

# CRS Report for Congress

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## **Iraq: Summary of U.S. Forces**

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# Iraq: Summary of U.S. Forces

## Summary

This report provides a summary estimate of military forces that have reportedly been deployed to and subsequently withdrawn from the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR), popularly called the Persian Gulf region, to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. For background information on the AOR, see [<http://www.centcom.mil/aboutus/aor.htm>]. Geographically, the USCENTCOM AOR stretches from the Horn of Africa to Central Asia. The information about military units that have been deployed and withdrawn is based on both official government public statements and estimates identified in selected news accounts.

The statistics have been assembled from both Department of Defense (DOD) sources and open-source press reports. However, due to concerns about operational security, DOD is not routinely reporting the composition, size, nor destination of units and military forces being deployed to the Persian Gulf. Consequently, not all has been officially confirmed. For further reading, see CRS Report RL31701, *Iraq: U.S. Military Operations*.

This report will be updated as the situation continues to develop.

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# Iraq: Summary of U.S. Forces

## U.S. Forces

### Military Units: Deployed/En Route/On Deployment Alert

Since December 2002 when the Department of Defense (DOD) began announcing the first deployments of military units to the Persian Gulf region, U.S. forces reportedly deployed include the following:

**Army** — one armored division, one mechanized infantry division, two light infantry divisions, one airborne division, one air assault division, and one armored cavalry regiment

**Navy** — one carrier strike group, one expeditionary strike group

**Marine Corps** — one expeditionary force, two expeditionary units

**Air Force** — elements of 12 fighter, fighter/bomber, specialized, and support wings

**Coast Guard** — six Coast Guard cutters and elements of Port Security Units

As of October 13, 2004, according to DOD officials, approximately 138,000 U.S. forces are in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).<sup>1</sup> During the OIF 3 troop rotations, which commenced in July 2004, there are 26,427 Marines, about 27,000 Army National Guard, 2,000 Air National Guard,<sup>2</sup> and nearly 17,000 Reserve forces currently deployed in Iraq.<sup>3</sup> Also, approximately 28,600 non-U.S. coalition forces from 29 countries are in Iraq contributing to stabilization operations.<sup>4</sup>

A report prepared by the staff of the U.S. Central Command, Combined Forces Air Component Commander, indicates that as of April 30, 2003, there were 466,985 total personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.<sup>5</sup> This includes USAF, 54,955;

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense, U.S. Central Command, Public Affairs, Oct. 13, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> See US Forces Order of Battle at [[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq\\_orbat.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_orbat.htm)].

<sup>4</sup> See Non-U.S. Forces in Iraq at [[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq\\_orbat\\_coalition.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_orbat_coalition.htm)].

<sup>5</sup> "Operation Iraqi Freedom — By the Numbers," U.S. Central Air Forces, Assessment and (continued...)

USAF Reserve, 2,084; USAF National Guard, 7,207; USMC, 74,405; USMC Reserve, 9,501; USN, 61,296 (681 are members of the U.S. Coast Guard); USN Reserve, 2,056; and USA, 233,342; USA Reserve, 10,683; and USA National Guard, 8,866.

## Operation Iraqi Freedom Force Rotations

At a congressional hearing held by the House Committee on Armed Services on July 7, 2004, DOD officials announced the troops rotation plan for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 (OIF 3). OIF 3 commenced in July 2004 with the stated goal of flowing new active and reserve forces into the Iraqi theater of operations for up to 12-month rotations, and eventually reducing U.S. force levels in Iraq from 140,000 to approximately 130,000. According to slides presented at the hearing, units from Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 (OIF 2 or units currently stationed in Iraq) will transition out, and units activated for OIF 3 will deploy to Iraq commencing in July 2004 (see **Table 1**). Also, on May 17, 2004, DOD announced that approximately 3,600 members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division will deploy from the Republic of Korea to Iraq in mid-summer 2004.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom Ground Troop Rotations**

