



## CRS Report for Congress

# United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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### Summary

This report presents difficult-to-find statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), including those concerning medical evacuations, amputations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publically available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, while others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OIF and OEF can be found at the DOD's website, at [<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>]. In addition, CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties* is updated on a weekly basis.

This report will be updated as needed.

**Table 1. Total U.S. Military Casualties — Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom**

|                      | Operation Iraqi Freedom <sup>a</sup> | Operation Enduring Freedom <sup>b</sup> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Non-Hostile Deaths   | 648                                  | 181                                     |
| Hostile Deaths       | 3,020                                | 238                                     |
| <b>Total Deaths</b>  | <b>3,660</b>                         | <b>419</b>                              |
| <b>Total Wounded</b> | <b>27,279</b>                        | <b>1,472</b>                            |

**Source:** Department of Defense, [<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>]. Weekly updates of this information can be found in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*, by JoAnne O'Bryant.

a. As of August 9, 2007.

b. As of August 4, 2007.

| Report Documentation Page                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                    |                                     |                                                           | Form Approved<br>OMB No. 0704-0188                  |                                 |
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## **Rates of Amputation and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) for American Forces**

Amputation and TBI statistics are provided to CRS by the Army Office of the Surgeon General. These injuries may overlap, that is, a single soldier may experience both a TBI and an amputation.

As of June 30, 2007, DOD reported 1,005 individuals who are amputees, of whom 708 suffered major limb amputations. Of the 1,005 total amputees, 488 (48.6%) were wounded by improvised explosive devices. 871 (87%) of the 1,005 amputees were wounded in OIF, 48 (5%) were wounded in OEF, and 86 (or 9%), were wounded in an unaffiliated conflict in the Global War on Terrorism or in training. Battle injuries were the most common cause of amputations: 78% of amputees sustained their injuries in battle, another 16% sustained non-battle injuries, and 2% sustained injuries due to disease. The cause of injury is unknown for 4% of amputees.

As of June 30, 2007, DOD reported a total of 3,294 soldiers suffering from traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs. Of those, 3,094 (or 94%) sustained their injury in OIF, while 200 (6%) sustained their injury in OEF. Of the total injuries in OIF and OEF, 195 (6%) were counted as “severe,” and an additional 180 (5%) were counted as “penetrating.” Blasts caused 2,279 (69%) of the TBI cases; other causes include a fall (294 cases) and vehicular causes (284 cases).

## **Rates of Suicide in American Forces**

According to a recently released Army report, suicides in the Army increased from 87 in 2005 to 99 in 2006. Twenty-seven of the deaths occurred in Iraq, 3 occurred in Afghanistan, and 69 occurred outside of war zones. There were also 948 of what the report terms “serious attempts at suicide.”<sup>1</sup> Viewed in the context of the total population of soldiers, the Army recorded 17.3 suicides per 100,000 soldiers in 2006, including the two deaths still pending confirmation. That rate is higher than the rate of suicide in the general population, which ranges from 10 to 11 suicides per 100,000 people annually, but lower than the rate of suicides when adjusted to match the Army’s age and gender characteristics. When adjusted, the suicide rate in the general population rises to 19 to 21 per 100,000.<sup>2</sup>

The Marines reported 24 suicides in 2006, down from 26 in 2005 and 34 in 2004, for a rate of 12.4 Marines per 100,000 in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Steve Harding, “Army suicide prevention strengthened,” *Army News Service*, August 17, 2007, at [<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,146280,00.html>].

