



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 ^a	Operation Enduring Freedom ^b
Non-Hostile Deaths	648	181
Hostile Deaths	3,020	238
Total Deaths	3,660	419
Total Wounded	27,279	1,472

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.

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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.”¹ 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 100,000.²

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 2006.³

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

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

³ 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 September 30, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of August 4, 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 September 30, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of August 4, 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 ^a	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 September 30, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of August 4, 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 September 30, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of August 4, 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 ^a	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.