| OIF 2                                  | OIF 3  | Transition Period                       |
|--|--|---|
| Stryker Brigade                        | Stryker Brigade  | November 2004                           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Division      | 42 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (NY)  | December 2004-<br>February 2005         |
| I Marine Expeditionary Force           | Marine Expeditionary Force   | March 2005                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  | November 2004-<br>March 2005            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Armored Division       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division  | July 2004                               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Light Cavalry Regiment | 11 <sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit<br>24 <sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit<br>155 <sup>th</sup> Armored Brigade (MS) | July 2004<br>July 2004<br>February 2005 |
| 81 <sup>st</sup> Brigade               | 29 <sup>th</sup> Brigade (National Guard, HI)<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment  | March 2005<br>March 2005                |

**Source:** U. S. Congress, House Committee on Armed Services, "Hearing on Troop Rotations For Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 & Operation Enduring Freedom 6 and the Army's Mobilization of the Individual Ready Reserve," July 7, 2004, Prepared Statement of Lieutenant General Norton A. Schwartz, Briefing Slide, "Ground Troop Rotation Plan Operation Iraqi Freedom." This document

<sup>5</sup> (...continued)

Analysis Division, Apr. 30, 2003, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Defense, American Forces Information Service news article, May 17, 2004.

is available online from the House Armed Services Committee at [<http://armedservices.house.gov/openingstatementsandpressreleases/108thcongress/04-07-07schwartz.pdf>].

On January 14, 2004, the USS *Boxer*<sup>7</sup> (LHD 4) deployed from San Diego, CA, and on January 19, 2004, the USS *Bataan*<sup>8</sup> (LHD 5) deployed from Norfolk, VA. The mission of both ships was to provide amphibious lift and logistical support for the OIF 2 force rotation. Both ships completed their OIF 2 troop rotation support missions. The USS *Boxer* on April 29, 2004, returned to its homeport in San Diego, CA; and the USS *Bataan* on March 31, 2004, returned to its Norfolk, VA, homeport.

## Army

Mechanized infantry divisions have 17,000 personnel consisting of three maneuver brigades (a brigade is 5,000 soldiers) that comprise five tank battalions (a battalion is 1,000 soldiers) and five mechanized infantry battalions.<sup>9</sup>

Armored divisions consist of 17,000 personnel and are similar in organization and equipment to a mechanized division, however, the three maneuver brigades have six tank battalions and four mechanized infantry battalions.<sup>10</sup> These numbers are approximate. Army divisions generally deploy with additional support units not included in division counts.

Armored cavalry regiments are comparable in size to a brigade (approximately 4,000 personnel) and are composed of three armored cavalry squadrons (a squadron is 1,000 soldiers) and one air cavalry troop (a troop is 190 soldiers).<sup>11</sup> A corps is a deployable command of approximately 20,000 to 45,000 soldiers.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 2. Major Army Units Deployed or Alerted**

| Military Unit  | Number of Personnel | Home Military Base     |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized)                 | 14,000              | Wuerzburg, Germany     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light)<br>(Selected Units) | 17,000              | Schofield Barracks, HI |

<sup>7</sup> "USS Boxer to Deploy in Support of Global War on Terrorism," *Navy Newsstand*, Jan. 8, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> "USS Bataan to Deploy in Support of OIF Force Rotation," *Navy Newsstand*, Jan. 13, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> This information comes from archived CRS Report 91-167, *Persian Gulf War: Summary of U.S. and Non-U.S. Forces* (no longer available; for more information contact Steven R. Bowman at 7-7613).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Department of the Army, *Organization of the United States Army*, Pamphlet 10-1, June 14, 1994, J4-J10.

