

THE WAR IN IRAQ

9/12/07

TOTALS

- **CASUALTIES TO DATE: 3,772** (*Source: iCasualties.org*)
- **APPROPRIATED COST TO DATE: \$379 BILLION** (*Source: CRS*)

SIGNIFICANT DATES

2002

- **1/30/02:** President Bush refers to Iraq as part of an “Axis of Evil.”
- **9/12/02:** President Bush tells skeptical world leaders at a UN General Assembly session to confront the “grave and gathering danger” in Iraq, or stand aside as the US acts.
- **10/16/02:** H.J.Res.114, To Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq is signed into law (PL 107-243).
- **11/18/02:** UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq, backed by a UN resolution that threatens serious consequences if Iraq is in “material breach” of its terms.
- **12/19/02:** US accuses Iraq of being in “material breach” of the UN resolution after Hans Blix states that the Iraqi arms declaration contains little new information about its weapons of mass destruction capability.
- **12/31/02:** UN inspection team member admits to finding no evidence of WMD.

2003

- **1/9/03:** Hans Blix states that UN weapons inspectors have not found any “smoking guns” in their search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but acknowledges that Iraq’s 12,000 page weapons declaration was incomplete.
- **2/5/03:** Secretary Powell presents the case for war to the UN Security Council.
- **3/5/03:** The foreign ministers of France, Russia and Germany release a joint declaration stating that they will “not allow” a resolution authorizing military action to pass the UN Security Council.
- **3/16/03:** Vice President Cheney says “my belief is that we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators” on Meet the Press.
- **3/20/03:** Operation Iraqi Freedom is launched.
- **4/13/03:** Tikrit, the last Baathist hold-out, is taken by Marines.
- **5/1/03:** President delivers “Mission Accomplished” speech.
- **8/20/03:** Attack on U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.
- **12/14/03:** Saddam Hussein captured.

2004

- **1/17/04:** U.S. casualties reach 500. Daily attacks on U.S. troops average 17.
- **1/28/04:** Former U.S. weapons inspector David Kay testifies that “we were wrong” about WMD in Iraq.
- **4/28/04:** Images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib emerge.
- **Total U.S. casualties for April:** 135 (second overall deadliest month of war)
- **6/28/04:** U.S. transfers sovereignty to Iraq.
- **8/27/04:** President acknowledges for the first time that he made a “miscalculation of what the conditions would be” in post-war Iraq.
- **9/7/04:** Total U.S. casualties reach 1,000.
- **November 2004:** U.S. assault on Fallujah leads to casualties – 137 total. (deadliest overall month of war)

2005

- **1/27/05:** 30 Marines, Sailor die in helicopter crash (deadliest single event yet for U.S. forces).
- **1/30/05:** Iraqis vote to form a Transitional National Assembly.
- **3/3/05:** Total U.S. casualties reach 1,500.
- **5/30/05:** Cheney says insurgency is in its “last throes.”
- **7/17/05:** Massive suicide bombing south of Baghdad kills 100+ Iraqis.
- **10/15/05:** Iraqis ratify draft constitution.
- **10/26/05:** U.S. casualties reach 2,000.
- **12/15/05:** Iraqis elect members of Assembly.

2006

- **January 2006:** More than 180 Iraqis killed over two-day period in al Qaeda attacks.
- **2/22/06:** Bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, a Shia shrine. 1300 Iraqis killed over next few days (Washington Post).
- **Spring/Summer:** Sectarian violence escalates as Shia militias expand.
- **4/21/06:** Maliki replaces Jaafari as Prime Minister.
- **6/8/06:** Zarqawi killed in air raid.
- **6/15/06:** U.S. casualties reach 2,500.
- **June/July 2006:** Maliki attempts to quell rampant violence in Baghdad with new checkpoints. Experiment fails.
- **July 2006:** Deadliest month of the war for Iraqis. 110 average deaths per day (Washington Post). 1,666 total bombings (NYT).
- **August 2006:** Generals Abizaid and Casey admit civil war is “possible.”
- **9/29/06:** “At least 100,000” Iraqi civilians killed to date (Washington Post).
- **October 2006:** 22% spike in attacks (AP), militias continue to splinter into smaller, more radicalized cells. 106 U.S. casualties. 3,709 Iraqis killed and 100,000 fleeing monthly (UN).

- **11/5/06:** Hussein verdict.
- **12/5/06:** Refugees International predicts Iraq will soon become the world's largest refugee crisis – bigger than Darfur.
- **12/6/06:** Iraq Study Group issues report, calling the situation in Iraq “grave and deteriorating.”
- Total U.S. casualties for December are 111, making it the third deadliest month of the war and the most deadly in over two years. IED attacks at an all-time high, killing 72 U.S. troops. Weekly attacks increase to 959.
- **12/30/06:** U.S. casualties reach 3,000.

