

U.S. Army stretched



The “involuntary recall” of thousands of Marine reservists is in addition to the use of “stop-loss orders” which keep soldiers in their units after their active-duty commitment is complete. With a rotation ratio of 3:1 – three units are needed to keep one unit in the field – defence experts warn that the U.S. Army is now overstretched

U.S. troops in Iraq	138,000
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U.S. troops in Afghanistan	20,000
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Army (total inc. reservists)	595,950
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Total deployed abroad	248,500
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Troops issued with stop-loss orders	
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2003	110,000
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2004	160,000
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2006	50,000
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Marines (inc. reservists)	186,660
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Total deployed abroad	50,970
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Marines facing recall	Up to 35,000
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Sources: U.S. Marine Corps, Center for Defense Information, IISS © GRAPHIC NEWS