

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [World](#)

US troop increase unwise, Powell says

Kennedy, Reid split on a buildup



COLIN L. POWELL 2d line, please

By Farah Stockman, Globe Staff | December 18, 2006

WASHINGTON -- Colin L. Powell, the former secretary of state, cast doubt yesterday on the feasibility of a plan to send tens of thousands more US troops to Iraq, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy and other Democrats vowed to oppose the idea.

Powell, in a sharp break with the Bush administration, offered a grim picture of the war. He said the United States is losing in Iraq and should seek to turn the situation around by making plans to hand over responsibility to Iraqis by mid-2007.

Senator Harry Reid, who will become majority leader next month, said yesterday that he would support a surge in troops, as long as it were a temporary measure designed to bring US forces home by early 2008.

"If it's for a surge, that is, for two or three months and it's part of a program to get us out of there as indicated by this time next year, then, sure, I'll go along with it," said Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

The Boston Globe

Advertisement

Latest world news

- ▶ [Bomb explodes at Baghdad market, kills 5: police](#)
- ▶ [Arrest made in UK prostitute murders](#)
- ▶ [Ahmadinejad opponents leading elections](#)
- ▶ [Abbas says he's ready to meet with Olmert](#)
- ▶ [More world news](#)

BOSTON.COM'S MOST E-MAILED

- ▶ [Romney's '94 remarks on same-sex marriage could haunt him](#)
- ▶ [Politics, process collide in debate over gay marriage](#)
- ▶ [New questions on Romney's stance on gays](#)
- ▶ [The shifting sands of Cape Cod](#)
- ▶ [Santa Speedo Run 2006](#)
- ▶ [See full list of most e-mailed](#)

SEARCH THE ARCHIVES

Today (free) Past 30 days
Yesterday (free) Last 12 months

▶ [Advanced search / Historic Archives](#)

Advertisement

▶ **Get 50% off Boston Globe home delivery.**
Order now!
www.bostonglobe.com/articlelink

▶ **Newly Engaged? Recently Married?**
Announce your news to all of Boston!
www.bostonglobe.com/weddings

Article Tools

- Printer friendly
- Single page
- E-mail to a friend
- XML World RSS feed
- Reprints & Licensing
- Share on Facebook
- Save this article
- powered by Del.icio.us

More:

- [Globe World stories](#)
- [Latest world news](#)

But Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat who serves on the Armed Services Committee, said the plan would face wide opposition in the Senate. "I respect Harry Reid on it, but that's not where I am," Kennedy said yesterday during his first-ever appearance on "Fox News Sunday."

President Bush is weighing several options for a new strategy in Iraq, including a proposal to send 30,000 to 50,000 additional troops to Baghdad in a bid to dampen sectarian tensions and buy time for the Iraqi government to reach a political agreement that can curb sectarian killings and unrest.

In his most wide-ranging remarks on Iraq since leaving the administration, Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said an attempt this summer to stabilize Baghdad by moving troops there from elsewhere in Iraq had not worked.

"I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Powell also said that the US military is already stretched too thin to send additional troops from outside Iraq. "There really are no additional troops" to send, he said, adding that he agrees with assessments that the US Army is "about broken."

Top aides to Bush say there are signs that the president is leaning toward a troop increase in Iraq, which has been backed by Senator John McCain, an Arizona Republican, and Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, a Connecticut Democrat.

"I think President Bush is going to want to demonstrate that he went the last mile to try to reach success," said James A. Phillips, research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington-based think tank.

"By surging US troops into Baghdad, it could . . . help buy the Iraqi government more time to build up its strength, security forces, and popular support by bringing a greater personal security for Iraqis," Phillips said. [Continued...](#)

[1](#) [2](#) [Next](#)



More:

[Globe World stories](#) | [Latest world news](#) | [Globe front page](#) | [Boston.com](#)

Sign up for: [Globe Headlines e-mail](#) | [Breaking News Alerts](#)

Printer friendly Single page E-mail to a friend Available RSS feeds Most e-mailed Reprints & Licensing



Protect Your Vehicle
From Thieves. Get
[LoJack here.](#)



Graduate and
Professional Programs



Free Shipping at
[BrooksBrothers.com](#)



Get exclusive access to V.
I.P. events!



Introducing Alpha Omega
Platinum Rewards



Browse our personals
and meet great singles in
[the Hub](#)

[feedback form](#) | [help](#) | [site index](#) | [globe archives](#) | [rss](#)

© 20 The New York Times Company

\$40
Options giftcard at [CLICK HERE](#)