



CRS Report for Congress

U.S. Forces in Iraq

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Summary

Varying media estimates of military forces in Iraq have raised concerns about the actual number of troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). As interest in troop level deployments continue, recently, President Bush announced “a new strategy for Iraq” on January 10, 2007, including a planned gradual increase of more than 20,000 U.S. troops on the ground in Baghdad and Anbar province in the coming several months. To accomplish this increase in part, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced on April 11, 2007, that all active-duty Army personnel in the U.S. Central Command area would now serve 15-month tours in the region, up from the previous 12-month rotations. This report provides solely Department of Defense (DOD) statistical information on U.S. forces serving in Iraq. It also provides brief official information on the military units scheduled for the next rotation of duty into Iraq. As of March 1, 2007, according to DOD, the United States had 137,976 troops stationed in Iraq — 111,911 active component and 26,065 National Guard or Reserves. For security reasons, DOD does not routinely report the composition, size, or specific destination of military forces deployed to the Persian Gulf. This report will be updated upon receipt of new DOD data. For additional information on U.S. forces, see CRS Report RL31701, *Iraq: U.S. Military Operations*, by Steve Bowman.

Force Levels

As of March 1, 2007, according to Department of Defense (DOD), the United States had 137,976 military personnel deployed in Iraq. Of these, 111,911 were active component personnel and 26,065 were National Guard and Reserves. **Figures 1 and 2** provide the distribution by armed service of active component personnel. These totals do not include 12,000 military support personnel in Kuwait, nor naval personnel aboard ships patrolling through the Persian Gulf.¹

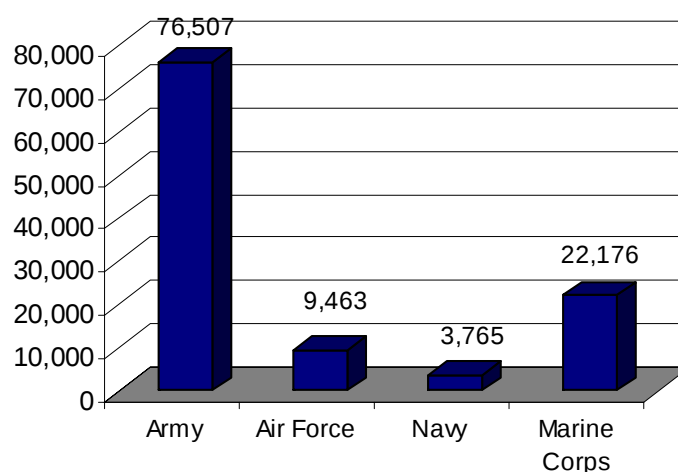
Amid concerns about U.S. troop levels, in a January 10, 2007 address to the nation, President Bush announced an increase of more than 20,000 U.S. troops to be deployed to

¹ DOD Fact Sheet, *Global Commitments*, Jan. 9, 2007.

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Iraq during the next several months as part of a new initiative in ongoing efforts to stabilize the security situation. As announced, these forces will primarily be deployed to Baghdad and Anbar province, the major current areas of unrest and conflict in Iraq. These additional force levels were originally to be accomplished primarily by a stepped-up pace of military unit rotations into Iraq and a delay for some personnel departures from that country. However, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced on April 11, 2007, that all active-duty Army personnel in the U.S. Central Command area will now serve 15-month tours in the region effective immediately, up from the previous 12-month tour rotations.² These forces will gradually be added to the personnel stationed in Iraq, as reported by DOD on January 1, 2007. Additional deployment information is available from DOD's Directorate for Information Operations, which posts quarterly reports on casualties and worldwide active-duty military personnel deployments by region and country. [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/MILITARY/Miltop.htm>]

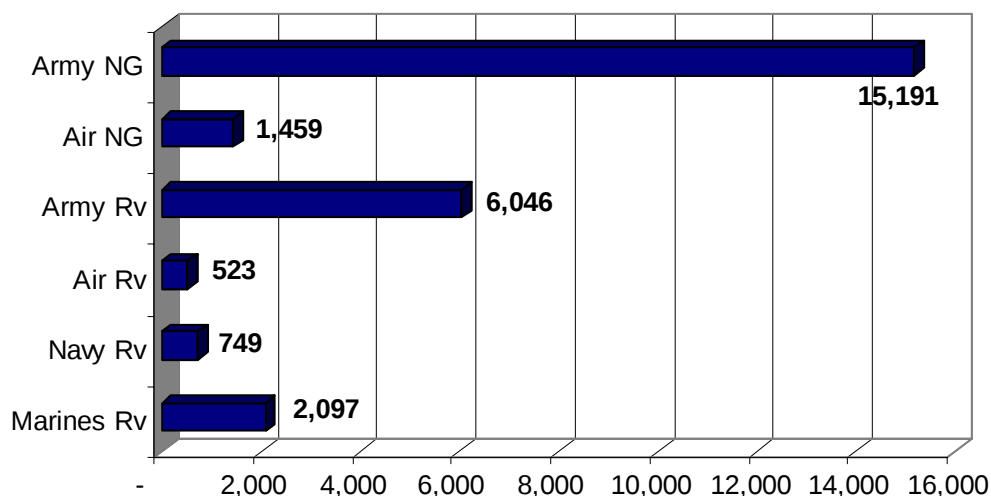
**Figure 1. Active Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of March 1, 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, "Boots on Ground" data.

