



# U.S. Military Casualty Statistics: Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom

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## **Summary**

This report presents statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in the active Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), as well as operations that have ended: Operation New Dawn (OND, Iraq) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF, Iraq). This report includes statistics on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations, evacuations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publicly available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, whereas others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

This report will be updated as needed.

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## Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF

On August 31, 2010, President Obama announced that the U.S. combat mission in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF) had ended. A transitional force of U.S. troops remained in Iraq under Operation New Dawn (OND), which ended on December 15, 2011. Several thousand U.S. civilian personnel, contract personnel, and a limited number of U.S. military personnel remain in Iraq carrying out U.S. government business and cooperative programs under the auspices of agreements with the Iraqi government.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) is ongoing.

Table 1 gives the overall casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF.

**Table 1. Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF**

(as of February 5, 2013)

|   | U.S. Servicemember<br>Deaths | U.S. Department of<br>Defense Civilian<br>Deaths | U.S. Servicemembers<br>Wounded in Action |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| Operation Iraqi Freedom <sup>a</sup>    | 4,409                        | 13   | 31,925                                   |
| Operation New Dawn <sup>b</sup>         | 66                           | 0  | 295                                      |
| Operation Enduring Freedom <sup>c</sup> | 2,165                        | 3  | 18,230                                   |

a. Department of Defense, "Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of February 5, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.

b. Department of Defense, "Operation New Dawn (OND) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of February 5, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.

c. Department of Defense, "Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of February 5, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OND, OIF, and OEF can be found at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>. In addition, CRS Report R41084, *Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians*, contains statistics on Afghan civilian casualties as well as regular updates on American and coalition fatalities in OEF.

## Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), using the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), provided the statistics below on the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) cases. According to Dr. Michael Carino of the OSG, a case of PTSD is defined as an individual having at least two outpatient visits or one or more hospitalizations at which PTSD was diagnosed. The threshold of two or more outpatient visits is used in the DMSS to increase the likelihood that the individual has, or had, PTSD. A single visit on record commonly reflects someone who was evaluated for possible PTSD, but did not actually meet the criteria for diagnosis.

All those who have been diagnosed as having PTSD during deployment were diagnosed at least 30 days after the individual deployed. However, it is not possible to be certain that the PTSD

resulted from an event associated with the deployment. The PTSD could have resulted from an event that occurred prior to a deployment.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 2** and **Figure 1** present yearly PTSD diagnoses for all services.

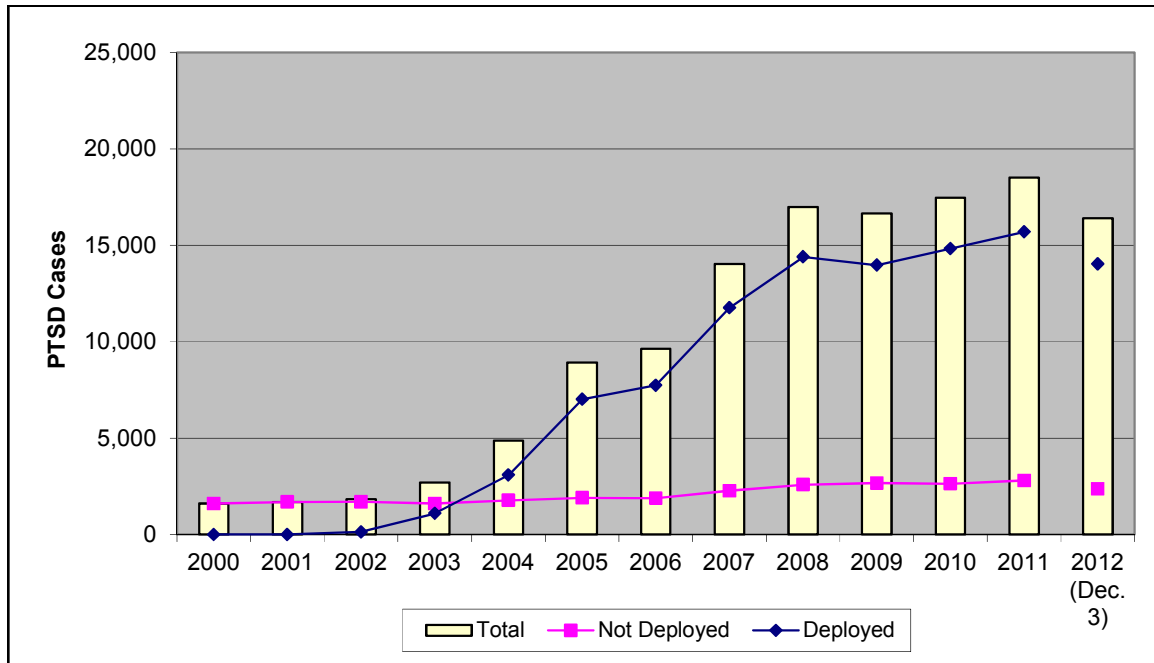
**Table 2. Annual New Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services**  
(as of December 7, 2012)

