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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 bi-weekly basis.

This report will be updated as needed.

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Table 1 is a snapshot in time of the data updated daily on the Department of Defense’s (DOD’s) website concerning casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Table 1. Total U.S. Military Casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

	Operation Iraqi Freedom	Operation Enduring Freedom
Non-Hostile Deaths	836	220
Hostile Deaths	3,425	443
U.S. DOD Civilian Deaths (Hostile and Non-Hostile Deaths)	11	1
Total Deaths	4,261	663
Total Wounded in Action	31,131	2,725

Source: Department of Defense, <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>. Bi-weekly updates of OIF and OEF can be found in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: U.S. Casualties*, by Susan G. Chesser.

Note: Current as of March 20, 2009.

Rates of Amputation, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for American Forces

These injuries may overlap, that is, a single soldier may experience both a TBI and an amputation.

Amputation

According to the Army Office of the Surgeon General, between September 2001 and January 12, 2009, there were 1,286 amputations in OIF, OEF, and unaffiliated conflicts. The total includes 935 major limb amputations and 351 minor amputations. 643 (50%) were wounded by improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Excluding amputations resulting from unaffiliated conflicts, but including foreigners and others who serve with the U.S. military forces, IEDs caused 55% of the 1,184 OIF and OEF amputations. Of the 1,184 OIF and OEF amputations, 77% were in the Army, 19% were in the Marines, 2% were in the Air Force, and 2% were in the Navy. There were 1,091 (92%) servicemembers wounded in OIF and 93 (8%) servicemembers wounded in OEF. Of the 935 servicemembers with major limb loss, 638 have completed the Medical Evaluation Board process, and of those, 105 are either Continued on Active Duty (COAD), Continued in the Reserves (COAR), or Fit for Duty.

Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

According to the Department of Defense Report, “Report to Congress in Accordance with Section 1634 (b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008,” the Military Health

System (MHS) has recorded 43,779 patients who have been diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) in calendar years 2003 through 2007. The MHS has spent an estimated \$100.0 million on direct and purchased care for TBI patients and \$10.1 million on prescription costs for all prescriptions filled after a diagnosis of TBI.¹ MHS has also recorded 39,365 patients who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). MHS has spent an estimated \$63.8 million on direct and purchased care for PTSD patients and \$13.1 million on prescription costs for all prescriptions filled after a diagnosis of PTSD.²

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 February 28, 2009. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 2. OIF Gender Distribution of Deaths

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	4,143	97.6
Female	102	2.4
Total	4,245	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	641	97.9
Female	14	2.1
Total	655	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 February 28, 2009. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

¹ Department of Defense, “Report to Congress in Accordance with Section 1634 (b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008,” p. 6, http://www.tricare.mil/planning/congress/downloads/Expenditures_for_Activities_on_TBI_andPost-Traumatic_Stress_Disorder__NDAA_for_FY_2008.pdf.

² Ibid.

Table 4. OIF Race/ Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian/Alaska Native	41	1.0
Asian	81	1.9
Black or African American	407	9.6
Hispanic or Latino	450	10.6
Multiple races, pending, or unknown	46	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	49	1.2
White	3,171	74.7
Total	4,245	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	9	1.4
Asian	8	1.2
Black or African American	52	7.9
Hispanic or Latino	52	7.9
Multiple races, pending or unknown	5	0.8
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	1.4
White	520	79.4
Total	655	100

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

Self-Inflicted Wounds

According to the Department of Defense casualty website, 177 servicemembers have died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OIF and another 29 have died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OEF.³ In addition, it has been reported that suicides in the Army reached a historic high in 2008 at 20.2 per 100,000 servicemembers.⁴

³ Department of Defense Personnel and Procurement Statistics, Statistical Information and Analysis Department, OIF at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf> and OEF at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/WOTSUM.pdf>.

⁴ Anne Scott Tyson, "Military Investigates West Point Suicides," *Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/29/AR2009012904135.html>.

Medical Evacuation Statistics for U.S. Military Personnel

U.S. military personnel evacuation statistics as of February 28, 2009, can be found at the DOD websites, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf> for OIF and <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/WOTSUM.pdf> for OEF.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 45,583 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to February 28, 2009. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 36,106 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, and the remaining 9,447 cases were of hostile-related wounded servicemembers with medical air transport required. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 6. Medical Reasons for Evacuations as of February 28, 2009

	Number	Percentage
Wounded in Action	9,477	20.7%
Non-Hostile Injuries	9,452	20.7%
Disease	26,654	58.5%
Total	45,583	100%

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 as of February 28, 2009

	Number	Percentage
Army	37,271	81.8%
Marines	5,124	11.2%
Air Force	1,772	3.9%
Navy	1,416	3.1%
Total	45,583	100%

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 9,099 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF from October 7, 2001 through February 28, 2009. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 7,639 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, and the remaining 1,460 cases were of

hostile-related wounded servicemembers with medical air transport required. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 8. Medical Reasons for Evacuation as of February 28, 2009

	Number	Percentage
Wounded in Action	1,460	16.0%
Non-Hostile Injuries	1,988	21.8%
Disease	5,651	62.1%
Total	9,099	100%

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 as of February 28, 2009

	Number	Percentage
Army	7,003	77.0%
Marines	584	6.4%
Air Force	1,127	12.4%
Navy	385	4.2%
Total	9,099	100%

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.

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