² American Forces Press Service, *Gates Extends Army Tours in Iraq to 15 Months*, April 11, 2007

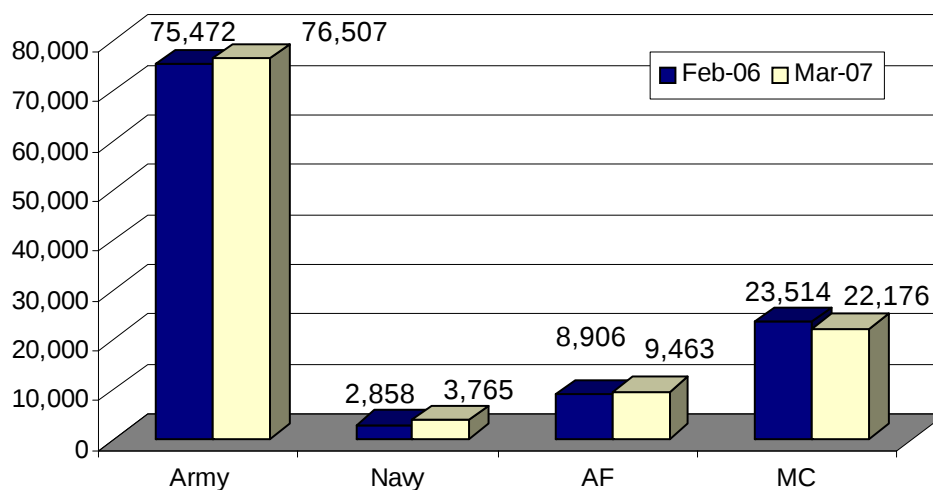
**Figure 2. Reserve Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of March 1, 2007)**



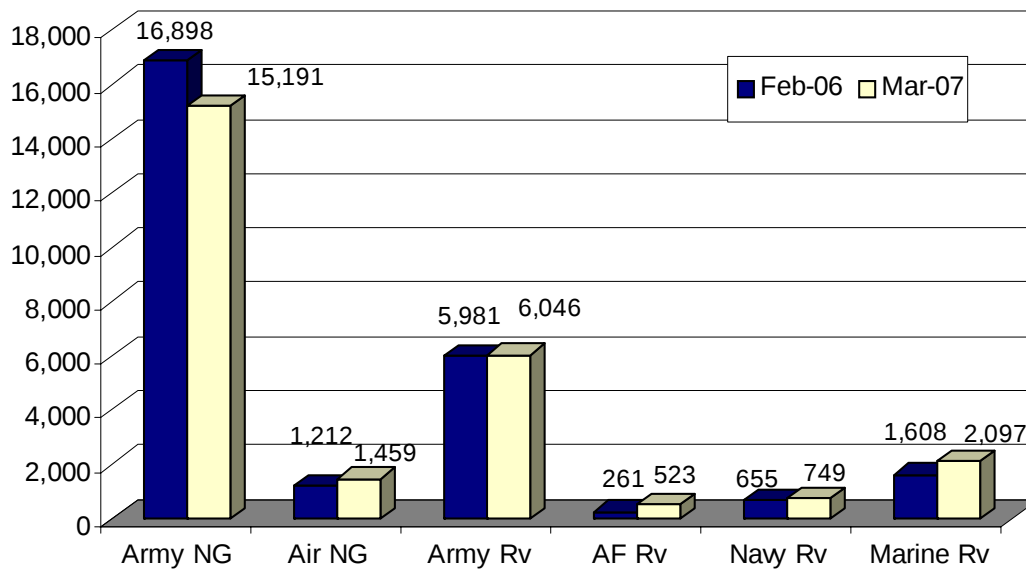
Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Comparative Operation Iraqi Freedom U.S. Force Levels. Overall U.S. force levels in Iraq have declined from November 2005 to February 2007, particularly the Reserve Component. A slight increase in deployments occurred beginning in March 2007. Based on DOD statistics, **Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6** provide comparative data on both active and reserve component force levels. DOD officials have declined to project the timing or size of future force reductions, noting these will depend upon the security situation within Iraq.

