

CRS Report for Congress

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U.S. Forces in Iraq

JoAnne O'Bryant and Michael Waterhouse
Information Research Specialists
Knowledge Services Group

Summary

Varying media estimates of military forces in Iraq have raised concerns about the actual number of troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This report provides solely Department of Defense (DOD) statistical information on U.S. forces serving in Iraq. As of October 1, 2006, according to DOD, the United States had 139,421 troops stationed in Iraq — 114,470 active component and 24,951 National Guard or Reserves. For security reasons, DOD does not routinely report the composition, size, or specific destination of military forces deployed to the Persian Gulf. This report will be updated upon receipt of new DOD data. For additional information on U.S. forces, see CRS Report RL31701, *Iraq: U.S. Military Operations*, by Steve Bowman.

Force Levels

As of October 1, 2006, according to DOD, the United States had 139,421 military personnel deployed in Iraq. Of these, 114,470 were active component personnel and 24,951 were National Guard and Reserves. **Figures 1 and 2** provide the distribution by armed service of active component personnel. These totals do not include 16,500 military support personnel in Kuwait, nor naval personnel aboard ships patrolling through the Persian Gulf.¹

On October 11, 2006, U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Peter J. Schoomaker announced a plan to maintain the current level of Army troops — about 120,000 — in Iraq through 2010. He emphasized that this was a plan that has “off-ramps,” allowing for adjustments, including reductions, along the way.²

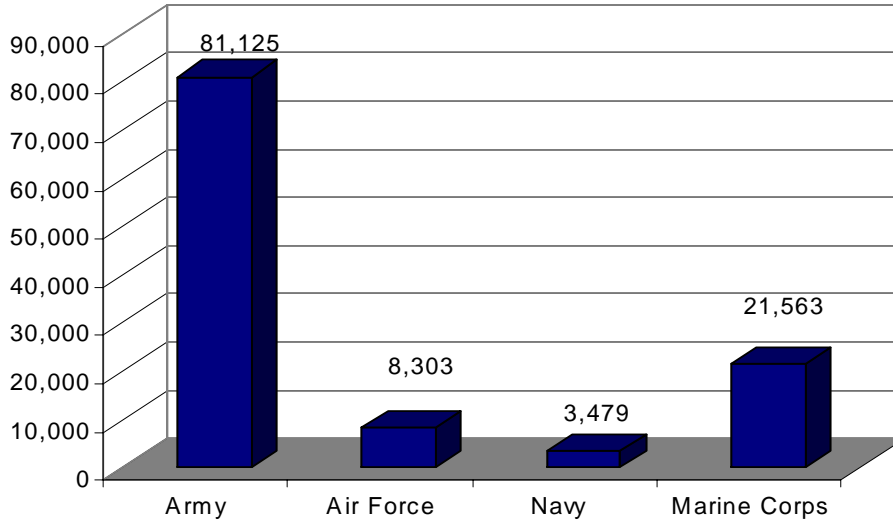
Additional information is available from DOD’s Directorate for Information Operations, which posts quarterly reports on casualties and worldwide active duty military personnel deployments by region and country.

[<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/MILITARY/Miltop.htm>]

¹ DOD Fact Sheet, *Global Commitments*, May 10, 2006.

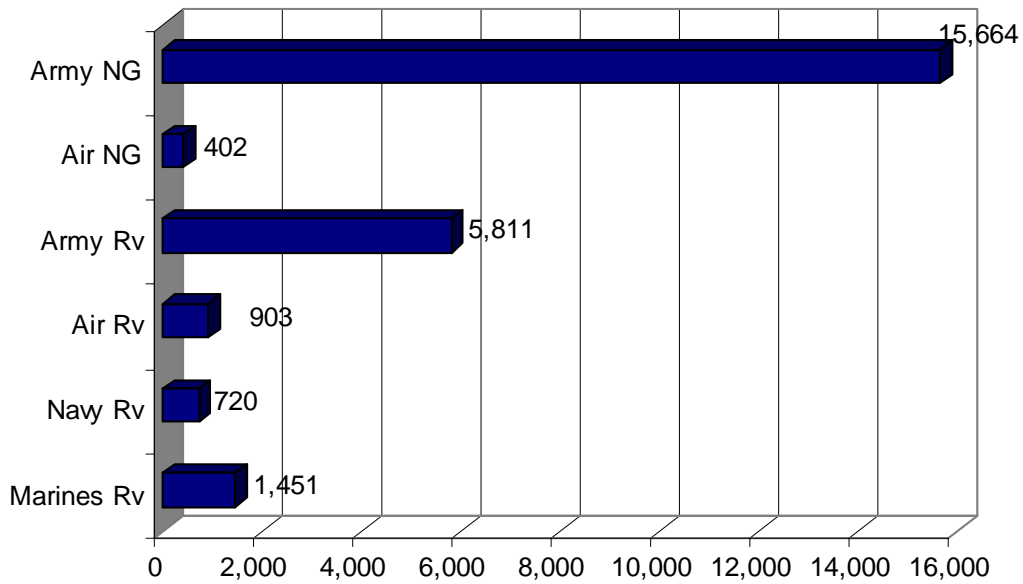
² American Forces Information Service (AFIS) News Article, October 11, 2006.