| Military Unit  | Number of Personnel | Home Military Base                            |
|--|---------------------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division                            | 2,000               | Fort Drum, NY                                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Armored Division   | 18,000              | Banau/Baumholder, Germany, and Fort Riley, KS |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment   | 3,700               | Fort Polk, LA                                 |
| 82 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division   | 5,000               | Fort Bragg, NC                                |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division   | 16,700              | Fort Hood, TX                                 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade   | 2,000               | Fort Sill, OK                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division                             | 3,614               | Camp Red Cloud, South Korea                   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division                             | 3,614               | Fort Lewis, WA                                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division                            | 4,000               | Schofield Barracks, HI                        |
| 39 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard                          | 400                 | Little Rock, AR                               |
| 81 <sup>st</sup> Armor (Separate) Washington Army National Guard                       | 4,500               | Seattle, WA                                   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (eHSB) Mechanized North Carolina Army National Guard | 4,500               | Clinton, NC                                   |

## Navy

The Carrier Strike Group (CSG) does not have an official definition or standard composition. Battle groups are formed and disestablished by the Navy on an as needed basis, and one may be different from another. However, they all are comprised of similar types of ships and aircraft. The U.S. Navy announced on April 9, 2003, that the USS *Abraham Lincoln* CSG was relieved of duty by the USS *Nimitz*, and would be returning to homeport. DOD officials said during a Pentagon briefing on April 14, 2003, that the USS *Constellation* and USS *Kitty Hawk* CSGs were being withdrawn from the Iraqi theater of operations to return to their homeports. On May 9, 2003, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* CSG was ordered to return to homeport, and on May 15, 2003, the Navy reported that the USS *Harry S Truman* CSG had withdrawn and would return from deployment.

On September 5, 2003, DOD officials said the USS *Nimitz* CSG was departing the Persian Gulf to replace the USS *Carl Vinson* in the Pacific Ocean. On November 3, 2003, the USS *Enterprise* CSG deployed from the port of Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, for the North Arabian Sea. The USS *Enterprise* CSG was scheduled to return to its homeport of Norfolk, VA, on February 29, 2004, and was replaced by the USS *George Washington* CSG on February 16, 2004. The USS *George Washington* CSG returned to its Norfolk, VA homeport on July 26, 2004, and was replaced by the USS *John F. Kennedy* CSG.

**Support Ship.** The USNS *Comfort* hospital ship is a 1,000-bed medical treatment facility capable of providing emergency on-site care for U.S. combatant forces deployed in war and peacetime operations. The ship is also equipped to deliver medical care for troops injured in biological and chemical attacks. On May 9, 2003, the *Comfort* was ordered to return to its homeport in Baltimore, MD.

**USS *John F. Kennedy* Carrier Strike Group.** Carrier Air Wing 17 consists of 70-80 aircraft including the F-14A Tomcat, F/A-18 C/D Hornet, E-2CHawkeye, EA-6B Prowler, S-3B Viking, C-2A Greyhound, SH-60F Seahawk, and HH60 Seahawk.

**Table 3. USS *John F. Kennedy* Carrier Strike Group**

| Name                       | Type of Ship                     | Homeport      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| USS <i>John F. Kennedy</i> | Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier | Mayport, FL   |
| USS <i>Vicksburg</i>       | Guided missile cruiser           | Mayport, FL   |
| USS <i>Roosevelt</i>       | Guided missile destroyer         | Mayport, FL   |
| USS <i>Spruance</i>        | Destroyer                        | Mayport, FL   |
| USS <i>Topeka</i>          | Nuclear-powered attack submarine | San Diego, CA |
| USS <i>Seattle</i>         | Combat logistics ship            | Earle, NJ     |

## Marine Corps

A complete Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) consists of approximately 45,000 personnel. A Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) has 15,000 troops, and the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is composed of nearly 2,000 marines.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 4. Marine Corps Personnel Deployed or Alerted**

| Military Unit   | Number of Personnel | Home Military Base |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| I Marine Expeditionary Force (selected elements)                        | 25,000              | Camp Pendleton, CA |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (selected units)             | 2,200               | Camp Pendleton, CA |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) | 2,200               | Camp Lejeune, NC   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) | 2,200               | Okinawa, Japan     |

Operationally, these Marine Corps units are organized into Amphibious Task Forces that consist of three Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs) or battle groups.

