



# Iraq: U.S. Casualties

**Susan G. Chesser**  
Information Research Specialist

January 29, 2009

Congressional Research Service

7-5700

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

RS21578

The following casualty data was compiled by the Department of Defense (DOD), as tallied from the agency's press releases. **Table 1** provides statistics on fatalities during Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, and is ongoing, as well as on the number of fatalities since May 1, 2003, plus statistics on those wounded, but not killed, since March 19, 2003. Statistics may be revised as circumstances are investigated and as all records are processed through the U.S. military's casualty system. More frequent updates are available at DOD's website at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/> under "Casualty Update."

A detailed casualty summary that includes data on deaths by cause, as well as statistics on soldiers wounded in action, is available at DOD's website at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>.

**Table 1. Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Fatalities and Wounded  
as of January 28, 2009, 10 a.m. EST**

Fatalities	March 19, 2003, to the Present	May 1, 2003, to the Present	Wounded	March 19, 2003, to the Present
Hostile	3,406	3,289	In action <sup>a</sup>	31,004
Non-hostile	828	795	Not Returned to Duty	13,646
Total	4,234	4,084	—	—

**Source:** DOD press releases.

**Note:** The President's statement about combat operations in Iraq having ended can be found in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, May 1, 2003, p. 516.

a. Includes the "Not Returned to Duty" figure.

## Author Contact Information

Susan G. Chesser  
Information Research Specialist  
[schesser@crs.loc.gov](mailto:schesser@crs.loc.gov), 7-9547