**Figure 1. Active Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of October 1, 2006)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

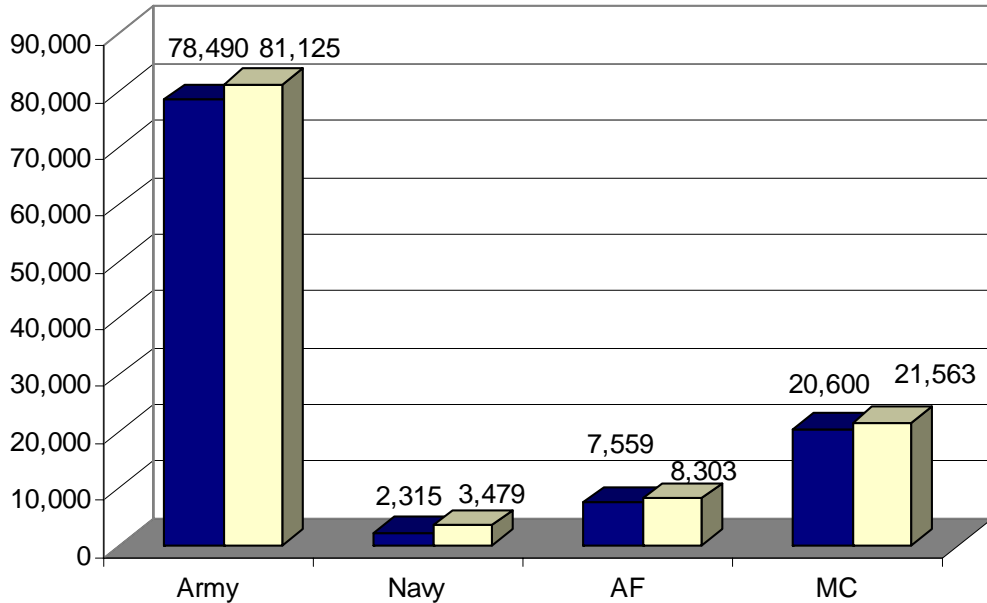
**Figure 2. Reserve Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of October 1, 2006)**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

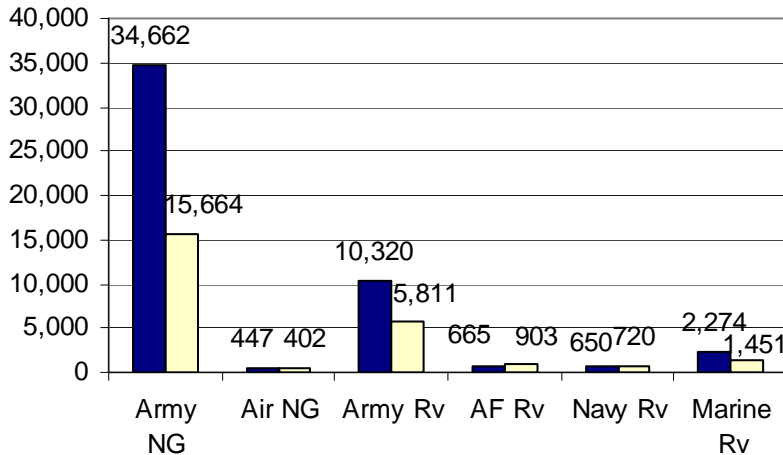
Comparative Operation Iraqi Freedom U.S. Force Levels. Overall U.S. force levels in Iraq have been declining since 2005, particularly the Reserve Component. Based on DOD statistics, **Figures 3, 4, and 5** provide comparative data on both active and reserve component force levels since November 2005. DOD officials have declined to project the timing or size of future force reductions, noting these will depend upon the security situation within Iraq.

