



April 4, 2008

Weekend Warriors to Frontline Soldiers

A State-by-State Account of the Toll of Deployments on National Guard Brigade Combat Teams

By Veterans for America's Wounded Warrior Outreach Program

Report Summary

Since September 11, 2001, the mission of the Army National Guard has changed dramatically. It has been transformed from a force primarily dedicated to domestic missions to a *de facto* operational reserve for the active-duty Army.

For the first time, Veterans for America, through its Wounded Warrior Outreach Program, has chronicled, state-by-state, the National Guard units that are serving on the frontlines. What is revealed is the severe intensity of combat they have experienced and the insufficient amount of time granted off between tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

National Guard Soldiers have been known for decades as “weekend warriors.” They leave civilian life one weekend a month and two weeks a year to fulfill their duty to their state and country—except for nearly the last seven years. Five brigade combat teams of the National Guard have served two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan and one, Indiana’s 76th Brigade Combat Team, just left for its third tour. New Jersey is preparing to deploy roughly half of its National Guard.

This overuse of the National Guard has grave consequences. In addition to the toll that long and repeated deployments take on families and communities across the country, about half the Soldiers in the National Guard who have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan returned home suffering from psychological trauma. This rate is almost one-third higher than that for active-duty Army members.

Overusing the National Guard and exposing them to high-intensity combat and extended tours is not sustainable. We cannot maintain our military strength if we continue to knowingly compound their war wounds.

Veterans for America calls upon Members of Congress to speak out against pausing the troop withdrawal from Iraq. Such a **pause will have devastating consequences for troops who have already given so much for their country.**

VETERANS FOR AMERICA

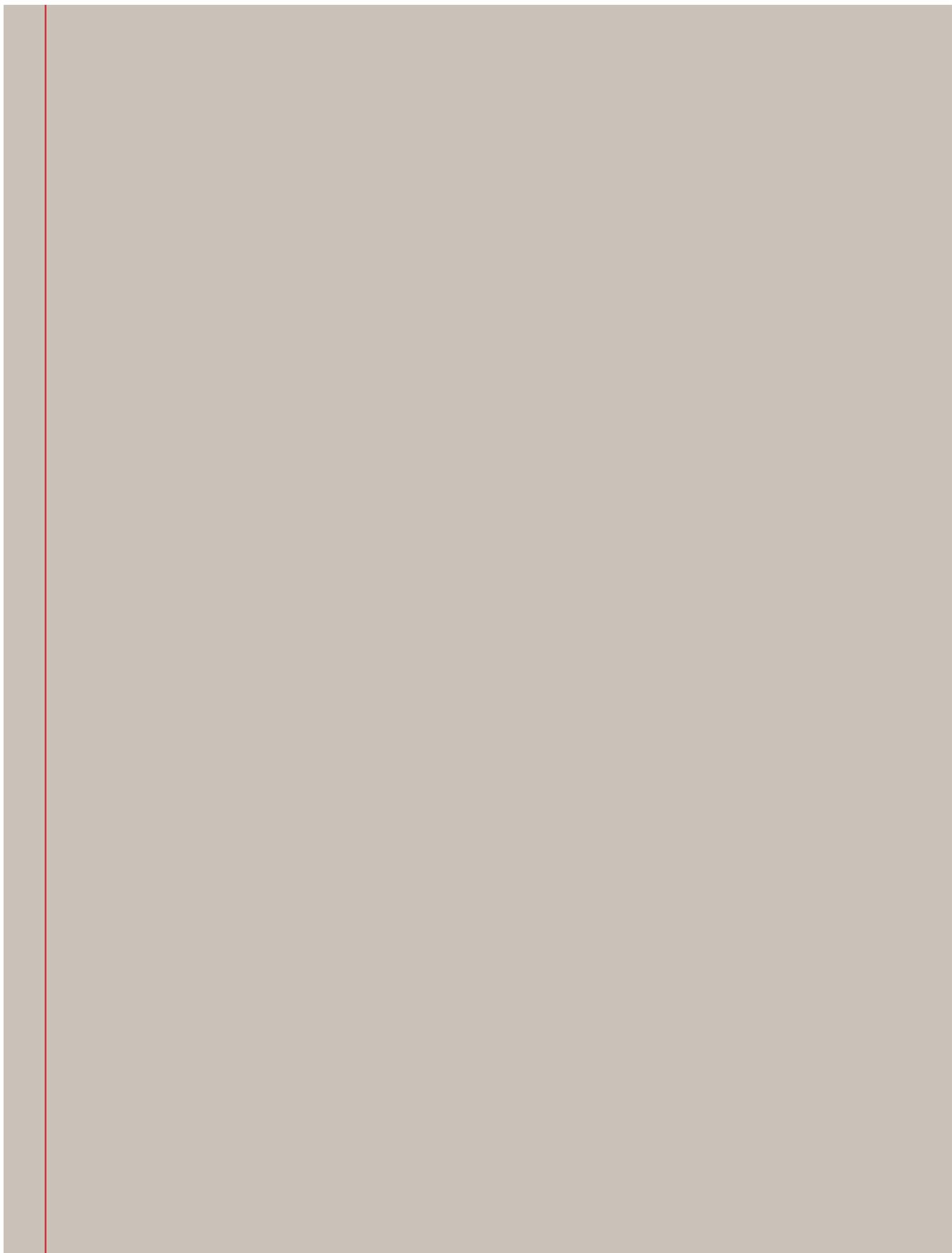
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INTRODUCTION

