

Five Years in Iraq: 3,988 US and 85,000+ Iraq Dead

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BAGHDAD – President George W. Bush launched "Operation Iraqi Freedom" at 9:30 pm on Wednesday, March 19, 2003



in the United States, when it was already 5:30 am in Baghdad on Thursday, March 20, with a bombing blitz dubbed "shock and awe" by the American military. Sometime soon, five years later, the U.S. military will suffer the 4,000th death of the war in Iraq. These figures represent a major contrast to the 382 casualties in the Gulf War.

When the 1,000th American died in September 2004, the insurgency was just gaining steam. The 2,000th death came as Iraq held its first elections in decades, in October 2005. The U.S. announced its 3,000th loss on the last day of 2006, at the end of a year rocked by sectarian violence. The 4,000th death will come with the war further out of the public eye, and replaced by other topics such as the struggling U.S. economy that are

front-and-center in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Analysts say the 4,000 dead, while an arbitrary marker, could inject the war debate back into the campaign season, particularly with the war's fifth anniversary falling on Thursday. Or, with overall violence lower in Iraq, the milestone could pass with far less public discussion than in past years. Last year was the deadliest for American troops in Iraq, with 901 troops killed. As of Sunday, at least 3,988 Americans have died in Iraq.

The number killed in Iraq is far less than in other American wars. In the **American Revolution** – 1,145; **War of 1812** – 2,260; **Mexican War** – 13,283; **Civil War (Union)** – 364,511 and (**Confederate**) - 133,821; **Spanish/American War** – 2,446; **WWI** – 116,708; **WWII** – 407,316. In more recent times, **Vietnam**, the U.S. lost on average about 4,850 troops a year from 1963-75. In the **Korean War**, from 1950-53, the U.S. lost about 12,300 soldiers a year. Soldiers and analysts alike say the impact of the casualties in Iraq has been largely lost on many Americans who have no personal connection to the war.

A 2006 Duke University study found it 100 times more likely that an American knew one of the 292,000 Americans killed in World War II than someone today would know a service member slain in Iraq. Superintendent Steve Martin.

Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey said during a recent speech at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York that the situation for U.S. soldiers in Iraq is "infinitely better" now than during 2006, when Americans were losing the equivalent of a battalion - about 600 to 1,000 soldiers - a month to deaths and injuries. But McCaffrey said the U.S. military is being drained of its energy and morale because of the slow pace of training that will allow more Iraqi soldiers to take over the fight. American soldiers, he said, are "becoming increasingly unsure about the position they've been placed in."

What that position is will largely be determined by who wins the presidency in November. "The military is very conscious of the long-term costs of the war," said Alterman.

1. In paragraph form, analyze and interpret the results of the 2006 Duke University study in the passage above.
2. God forbid the overall number of U.S. troops who perish in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" ever escalated to approximately 9.25% of the Vietnam War, how many more lives would be lost?
3. Some experts predict that in order for the U.S. to achieve victory in Iraq, an occupation not to exceed x amount of years overall is imminent. The following equation reveals this figure: $|4(x + 6)| + 9 = |5(2 + x) + 8|$
4. The Iraq war has cost American taxpayers about \$526 billion so far – and could reach \$2 trillion by the year 2017 according to one study by Congress's Joint Economic Committee. At this rate, what percentage of the war's financial investment remains? Additionally, by 2017, how many more Iraqi deaths will occur than the U.S. if the present rate declines by a projected 14%?
5. The Pentagon is releasing a report saying, one in five Americans (or a quarter million serviceman and women) who have been in Iraq are coming back with brain injuries. Based upon this research, how many troops have served in the Iraq war?
6. Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2007-08 series of *The Daughtry Times*®? Express your answer as a fraction, decimal, percentage, and pie chart.
7. Complete *The Daughtry Times*® "Writing Guidelines" checklist on all questions requiring a written response. To ensure compliance, neatly label each component adjacent to your paragraph.
8. Complete *The Daughtry Times*® "Preliminary Reading Guidelines" checklist prior to reading the passage and clearly identify each essential component of the article on your (title, keywords in italics, etc.)
9. Using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *insurgency*, *morale*, *arbitrary*, *sectarian*, and *blitz*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
10. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind *The Daughtry Times*®.

