



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 continues, 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 over 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 November 1, 2007, according to DOD, the United States had 164,424 troops stationed in Iraq — 144,745 active component and 19,679 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 November 1, 2007, according to Department of Defense (DOD), the United States had 164,424 military personnel deployed in Iraq. Of these, 144,745 were active component personnel and 19,679 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, or 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

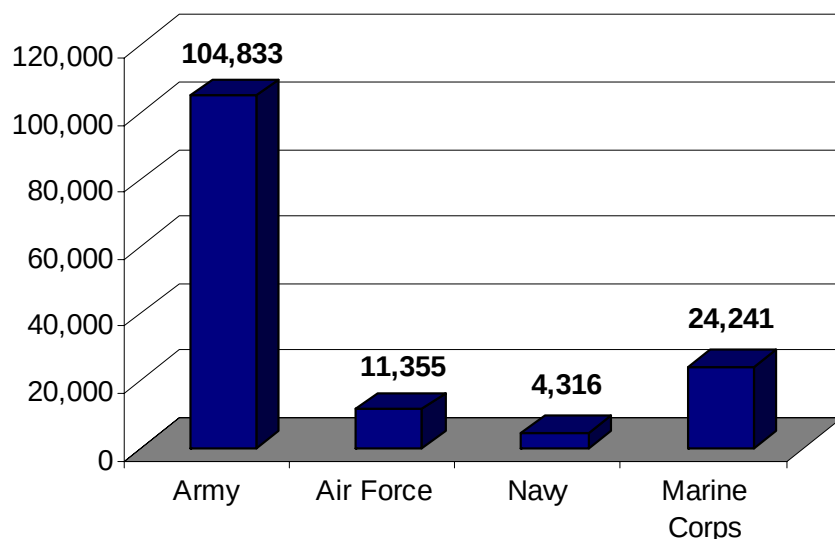
¹ DOD Fact Sheet, *Global Commitments*, January 9, 2007.

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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 were to be primarily 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 would serve 15-month tours in the region effective immediately, up from the previous 12-month tour rotations.² These forces were to be gradually 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 (DIOR) at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/MILITARY/Miltop.htm>], which posts quarterly reports on casualties and worldwide active-duty military personnel deployments by region and country.

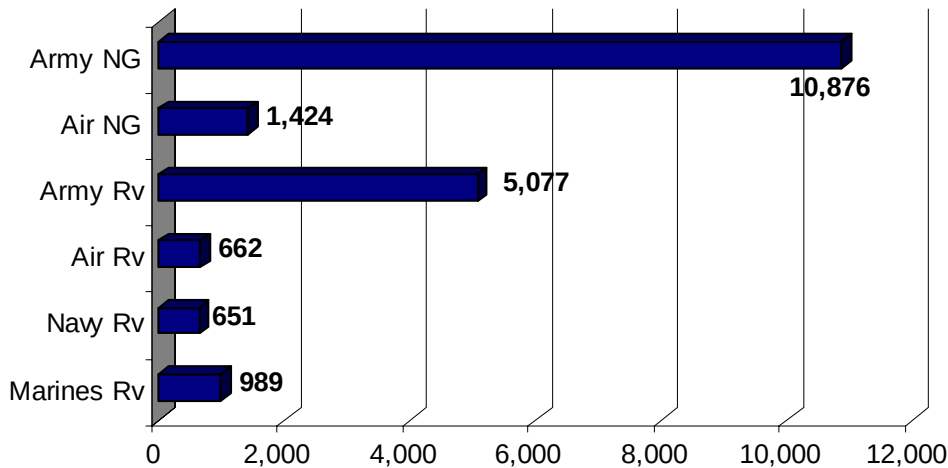
**Figure 1. Active Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of November 1, 2007)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of the 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 November 1, 2007)**



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

Comparative Operation Iraqi Freedom U.S. Force Levels. Overall U.S. force levels in Iraq declined from November 2005 to February 2007, particularly the Reserve Component. After a slight increase in March 2007, the surge built up troop levels through September 2007. Based on DOD statistics, **Figures 3** through **7** provide comparative data on both active and reserve component force levels, including month-to-month and year-to-year comparisons of U.S. troops in Iraq. DOD officials have declined to project the timing or size of future force reductions, stating these will depend upon the security situation within Iraq.

