

# FINDFRED.COM The revolutionary new way for guys to meet guys.

FIND YOUR MATCH F PROMOCODE BLOG



SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2005

## **Iraqi Troop Levels: Bush Lies**

by Michael in New York on 7/17/2005 03:17:00 PM

Everyone's known from the start that US forces won't leave Iraq until the Iraqi people themselves can keep their country safe. That's why Bush has played games with the number of Iraqi troops that are properly trained. He's been purposefully misleading the American people -- first by throwing out any numbers he thinks he can get away with and then pretending they actually mean something.

Bush and his surrogates keep pounding away at the idea that 140,000 Iraqi troops have been trained (adding sotto voce that this number includes troops broken down into three groups --some ready to battle on their own, some who can fight side by side with the US and the rest who, apparently, have been given an "I'm an Iraqi soldier" baseball cap and sent on their way).

That figure -- 140,000 -- is a lie, plain and simple. Bush knows perfectly well that the facts don't back him up and yet he stood in front of the American people on national television in primetime last month and lied. As we've said before, only 2,500 are fully trained (that is, can fight on their own -- which is the only standard that matters). About 8,900 can fight with our help. That means about 130,000 of those troops Bush keeps mentioning can't fight even with our help. So 90% of the Iraqi troops are useless in battle.

Now more news is coming out. A terrific London Review of Books article on corruption in Iraq also takes a pass at those Iraqi troops:

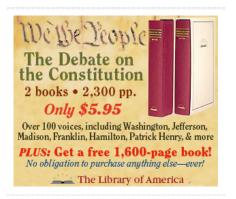
This February, the State Department glowingly reported that almost 82,000 Iraqi police and 60,000 troops had been trained.

These figures are grossly misleading. According to the GAO's March report to Congress 'the reported number of Iragi police is unreliable because the Minister of the Interior does not receive consistent and accurate reporting from the police forces around the country. The data does not exclude police absent from duty.' As for the army, 'Ministry of Defense reports exclude the absent military personnel from its totals. According to DOD officials, the number of absentees is probably in the tens of thousands.' Furthermore the State Department no longer reports on whether Iraqi security forces have the required weapons, vehicles, communication equipment and body armour. Bluntly, 'US government agencies do not report reliable data on the extent to which Iraqi security forces are trained and equipped.' The GAO further found that the Iraqi police are being trained for 'community policing in a permissive security environment' rather than getting 'paramilitary training for a high-threat hostile environment'. It's hardly surprising that close to 2000 Iraqi police have been killed.

This is all horribly reminiscent of American policy in Vietnam. American troops are staying in Iraq to stiffen Iraqi

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.... 26 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 48 minutes ago

## ↓ Firedoglake

Late Late Night FDL: What Eclipse? - A new video from Fatoumata Diawara, and and oldie from Bob. 59 minutes ago

#### Maily 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... 1 hour ago

#### 🕒 Eschaton

Overnight - Folk On. Newish. 2 hours ago

Show All

## AMERICABLOG TV













I collect with @ vodpod

see all 323 videos >

Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.







#### SITES WE LIKE

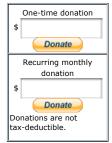
Air America Radio Alan Colmes' blog Ari Melber (The Nation) Ben Smith BicycleMark's blog & podcast Bilerico BradBlog Bring It On Carrie Fisher Crooks and Liars DailyKos Dan Savage's "Slog" Daou Report Democratic Underground Eschaton Ezra Klein Fire Dog Lake FiveThirtyEight.com Freeway Blogger The Gavel (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 Wachington Boot

# PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG



#### LABELS



#### 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

7/23/09 3:09 AM 4 of 5

© 2009 - John Aravosis | Design maintenance by Jason Rosenbaum

Send me your tips: americablog@starpower.net