Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians

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### Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians

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Summary

This report collects statistics from a variety of sources on casualties sustained during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), which began on October 7, 2001, and is ongoing. OEF actions take place primarily in Afghanistan; however, OEF casualties also includes American casualties in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen.

Casualty data of U.S. military forces are compiled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), as tallied from the agency’s press releases. Also included are statistics on those wounded but not killed. Statistics may be revised as circumstances are investigated and as 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 of U.S. military forces that includes data on deaths by cause, as well as statistics on soldiers wounded in action, is available at the following DOD website: http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm.

NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) does not post casualty statistics of the military forces of partner countries on the ISAF website at http://www.isaf.nato.int/. ISAF press releases state that it is ISAF policy to defer to the relevant national authorities to provide notice of any fatality. For this reason, this report uses fatality data of coalition forces as compiled by CNN.com and posted online at http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2004/oef.casualties/index.html.

Casualty data of Afghan civilians are reported quarterly by the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). Deaths of Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army personnel are reported by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in the quarterly reports to Congress that are required as part of P.L. 110-181.

Because the estimates of Afghan casualties contained in this report are based on varying time periods and have been created using different methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using them and should look to them as guideposts rather than as statements of fact.

This report will be updated as needed.
The following tables present data on U.S. military casualties in Operation Enduring Freedom, deaths of coalition partners in Afghanistan, and Afghan casualties, respectively.

**Table 1. Operation Enduring Freedom, U.S. Fatalities and Wounded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fatalities In and Around Afghanistan&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Fatalities in Other Locations&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Total Fatalities&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Wounded in Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hostile&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>Returned to Duty within 72 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hostile&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>Not Returned to Duty within 72 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,204</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1,298</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<sup>a</sup> “Fatalities in and around Afghanistan” includes casualties that occurred in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan.

<sup>b</sup> “Other locations” includes casualties that occurred in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen.

<sup>c</sup> Fatalities include two Department of Defense civilian personnel.

<sup>d</sup> According to the Department of Defense *Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, as amended through 31 August 2005, a “hostile casualty” is a victim of a terrorist activity or a casualty as the result of combat or attack by any force against U.S. forces, available at http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA43918.

<sup>e</sup> The above-named reference defines a “nonhostile casualty” as a casualty that is not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity, such as casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, or combat fatigue.

**Table 2. American Casualties by Year through September 30, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Deaths</th>
<th>Total Wounded in Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>2,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 through September 30</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>3,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Deaths of Coalition Partners in Afghanistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Deaths</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th># of Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Non-U.S. Coalition Fatalities** 800


Table 4. Afghan Casualties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th># of Casualties</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghan Civilians</td>
<td>January 1, 2010-</td>
<td>1,271 killed</td>
<td>76% of civilian deaths and injuries were caused by anti-Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 30, 2010</td>
<td>1,997 injureda</td>
<td>elements, which includes the Taliban as well as other individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>or groups who engage in armed conflict with the Government of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan or members of the International Military Forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2,412 killed</td>
<td>67% of civilian deaths were attributed to actions of anti-Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,566 injuredb</td>
<td>elements (78% of these deaths were caused by improvised explosive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>devices and suicide attacks).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,118 killedc</td>
<td>25% of civilian deaths were attributed to pro-Government forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,523 killedd</td>
<td>8% of civilian deaths were the result of cross-fire or improperly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>detonated ordnance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Period</td>
<td># of Casualties</td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan National Army</td>
<td>January 1 - June 30, 2010</td>
<td>214&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>292&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>537&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan National Police</td>
<td>January 1 – June 30, 2010</td>
<td>289&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>639&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>1,412&lt;sup&gt;i&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** Compiled by the Congressional Research Service from noted sources.


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