab Dump
5 hours ago

Wonk Room

Sen. Byron Dorgan: The 'Trade' In Cap-And-Trade 'Makes No Sense To Me'

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
 Web

Search

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

Blog Archive

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

Donate

Recurring monthly donation

\$

Donate

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get FEEDJIT](#)

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

Why AMERICAblog?

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

Who are you?

John Aravosis
Editor
Washington, DC

Joe Sudbay
Deputy Editor
Washington, DC

Chris Ryan
Associate Editor
Paris, France

Robert Arena
Contributing Editor
Baltimore, Maryland

Jacki Schechner
Contributing Editor
Washington, DC

