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## Just Back From Iraq, US Troops Ordered to Afghanistan

By Jason Ditz

December 21, 2011

Officials have made much of "ending" the Iraq War and bringing the occupation forces home for the holidays, but they won't be staying long, as many are now receiving new orders to deploy to Afghanistan.

"We are glad that we have brought all soldiers back home in time for Christmas to spend with loved ones. We do have to put information out about an upcoming mission, though," noted one brigade combat team in a statement, saying it was selected for a "support mission" in the decade-long occupation of Afghanistan.

In an effort to put a silver lining on the dark cloud that is deploying to the notorious 'graveyard of empires,' the statement went on to say that the deployment of troops just out of Iraq to Afghanistan was a "sign of progress."



The move was being couched in terms of a plan to withdraw from Afghanistan at the end of 2014, but privately officials have been negotiating to keep troops there through 2024, and commander <u>Gen. John Allen conceded yesterday that the US would "probably" keep troops in Afghanistan long after 2014.</u>