



导读 2月17日,美国总统奥巴马宣布将向阿富汗增兵。此举显示美国新政府反恐重心的转移。与布什政府不同,奥巴马坚持认为阿富汗是反恐的主战场。但美在阿面临巨大挑战——备受腐败、毒品走私困扰的阿富汗政府、藏匿于阿富汗和巴基斯坦边境地区的塔利班游击队以及不断下滑的美军支持率。2月19日吉尔吉斯议会以78票赞成、1票反对,通过关闭美在玛纳斯空军基地的决定,使美军在阿行动再度受挫。对肩负重振国内经济重任的奥巴马政府而言,如何应对这一连串的打击,稳步推进在南亚的反恐大业,将是一项巨大的外交考验。“Yes-We-Can”曾是奥巴马竞选期间频用话语,面对伊拉克、阿富汗两场战争纠结,他能永保无往不胜的气势吗?

Obama's Yes-We-Can War: More Troops to Afghanistan

奥巴马下令增兵——以“是的,我们能”面对阿富汗战争

By Mark Thompson

Afghanistan became President Obama's war on Tuesday, when he ordered two more U.S. combat brigades¹ into the fight. He will send 17,000 combat troops to join the 36,000-strong² U.S. force already in the theater³. The fact that the units⁴ now ordered to Afghanistan had originally been slated⁵ for Iraq underscores⁶ the new Administration's shift in priorities⁷.

The reinforcements⁸ include about 8,000 Marines⁹ from Camp Lejeune, N.C., who should be in Afghanistan by late spring, and a 4,000-strong Army brigade from Fort Lewis, Wash., which should arrive in the summer. Those units will be joined by about 5,000 more Army “enablers” to provide logistical¹⁰ support.

The White House announcement took subtle shots¹¹ at the priorities of the Bush Administration, stressing that the request from U.S. commanders in Afghanistan for the additional troops was “months old”. President Obama's written statement explained, “This increase is necessary to stabilize a deteriorating¹² situation in Afghanistan, which has not received the strategic attention, direction and resources it urgently requires.” ▶

当奥巴马总统周二(2月17日)下令增派2个美军作战旅加入战斗那一刻,阿富汗已成为他的战争。他将派遣1.7万人的作战部队加入到已在该战区的为数3.6万名美军中。本次奉命前往阿富汗的部队原计划是要派往伊拉克的,这一事实凸显了美国新政府战略重心的转移。

这支增援部队包括来自北卡罗来纳州乐洁恩营的约8000名海军陆战队员,他们将于春季晚些时候抵达阿富汗,以及来自华盛顿州刘易斯堡的1个4000人的陆军旅,他们将于夏季时到位。另外还将有5000多人的陆军“辅助部队”加入以提供后勤支持。

白宫的公告对布什政府的工作重点进行了巧妙的批评,强调驻阿美军指挥官们有关增兵的要求已达“数月之久”。奥巴马总统在书面声明中解释说:“增兵对稳定不断恶化的阿富汗局势是必要的,该地区一直没有得到急需的战略关注、指导和资源。” ▶

If Army General David McKiernan, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, *gets his way¹³, the total increase over the coming year will be 30,000. McKiernan has said he needs to *beef up¹⁴ U.S. forces in Afghanistan to *roll back¹⁵ a growing Taliban insurgency¹⁶, especially before the presidential election currently slated for August. Indeed, U.S. officials say they have only 40% of the American officers needed to train the Afghan army to take over security duties at some point in the future. But sending any additional troops to Afghanistan would require reducing U.S. troop levels¹⁷ in Iraq, and Obama has ordered a review of U.S. strategy in Afghanistan before committing to further reinforcements. Defense Secretary Robert Gates explained last week that the units ordered to Afghanistan on Tuesday had to be given their *marching orders¹⁸ before the Administration's strategy review could be completed because of the pressing need for reinforcements.

