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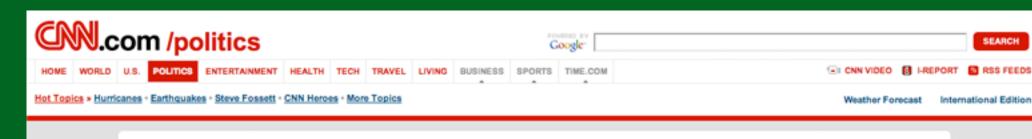
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Bush to announce withdrawal of

updated 6:39 p.m. EDT, Tue September 11, 2007

troops, official says

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- · Administration official: Challenges remain, but progress is sufficient to cut troops
- Petraeus has talked of 30,000-troop cut; Bush hasn't specified a number
- Withdrawal of 30,000 troops would bring number of GIs in Iraq to about 130,000
- President to make short address to nation on TV at 9:01 p.m. ET Thursday

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WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Bush is expected this week to announce his plans for cutting back U.S. troop numbers in Iraq, a senior administration official said Tuesday.



Gen. David Petraeus testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in the country, told Congress this week he could see troop numbers sliding by 30,000 -- which would reduce the number of troops to pre-surge levels by July 2008.

Administration officials did not specifically say the president would use the 30,000 figure -- but one said he would "make clear there are challenges ahead in Iraq, but also enough progress" to reduce troop levels.

The announcement could come when Bush addresses the nation on television Thursday at 9:01 p.m. ET. The address is expected to last 10 to 15 minutes. The White House on Tuesday requested air time for the remarks.

Bush ordered nearly 30,000 additional troops to Iraq in January -- a move known as "the surge" --

in an effort to pacify Baghdad and its surrounding provinces amid rampant sectarian and insurgent warfare.

Petraeus told Congress this week that the first of those units could be sent home in late September, with the rest returning home by mid-July 2008.

Petraeus said the "surge" campaign has met its military goals of



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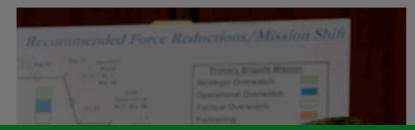
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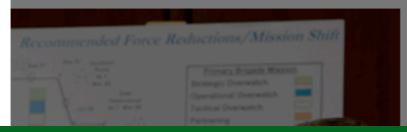
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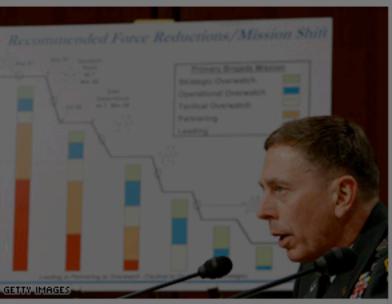
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Thursday, September 13, 2007

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President Bush



WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to reduce troop levels in Iraq by 5,700 by the end of December. and wants to draw down from 20 combat brigades there now to 15 brigades there by next summer, Bush said in a preview of his speech with network anchors Thursday.

Bush will address the nation in a speech from the Oval Office, and he is expected to say the surge he ordered in January has helped protect the Iraqi people from vicious attacks and is tamping down the worst of the sectarian violence seeking to tear the country apart.

Watch Bush's speech live on FOX News Channel or FOXNews.com at 9 p.m. ET, and watch the Democratic response delivered by Sen. Jack Reed immediately afterward streaming live on

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says there is still confusion when working with FEMA on approaching hurricane

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25 years old Santa Clara, CA Male

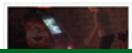
About

I can say without flinching that I'll probably be one of the most unique people you'll ever meet; well, at least I think so. If you took everything that made me - me - placed it on a table and took a hard look at it, nothing would make sense. But, that's what makes me... me. It's the crossroads of all my interests, my experiences and my abilities. The japanese pop music, the design, the sacrifices, the failures — everything.