<sup>2</sup> Kristin Roberts, “Army suicides highest since Gulf War,” *Reuters*, August 16, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Gender Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in **Tables 2** and **3** concerning the gender distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD's military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of August 4, 2007. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 2. OIF Gender Distribution of Deaths**

| Gender | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Male   | 3,584           | 97.9              |
| Female | 76              | 2.1               |
| Total  | 3,660           | 100.0             |

**Source:** DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

**Table 3. OEF Gender Distribution of Deaths**

| Gender | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Male   | 406             | 97.1              |
| Female | 12              | 2.9               |
| Total  | 418             | 100.0             |

**Source:** DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

## Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in **Tables 4** and **5** concerning the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD's military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of August 4, 2007. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 4. Operation Iraqi Freedom**

| Race/Ethnicity                      | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native       | 39              | 1.0               |
| Asian                               | 68              | 1.9               |
| Black or African American           | 346             | 9.5               |
| Hispanic or Latino                  | 397             | 10.8              |
| Multiple races, pending, or unknown | 46              | 1.3               |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 39              | 1.1               |
| White                               | 2,725           | 74.5              |
| Total                               | 3,660           | 100               |

**Source:** DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

**Table 5. Operation Enduring Freedom**

| Race/Ethnicity                      | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native    | 6               | 1.4               |
| Asian                               | 5               | 1.2               |
| Black or African American           | 32              | 7.7               |
| Hispanic or Latino                  | 35              | 8.4               |
| Multiple races, pending or unknown  | 2               | 0.5               |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 5               | 1.2               |
| White                               | 333             | 79.7              |
| Total                               | 418             | 100               |

**Source:** DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

## Medical Evacuation Statistics for U.S. Military Personnel

U.S. military personnel evacuation statistics from 2004 to January 2007 were provided to CRS by DOD's Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) and the Army Office of the Surgeon General. The August 2007 numbers were found at the DOD website at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>], which is updated on a regular basis.

### Operation Iraqi Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 36,471 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to August 4, 2007. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 6. Medical Reasons for Evacuations**  
(in percent)

|                     | As of<br>September<br>30, 2004 | As of<br>July 11,<br>2005 | As of<br>February<br>27, 2006 | As of<br>January<br>12, 2007 | As of<br>August 4,<br>2007 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Battle Injuries     | 17                             | 19                        | 20                            | 21                           | 22.4                       |
| Non-Battle Injuries | 21                             | 17                        | 17                            | 21                           | 20.5                       |
| Disease             | 63                             | 64                        | 63                            | 58                           | 57.2                       |

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>].

**Table 7. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services**  
(in percent)

|                    | As of<br>September<br>30, 2004 | As of<br>July 11,<br>2005 | As of<br>February<br>27, 2006 | As of<br>January<br>12, 2007 | As of<br>August 4,<br>2007 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Army               | 83                             | 80                        | 83                            | 81.6                         | 81.9                       |
| Marines            | 8                              | 6                         | 12                            | 12.0                         | 11.6                       |
| Air Force          | 3                              | 3                         | 3                             | 3.6                          | 3.6                        |
| Navy               | 2                              | 7                         | 2                             | 2.7                          | 2.8                        |
| Other <sup>a</sup> | N/A                            | 4                         | N/A                           | N/A                          | N/A                        |

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>].

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005 update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.

## Operation Enduring Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 6,710 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF from October 7, 2001 through August 4, 2007. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 8. Medical Reasons for Evacuation**  
(in percent)

|                     | As of<br>September<br>30, 2004 | As of<br>July 11,<br>2005 | As of<br>February<br>27, 2006 | As of<br>January<br>12, 2007 | As of<br>August 4,<br>2007 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Battle Injuries     | 8                              | 8                         | 9                             | 11                           | 12.6                       |
| Non-Battle Injuries | 28                             | 17                        | 18                            | 24                           | 22.9                       |
| Disease             | 64                             | 75                        | 73                            | 65                           | 64.4                       |

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

**Table 9. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services**  
(in percent)

|                    | As of<br>September<br>30, 2004 | As of<br>July 11,<br>2005 | As of<br>February<br>27, 2006 | As of<br>January<br>12, 2007 | As of<br>August 4,<br>2007 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Army               | 69                             | 67                        | 73                            | 75.3                         | 75.9                       |
| Marines            | 11                             | 7                         | 8                             | 6.8                          | 6.3                        |
| Air Force          | 15                             | 16                        | 16                            | 14.3                         | 13.6                       |
| Navy               | 4                              | 4                         | 3                             | 3.6                          | 4.2                        |
| Other <sup>a</sup> | N/A                            | 6                         | N/A                           | N/A                          | N/A                        |

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005, update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.