

COSTS AND SAVINGS OF US DEPLOYMENT IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

At the present time, the United States is spending about \$10 billion a month to maintain over 140,000 troops a year in Iraq and \$2 billion a month to support 34,000 American troops in Afghanistan.

If President-elect Obama withdraws all combat brigades from Iraq over the January 2009 to April 2010 period, this would decrease the U.S. presence by about 50,000, or about 36 percent, and reduce the cost to about \$7 billion a month by mid-2010. If the withdrawal of combat troops is accompanied by a withdrawal of an equal number of support troops, this would mean that the costs would drop to about \$4 billion a month. If all American troops are withdrawn by the end of calendar year 2011, as the Status of Forces Agreement mandates, the costs would drop to zero by the second quarter of FY 2012.

Adding another 20,000 troops to Afghanistan, as requested by General McKiernan, would increase the costs in that theatre by at least \$1.5 billion a month.

Thus, the savings from a drawdown from Iraq accompanied by an increase in Afghanistan would result in a net savings of about \$2.5 billion a month until the complete withdrawal from Iraq. At that time, the monthly costs for Afghanistan would be \$3.5 billion.

Thus, as indicated in the table below, the net savings from a complete withdrawal from Iraq over the next four years would be \$316 billion (After \$54 billion is offset by the increase of our forces in Afghanistan). If \$76 billion is allocated to reset, the net savings would be approximately about \$240 billion.

Projected cost savings from redeployment from Iraq in billions of dollars (annual cost)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	CAP's Projected Costs	Costs under current policy	Projected Savings
Iraq	\$75	\$25	\$10	\$0	\$110	\$480	\$370
Afghanistan	\$30	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$150	\$96	\$-54
Total	\$105	\$65	\$50	\$40	\$260	\$576	\$316

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-- footnote 10, p. 58