| <b>Year</b>                         | <b>Not Deployed</b> | <b>Deployed</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 2000                                | 1,610               | 0               |
| 2001                                | 1,694               | 0               |
| 2002                                | 1,697               | 133             |
| 2003                                | 1,609               | 1,100           |
| 2004                                | 1,777               | 3,095           |
| 2005                                | 1,912               | 7,015           |
| 2006                                | 1,893               | 7,745           |
| 2007                                | 2,272               | 11,763          |
| 2008                                | 2,589               | 14,405          |
| 2009                                | 2,676               | 13,975          |
| 2010                                | 2,638               | 14,828          |
| 2011                                | 2,806               | 15,702          |
| 2012 (to December 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) | 2,376               | 14,031          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>27,549</b>       | <b>103,792</b>  |

**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data source is the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

<sup>1</sup> CRS communication with Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense liaison, September 21, 2010.

**Figure 1. Annual Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services**  
(as of December 7, 2012)



**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data source is the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS). Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

## Traumatic Brain Injury

Of the total 253,330 traumatic brain injury (TBI) cases between January 1, 2000 and August 20, 2012, 194,561 have been mild, 42,063 have been moderate, 6,476 have been severe or penetrating, and 10,210 have not been classifiable.<sup>2</sup> **Table 3** and **Figure 2** show the relative rates of mild, moderate, severe, penetrating, and not classifiable TBIs whereas **Figure 3** shows the number of TBI diagnoses over time.

<sup>2</sup> Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>. The DOD categorizes TBI cases as mild, moderate, severe, or penetrating. Mild TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state lasting less than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for up to thirty minutes; memory loss lasting less than 24 hours; and structural brain imaging that yields normal results. Moderate TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 30 minutes, but less than 24 hours; memory loss lasting greater than 24 hours but less than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. Severe TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 24 hours; memory loss for more than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. A penetrating TBI, or open head injury, is a head injury in which the dura mater, the outer layer of the system of membranes that envelops the central nervous system, is penetrated. Penetrating injuries can be caused by high-velocity projectiles or objects of lower velocity, such as knives, or bone fragments from a skull fracture that are driven into the brain.

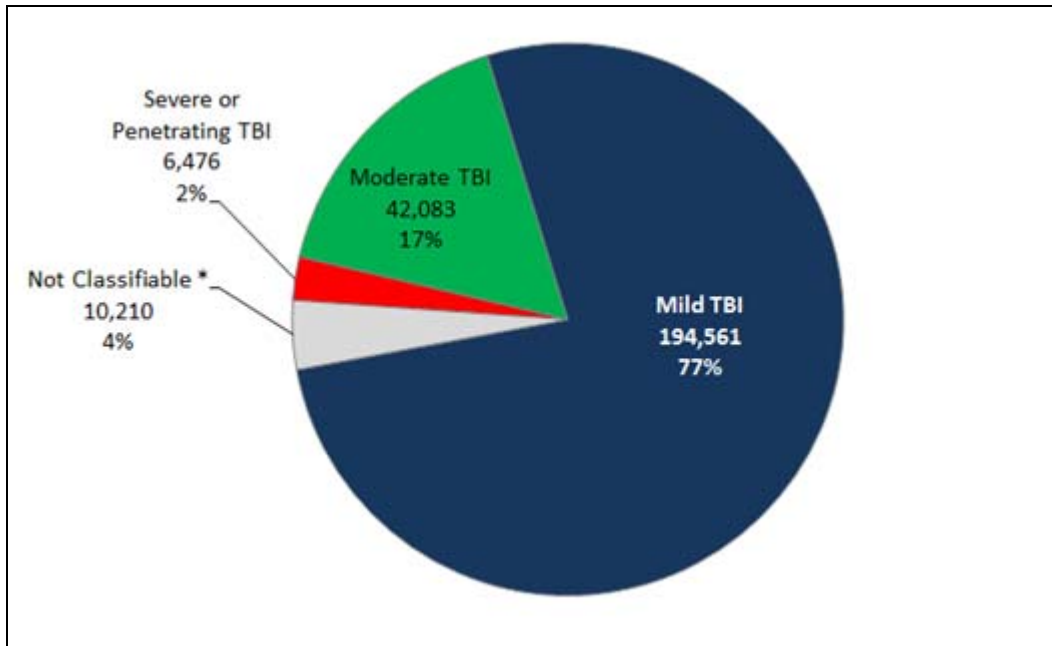
**Table 3. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 2000-2012 Q2**  
(as of August 20, 2012)

