

An hourglass-shaped graphic with a globe inside. The top bulb is dark blue, and the bottom bulb is light blue. The globe is a darker shade of blue. The hourglass is centered on the page.

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*United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi
Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom*

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Abstract. 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, whereas others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

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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, whereas 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: 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	778	211
Hostile Deaths	3,371	366
Total Deaths	4,149	577
Total Wounded in Action	30,568	2,409

Source: Department of Defense, [<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>]. Weekly updates of this information can be found in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: U.S. Casualties*, by JoAnne O'Bryant.

Note: Current as of August 27, 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. Unless noted otherwise, all statistics include numbers from all services combined. These injuries may overlap, that is, a single soldier may experience both a TBI and an amputation.

As of August 1, 2008, DOD reported 1,214 individuals who are amputees, of whom 877 have suffered major limb amputations. Of the 1,214 total amputees, 606 (49.9%) were wounded by improvised explosive devices. Also of the 1,214 amputees, 1,039 (85.3%) were wounded in OIF, 72 (6.0%) were wounded in OEF, and 103 (or 8.5%) were wounded in an unaffiliated conflict in the Global War on Terrorism or in training. Battle injuries were the most common cause of major limb amputations: 85% of the 877 major limb amputees sustained their injuries in battle, another 13% sustained non-battle injuries, 1% sustained their injuries due to disease, and the cause was not reported for another 1% of amputees. Of the 877 servicemembers with major limb loss, 586 have completed the Medical Evaluation Board process, and of those 586, 90 are either Continued on Active Duty (COAD), Continued in the Reserves (COAR), or Fit for Duty.

As of July 2008, DOD reported a total of 8,089 servicemembers suffering from traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs. Of those, 5,792 (71.6%) sustained their injuries due to a blast, 916 (11.3%) sustained their injuries due to a fall, 495 (6.1%) sustained their injuries due to a vehicular incident, 401 (5.0%) sustained their injuries due to fragments, 190 (2.3%) sustained their injuries due to a bullet, and 295 (or 3.6%) sustained their injuries due to other causes. Of the 5,852 cases of TBI in the Army, 5,150 (88.0%) were counted as mild, 350 (6.0%) were counted as moderate, and 349 (6.0%) were counted as “severe” (an additional 3 cases were not recorded).

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 August 2, 2008.

Table 2. OIF Gender Distribution of Deaths

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	4,023	97.6
Female	99	2.4
Total	4,122	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	547	97.5
Female	14	2.5
Total	561	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 August 2, 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	77	1.9
Black or African American	391	9.5
Hispanic or Latino	441	10.7
Multiple races, pending, or unknown	43	1.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	48	1.2
White	3,082	74.8
Total	4,122	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	8	1.4
Asian	6	1.1
Black or African American	46	8.2
Hispanic or Latino	48	8.6
Multiple races, pending or unknown	2	0.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	1.4
White	443	79.0
Total	561	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 August 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/WOTSUM.pdf>] for OEF, both of which are updated on a regular basis.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 42,808 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to August 2, 2008. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 33,529 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, whereas the remaining 9,279 cases were of hostile-related wounded servicemembers with medical air transport required.

Table 6. Medical Reasons for Evacuations
(in percent)

	As of September 30, 2004	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of March 1, 2008	As of August 2, 2008
Wounded in Action	17	20	21	22	21.7
Non-Hostile Injuries	21	17	21	21	20.7
Disease	63	63	58	57	57.7

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 February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of March 1, 2008	As of August 2, 2008
Army	83	83	81.6	81.9	81.9
Marines	8	12	12.0	11.5	11.3
Air Force	3	3	3.6	3.7	3.8
Navy	2	2	2.7	3.0	3.0

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, [http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf].

Note: Navy Totals Include Coast Guard. Navy totals were reported by Force Health Protection and Readiness.

Operation Enduring Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 8,271 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF from October 7, 2001, through August 2, 2008. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 7,037 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, whereas the remaining 1,234 cases were of hostile-related wounded servicemembers with medical air transport required.

Table 8. Medical Reasons for Evacuation
(in percent)

	As of September 30, 2004	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of March 8, 2008	As of August 2, 2008
Wounded in Action	8	9	11	14	14.9
Non-Hostile Injuries	28	18	24	23	22.3
Disease	64	73	65	64	62.8

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

Table 9. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services
(in percent)

	As of September 30, 2004	As of February 27, 2006	As of January 12, 2007	As of March 1, 2008	As of August 2, 2008
Army	69	73	75.3	77.0	76.9
Marines	11	8	6.8	5.8	6.1
Air Force	15	16	14.3	13.1	12.7
Navy	4	3	3.6	4.1	4.2

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

Note: Navy Totals Include Coast Guard. Navy totals were reported by Force Health protection and Readiness.