

CRS Report for Congress

Iraq: Summary of U.S. Forces

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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This report provides a summary estimate of military forces that have reportedly been deployed to and subsequently withdrawn from the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR), popularly called the Persian Gulf region, to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.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 The information about military units that have been deployed and withdrawn is based on both official government public statements and estimates identified in selected news accounts.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: Potential U.S. Military Operations*. This report will be updated as the situation continues to develop.

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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, three mechanized infantry divisions, one airborne division, one air assault division, two armored cavalry regiments, one air defense command, and numerous support units

Navy—no carrier strike groups

Marine Corps—one expeditionary force and one division

Air Force—elements of 45 fighter, fighter/bomber, specialized, and support wings

Coast Guard—four Coast Guard cutters

As of October 2, 2003, according to DOD officials, approximately 130,000 U.S. forces are in Iraq in support of combat operations.¹ U.S. Army officials say there are 122,000 Army personnel in Iraq.² The personnel includes 27,500 Army National Guard and 750 Air National Guard troops.³ U.S. Air Force officials indicate that about 4,700 Air National Guard and reservists are currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.⁴ There are also more than 23,000 non-U.S. coalition forces from 29 countries in Iraq contributing to stabilization operations.⁵

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

¹Department of Defense, U.S. Central Command, Public Affairs, Oct. 2, 2003.

²“Reserve Tours Are Extended.” *Washington Post*, Sept. 9, 2003, p. 1.

³Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, Oct. 1, 2003.

⁴“No Plans to Extend Guard, Reserve,” *Air Force Print News*, Sept. 12, 2003.

⁵GlobalSecurity.org, see [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_orbat.htm].

total personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.⁶ This includes USAF, 54,955; 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.

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.⁷

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.⁸ 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).⁹ A corps is a deployable command of approximately 20,000 to 45,000 soldiers.¹⁰

Table 1. Major Army Units Deployed or Alerted

Military Unit	Number of Personnel	Home Military Base
1 st Infantry Division (Mechanized)	14,000	Wuerzburg, Germany
4 th Infantry Division (Mechanized)	12,000	Fort Hood, TX, and Fort Carson, CO
10 th Mountain Division (Light)	1,000	Fort Drum, NY
1 st Armored Division	18,000	Banau/Baumholder, Germany, and Fort Riley, KS
2 nd Armored Cavalry Regiment	3,700	Fort Polk, LA

⁶“Operation Iraqi Freedom—By the Numbers,” U.S. Central Air Forces, Assessment and Analysis Division, Apr. 30, 2003, p. 3.

⁷ 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).

⁸Ibid.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Department 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
3 rd Armored Cavalry Regiment	5,000	Fort Carson, CO
82 nd Airborne Division	5,000	Fort Bragg, NC
173 rd Airborne Brigade	1,800	Caserme Ederle, Italy
Third United States Army (ARCENT)	2,500	Fort McPherson, GA Camp Doha, Kuwait
101 st Airborne Division (Air Assault)	16,000	Fort Campbell, KY
III Corps (selected units)	3,000	Fort Hood, TX
V Corps (selected units)	13,330	Heidelberg, Germany
XVIII Airborne Corps (selected units)	5,462	Fort Bragg, NC

Navy

The Carrier Strike Group (CVSG) 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* strike group 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* strike groups were being withdrawn from the Iraqi theater of operations to return to their homeports. On May 9, the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* strike group was ordered to return to homeport, and on May 15, 2003, the Navy reported that the USS *Harry S Truman* strike group had withdrawn and would return from deployment.

On September 5, 2003, DOD officials said that the USS *Nimitz* carrier strike group was departing the Persian Gulf to replace the USS *Carl Vinson* in the Pacific ocean. The *Nimitz* will eventually be replaced by the USS *Enterprise* strike group. With the departure of the *Nimitz* there is currently no U.S. carrier presence in the Persian Gulf, reportedly for the first time since 1997.¹¹

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.

¹¹ "Navy Has No Aircraft Carrier in Persian Gulf for First Time Since 1997," *Associated Press*, Sept. 5, 2003.