A transformation has been taking place in America: Our Army National Guard, once focused primarily on domestic missions, has become an operational reserve for the active-duty Army. Two statistics bring the point to light:

- Roughly 200,000 members of the Army National Guard have been deployed to both Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).¹
- 34 Army National Guard Brigade Combat Teams (BCT's) and one Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as single units. Additionally, multiple battalions and other elements of National Guard BCT's, have been deployed since 9/11.

This transformation comes at a great cost: 49% of members of the National Guard who have been deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan have returned from war with mental health problems.² This alone is an incredible statistic. When compared with their active-duty counterparts, the statistic is even more striking. Members of the National Guard who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are 29% more likely to develop post-combat mental health problems than active-duty Soldiers.³

When General David Petraeus testifies before Congress on April 8-9, 2008, the voice of our Soldiers must be heard. Rightly so, there are limits on what men and women in uniform can say. This being the case, Veterans for America (VFA) will convey the message that **pausing troop withdrawals will have devastating consequences for our troops, given the great post-combat burden that they are bearing as a result of repeated exposure to high-intensity combat.**⁴

The system of care designed to treat post-combat mental health injuries, the most common wounds of our current wars, is inadequate to the task and will be for the foreseeable future. The only step that can ease this burden is more time out of the fight to rest, re-train, and recuperate.

For years, Veterans for America has been working to improve the lives of servicemembers and their families, especially when Soldiers (and Marines) return from the frontlines. Post-combat mental health problems are a likely consequence of high-intensity combat.

Our work confirms the findings of a Presidential commission and a number of Department of Defense task forces: psychological injuries a signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One central fact is often omitted when these injuries are discussed: in many cases, these injuries are preventable, but doing so requires proper management of the military.

As this report by Veterans for America's Wounded Warrior Outreach Program makes clear, members of the Army National Guard who deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan often see high-intensity combat. For instance, based on VFA's best estimate, Georgia's 48th BCT suffered 25 fatalities when it was deployed to Iraq from May 2005 to June 2006. The 48th BCT's fatality rate was greater than the average for active-duty BCT's and more than four times greater than the National Guard BCT OIF fatality rate per deployment. As found in the Army-led Mental Health Advisory Team (MHAT) reports, high-intensity combat is directly correlated with higher rates of post-combat mental health problems.

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Demonstrating the intensity of combat for members of the Army National Guard, a report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in January 2008 found that of the 156,000 Post-Deployment Health Reassessments (PDHRAs) given to members of the National Guard and Reserves from June 2005 to January 1, 2008, almost 46% resulted in referrals for further physical or mental evaluations, and 47% of those (almost 34,000) were further referred to the VA.⁵

The strains on the Army National Guard have also undermined the credibility of some National Guard leaders. For instance, after the 29th BCT from Hawaii returned from its first deployment to Iraq in January 2006, Hawaii's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bob Lee, promised that the 29th BCT would not deploy again for five years.⁶ This was thought reasonable since the 29th had suffered almost as many KIA's on its tour of Iraq as an active-Army unit (and three times the KIA rate of other National Guard BCT's that had been deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan.) Unfortunately for members of the 29th BCT, the Pentagon announced in October 2007 that the unit would be deployed again in 2008. At that time, General Lee stated that he did not "feel good" about the unit's short time at home.⁷

One factor that greatly increases the challenges faced by members of National Guard BCT's is the necessity to return to civilian life shortly after a deployment. While active-duty Soldiers often have weeks, if not months, to rest, train, and reconnect with family members, National Guard Soldiers returning from deployment often only have days

before they return to the stresses of work and family. For instance, when the Soldiers from Arkansas' 39th BCT returned from their first tour to Iraq, they received seven days of reintegration briefings and then were demobilized.⁸ The brigade, including all the units attached to it during the deployment, lost 33 Soldiers and had over 500 wounded.⁹

The short turnaround time before military and civilian life partly explains a shocking fact unearthed by Veterans for America: members of the National Guard are half as likely to file VA claims as are their active-duty counterparts. In addition, National Guard VA claim requests are twice as likely to be rejected. While active-duty Soldiers return to demobilization sites where they can receive ongoing assistance post-combat-related injuries and readjustment challenges, members of the National Guard are not provided with this safety net. In addition, Guard Soldiers often live considerable distances from their assigned Armory and/or the nearest Veterans Administration Hospital. This increases their difficulty in accessing post-combat assistance and care.

