

## Some U.S. Combat Troops To Be Reclassified

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, December 23, 2008

Post Chronicle 23 December 2008

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAQ REPORT](#)

The U.S-Iraq agreement calls for the withdrawal of combat forces from Iraq cities by June, but officials say many will remain as reclassified personnel.

Military planners acknowledge many will be renamed “trainers” and “advisers” in what officials told The New York Times (NYSE:NYT) are essentially combat roles.

“Trainers sometimes do get shot at, and they do sometimes have to shoot back,” said John A. Nagl, a retired lieutenant colonel and one of the authors of the U.S. Army’s new counterinsurgency field manual.

The issue could cause difficulties for President-elect Barack Obama, who must meld three deadlines — the June deadline, the May 2010 date he spoke of during his campaign and the December 2011 deadline in the status-of-forces agreement under which all U.S. troops must pull out of the country, the Times reported Monday.

To try to meet those deadlines without risking Iraq’s tenuous stability, military officials said they would reassign combat troops to train and support Iraqis, adding that the troops would be armed and go on combat patrols with their Iraqi counterparts.

“If you’re in combat, it doesn’t make any difference whether you’re an adviser; you’re risking your life,” said Andrew Krepinevich, a military expert at the research group Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. “The bullets don’t have ‘adviser’ stenciled on some and ‘combat unit’ on another.”

Including service and support personnel, roughly 146,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq. (c) UPI

The original source of this article is Post Chronicle  
Copyright © [Global Research](#), Post Chronicle, 2008

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)