



CRS Report for Congress

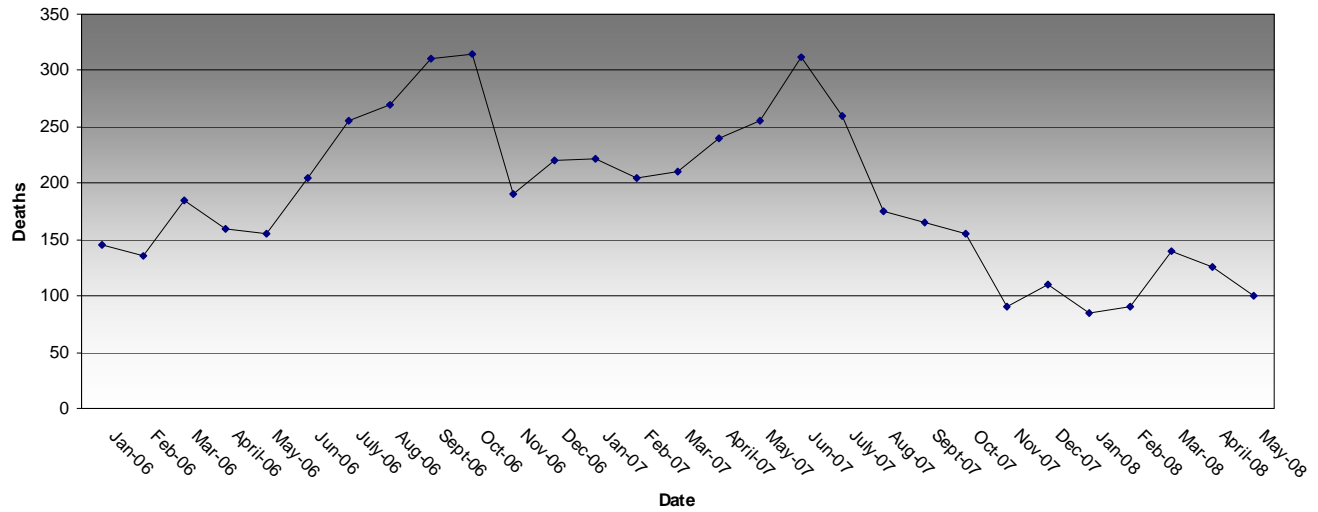
Iraqi Police and Security Forces Casualties Estimates

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Summary

This report presents various governmental and non-governmental estimates of Iraqi police and security forces fatalities. The Department of Defense (DOD) regularly updates total U.S. military deaths and wounded statistics from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), as reflected in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: U.S. Casualties*, and has released the monthly pattern of Iraqi security forces deaths. For information on Iraqi civilian deaths, see CRS Report RS22537, *Iraqi Civilian Deaths Estimates*. Because these estimates are based on varying time periods and have been created using differing methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using them and should look on them as guideposts rather than as statements of fact. This report will be updated as needed.

The Department of Defense (DOD) has recently released a chart (see **Figure 1**) showing Iraqi Security Forces deaths over time; it has not released the specific numbers associated with the chart, and there have been conflicting reports of deaths from news sources and non-profits. Bearing this caveat, **Table 1**, below, provides Iraqi security forces and police officers casualty estimates from non-governmental sources. These estimates are based on varying time periods and have been created using differing methodologies, and therefore readers should exercise caution when using these statistics.

Figure 1. Iraqi Security Forces Deaths, January 2006 - May 2008

Source: CRS rendition of DOD graph, as derived from the Multi-National Corps - Iraq report, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2008*, [http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/Master_16_June_08_%20FINAL_SIGNED%20.pdf].

On November 29, 2007, the White House announced a 40% drop in Iraqi Security Force casualties since the surge operations began in June.¹ However, according to Major General Kevin J. Bergner in a Defense Department news briefing, the “Iraqi security forces in general, the Iraqi army and Iraqi police, [are] increasingly the first line of defense. They are suffering casualties, suffering losses frequently at two to three times that of the coalition.”² Listed in the table below are estimates offered by non-profits and media sources of Iraqi police and security forces casualties.

¹ White House Press Release, *Just the Facts: 2007 War Funding by the Numbers*, November 29, 2007.

² Kevin J. Bergner, *Major General Kevin J. Bergner Holds Defense Department News Briefing*, CQ Transcriptions, December 19, 2007.

Table 1. Iraqi Security Forces and Police Officers Deaths Estimates

Iraq Coalition Casualty Count estimate of security forces and police killed, June 2003 - August 11, 2008	8,528 ^a
Brookings Institution, <i>Iraq Index</i> , estimate of security forces and police killed, June 2003 - July 30, 2008	8,503 ^b
Associated Press, estimate of security forces killed, April 28, 2005 - August 10, 2008	6,453 ^c
CRS estimate using the Multi-National Corps - Iraq report, <i>Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2008</i> January 2006 - May 2008	approx. 5,484 ^d

Notes:

- a. Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, "Iraqi Police/Military," at [<http://icasualties.org>].
- b. Brookings Institution, *Iraq Index: Tracking Reconstruction and Security in Post-Saddam Iraq*, at [<http://www.brookings.edu/iraqindex>], p. 6.
- c. CRS communication with Associated Press, August 11, 2008.
- d. Multi-National Corps - Iraq, *Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, June 2008*, p.21, at [http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/Master_16_June_08_%20FINAL_SIGNED%20.pdf].

Table 2. Estimates of Wounded Iraqi Security Forces and Police Officers

Associated Press, estimate of security forces wounded, April 28, 2005 - August 10, 2008	7,432 ^a
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Notes:

- a. CRS communication with Associated Press, August 11, 2008.