Obama is keenly aware of the limitations on what his reinforcements can achieve. "I am absolutely convinced that you cannot solve the problem of Afghanistan, the Taliban, the spread of extremism¹⁹ in that region solely through military means," he told an interviewer on Tuesday. But more troops are needed simply to arrest²⁰ and begin to reverse a perilous²¹ slide in NATO's fortunes in Afghanistan.

With the Taliban growing in confidence and feeling the wind *at its back²², the bad news out of Afghanistan just keeps getting worse for the U.S. NATO commanders have long expressed frustration at the failure of the Pakistani military to prevent Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters maintaining sanctuaries²³ in Pakistan from which they can launch attacks inside Afghanistan. But Pakistan's announcement on Monday of a peace agreement to accommodate the domestic Taliban insurgency in the Swat Valley suggests that an all-out²⁴ war against militants on their soil is not what Pakistan's generals *have in mind²⁵. And the *supply ►

如果驻阿美军司令——陆军将军戴维·麦基尔南如愿以偿,来年新增的总兵力将达到3万人。麦基尔南表示,他需要增强在阿美军以打退不断升级的塔利班叛乱活动,特别是在目前定于8月举行的阿富汗总统大选以前。事实上,美官员称,他们只有所需美国军官的40%用作对阿军进行培训,以使其在将来某个时候接管安全职责。但是,向阿富汗增派任何部队都要求减少美国在伊拉克的驻军人数,而奥巴马已下令在承诺进一步增兵前对美在阿战略进行评估。国防部长罗伯特·盖茨上周解释说:“鉴于增兵的迫切需要,周二奉命前往阿富汗的部队将在美国政府完成战略评估前接到出发令。”

奥巴马对增兵在收效方面的局限性有着十分清醒的认识。周二,他对一位采访者说:“我完全确信,你不可能仅仅通过军事手段解决阿富汗、塔利班和极端主义在该地区蔓延的问题。”但是,仅就阻止和开始扭转北约在阿富汗命运的危险下滑而言,增兵是必要的。

随着塔利班自信不断增强并觉察到时机有利,对美国而言,从阿富汗传来的坏消息则越来越糟。北约指挥官很久以来就对巴基斯坦军方未能阻止塔利班和“基地”组织武装分子利用在巴的避难所向阿境内发动袭击表示沮丧。然而,巴基斯坦周一(2月16日)宣布的、安抚在斯瓦特山谷的境内塔利班叛乱分子的和平协议显示,在巴国土向武装分子发动全面战争并非巴将领的想法。此外,为 ►

1. brigade [brɪ'geɪd] n. [军]旅
2. strong [strɒŋ] a. [与数词连用]人数多达...的,计有...的
3. theater ['θi:ətə(r)] n. [军]战场 战区
4. unit ['ju:nɪt] n. [军]小队,分队 部队,部队单位(指独立自主的军舰、坦克或卡车等军用装备或车辆)
5. slate [sleɪt] vt. <主美> 预定 规划
6. underscore [ˌʌndə'skəʊ:(r)] vt. 加强 强调
7. priority [praɪ'ɒrəti] n. 优先考虑的事 重点
8. reinforcement [ˌrɪ:ɪn'fɔ:smənt] n. [-s]援军 增援部队
9. Marine [mə'rɪ:n] n. 美国海军陆战队员
10. logistical [lɒ'ɒdʒɪstɪkəl] a. [军]后勤(学)的
11. shot [ʃɒt] n. 一击,针对性的话,一针见血的评语 尖锐的批评
12. deteriorate [dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt] vi. 恶化 变坏
13. get one's way = have it one's way 想怎样就怎样 随心