Born in the Vegas of the East Coast and now a proud citizen of the West, I'm the blogger, the podcaster, the talkative, the delusional, the idealist, the ambitious and the designer you've probably heard about once during a conversion about eggrolls.

Once again, I find myself in a place where I can once again practice my newfound mantra of transparency — of having nothing to hide. I hope you enjoy the journey, as I always seem to say. But with every day bringing us one step closer to the inevitable last, there's no reason that it shouldn't be that way.

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Recent Songs (VirbTunes) see all

Morning Musume - Onna ni Sachi Are (Radio Preview) ??? - Aisu Kuriimu to My Purin ??? - Rock With You ???? - Boom Boom Meccha Maccho! ??????????? - Uwaki na Honey Pie



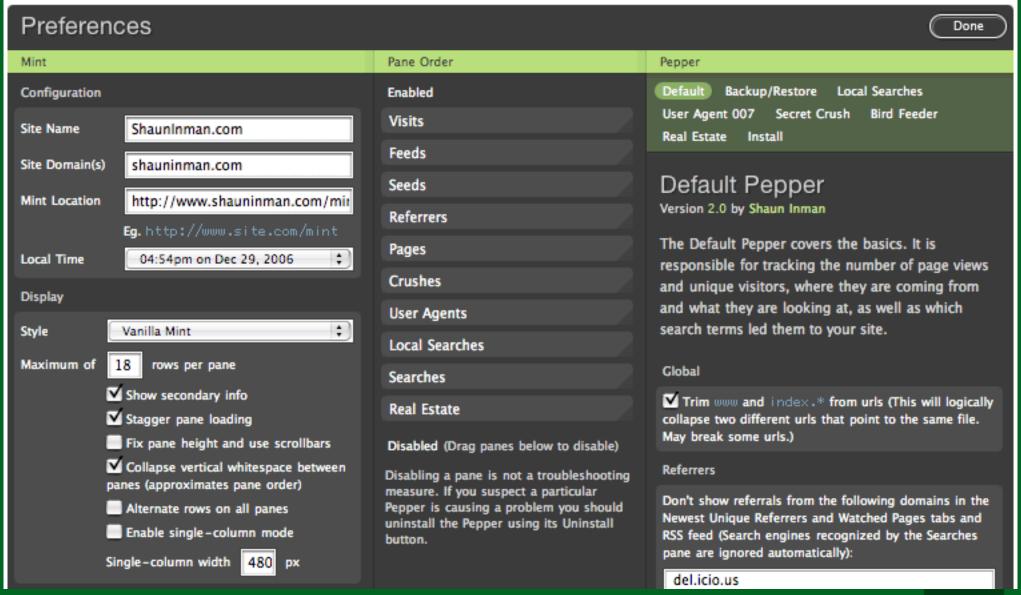


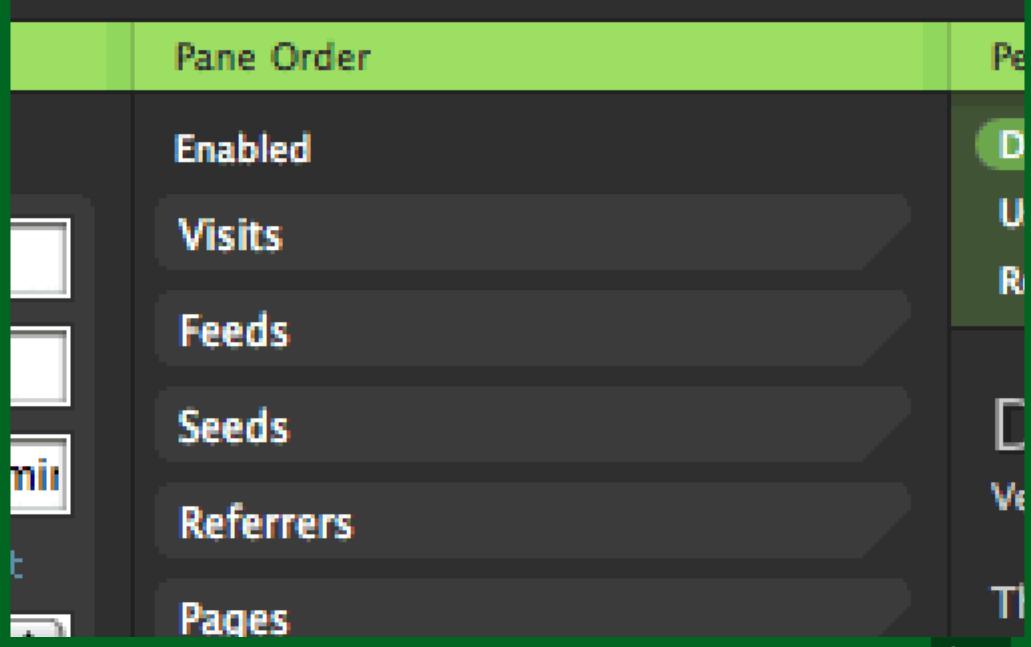
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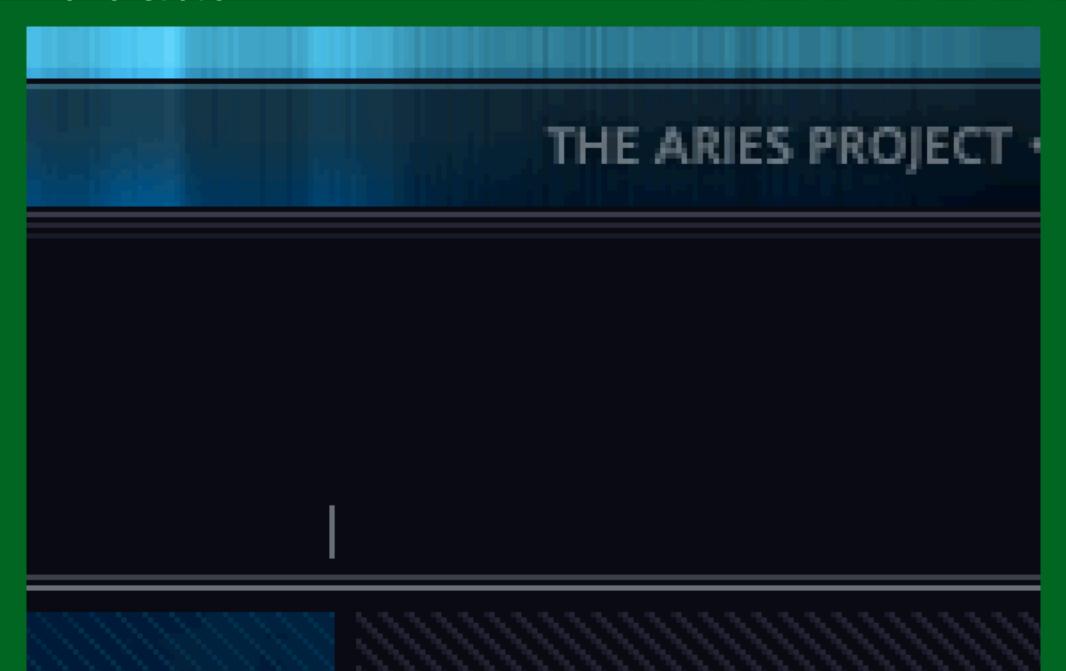
