

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE 29 FEB 2008	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2008 to 00-00-2008			
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Iraqi Police and Security Forces Deaths Estimates		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER			
		5b. GRANT NUMBER			
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER			
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
		5e. TASK NUMBER			
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 100 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC, 20540-7500		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER			
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)			
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 3	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			



CRS Report for Congress

Iraqi Police and Security Forces Deaths Estimates

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Summary

This report presents various governmental and non-governmental estimates of Iraqi police and security forces fatalities. The Department of Defense (DOD) regularly updates total U.S. military deaths and wounded statistics from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), as reflected in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*, but has not regularly released detailed statistics on Iraqi security forces deaths. For information on Iraqi civilian deaths, see CRS Report RS22537, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates*. Because these estimates are based on varying time periods and have been created using differing methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using them and should look on them as guideposts rather than as statements of fact. This report will be updated as needed.

Although the Department of Defense (DOD) has recently released a chart (**see Figure 1**) showing Iraqi Security Forces deaths over time, it has not released the numbers associated with the chart, and there have been conflicting reports of deaths from news sources and non-profits. With this in mind, **Table 1**, below, provides Iraqi security forces and police officers deaths estimates from non-governmental sources. These estimates are based on varying time periods and have been created using differing methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using them and should look on them as guideposts rather than as statements of fact.

Table 1. Iraqi Security Forces and Police Officers Deaths Estimates

Iraq Coalition Casualty Count estimate of security forces and police killed, June 2003 - February 14, 2008	7,874 ^a
Associated Press, estimate of security forces killed, April 28, 2005 - February 13, 2008	5,629 ^b
Brookings Institution, <i>Iraq Index</i> , estimate of security forces and police killed, June 2003 - February 10, 2008	7,874 ^c

Notes:

- a. Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, "Iraqi Police/Military," [<http://icasualties.org>].
b. Personal communication with Associated Press, February 13, 2008.
c. Brookings Institution, *Iraq Index: Tracking Reconstruction and Security in Post-Saddam Iraq*, at [<http://www.brookings.edu/saban/~media/Files/Centers/Saban/Iraq%20Index/index.pdf>], p. 8.

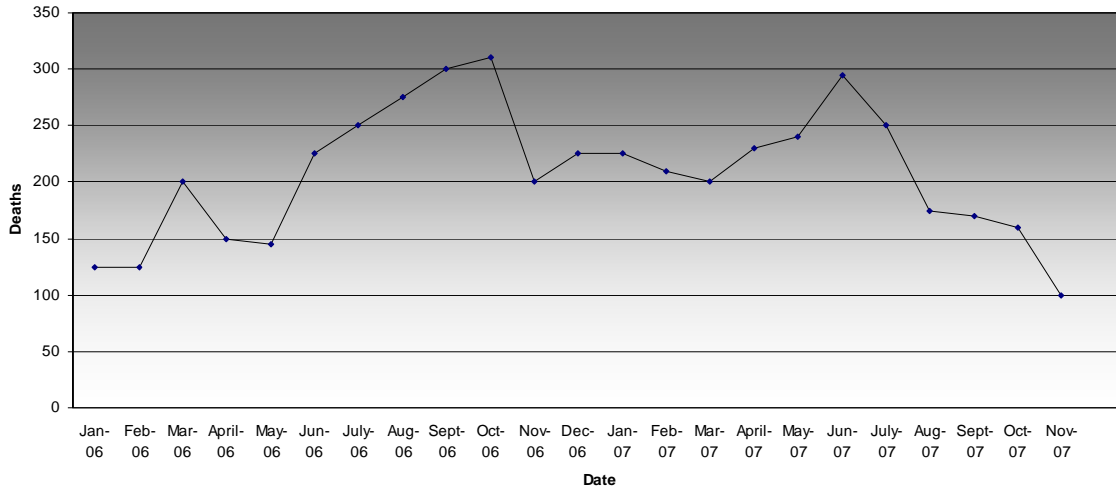
In addition, on November 29, 2008, the White House announced a 40% drop in Iraqi Security Force casualties since the surge operations began in June.¹ However, according to Major General Kevin J. Bergner in a Defense Department news briefing, the "Iraqi security forces in general, the Iraqi army and Iraqi police, [are] increasingly the first line of defense. They are suffering casualties, suffering losses frequently at two to three times that of the coalition."²

The Department of Defense (DOD) has released a chart showing Iraqi Security Forces deaths. However, it has not released the numbers associated with the chart. Using estimates, CRS has reproduced an approximation in the chart below.

¹ White House Press Release, *Just the Facts: 2007 War Funding by the Numbers*, November 29, 2007.

² Kevin J. Bergner, *Major General Kevin J. Bergner Holds Defense Department News Briefing*, CQ Transcriptions, December 19, 2007.

**Figure 1. Iraqi Security Forces Deaths
January 2006 - November 2007**



Source: CRS rendition of DOD graph, as derived from the Multi-National Corps - Iraq report, *Measuring Security and Stability in Iraq, December 2007*, [<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/FINAL-SecDef%20Signed-20071214.pdf>].