

Military Families Speak Out

Dec 2019

Troops Home Now? How?

Editorials from MFSO members:

By Anna Berlinrut
Connecticut

International news sources have reported for more than a year that Iran has moved short range missiles into Iraq. These missiles could reach American military bases in the Middle East and American allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia. How and why has American diplomacy failed? Why is this news only now being widely reported by major news outlets in the US?

In an October interview with Axios, Iraqi President Barhan Salih said that he could no longer rely upon the United States as an ally and that he may have to look toward Iran and Russia in the future. President Salih, an Iraqi Kurd, sees the American betrayal of Kurds in Syria as indicative of a lack of American dependability. He is justifiably concerned about ethnic cleansing by Turkey of the Kurdish people.

President Salih does not want to choose between Iran and the United States as an ally, but he will have to if there is a war. Iraq would be a major battlefield if a war erupts since there are thousands of American troops still deployed there.

In June of this year the White House said that President Trump actually gave an order to strike Iran and then rescinded that order just a few minutes before it was to be implemented.

. He warned again in October that we might have to go to war with Iran. Now that Donald Trump is set to be impeached, might he use war as an attempt to gain support?



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4,575 American Troops killed in Iraq; 2,440 American Troops killed in Afghanistan

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In the News:

Pentagon chief fires Navy secretary over SEAL controversy By Robert Burns November 24, 2019

Top Navy top official fired, ending a stunning clash between President Trump and top military leadership over the fate of a SEAL accused of war crimes in Iraq.

<https://apnews.com/7902f59c504d427ca89a9bd3484a207d?fbclid=IwAR1UONA1dgAUYCgKv6acHQ5qSa4uKSvP0xqJd9O8O8MaYfLq4OZIopPQU-o>

US Opens First Round of Resurrected Peace Talks with Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad held on Saturday the first official talks with Afghanistan's Taliban since President Trump declared a near-certain peace deal.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/12/07/us-opens-first-round-resurrected-peace-talks-taliban.html#teal-peace-talks-taliban.html>

Will Trump Close the Deal to End Afghanistan's Long War? By Kimberly Dozier

Updated: December 5, 2019 4:51 PM ET

The war in Afghanistan is nearly two decades old. President Donald Trump had barely been in Afghanistan for a few hours on Nov. 28 when he made three bold declarations. Read in TIME:

<https://apple.news/AIiXLkoKbQQ6dr0uZ44dBbw>

The Pentagon chief wants to prioritize the deployment of U.S. forces to the Asia-Pacific region from other areas, including Afghanistan, to confront a growing military competition with China.

The Defense Department's strategy has shifted to confronting China and Russia, as the primary challenge.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2019-12-07/u-s-pentagon-chief-wants-to-reallocate-forces-to-indo-pacific>

Iran Is Secretly Moving Missiles Into Iraq, U.S. Officials Say

The buildup of a hidden arsenal of short-range missiles is the latest sign that American efforts to deter Iran have largely failed

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/04/us/politics/iran-missiles-iraq.html>

Why our wars are endless By Andrew Bacevich LA Times Dec 9, 2019 By Andrew Bacevich

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has imported into the American military lexicon a new rationale for U.S. military actions in the Middle East.

http://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=9b52852b-783b-411a-937c-b0383af70855

War with the Truth. Washington Post Afghanistan report U.S. officials constantly said they were making progress. They were not, and they knew it. This report details all the lies from the beginning of this war, which has cost thousands of lives and wasted at least one trillion on an unwinnable war.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents>

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