| Incident Diagnoses            | 2000   | 2001   | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012 Q1-Q2 | 2000-2012 Q2 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------------|
| Severe or Penetrating TBI     | 450    | 478    | 380    | 449    | 463    | 407    | 521    | 591    | 686    | 809    | 553    | 525    | 164        | 6,476        |
| Moderate TBI                  | 4,150  | 3,553  | 3,077  | 2,643  | 2,281  | 1,906  | 2,466  | 3,708  | 3,343  | 3,751  | 4,294  | 4,822  | 2,089      | 42,083       |
| Mild TBI                      | 6,326  | 7,760  | 8,974  | 9,770  | 10,536 | 9,857  | 13,919 | 18,665 | 21,859 | 22,673 | 24,989 | 25,564 | 13,669     | 194,561      |
| Not Classifiable <sup>a</sup> | 37     | 39     | 39     | 36     | 32     | 41     | 52     | 210    | 2,679  | 2,022  | 1,571  | 2,238  | 1,214      | 10,210       |
| Total Incident Diagnoses      | 10,963 | 11,830 | 12,470 | 12,898 | 13,312 | 12,211 | 16,958 | 23,174 | 28,567 | 29,255 | 31,407 | 33,149 | 17,136     | 253,330      |

**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data source is Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

a. Requires additional incident information and further investigation prior to TBI categorization.

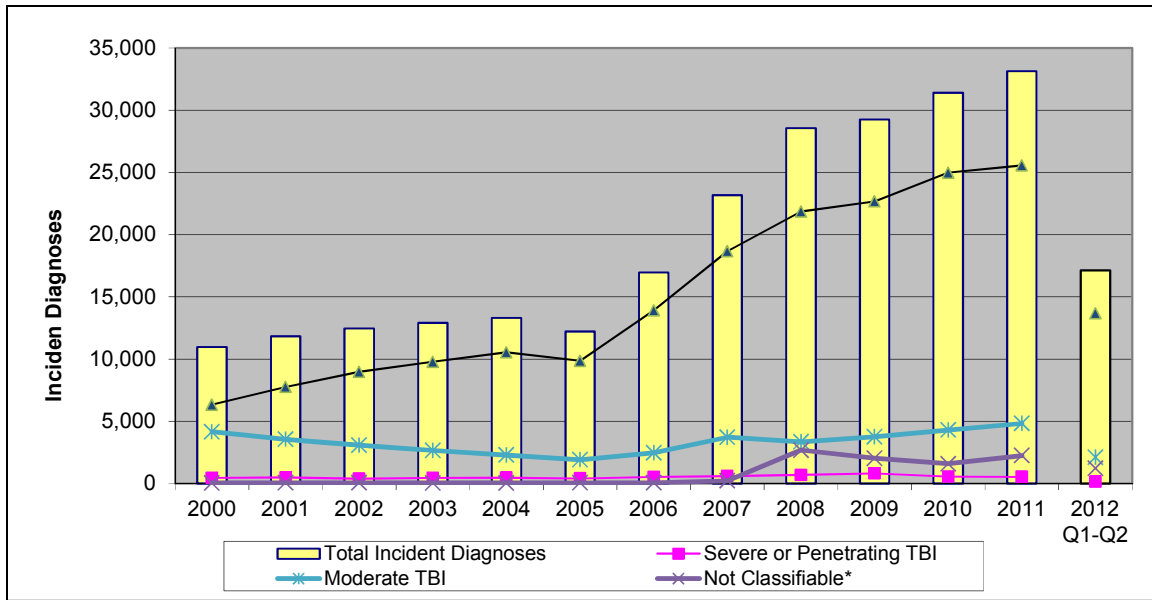
**Figure 2. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 2000-2012 Q2**  
(as of August 20, 2012)



**Source:** Chart provided by Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data source is the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

**Notes:** \* Requires additional incident information and further investigation prior to TBI categorization.

**Figure 3. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 2000-2012 Q2**  
(as of August 20, 2012)



**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data source is the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

**Notes:** \* Requires additional incident information and further investigation prior to TBI categorization.

## Amputations

Table 4 shows the number of individuals with battle-injury amputations for OIF/OND and OEF by service. The total number of amputations in OIF/OND and OEF as of December 3, 2012 is 1,715.