<sup>13</sup> CRS Report 91-167, *Persian Gulf War* (archived; no longer available).



Each ARG is led by an amphibious assault helicopter carrier with approximately 2,000 marines on board.<sup>14</sup> On June 13, 2003, the Marine Corps reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade had withdrawn from Iraq and would return to Camp Lejeune on June 22, 2003. The 15<sup>th</sup> MEU on April 29, 2003, and the 26<sup>th</sup> MEU on July 10, 2003, were both withdrawn from Iraq and redeployed.

**Amphibious Task Force East.** Six to eight aircraft and 33 helicopters, including AV-8 Harrier, CH-53 Sea Stallions, CH-46 Sea Knights, AH-1 Sea Cobras, Mechanized Landing (LCM), Landing Craft Utility (LCU), and Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) landing craft. On June 6, 2003, the Navy reported that the sailors, marines, and ships attached to Amphibious Task Force East would return to Norfolk, VA, on June 25-26, 2003.

**Amphibious Task Force West.** Six to eight aircraft and 33 helicopters, including AV-8 Harrier, CH-53 Sea Stallions, CH-46 Sea Knights, AH-1 Sea Cobras, Mechanized Landing (LCM), Landing Craft Utility (LCU), and Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) landing craft. On July 30, 2003, the Navy reported that the sailors, marines, and ships attached to Amphibious Task Force West returned to San Diego on July 26, 2003.

On July 25, 2003, the Navy ordered the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group to redeploy from Iraq. On July 25, 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the USS *Iwo Jima* to take a position for possible action off the coast of Liberia.

**Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESG).** Expeditionary Strike Group One, led by the USS *Peleliu* Amphibious Assault Ship, is the first ESG to deploy overseas. The ESG arrived in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility in September 2003 with the assigned mission of “providing a post-war presence in the region, aid in peacekeeping, security, and to promote an environment conducive to rebuilding a new Iraqi government.”<sup>15</sup> ESG One was scheduled to return to the United States during the first week of March 2004. Expeditionary Strike Group Two is led by the USS *Wasp* Amphibious Assault Ship — the first ESG to deploy from the East Coast. ESG Two departed from Norfolk, VA, on February 17, 2004, to replace ESG One.<sup>16</sup>

Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3), also known as the Belleau Wood ESG 3, entered the U.S. Navy’s 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet on July 2, 2004, and will assume the duties of maritime security operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf (NAG). The NAG security operations include security of the Al Basrah and Khawr Al Amaya Iraqi oil terminals.<sup>17</sup> Expeditionary Strike Group Two was redeployed to its homeport on August 21, 2004. ESG Three changed flag staff and ships at sea, from the USS *Belleau Wood* to the USS *Essex*. The Essex Expeditionary Strike Group was officially activated on September 10, 2004, and will be responsible for “Maritime

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<sup>14</sup> “Sending in the Marines,” *Washington Post*, Jan. 29, 2003, p. A13.

<sup>15</sup> “ESG 1 Heads North in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom,” *Navy Newsstand*, Oct. 21, 2003.

<sup>16</sup> “Wasp Strike Group and 22 MEU to Deploy,” *Navy Newsstand*, Feb. 10, 2004.

<sup>17</sup> “ESG 3 Assumes Maritime Security Mission,” *Navy Newsstand*, Jul. 7, 2004.