2007

- **1/10/07:** President announces that he will send 21,500 additional troops to Iraq.
- **1/20/07:** 25 US troops killed in Iraq (3rd-deadliest day for US troops since the beginning of the war)
- **1/31/07:** There are approximately 1.8 million internally displaced people in Iraq, and an additional 2 million Iraqi refugees outside Iraq. The US has admitted 466 of them since 2003. (NY Times editorial)
- **2/1/07:** Pessimistic Iraq National Intelligence Estimate released, which describes increasing levels of violence and the inability of Iraqi forces to deal with it.
- **2/3/07:** 130 Iraqis die when a truck bomb explodes in a Baghdad market, in the deadliest attack since the US first invaded Iraq.
- **2/10/07:** General Petraeus formally takes command of troops in Iraq.
- **2/11/07:** General Odom, former head of Army Intelligence and the NSA, writes devastating op-ed explaining why victory is no longer possible in Iraq.
- **2/12/07:** 70 people were killed when a bomb exploded in a crowded market on the one-year anniversary of the bombing of the Shiite mosque at Samarra, which touched off the ongoing sectarian violence.
- **2/16/07:** House passes non-binding resolution 246-182 opposing President's surge plan. Senate fails to agree to debate the resolution in a special Saturday session the following day.
- **2/21/07:** Tony Blair announces withdrawal of 1,600 British troops over the next several months.
- **2/26/07:** Iraqi cabinet approves a draft of a law that would set guidelines for distribution of oil revenues and foreign investment in the oil industry.
- **2/27/07:** U.S. agrees to participate in talks with Iran and Syria, organized by the Iraqi government.
- **3/1/07:** U.S. officials announce that there will not be full-time electric power in Baghdad until 2013.
- **3/10/07:** President announces that he will send an additional 4700 troops to Iraq, in support of the 21,000 announced in January.

- **3/10/07:** U.S., Iran and representatives from 11 other nations meet in Baghdad to discuss Iraq's future. U.S. asks Iraq's neighbors to stop supplying arms to Iraqi militias; Iran denies that it has done so.
- **3/19/07:** The War in Iraq enters its fifth year.
- **3/22/07:** In his first visit to Iraq, UN Secretary General Ban meets with Prime Minister Maliki. A mortar shell lands just outside the building during the meeting.
- **3/23/07:** 9 people are killed in an assassination attempt that leaves Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister seriously wounded.
- **3/27/07:** Iraqi government announces plan to allow former Baath party members to serve in the government.
- **3/31/07:** CRS report indicates that military operations could be funded through July based on current appropriations, despite claims by the Bush Administration that the military will have to start making cut-backs by the end of April without approval of emergency funds.
- **4/7/07:** U.S. and Iraqi soldiers begin battling Shiite militias in Diwaniya. Moktada al-Sadr calls on Iraqi security forces to unite with his militiamen against the American military.
- **4/9/07:** Tens of thousands of Iraqis loyal to Moqtada al Sadr fill the streets of Najaf to protest U.S. military presence.
- **4/11/07:** Defense Department announces that Army unit tours of duty will be extended from 12 months to 15 months.
- **4/12/07:** Red Cross reports that situation for civilians in Iraq is worsening.
- **4/13/07:** Suicide bomber sets off explosive inside Iraqi Parliament building, killing eight Iraqis, including two parliamentarians. This is the deadliest attack inside the Green Zone to date.
- **4/16/07:** Six Iraqi government ministers loyal to Moqtada al Sadr resign over Prime Minister Maliki's refusal to set a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawal.
- **4/18/07:** A series of bombs kill 171 people in Baghdad, in the deadliest day of attacks since the troop increase two months ago. 10 more people are killed the following day.
- **4/29/07:** U.S. government inspectors find that seven out of eight of the reconstruction projects they inspected in Iraq were no longer operating as designed because of technical failures, lack of proper maintenance, and apparent looting.
- Total U.S. casualties for April are 104, making this the deadliest month in 2007.
- **5/1/07:** Congressional leaders mark the 4-year anniversary of the President's "Mission Accomplished" speech by signing the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act.
- **5/9/07:** Pentagon informs an additional 35,000 soldiers that they are likely to go to Iraq by December.