**Table 4. Individuals with Battle-Injury Amputations by Service for OIF/OND and OEF**  
(as of December 3, 2012)

| Theater      | Type of Amputation                      | Army         | Marine     | Navy      | Air Force | Grand Total  |
|--------------|---|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| OIF/OND      | Major Limb (e.g. Leg)                   | 613          | 161        | 16        | 7         | 797          |
|              | Minor Limb (e.g. Partial Foot, Fingers) | 156          | 31         | 4         | 3         | 194          |
| OEF          | Major Limb (e.g. Leg)                   | 394          | 273        | 16        | 13        | 696          |
|              | Minor Limb (e.g. Partial Foot, Fingers) | 16           | 8          | 1         | 3         | 28           |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>1,179</b> | <b>473</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>1,715</b> |

**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012.

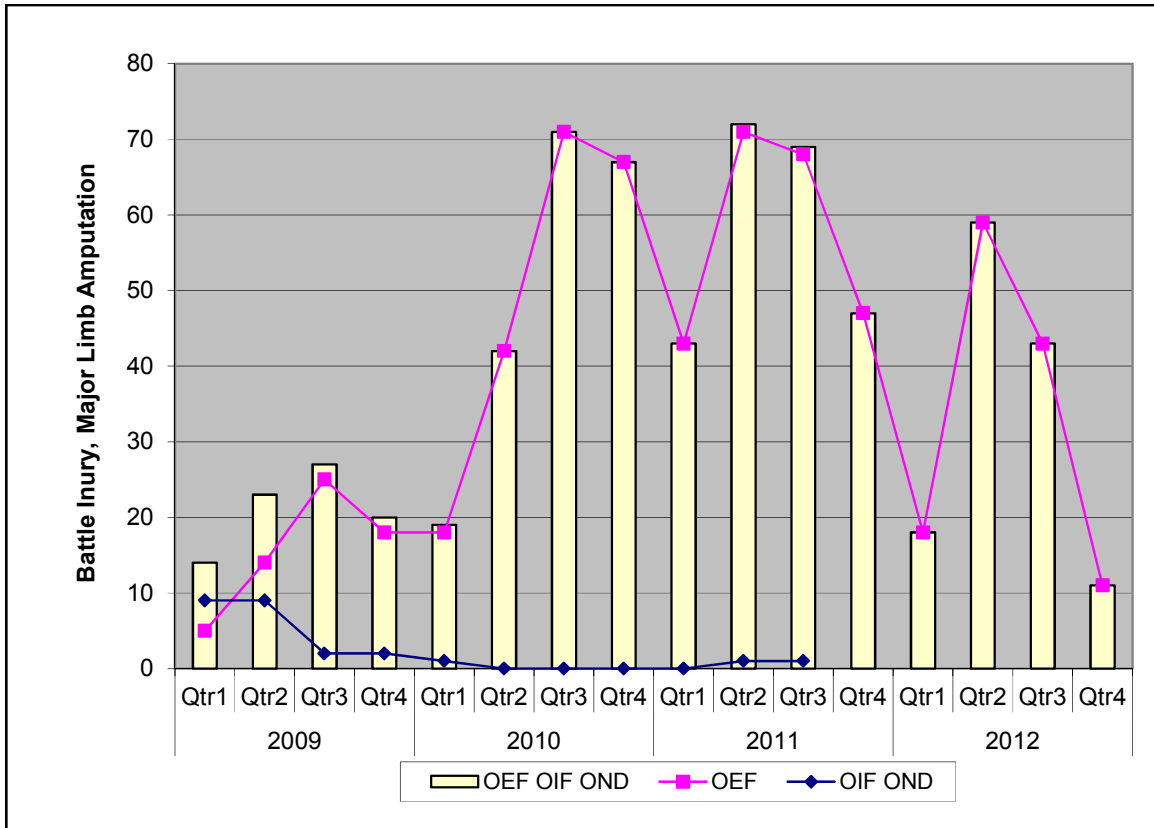


From 2003 until the first quarter of 2009, the majority of the major limb amputations due to battle injuries occurred in OIF. In the second quarter of 2009, however, the trend changed, and since that time the majority of the major limb amputations due to battle injuries have occurred in OEF.