Security Operations (MSO) in the Northern Arabian Gulf, to include protection of Al Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT) and Khawr Oil Terminal (KAAOT) off the coast of Iraq.”<sup>18</sup>

**Table 5. Essex Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Three**

| Name                     | Type of Ship              | Homeport         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| USS <i>Essex</i>         | Amphibious assault ship   | Sasebo, Japan    |
| USS <i>Juneau</i>        | Amphibious transport dock | Sasebo, Japan    |
| USS <i>Harpers Ferry</i> | Dock landing ship         | Sasebo, Japan    |
| USS <i>Mobile Bay</i>    | Guided missile cruiser    | San Diego, CA    |
| USS <i>Hopper</i>        | Guided missile destroyer  | Pearl Harbor, HI |
| USS <i>Preble</i>        | Guided missile destroyer  | San Diego, CA    |

## Air Force

The units listed below are those DOD has publically acknowledged have been deployed; additional units and aircraft may have been deployed but not acknowledged.

**Table 6. Air Force Units**

| Military Unit  | Military Base                            |
|--|--|
| 447 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group                      | Baghdad IAP/Camp Sather, Iraq            |
| 506 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group                      | Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq                    |
| 40 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing<br>(selected elements) | Diego Garcia BIOT                        |
| 320 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Seeb IAP, Oman                           |
| 321 <sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Masirah AB, Oman                         |
| 332 <sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Balad Air Base, Iraq                     |
| 379 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar                 |
| 380 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates |
| 386 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait            |
| 401 <sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Souda Bay, Crete                         |
| 405 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing                       | Thumrait Air Base, Oman                  |
| 407 <sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group                      | Tallil Air Base, Iraq                    |

<sup>18</sup> “ESG 3 Proves Flexibility, Mobility with First Staff Cross Deck at Sea,” *Navy Newstand*, Sept. 15, 2004.

## Coast Guard

According to the Coast Guard (CG), during peak OIF operations there were 1,250 active duty personnel and nearly 500 reservists, two large cutters, a buoy tender, eight patrol boats (CGCs), four port security units, and law enforcement detachments deployed to the Persian Gulf region.<sup>19</sup> On May 23, 2003, the Coast Guard announced the CGCs *Dallas*, *Pea Island*, *Knight Island*, *Bainbridge Island*, and *Grand Isle* would be returning to their homeports. On June 10, 2003, the Navy reported that Naval Coastal Warfare Group 1 had completed their port security and harbor defense mission and would return to San Diego, CA. Port Security Unit 313 returned to Tacoma, WA, on August 27, 2003. On June 2, 2004, at the request of DOD officials, the CG ordered the deployment of two additional 110-foot Patrol Boats and two Law Enforcement Detachments. These additional units will bring the total number of CG personnel currently supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom to 400.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 7. Coast Guard Personnel**

| Units  | Home Base          |
|--|--------------------|
| Port Security Unit 307                                 | St. Petersburg, FL |
| Port Security Unit 308                                 | Gulfport, MS       |
| Port Security Unit 309                                 | Port Clinton, OH   |
| Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Detachments           | San Diego, CA      |
| Harbor Defense Command Unit 206 (Coast Guard elements) | Jacksonville, FL   |
| Harbor Defense Command Unit 111 (Coast Guard Elements) | Alameda, CA        |
| Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 206               | Norfolk, VA        |

**Table 8. Coast Guard Cutters**

| Name                 | Type of Ship        | Homeport           |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>CGC Wrangell</i>  | Island Class Cutter | South Portland, ME |
| <i>CGC Adak</i>      | Island Class Cutter | Sandy Hook, NJ     |
| <i>CGC Aquidneck</i> | Island Class Cutter | Atlantic Beach, NC |
| <i>CGC Baranof</i>   | Island Class Cutter | Miami, FL          |

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Coast Guard, Factcard, *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, Sept. 2003.

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Coast Guard, Press Release, *Coast Guard Deploys Additional Units To Support Operation Iraqi Freedom*, Jun. 2, 2004.

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| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Type of Ship</b> | <b>Homeport</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| CGC <i>Monomoy</i> | Island Class Cutter | Woods Hole, MA  |
| CGC <i>Maui</i>    | Island Class Cutter | San Juan, PR    |