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## Fact Sheet on U.S. Military Casualties

What are the long-term medical consequences of the war in Iraq? The Iraq battlefield is drastically different than other wars – it entails an extended occupation, urban combat, and advances in armor protection and medical improvements for the wounded. Casualty rates in Iraq are dramatically different from other conflicts. In both WWI and WWII, for every 10 U.S. soldiers killed, there were around 17 soldiers wounded. By contrast, in Iraq, for every 10 U.S. soldiers killed, there are 76 wounded. While the fatality rate in Operation Iraqi Freedom is lower than other wars, the relative number of wounded soldiers has drastically increased. This represents an enormous new frontier of veterans who have experienced trauma in war. The injuries are often substantial. The U.S. will with paying for care for these veterans for decades to come.

*Table 1 Historical Ratio of U.S. Military Casualties*

| <b>Conflict</b>                          | <b>Wounded</b> | <b>Dead</b> | <b>Ratio of Wounded/ Dead</b> |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Revolutionary War                        | 6,177          | 4,435       | 1.4                           |
| War of 1812                              | 4,605          | 2,260       | 2.0                           |
| Mexican War                              | 4,152          | 13,283      | 0.3                           |
| Civil War                                | 281,881        | 364,511     | 0.8                           |
| Spanish-American War                     | 1,662          | 2,446       | 0.7                           |
| WWI                                      | 204,002        | 116,516     | 1.8                           |
| WWII                                     | 671,846        | 405,399     | 1.7                           |
| Korean War                               | 103,284        | 36,574      | 2.8                           |
| Vietnam                                  | 153,303        | 58,209      | 2.6                           |
| Persian Gulf War                         | 467            | 382         | 1.2                           |
| Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) | 988            | 339         | 2.9                           |
| Operation Iraqi Freedom                  | 21,077         | 2,767       | 7.6                           |

Source: Department of Defense, Statistical Analysis Information Division. "Department of Defense Principal Wars - US Military Personnel Serving and Casualties."; "U.S. Military Casualties- OIF & OEF Combined, as of October 14, 2006."

*Table 2: Operation Iraqi Freedom Casualty Reason*

| <b>Casualty Reason</b>              |          |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
|                                     | <b>#</b> | <b>As % of total</b> |
| Total                               | 20,895   | 100%                 |
| Weaponry<br>Artillery/Mortar/Rocket | 1,969    | 9%                   |
| Weaponry Explosive Device           | 11,178   | 53%                  |
| Weaponry Gunshot                    | 1,274    | 6%                   |
| Other                               | 6,474    | 31%                  |

Source: Department of Defense, Statistical Analysis Information Division  
 "U.S. Military Casualties - Operation Iraqi Freedom , as of September 30, 2006."