**Figure 4** charts the number of major-limb amputations due to a battle injury in OIF/OND and OEF from January 2009 through December 2012 for all services. Major limb amputations include limb(s), partial limb(s), or full or partial hand and/or foot amputations.

**Figure 4. Major-Limb Amputations Due to Battle Injuries in OIF/OND and OEF**

(as of January 3, 2013)



**Source:** CRS communication with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, February 5, 2013. Data from DOD-VA Extremity Trauma & Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE).

## Self-Inflicted Wounds

According to DOD’s casualty website, as of January 9, 2013, 235 servicemembers died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OIF/OND and 97 died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OEF.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Personnel and Procurement Statistics, Statistical Information and Analysis Department, OIF at [https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report\\_oif\\_type.xhtml](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_oif_type.xhtml), OND at [https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report\\_ond\\_type.xhtml](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_ond_type.xhtml), and OEF at [https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report\\_oef\\_type.xhtml](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_oef_type.xhtml).

## Gender Distribution of Deaths

**Table 5** and **Table 6** provide statistics on the gender distribution of OIF/OND and OEF casualties (also available on DOD's website, <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/>). All numbers for OIF/OND and OEF are current as of January 17, 2013. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 5. OIF/OND Gender Distribution of Deaths**

(as of January 17, 2013)

| Gender       | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Male         | 4,365           | 97.5              |
| Female       | 110             | 2.5               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4,475</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

**Source:** Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

**Table 6. OEF Gender Distribution of Deaths**

(as of January 17, 2013)

| Gender       | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Male         | 2,122           | 98.0              |
| Female       | 42              | 2.0               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,164</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

**Source:** Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

## Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

**Table 7** and **Table 8** provide statistics on the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF/OND and OEF casualties (also on DOD's website, <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/>). All numbers for OIF/OND and OEF are current as of January 17, 2013. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 7. OIF/OND Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths**

(as of January 17, 2013)

| Race/Ethnicity                            | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native             | 43              | 1.0               |
| Asian                                     | 78              | 1.7               |
| Black or African American                 | 444             | 9.9               |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 18              | 0.4               |
| White                                     | 3,696           | 82.6              |
| Multiple Races                            | 63              | 1.4               |
| Unknown                                   | 133             | 3.0               |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>4,475</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

**Source:** Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

**Table 8. OEF Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths**  
(as of January 17, 2013)

| Race/Ethnicity                            | Military Deaths | % of Total Deaths |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| American Indian/Alaska Native             | 27              | 1.3               |
| Asian                                     | 58              | 2.7               |
| Black or African American                 | 170             | 7.9               |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 6               | 0.3               |
| White                                     | 1,848           | 85.4              |
| Multiple Races                            | 26              | 1.2               |
| Unknown                                   | 29              | 1.3               |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>2,164</b>    | <b>100.0</b>      |

**Source:** Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

## Medical Evacuation Statistics for U.S. Military Personnel

There were 52,065 unique servicemembers evacuated for medical reasons from OIF/OND and 23,742 unique servicemembers evacuated for medical reasons from OEF. One servicemember may have had multiple deployments or multiple evacuation events. Similarly, servicemembers may be counted in OIF/OND and OEF due to multiple deployments. **Table 9** and **Table 10** list total medical evacuations from each theater, not unique servicemember totals. All numbers for OIF/OND and OEF are current as of December 3, 2012. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table 9. OIF/OND Medical Evacuations**  
(as of December 3, 2012)

|                                     | Number        | Percentage   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| OIF/OND Battle Injuries             | 9,042         | 16.9         |
| OIF/OND Disease/Non-Battle Injuries | 11,607        | 83.1         |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>20,649</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Source:** CRS correspondence with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data from Transportation Command (TRASCOM), TRAC2ES.

**Table 10. OEF Medical Evacuations**  
(as of December 3, 2012)

|                                 | Number        | Percentage   |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| OEF Battle Injuries             | 5,746         | 23.7         |
| OEF Disease/Non-Battle Injuries | 18,463        | 76.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>24,209</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**Source:** CRS correspondence with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, December 13, 2012. Data from Transportation Command (TRASCOM), TRAC2ES.

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