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

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

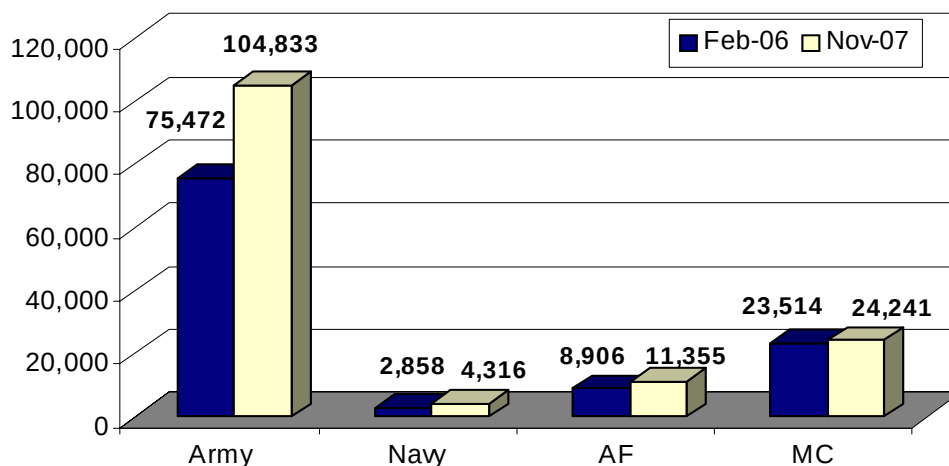
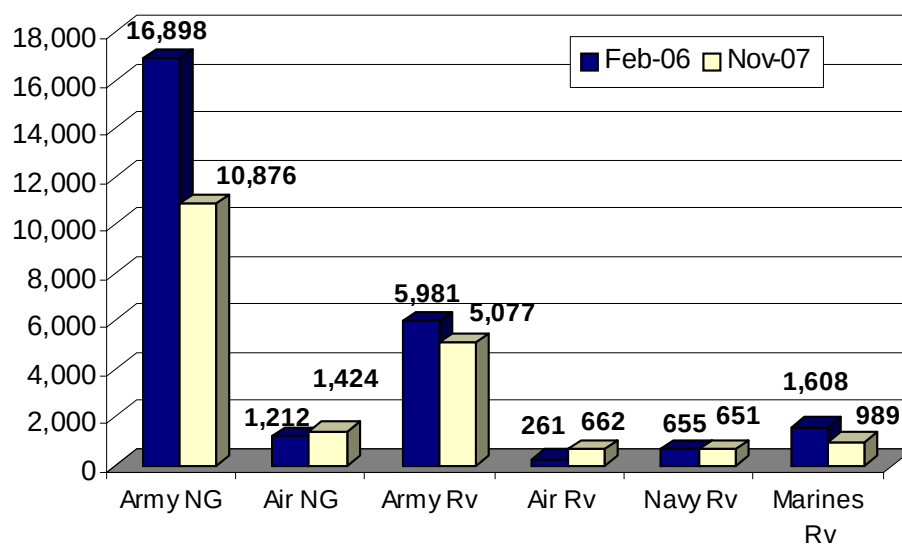
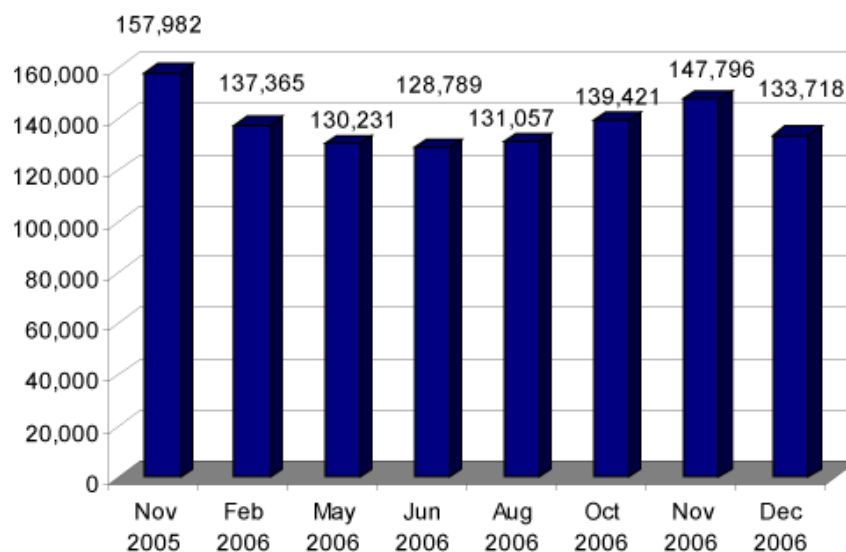
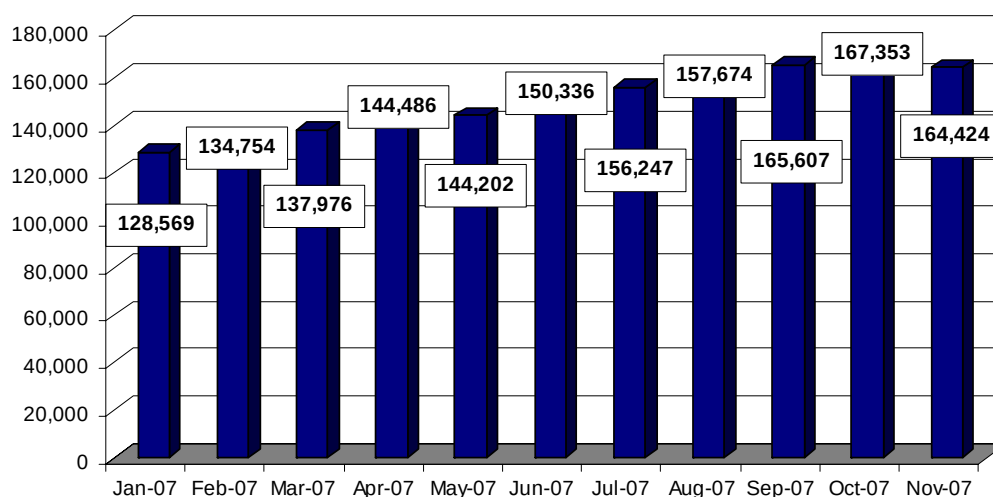