Figure 3. OIF Active Component Force Levels (Nov. 2005/Oct. 2006)



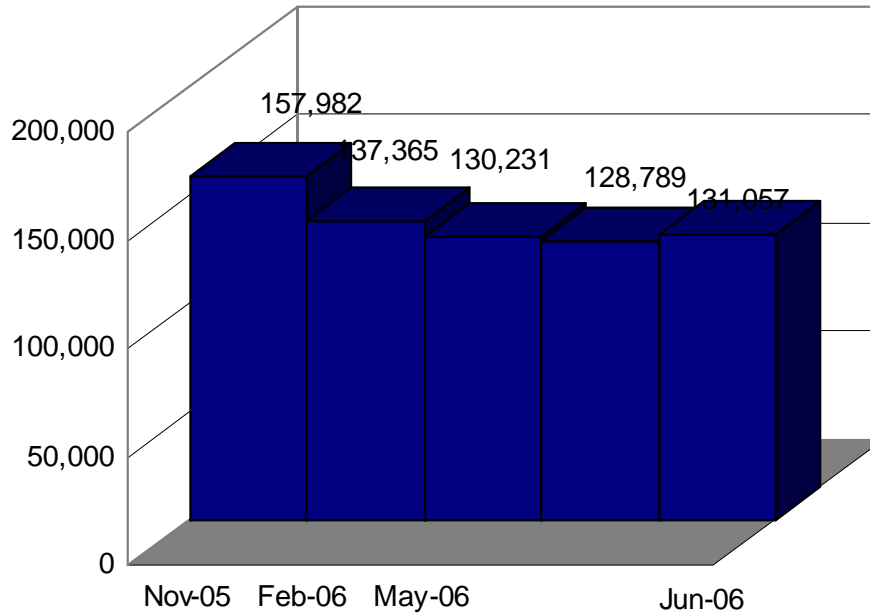
Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Figure 4. OIF Reserve Component Force Levels (Nov. 2005/Oct. 2006)



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

**Figure 5. Comparative U.S. Force Level in Iraq
Nov 2005-Oct 2006**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data, October 1, 2006.

Operation Iraqi Freedom Troop Rotations. On July 27 and September 25 2006, the Department of Defense announced its latest scheduled troop deployment and adjustments to rotations to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Combined with earlier DOD announcements, the remaining 2006 schedule for the affected Army and Marine Corps units is summarized in **Table 1** below. Rotations for Army units normally last for one year, whereas Marine Corps units operate on a seven-month rotation. Additionally in its July 27 press release, the Department of Defense announced the extension of deployment in Iraq of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team for up to 120 days.

Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom 5 Rotational Units

Military Unit	Home Military Base	2006 Transitions
Army		
4 th Brigade, 1 st Cavalry Division	Fort Bliss, TX	late October-2006
III Corps Headquarters (Army)	Fort Hood, TX	late-2006
1 st Cavalry Division Headquarters	Fort Hood, TX	late-2006
2 nd Brigade, 1 st Cavalry Division	Fort Hood, TX	late-2006
3 rd Brigade, 1 st Cavalry Division	Fort Hood, TX	late-2006
4 th Brigade, 25 th Infantry Division	Fort Richardson, AK	late-2006
2 nd Brigade, 2 nd Infantry Division	Fort Carson, CO	late-2006
1 st Brigade, 1 st Cavalry Division	Fort Hood, TX	late-2006
4 th Brigade, 1 st Cavalry Division	Fort Bliss, TX	late-2006
1 st Brigade, 3 rd Infantry Division	Fort Stewart, GA	late-2006 (prepare for “possible deployment”)
Marines		
Regimental Combat Team 2	Camp Lejeune, NC	late-2006
Regimental Combat Team 6	Camp Lejeune, NC	late-2006
II Marine Expeditionary Force	Camp Lejeune, NC	late-2006

Source: DOD News Releases, November 7, 2005, June 20, July 27, and September 25, 2006, and DOD Army Public Affairs Office, July 2006.