

Iraq war outsourced

The number of private contractors in Iraq now exceeds that of U.S. combat troops. More than 180,000 civilians – functioning outside the military's command and control – are working in Iraq and paid by the U.S. taxpayer



U.S. troops in Iraq:	160,000
Annual cost per soldier:	\$120,000

Private contractors:	
Americans:	21,000
Iraqis:	118,000
Other nationalities:	43,000
Total:	182,000

Private security contractors:	48,000
Cost per contractor	\$1.1 million

Source: U.S. Department of Defense, GAO

Picture: Getty Images

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