

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

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 June 1, 2006, according to DOD, the United States had 128,789 troops stationed in Iraq — 102,709 active component and 26,080 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

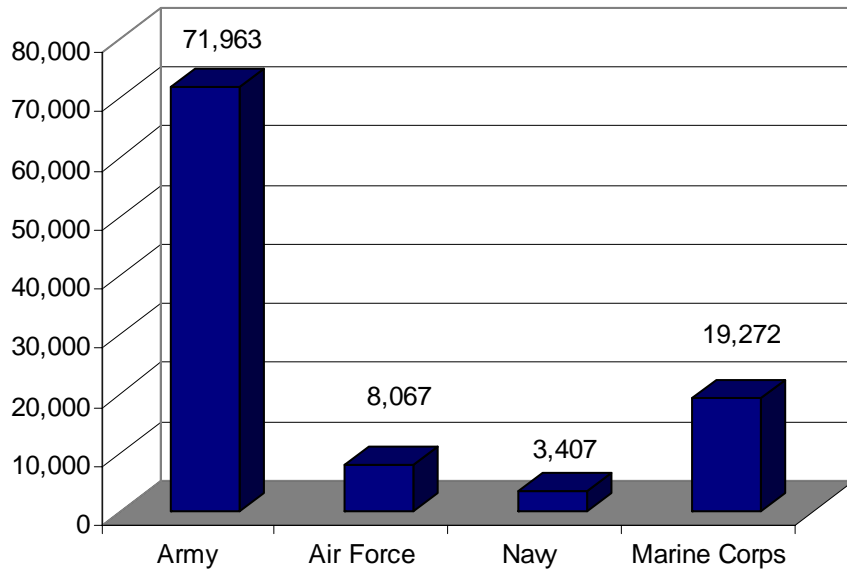
As of June 1, 2006, according to DOD, the United States had 128,789 military personnel deployed in Iraq. Of these, 102,709 were active component personnel and 26,080 were National Guard and Reserves. **Figures 1 and 2** provide the distribution by armed service of active component personnel. These totals do not include 16,500 military support personnel in Kuwait, nor naval personnel aboard ships patrolling through the Persian Gulf.¹

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>]

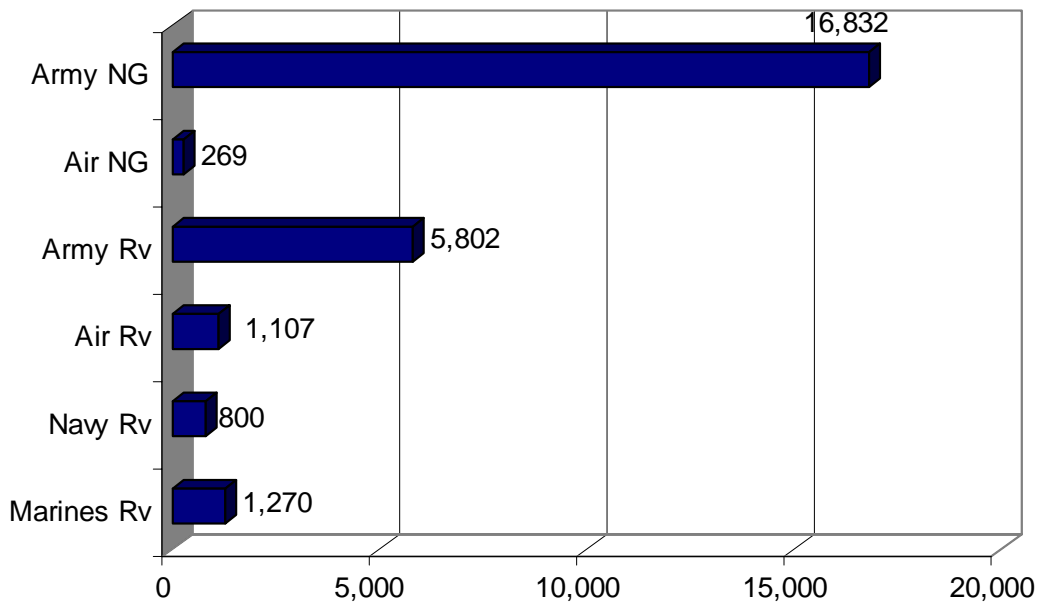
¹ DOD Sheet Fact, *Global Commitments*, May 10, 2006.

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



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

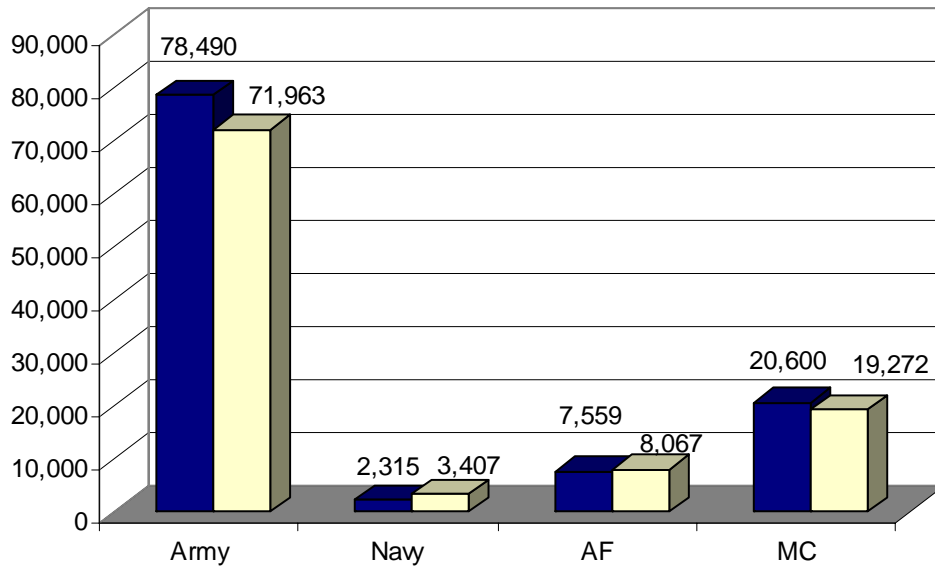
**Figure 2. Reserve Component Personnel in Iraq
(as of June 1, 2006)**