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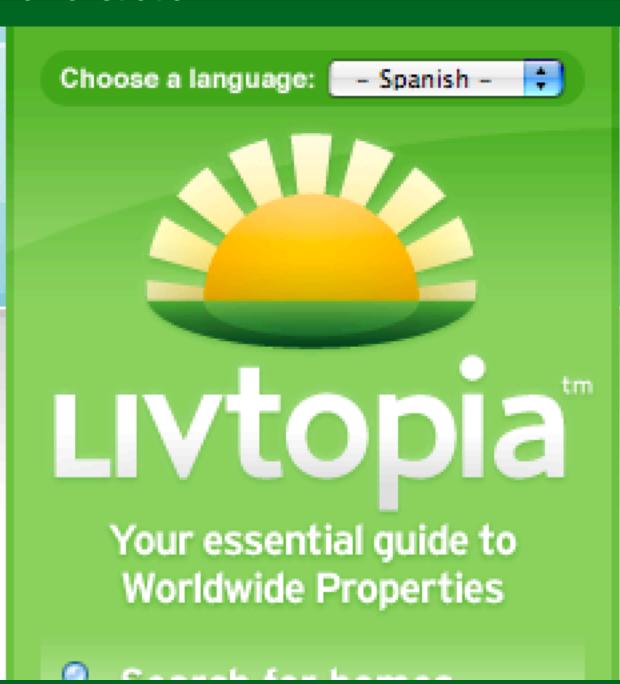
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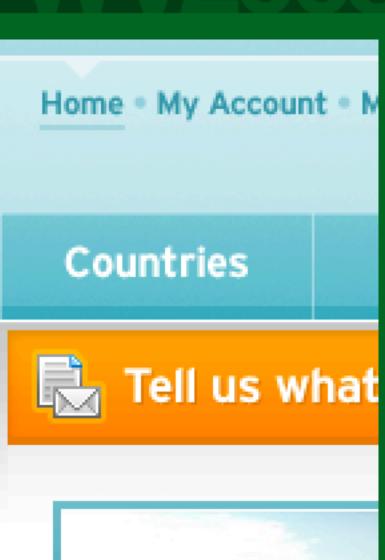
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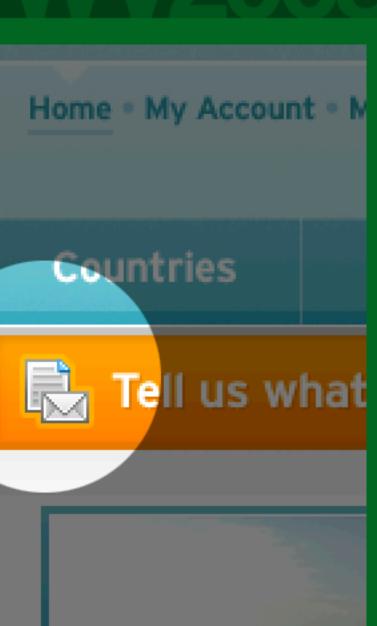
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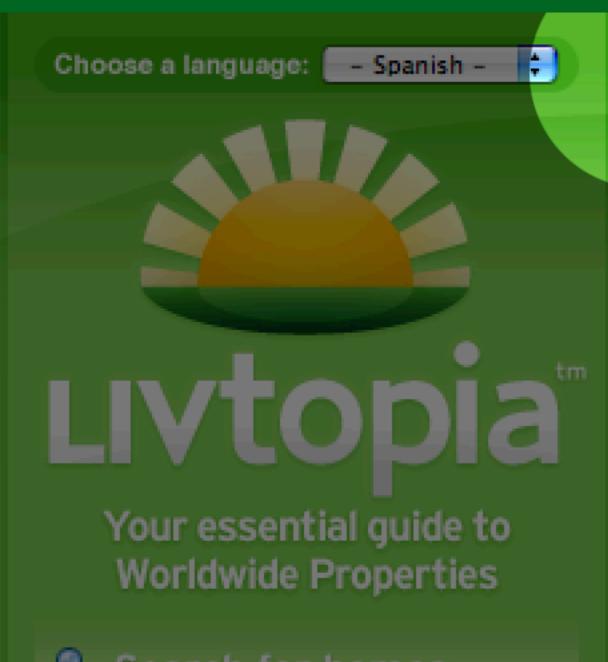
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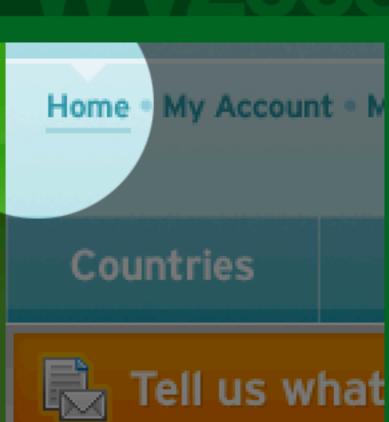


