Figure 4. OIF Reserve Component Force Levels (Feb 2006/Nov 2007)

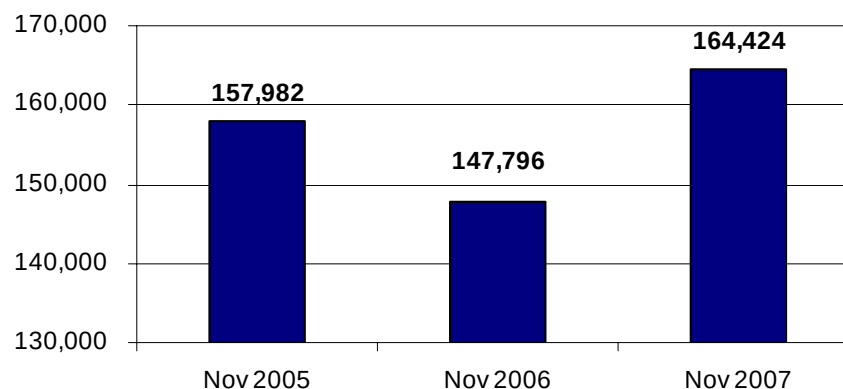
Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

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

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

Figure 6. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq (Jan 2007-Nov 2007)

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

Figure 7. Comparative U.S. Force Levels in Iraq (Years 2005, 2006, and 2007)

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

Operation Iraqi Freedom Troop Rotations. On October 19, 2007, DOD announced its latest scheduled troop deployments for unit rotations to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). These 2008 Army National Guard unit scheduled deployments to Iraq supplement the earlier 2007 announcements involving three Army brigades or Marine Corps regimental combat teams and one Marine expeditionary force headquarters unit. These rotations are not directly tied to the surge in Iraq and are summarized in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom Late 2007 and 2008
Rotational Units**

Military Unit	Home Military Base	Rotation to Iraq
Army		
3 rd Brigade, 4 th Infantry Division	Fort Carson, CO	Late 2007 or Early 2008
Marine Corps		
1 Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters	Camp Pendleton, CA	Late 2007 or Early 2008
Regimental Combat Team 1	Camp Pendleton, CA	Late 2007 or Early 2008
Regimental Combat Team 5	Camp Pendleton, CA	Late 2007 or Early 2008
Army National Guard		
4 th Brigade, 4 th Infantry Division	Fort Hood, TX	Summer 2008
30 th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina National Guard	Clinton, NC	Summer 2008
56 th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28 th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard	Philadelphia, PA	Summer 2008
56 th Brigade Combat Team, 36 th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard	Fort Worth, TX	Summer 2008
29 th Brigade Combat Team, Hawaii National Guard	Kalaeloa, HI	Summer 2008
81 st Brigade Combat Team, Washington National Guard	Seattle, WA	Summer 2008
45 th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard	Enid, OK	Summer 2008
50 th Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey National Guard	Lawrenceville, NJ	Summer 2008

Source: DOD News Releases July and October 2007.

These rotations and extensions of active duty Army tours to 15 months will maintain U.S. military capacity at 20 brigade or regimental combat teams on the ground in Iraq.