

## Obama: Full Withdrawal From Iraq By January 1

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**WASHINGTON** – All U.S. troops will leave Iraq by Jan. 1, formally ending the war that began more than eight and-a-half years ago and has taken more than 4,400 American lives, President Obama said today. "After nearly nine years, America's war in Iraq will be over," Obama said at the House. Obama delivered his statement after speaking with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki via a secure video conference. "Over the next two months, our troops in Iraq, tens of thousands of them, will pack up their gear and board convoys for the journey home," Obama said. "The last American soldiers will cross the border out of Iraq with their heads held high, proud of their success and knowing that the American people stand united in our support for our troops."



The war started with a U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003 that ousted longtime Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The initial enthusiasm surrounding Hussein's overthrow quickly gave way to fighting between rival ethnic and religious groups and a long guerrilla war against U.S. forces that reached its peak in 2007, when then-president George W. Bush ordered more than 30,000 extra troops for a "surge" that helped turn the tide. Although the United States has signed an agreement to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq by the end of this year, officials from both countries had discussed maintaining a small U.S. residual force of 3,000 to 5,000 American troops to train Iraqi forces. As a presidential candidate in 2008, Obama vowed to end the war. He noted in his remarks to reporters that he was following through with his promise and that it was now time to turn the country's full attention to bolstering the American economy. "After a decade of war the nation that we need to build and the nation that we will build is our own, an America that sees its economic strength restored just as we've restored our leadership around the globe," Obama said. There are presently about 40,000 troops in Iraq. The complete withdrawal from Iraq marks a follow-through under a deal brokered between the countries in 2008 by President George W. Bush.

White House officials downplayed concerns that the Iraqi forces may not be capable of managing the country's security and discounted there will be an uptick in violence as the final U.S. troops leaves the country. McDonough stressed it was time to recognize that recognize Iraq is "secure, stable and self-reliant." Anthony Blinken, national security adviser to Vice President Biden, noted that whenever the U.S. military has reduced its presence — the withdrawal of additional troops sent as part of Bush's 2007 troop surge; U.S. forces exiting Iraqi cities and cutting the American presence to 50,000 servicemembers last year — violence has actually declined. But the two demurred when asked whether the U.S. sacrifice — more than 4,400 troops killed and nearly \$1 trillion in American taxpayer money — was worth it. "History is going to judge that," Blinken said. "I don't think any of us can say that now."

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of a complete withdrawal over a diminutive duration as well as publicly announced timeline. Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. President Obama stated, "More than one million Americans have served in Iraq since the beginning of the war in 2003 and nearly 4,500 U.S. troops have died in the fight." Express these numerical figures in simplest form as a ratio or comparison of two numbers by division via the following three unique formats - a to b is a:b or a/g. What conclusion can be reached as a result of these figures? Is the solution reasonable? Explain. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.2; MA.912.A.1.2)**
3. Effectively employ the process referred to as unit or dimensional analysis and write out the appropriate conversion factors necessary to determine the number of seconds (268,233,871) troops have been deployed to Iraq at the precise moment we hit the eight and-a-half years mark. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.1.5)**
4. The scale of an Iraq map is 1 inch:17.5 miles. Find the actual distance corresponding to a map distance equivalent to 20 inches. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.1.5)**
5. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *demurred*, *bolstering*, *brokered*, *uptick*, *ousted*, and *guerrilla* obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
6. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Trite (adj.) Not original. Overused.* **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.