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

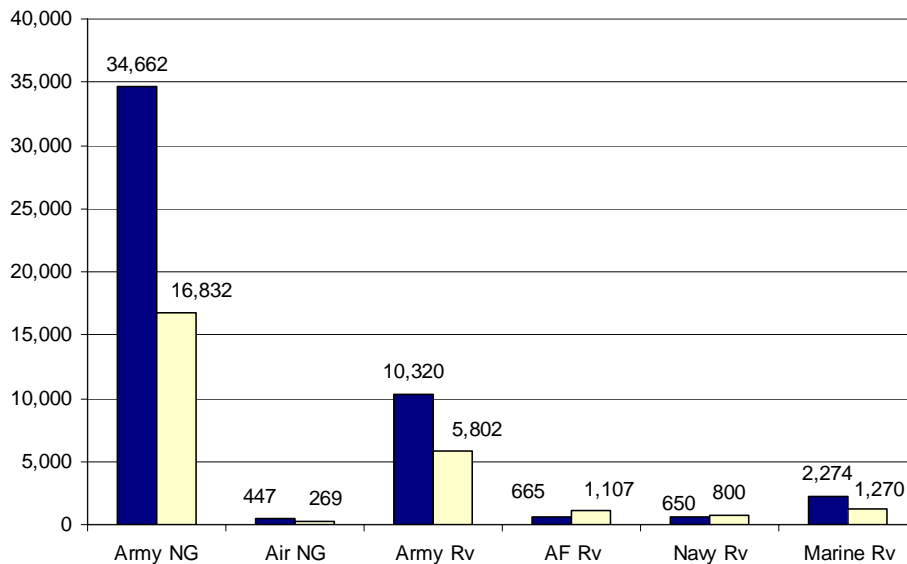
Comparative Operation Iraqi Freedom U.S. Force Levels. Overall U.S. force levels in Iraq have been declining since 2005. Based on DOD statistics, **Figures 3, 4, and 5** provide comparative data on both active and reserve component force levels since November 2005. DOD officials have declined to project 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/June 2006)

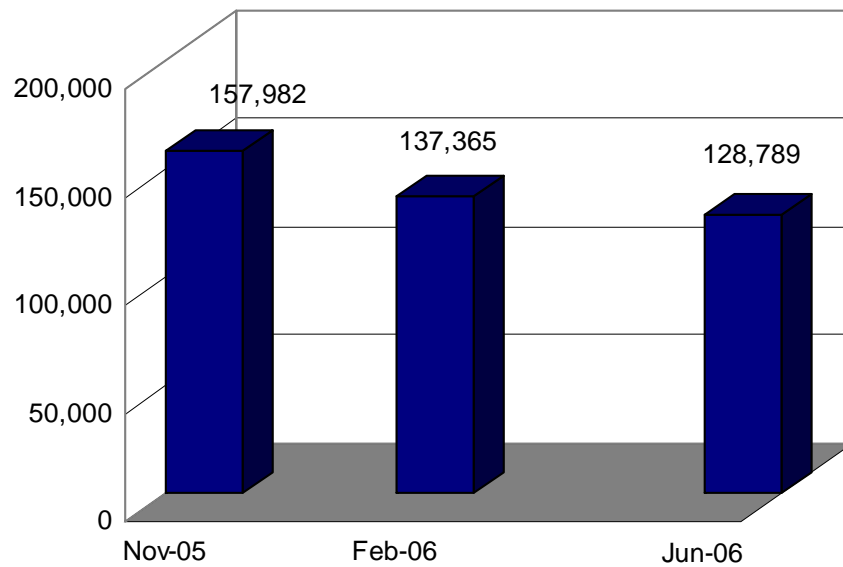


Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joints Chiefs of Staff, “Boots on Ground” data.

Figure 4. OIF Reserve Component Force Levels (in Nov. 2005 and June 2006)



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

Figure 5. Comparative U.S. Force Level in Iraq

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

Operation Iraqi Freedom Troop Rotations. In 2006, DOD will be undertaking the fifth rotation of units into Iraq. Rotations for Army units normally last for one year, whereas Marine Corps units operate on a seven-month rotation. DOD has released information on Army units to deploy to Iraq during 2006, as indicated below in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom 5 Rotational Units

Military Unit	Home Military Base	2006 Transitions
Division Headquarters, 25 th Infantry Division	Schofield Barracks, HI	currently in Iraq
13 th Corps Support Command	Fort Hood, TX	currently in Iraq
1 st Brigade, 34 th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard	Stillwater, MN	currently in Iraq
2 nd Brigade, 1 st Infantry Division	Schweinfurt, Germany	“delayed” ^a
3 rd Brigade, 2 nd Infantry Division	Fort Lewis, WA	early August 2006
3 rd Brigade, 82 nd Airborne Division	Fort Bragg, NC	early August 2006
3 rd Brigade, 25 th Infantry Division	Schofield Barracks, HI	mid-September 2006
2 nd Brigade, 10 th Mountain Division	Fort Drum, NY	mid-September 2006

Source: DOD News Releases, November 7, 2005 and DOD Army Public Affairs Office, May 2006.
 a. includes DOD News Releases, May 8, 2006. Deployment decision is pending.