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Des milliers de soldats britanniques refusent d'aller en Irak

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Le gouvernement britannique lancera une campagne publicitaire pour recueillir des recrues après le refus de quelque six mille soldats de l'Armée Territoriale (TA), qui refusent de prendre part à l'occupation de l'Irak.

D'après [The Times](#)

Londres, le 31 Octobre 2005

[Leer en español](#)

Étant donné le rejet des militaires de se rendre en territoire irakien, la TA dispose en ce moment du nombre le plus faible d'effectifs depuis sa création en 1907, révèle aujourd'hui le Sunday Times.

La présence des troupes britanniques en cet état arabe a aussi causé la désertion des militaires qui rejettent l'occupation de ce pays.

Malgré la diminution de ses forces et que le ministère des Forces Armées investira plus de 10 millions d'euro dans une campagne pour recueillir des recrues, la TA il cache son manque de personnel en niant cette situation.

La Grande-Bretagne, avec les Etats-Unis, ont envahi l'Irak et après l'occupation il maintient dans ce territoire plus de huit mille hommes, déploies dans le sud de l'Irak et avec son Q.G. dans la localité de Bassora.

Depuis lors, ils sont morts près d'une centaine de soldats britanniques, dans sa majorité victimes des attentas de la résistance.

Iraq factor takes toll on the TA

Manpower levels are in free-fall with reservist troops leaving at the rate of more than 500 a month.

By Michael Evans

[The Times](#) October 31, 2005

THE size of the Territorial Army has reached a record low, with more than 500 soldiers leaving every month this year. With five reservists having died while serving in Iraq since the start of the military campaign in 2003, the Iraq factor is considered one of the reasons why the TA manpower levels are in free-fall.

John Reid, the Defence Secretary, has also acknowledged that the death of four young soldiers at the Deepcut training barracks between 1995 and 2002 has also affected recruiting for the regular Army.

The strength of the TA is currently 35,500, about 6,000 fewer than the Government said was needed when it published its strategic defence review in 1998. The Ministry of Defence said that attitude surveys carried out with all TA personnel on being demobilised had not singled out the campaign in Iraq as the main reason for their wanting to

leave.

However, the figures of soldiers leaving the TA show that since the war began, the numbers have risen significantly, from 160 in April 2003 to 690 in November of that year, and 540 in August this year.

The TA has had to supply about 10 per cent of the British troops in southern Iraq since March 2003, when 8,690 reservists were mobilised to support Operation Telic, codename for the campaign, either in Iraq or in the United Kingdom, for six months at a time. This dropped to 2,460 in 2004 and to 1,430 this year.

Reservists are also expected to be part of the larger British troop contribution being prepared for Afghanistan. The Government is expected to make an announcement soon on reinforcements to be sent to the country from March.

The continuing dangers of service in Afghanistan were underlined over the weekend when a British soldier was killed and five were wounded in the northern city of Mazar e-Sharif. They were attacked while travelling through the city. The MoD said last night that the dead soldier was not wearing body armour because the area was thought to be safe.

The man came from the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment which has only just deployed to Afghanistan for a six-month tour. It is also the last operational tour for the regiment before it amalgamates with the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment and becomes subsumed into the larger Light Infantry, as part of the Army's restructuring plans announced last year.

The attack was the first of its kind against British troops in Mazar e-Sharif since the Taleban were overthrown in 2001-02. The soldiers in the northern city help to run a provincial reconstruction team aimed at improving the lives of Afghans in the area.

Britain currently has just under 1,000 military personnel in Afghanistan, including an RAF Harrier GR7 detachment in Kandahar in the south.

Mr Reid, speaking on the Sunday AM programme on BBC One yesterday, confirmed that more British troops were to be sent to the south next year, to be based at Helmand, north of Kandahar.