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.¹²

Table 2. Marine Corps Personnel Deployed or Alerted

Military Unit	Number of Personnel	Home Military Base
1 st Marine Expeditionary Force (selected units)	14,000	Camp Pendleton, CA
1 st Marine Division (selected units)	22,900	Camp Pendleton, CA

Operationally, these Marine Corps units are organized into Amphibious Task Forces that consist of three Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs) or battle groups. Each ARG is led by an amphibious assault helicopter carrier with approximately 2,000 marines on board.¹³ On June 13, 2003, the Marine Corps reported that the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade had withdrawn from Iraq and would return to Camp Lejeune on June 22, 2003. The 15th MEU on April 29, 2003, and the 26th 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.

¹² CRS Report 91-167, *Persian Gulf War* (archived; no longer available).

¹³ "Sending in the Marines." *Washington Post*, Jan. 29, 2003, p. A13.

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 3. Air Force Units

Military Unit	Home Military Base
1 st Fighter Wing	Langley AFB, VA
4 th Fighter Wing	Moody AFB, SC
27 th Fighter Wing (selected elements)	Cannon AFB, NM
33 rd Fighter Wing	Eglin AFB, FL
49 th Fighter Wing	Holloman AFB, NM
52 nd Fighter Wing	Spangdahlem, Germany
57 th Fighter Wing	Nellis AFB, NV
103rd Fighter Wing	Bradley Air National Guard Base. CT
11 th Reconnaissance Squadron	Nellis AFB, NV
28 th Bomb Wing	Ellsworth AFB, SD
509 th Bomb Wing	Whiteman AFB, MS
332 nd Air Expeditionary Group	Ahmed Al Jaber AB, Kuwait
355 th Air Expeditionary Group	Masirah AB, Oman
386 th Air Expeditionary Group (selected elements)	Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait
407 th Air Expeditionary Group	Tallil AB, Iraq
409 th Air Expeditionary Group	Burgas, Bulgaria
447 th Air Expeditionary Group	Baghdad IAP, Iraq
457 th Air Expeditionary Group	RAF Fairford Base, England
506 th Air Expeditionary Group	Kirkuk, Iraq
40 th Air Expeditionary Wing (selected elements)	Diego Garcia BIOT, Jacobabad, Pakistan
320 th Air Expeditionary Wing	Seeb IAP, Oman
321st Air Expeditionary Wing	Masirah AB, Oman
332 nd Air Expeditionary Wing	Ahmed Al Jaber, Kuwait
363 rd Air Expeditionary Wing	Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia
379 th Air Expeditionary Wing (selected elements)	Al Udeid AB, Qatar

Military Unit	Home Military Base
380 th Air Expeditionary Wing (selected elements)	Al Dhafra AB, United Arab Emirates
401 st Air Expeditionary Wing	Souda Bay, Crete
405 th Air Expeditionary Wing	Thumrait AB, Oman
43 rd Airlift Wing	Pope AFB, NC
133 rd Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Minneapolis-St. Paul IAP/ARS, MN
139 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Rosecrans MAP, MO
167 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Shepherd Field, WV
182 nd Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Greater Peoria Airport, IL
314 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Little Rock AFB, AR
437 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Charleston AFB, SC
445 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
914 th Airlift Wing (selected elements)	Niagara Falls IAP/ARS, NY
22 nd Air Refueling Wing (selected elements)	McConnell AFB, KS
16 th Special Operations Wing	Hurlburt Field, FL
55 th Wing	Offutt AFB, NE
116 th Air Control Wing	Robins AFB, GA
347 th Rescue Wing	Moody AFB, GA
6 th Air Mobility Wing	MacDill AFB, FL
60 th Air Mobility Wing	Travis AFB, CA
203 rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE)	Camp Pendleton, VA

Coast Guard

The Coast Guard has reportedly deployed approximately 600 active-duty and reserve personnel and nine coast guard cutters (CGC) to the Persian Gulf region. 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.

Table 4. Coast Guard Personnel

Units	Home Base
Port Security Unit 309	Port Clinton, OH
Harbor Defense Command Unit 206 (Coast Guard elements)	Jacksonville, FL

Table 5. 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