



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 in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

	Operation Iraqi Freedom	Operation Enduring Freedom
Non-Hostile Deaths	737	193
Hostile Deaths	3,241	289
Total Deaths	3,978	482
Total Wounded in Action	29,395	1,894

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.

Note: Current as of March 17, 2008.

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 February 2008, DOD reported 1,031 individuals who are amputees, of whom 730 have suffered major limb amputations. Of the 1,031 total amputees, 77.5% sustained their injury while in the Army, 18.8% sustained their injury while in the Marines, 2.3% sustained their injury while in the Navy, and 1.4% sustained their injury while in the Air Force.

As of January 2008, DOD reported a total of 5,503 soldiers suffering from traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs. Of those, 76.8% sustained their injury while in the Army, 19.1% sustained their injury while in the Marines, 2.6% sustained their injury while in the Navy, and 1.5% sustained their injury while in the Air Force.

Gender Distribution of Deaths

Tables 2 and 3 provide statistics on the gender distribution of OIF and OEF casualties. All numbers are current as of March 1, 2008.

Table 2. OIF Gender Distribution of Deaths

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	3,872	97.7
Female	93	2.3
Total	3,965	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	465	97.3
Female	13	2.7
Total	478	100.0

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

Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Tables 4 and 5 provide statistics on the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF and OEF casualties. All numbers are current as of March 1, 2008. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 4. OIF Race/ Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian/Alaska Native	40	1.0
Asian	75	1.9
Black or African American	375	9.5
Hispanic or Latino	424	10.7
Multiple races, pending, or unknown	43	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	44	1.1
White	2,964	74.8
Total	3,965	100

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

Table 5. OEF Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	1.5
Asian	6	1.3
Black or African American	38	7.9
Hispanic or Latino	38	7.9
Multiple races, pending or unknown	2	0.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	1.3
White	381	79.7
Total	478	100

Source: DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.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 March 2008 numbers were found at DOD websites at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>] (for OIF) and at [<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>] (for OEF), both of which are updated on a regular basis.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 40,229 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to March 1, 2008. 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 March 1, 2008
Battle Injuries	17	19	20	21	22
Non-Battle Injuries	21	17	17	21	21
Disease	63	64	63	58	57

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, [<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 March 1, 2008
Army	83	80	83	81.6	81.9
Marines	8	6	12	12.0	11.5
Air Force	3	3	3	3.6	3.7
Navy	2	7	2	2.7	3.0
Other ^a	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, [<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 7,603 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF from October 7, 2001, through March 1, 2008. 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 March 8, 2008
Battle Injuries	8	8	9	11	14
Non-Battle Injuries	28	17	18	24	23
Disease	64	75	73	65	64

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

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 March 1, 2008
Army	69	67	73	75.3	77.0
Marines	11	7	8	6.8	5.8
Air Force	15	16	16	14.3	13.1
Navy	4	4	3	3.6	4.1
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/castop.htm>].

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.