- **5/11/07:** A majority of Iraq's Parliament members sign petition supporting a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.
- **5/12/07:** GAO report finds billions of dollars of Iraqi oil from the last four years unaccounted for.
- **5/12/07:** Attack on American patrol south of Baghdad leaves 5 dead and 3 missing. U.S. forces conduct massive manhunt for the missing soldiers; Jihadist insurgent group claims that it is holding the three Americans hostage, and that searching for them will be futile.
- **5/13/07:** U.S. and Iran announce that ambassadors from the two countries will meet to discuss Iraqi security efforts.
- **5/14/07:** Car bombings kill 55 and injure 155.
- **5/15/07:** President Bush appoints Lt. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, a critic of the troop surge, "war czar."
- **5/24/07:** Congress passes U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007. The President signs the bill the following day.
- **5/25/07:** Poll shows that 61 percent of Americans say the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq and 76 percent say things are going badly there.
- **5/25/07:** White House said to be considering significant troop reductions and scaled-back mission by 2008 (NY Times).
- **5/29/07:** 10 more American soldiers are killed in Iraq, making May the third deadliest month since the beginning of the war.
- Total U.S. military deaths in May are 127, making May the deadliest month since November 2004. There were approximately 4,200 attacks against coalition troops and civilians in May, compared with 3,500 in May 2006 and 1,900 in May 2005.
- **6/2/07:** Iraqi Ministry of Interior reports that 726 unidentified bodies were found in Baghdad in May, many bound and shot in the head or showing signs of torture and execution, compared with 411 during April.
- **6/4/07:** 14 American soldiers are killed over the weekend in a series of makeshift bomb attacks.
- **6/10/07:** Brookings Institute numbers show that only 36 percent of Iraqis believe their country is headed in the right direction.
- **6/13/07:** Blasts destroy remnants of the same Shiite shrine in Samarra where an attack last year plunged the country into a wave of deadly sectarian violence. Shiite political and religious leaders appeal to followers not to retaliate.
- **6/15/07:** During a visit to Iraq, Defense Secretary Gates states that the Administration is "disappointed in the progress" the Iraqi political leadership has made toward reconciliation.
- **6/16/07:** Gunmen blow up a Sunni mosque, apparently in retaliation for the destruction of the Shiite shrine in Samarra.

- **6/18/07:** More than 2,000 U.S. troops begin a major attack against Sunni insurgents in Diyala Province. Eighty percent of the al Qaeda leaders there reportedly left the city before the offensive began.
- **6/19/07:** “Failed States” report lists Iraq as the second most unstable country in the world.
- **6/20/07:** At least 61 people are killed and 130 wounded in a truck bomb explosion at a Shiite mosque in Baghdad.
- **6/21/07:** Fourteen Americans are killed in five attacks in a 48-hour period.
- **6/25/07:** More than 40 people are killed in a wave of suicide bombings, including a group of sheikhs who had joined the U.S. to fight al Qaeda in Iraq.
- **6/25/07:** Senator Richard Lugar, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, calls for a major change in Iraq strategy, stating that “the costs and risks of continuing down the current path outweigh the potential benefits that might be achieved.”
- **6/29/07:** Roadside bomb kills 5 U.S. soldiers, bringing the total U.S. troop deaths this month to 99. 329 U.S. soldiers have died in the last three months, making this the deadliest quarter since the war began in March 2003.
- **7/6/07:** U.N. refugee officials accuse donor countries of neglecting the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees flooding into neighboring Syria and Jordan. \$70 million has been donated; hundreds of millions of more dollars are needed.
- **7/8/07:** Suicide bomber kills 150 in a village in northern Iraq, one of the deadliest single bombings since the war began. Over 220 were killed during the weekend.
- **7/8/07:** Suicide bomber kills 23 Iraqi police recruits.
- **7/9/07:** Iraqi couple who worked for the U.S. Embassy found dead; group claiming responsibility says that the deaths were punishment for working with the U.S.
- **7/12/07:** Administration releases progress report mandated by Congress. The report includes findings that the Iraqi government has not made satisfactory progress on a number of key indicators, such as the ability of Iraqi forces to operate independently from U.S. troops and curbing sectarian bias in the government.
- **7/12/07:** House passes H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, which requires that the U.S. withdraw most combat troops by April 1.
- **7/17/07:** National Intelligence Estimate states that al Qaeda has gained strength over the last two years, and that the war in Iraq is fueling the threat of terrorist violence against the U.S.
- **7/17/07:** Suicide bomber kills 85 in Kirkuk; gunmen kill 29 in Diyala Province. The attacks suggest that insurgents may be shifting their efforts to areas farther from the center of U.S. military power in Baghdad.

- **7/20/07:** U.S. Ambassador to the UN Khalilzad publishes op-ed describing the importance of a UN role in Iraq.
- **7/23/07:** Car bombs kill 12 in what had been considered one of Baghdad's safest neighborhoods.
- **7/23/07:** Detailed coordinated strategy of the top American commander and the American ambassador in Iraq foresees a significant American role in the country through 2009.
- **9/4/07:** U.S. Government Accountability Office issues report on Iraq, concluding that Iraq has failed to meet all but 3 of the 18 military, economic, and political benchmarks.
- **9/6/07:** The Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq, chaired by General James Jones, releases their report, finding that Iraq's Interior Ministry is "dysfunctional" and recommending that the national police force be disbanded and reorganized.
- **9/10/07:** General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testify in front of the House Armed Service and Foreign Affairs Committees.

U.S. CASUALTIES

- 2003: 486
- 2004: 848
- 2005: 846
- 2006: 821
- 2007: 771
- TOTAL: 3,772