Veterans for America was encouraged to find that some states such as New Hampshire have utilized resources provided by their Vet Center to provide post-combat mental health screening for members of the Army National Guard.

The National Guard's domestic response mission often adds additional stress to the lives of members of Guard BCT's. After a tour in which Louisiana's 256th BCT suffered fatalities

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almost 150% above the average per-tour rate for National Guard BCTs in Iraq, the members of the unit returned home to face the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Almost one-third of them found that their homes had been destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and later by Hurricane Rita. Six hundred of the unit's members volunteered to remain on active duty after they returned from Iraq to aid in the recovery efforts.¹⁰

New Jersey will soon also feel the stress created by a large deployment of members of its National Guard. Approximately 3,000 Soldiers from the state's 50th Brigade Combat Team—approximately half of all the members of the National Guard in New Jersey—are scheduled to begin mobilization in May for a deployment to Iraq in the fall of 2008.¹¹

As with the active-duty Army, some National Guard BCT's have also been subjected to deployments much longer than anyone could have expected. Minnesota's 1st BCT/34th ID had the longest continuous deployment in the US military post-9/11 when it served 22 consecutive months, 16 of those in Iraq. The 1st BCT/34th ID's extraordinarily long deployment led the Minnesota National Guard to develop the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program, which is designed to assist Guardsmen reintegrate into their civilian lives and to help them find treatment for any medical or psychological issues related to their service. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 mandates that this program become nationwide.

During the Iraq war, National Guard BCT's have made history multiple times. When 2,500 Soldiers from Ohio's 37th BCT deployed to Iraq in December 2007, this marked the largest post-WWII deployment of members of the Ohio National Guard's.¹² Since 9/11, many other states—including South Carolina and Tennessee—have had their largest post-WWII deployments.

Fortunately, some governors have begun to bring the concerns of Guard members to the fore. During a February 2008 visit to Washington, DC, Iowa Gov. Chet Culver insisted to Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that, "we need this administration to coordinate more effectively a National Guard strategy so that everyone is on the same page." He cited the strain of multiple deployments and the difficulty of providing Iowa's Guardsmen with help for the medical and mental issues they develop as a result of their deployments.¹³

Veterans for America's Wounded Warrior Outreach Program calls upon Members of Congress to stand up on behalf of members of National Guard BCT's. They have served our country well and now they need additional time to rest, recuperate, and re-train.

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Note regarding fatality figures:

As of March 1, 2008, the total number of Army National Guard fatalities from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) was 503. VFA mourns the death of these servicemembers and all others who have served in our recent wars, as well as earlier wars.

In this report, VFA has limited its examination to the 218 fatalities from National Guard Brigade Combat Teams and Armored Cavalry Regiments, as of that date. These figures are the best open-source method of gauging the intensity of combat experienced by individual units. Due to the Army's transition to a modular force, which has entailed, among other steps, relocating and reflagging units, and the difficulty of consolidating information from a wide range of open sources, the fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate of Brigade Combat Team and Armored Cavalry Regiment fatalities. There may be some variance between the fatality figures in this report and reports from other sources.

ARKANSAS

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The Guardsmen of Arkansas's 39th BCT suffered fatalities 150% above the per-tour-average for National Guard BCTs deployed to Iraq during their first tour to Iraq. Three years after their return, they have deployed again. Despite drawing troops from every unit in the Arkansas National Guard, the unit began its second deployment 300 Soldiers short of its end-strength goal.

39th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, March 2004 to March 2005:
15 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

- OIF, March 2008 to Present: 0 fatalities
 - First month served of estimated
12 months

- When the Soldiers of the 39th BCT returned from their first tour to Iraq, they received seven days of reintegration briefings and then were demobilized. The brigade, including all the units attached to it during the deployment, lost 33 Soldiers and had over 500 wounded.
- The 39th BCT began deploying on its second tour 300 Soldiers short of its 3100-soldier goal. Every unit in the Arkansas National Guard contributed Soldiers in order to raise the brigade to deployable strength.