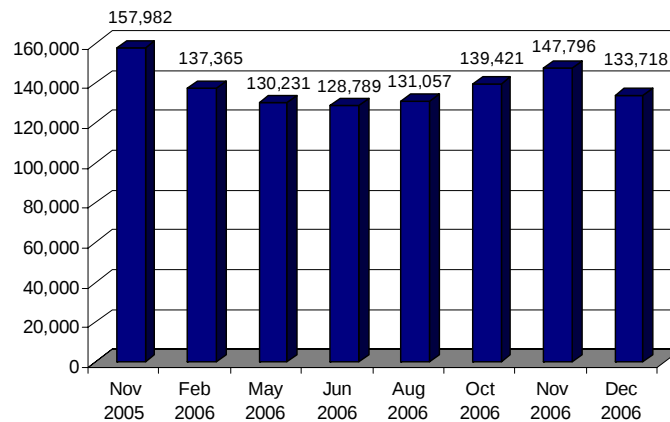
Figure 3. OIF Active Component Force Levels (Feb 2006/Mar 2007)



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

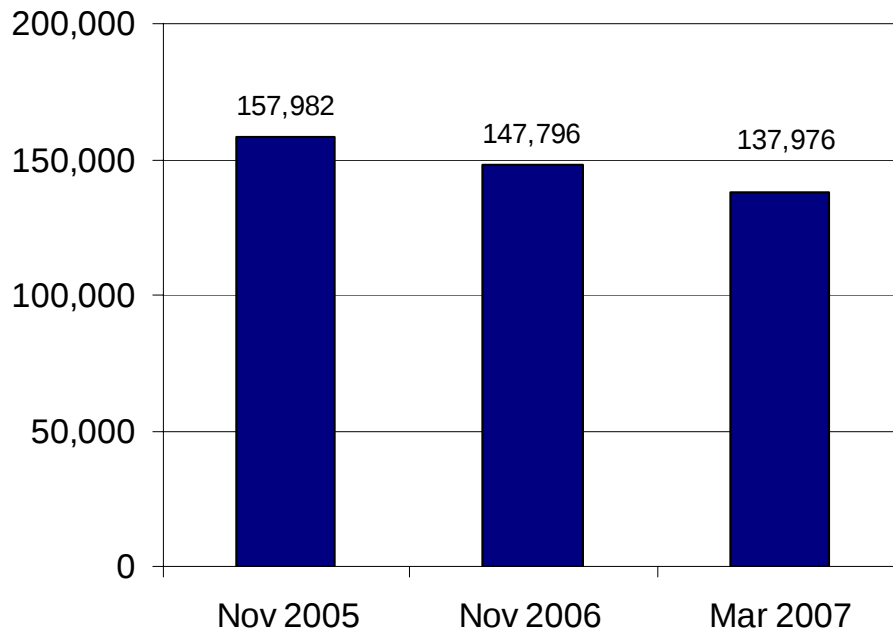
Figure 4. OIF Reserve Component Force Levels (Feb 2006/Mar 2007)

Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Figure 5. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq (Nov 2005-Dec 2006)

Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data, November 1, 2005 through January 1, 2007.

**Figure 6. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq
(Years 2005, 2006, and 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Operation Iraqi Freedom Troop Rotations. On November 17, 2006; December 27, 2006; January 11, 2007; February 16, 2007; and April 2, 2007, DOD announced its latest scheduled troop deployment and adjustments for unit rotations to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The 2007 schedule to date for the affected units is summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007 Rotational Units

Military Unit	Home Military Base	Rotation to Iraq
Army		
3 rd Brigade, 3 rd Infantry Division	Fort Benning, GA	March, 2007
Headquarters, 3 rd Infantry Division	Fort Stewart, GA	March, 2007
4 th Stryker Brigade, 2 nd Infantry Division	Fort Lewis, WA	April, 2007
2 nd Brigade, 2 nd Infantry Division	Fort Stewart, GA	May, 2007
1 st Brigade, 3 rd Infantry Division	Fort Stewart, GA	early-2007
1 st Brigade, 82 nd Airborne Division	Fort Bragg, NC	early-2007
173 rd Airborne Brigade	Vicenza, Italy	early-2007
Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps	Fort Bragg, NC	early to mid-2007
Headquarters, 1 st Armored Division	Wiesbaden, Germany	early to mid-2007
Headquarters, 4 th Infantry Division	Fort Hood, TX	early to mid-2007
1 st Brigade, 10 th Mountain Division	Fort Drum, NY	early to mid-2007

Source: DOD News Releases, November 17, 2006; December 27, 2006; January 11, 2007; February 16, 2007; and April 2, 2007.

In addition to the above scheduled rotations into Iraq, DOD announced that the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard will be extended in its current mission for up to 125 days and the Marine Corps will extend two reinforced infantry battalions for approximately 60 days along with extending the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit for 45 additional days in Iraq.³ On April 2, 2007, DOD also announced that the 25th Infantry Division headquarters will have its tour extended by approximately 45 days.⁴ These rotations, force adjustments, and extensions of active duty Army tours to 15 months will eventually build U.S. military capacity to 20 brigade or regimental combat teams on the ground in Iraq.

³ DOD News Release, Jan. 11, 2007.

⁴ DOD News Release, April 2, 2007.