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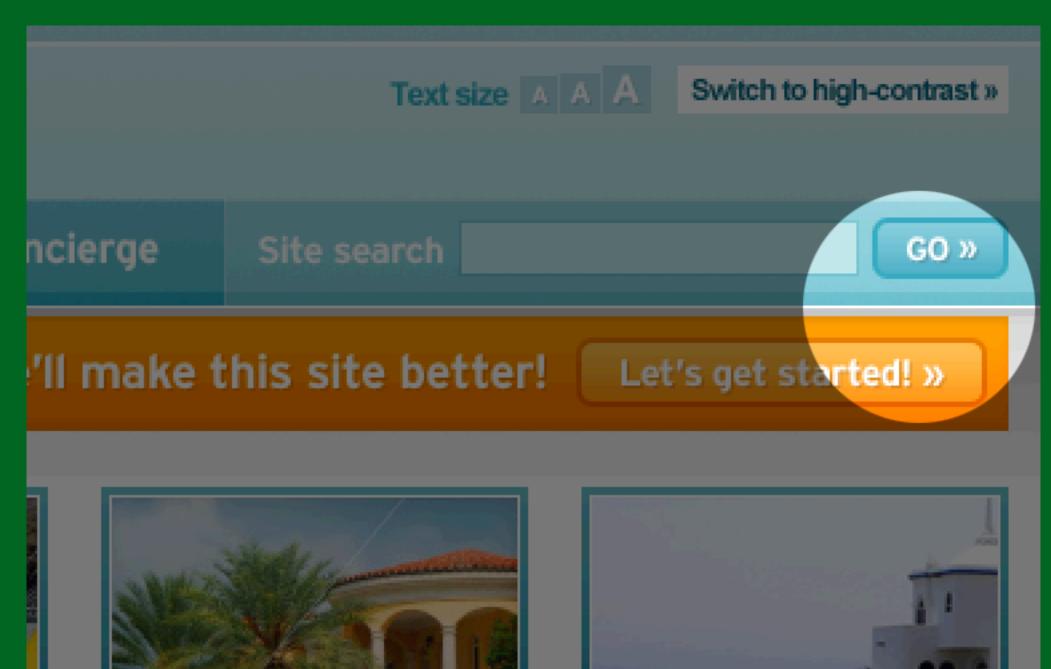
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Senate Reaches Deal on War Funding, Set for Vote



WASHINGTON — In a move likely to doom billions of dollars that Democrats had sought for domestic programs, Senate leaders agreed Wednesday night to focus a funding bill on Pentagon operations in Iraq and Afghanistan but allow a vote on a huge expansion of veterans' education benefits.

The Senate was slated to vote Thursday to provide \$165 billion for the wars, funding those operations until the new administration takes over next year. GOP leaders were expected to try to block the amendment aimed at the GI Bill — authored by Sen.

Jim Webb, D-Va. — to send a "clean" war funding bill back to the House. Democrats expressed cautious confidence that they would win the 60 votes needed to adopt it.

The plan announced Wednesday night by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., would probably scuttle efforts to provide 13 more weeks of unemployment benefits as well as money for heating subsidies, fighting Western wildfires and aid to rural schools. Such spending had been backed by senators in both parties but had drawn a veto Email to a friend

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