所欲,自主行事

14. beef up <口> 增加 增大 加强 充实
15. roll back <口> 使退却 迫使...后退
16. insurgency [ɪn'sɜ:dzənsɪ] n. 叛乱 造反 暴动 起义
17. level ['levəl] n. 数量 大小
18. marching orders [ˌmɑ:ʃɪŋ'ɔ:dəz] n. 出发令,行军令,开拔令
19. extremism [ɪk'stri:mɪzəm] n. (政治或宗教上的)极端主义 极端性
20. arrest [ə'rest] vt. 阻止 抑制 控制
21. perilous [ˌperɪləs] a. 濒临毁灭的,危险的
22. at sb's back 作某人后者,给某人撑腰
23. sanctuary [ˌsæŋktjuəri] n. 避难所,庇护所 躲避处
24. all-out [ˌɔ:l'ɔ:t] a. 竭尽全力的 极度的 全部的
25. have ... in mind 意欲 打算

lines²⁶ that funnel²⁷ food, fuel and war materiel to U.S. forces in Afghanistan, already imperiled²⁸ by militant attacks in Pakistan, may face a further setback this week when the parliament in Kyrgyzstan votes on whether or not to kick the U.S. out of the Manas airbase, which has played a key role in air support in Afghanistan. The U.N. just announced that 2,118 civilians died in fighting in Afghanistan in 2008, a 40% hike²⁹ as the war grows *ever more³⁰ bloody. And, last week, the Taliban “welcomed” U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke to Kabul by launching an audacious³¹ terror attack on three government buildings in the capital, leaving 26 people dead.

Having watched rival armies *fight their way³² back and forth across the country for the past 30 years since the Soviets invaded, Afghans have become adept³³ at accommodating themselves with the likely winner at any given moment. Right now, the trends are not moving in Washington’s favor, and that fact is recognized by the Afghan citizenry. “There’s been a major shift towards acceptance of the Taliban,” military scholar Anthony Cordesman told a congressional panel last week. He noted that polling in Afghanistan shows “the number of people who feel the United States has performed well in Afghanistan has been cut in half in the last three years,” from 68% in 2005 to 32% now.

Hardly an auspicious³⁴ moment, then, for Obama to put his stamp³⁵ on the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, but a commander-in-chief doesn’t always have the luxury of choice. As a senator, Obama had criticized the “surge³⁶” of nearly 30,000 additional U.S. troops into Iraq two years ago. Now, as commander in chief, he has begun ordering what may turn out to be a similar increase into Afghanistan. Of course, he had maintained on the campaign trail³⁷ that Afghanistan, not Iraq, was the “right” place to *wage war on³⁸ terror, but his strategy review reflects the fact that many have begun to question the goals and focus of the U.S. mission there.

Obama began his terse³⁹ statement Tuesday by acknowledging that “there is no more solemn⁴⁰ duty as ►

驻阿美军输送食品、燃料和战斗物资的补给线已经因巴基斯坦境内武装分子的袭击而受损 本周或许又进一步受挫。吉尔吉斯议会正就是否将美军赶出玛纳斯空军基地进行投票表决。该基地在向阿富汗提供空中支持方面至关重要。联合国刚刚宣布,由于战争变得愈益残忍,2008年死于战争的阿富汗平民达2118人,上升了40%。上周,塔利班悍然向首都的3所政府大楼发动恐怖袭击,造成26人死亡,以此“欢迎”美国特使理查德·霍尔布鲁克抵达喀布尔。

自苏联入侵以来的过去30年中,面对相互敌对的军队在自己的国家反复地拼杀,阿富汗人已经擅长于使自己在任何时候都能与可能的赢家相处。现在,形势没有朝着对华盛顿

有利的方向发展,而这一事实已为阿富汗民众所认识。军事专家安东尼·考兹曼上周向一个国会小组表示:“(阿富汗人)在接受塔利班方面出现了重大的转变。”他强调,阿富汗民调显示,“认为美国在阿富汗表现出色的人数在过去3年下降了一半”,从2005年的68%降到现在的32%。



Rescuers attend to a wounded U.S. soldier after a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday. Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. said Sunday that the Obama administration “inherited a real mess” in Afghanistan and warned that “we’re going to be engaging the enemy more now.”

因此,对奥巴马而言,为美国主导的阿富汗战争打上自己的烙印绝非吉时,但是一位美军总司令并不总是有太多的选择。作为参议员,奥巴马两年前曾对美军在伊拉克的兵力“激增”近3万人进行了批评。现在,作为美军总司令,他开始发布结果或许是类似的向阿富汗增兵的命令。当然,竞选期间他就坚称,阿富汗,而不是伊拉克,是向恐怖主义宣战的“合适”场所,但他提出的战略评估反映了这样一个事实,即很多人开始对美国在当地作战任务的目标和重点表示了质疑。

在周二发表的简短声明一开始,奥巴马就承认:“作为总统,没有什么比作出将我 ►



Two nuclear-armed submarines from Britain and France collided while on separate patrols in the Atlantic Ocean but there were no injuries or radioactive leaks, naval officials said on Monday. 周一(2月16日)英国海军官员称,英国和法国的2艘装备有核武器的潜艇各自在大西洋巡逻时相撞,但没有造成人员伤亡和放射性泄露。(Reuters Feb. 16, 2009)

The bodies of dozens of Bangladeshi officers shot dead by their troops in a dispute over pay were found today in the capital, Dhaka, bringing the death toll from the armed rebellion to more than 70. 今天(2月27日)在孟加拉首都达卡又发现数十名孟加拉军官的尸体,他们是在由薪酬引发的争议中被部下射杀的,这使得这场武装哗变的死亡人数达到70人。(The Guardian Feb. 27, 2009)



Southeast Asian leaders said on Sunday they backed stimulus plans, opposed protectionism and would coordinate policies to confront a deepening global financial crisis battering their economies. 周日(3月1日)东南亚国家首脑们表示,他们支持经济刺激计划,反对贸易保护主义并将协调各国政策应对重创其经济的日益加深的全球经济危机。(Reuters Mar. 1, 2009)

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has addressed the annual session of the National People's Congress—China's parliament. And the premier's main message to delegates was that China's economy is still in good hands, even at a time of crisis. Wen Jiabao told them that growth could be kept at eight per cent and inflation under 4 per cent. 中国总理温家宝在每年一次的全国人民代表大会(中国的议会)上作政府报告。他传递给代表们的主要信息是中国经济即使在危机时期也掌控良好。温总理告知代表们,中国经济增长率能保持在8%,通货膨胀率则控制在4%以内。(ABC Mar. 6, 2009) (吴景超 摘译)



President than the decision to deploy our armed forces into harm's way." He has been personally writing letters to the families of each U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, hand signing them "Barack." Such letters no doubt will become more difficult to write in the months ahead, when the casualties⁴¹ begin to include some of those he ordered into combat. ■

们的武装部队部署到危险境地的决定更郑重的职责了”。他一直亲自写信给在阿富汗和伊拉克阵亡的每一个美军士兵的家属,并亲手签上“巴拉克”的名字。今后几个月,随着他命令参加战争的一些人员开始出现在伤亡名单,这些信无疑将越来越难写了。

(高建正 译注自 Time Feb. 18, 2009)

26. supply line (尤指战争中军需品的)供给线,补给线(如公路、小路等)
27. funnel [ˈfʌnl] vt. (尤指通过狭长通道)传送
28. imperil [ɪmˈperɪl] vt. 使陷于危险,危及
29. hike [haɪk] n. <美口> (数量、数额的)提高,增加
30. ever more 越发地,越来越
31. audacious [ɔːˈdeɪʃəs] a. 胆大妄为的,厚颜无耻的
32. fight one's way 打开一条出路,奋斗着前进
33. adept [ˈædept] a. 熟练的,擅长的,内行的

34. auspicious [ɔːˈspɪʃəs] a. 吉祥的,吉利的
35. stamp [stæmp] n. 标志,特征,痕迹
36. surge [sɜːdʒ] n. 激增,陡增
37. trail [treɪl] n. [主新闻]系列活动
38. wage war on 发动,进行(战争或斗争)
39. terse [tɜːs] a. (讲话、文笔等)简要的,简洁的,简练的
40. solemn [ˈsɒləm] a. 严肃的,郑重的,庄严的
41. casualty [ˈkæʒjuəlti] n. 伤亡者