CALIFORNIA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The units of the 40th BCT have been deeply involved in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

40th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF/OIF, 2003 to 2007: 14 fatalities
- The units of the 40th BCT have deployed separately, not as an entire brigade.

FLORIDA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

In December 2007, the 53rd BCT was informed of its upcoming year-long deployment to Afghanistan, scheduled to begin in Summer 2009. This will be the BCT's third tour.



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53rd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, May 2003 to April 2004: 3 fatalities
 - 11-month tour
 - OEF, July 2005 to August 2006: 3 fatalities
 - 13-month tour

GEORGIA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 48th BCT suffered the most fatalities of any Army National Guard BCT during its deployment to Iraq. The 48th BCT's 25 fatalities were over 400% above the six fatality average for an Army National Guard BCT deployment to Iraq.

48th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, May 2005 to June 2006: 25 fatalities

HAWAII

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 29th BCT of Hawaii deployed for its first overseas deployment since the Vietnam War in December 2004. In October 2007, the unit, which had been mobilized for 18 months for its first tour in Iraq, was notified that it will be returning to Iraq this year,

29th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OIF, December 2004 to January 2006: 18 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

- The 29th BCT mobilized for its first tour in August 2004, meaning that it spent 18 months on active duty.
- As of July 2007, the unit had received 90% of its equipment that it had left in Iraq.
- The 29th BCT was informed in October 2007 that it will deploy to Iraq again in 2008. After the unit's first deployment, Hawaii's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bob Lee, had promised Hawaii that the 29th BCT would not have to deploy again for five years. After the Pentagon made its announcement in October 2007, Lee said that he did not "feel good" about the unit's short time at home.

IDAHO

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 116th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) has deployed to Iraq as a brigade once. Their entire mobilization lasted 18 months and their tour of Iraq last 12 months.

116th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - November 2004 to November 2005: 4 fatalities
 - 12-month tour
- The 116th has units located throughout Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Oregon.

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ILLINOIS

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Around 2,700 Soldiers from the 33rd BCT are scheduled to be deployed on a 12-month tour to Afghanistan in the fall of 2008 to train Afghan Army and National Police units.

33rd Brigade Combat Team

INDIANA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

In March, over 3,000 Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard were deployed to Iraq along with the 76th BCT. With its third tour underway, the 76th BCT has been deployed more than any other National Guard unit.

76th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), April 2003 to May 2004: 3 fatalities
 - 13-month tour
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), May 2004 to August 2005: 4 fatalities
 - 12-month tour
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), March 2008 to Present: 0 fatalities
 - First month served of estimated 12 months

IOWA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

During a visit to Washington with the National Governors Association, Iowa Gov. Chet Culver

insisted to Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that, "we need this administration to coordinate more effectively a National Guard strategy so that everyone is on the same page." He cited the strain of multiple deployments and the difficulty of providing Iowa's Guardsmen with help for the medical and mental issues they develop as a result of their deployments.

34th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, 2004 to 2007: 2 fatalities
 - OIF, 2004 to 2006: 5 fatalities
- The units of the 2nd BCT/34th ID have deployed separately, not as an entire brigade.

KENTUCKY

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Fifty Soldiers from the 149th BCT Headquarters were deployed as one unit to Iraq.

149th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, 2006: 1 fatality
 - OIF, 2006-2007: 3 fatalities

LOUISIANA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

After a tour in which it suffered fatalities almost 150% above the average per-tour rate for National

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Guard BCTs in Iraq, the Guardsmen of the 256th BCT returned home to face the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

256th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OIF, August 2004 to September 2005: 22 fatalities
 - 13-month tour
- After spending thirteen months in Iraq, almost one-third of the Guardsmen from the 256th BCT returned to find that their homes had been destroyed by Hurricane Katrina (500 Soldiers) and later by Hurricane Rita (200 Soldiers). Six hundred of the unit's members volunteered to remain on active duty after they returned from Iraq to aid in the recovery efforts.

MARYLAND

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 58th BCT was created out of the 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division in 2006 as part of the Army transformation to a more modular National Guard. The 58th BCT was deployed for the first time ever on a scheduled 10-month tour to Iraq in July 2007.

58th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, July 2007 to Present: 0 fatalities
 - 9 months into a 10-month tour

MASSACHUSETTS

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

26th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, 2003: 1 fatality

MICHIGAN

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 46th BCT's 11 fatalities were over 150% above the 6 fatality average for an Army National Guard BCT deployment to Iraq.

46th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2005 to 2006: 11 fatalities

MISSISSIPPI

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 155th BCT suffered fatalities 250% above the six fatality average for an Army National Guard BCT deployment to Iraq. In December 2007, the 155th BCT was alerted for re-deployment to Iraq in the summer of 2009.

155th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, December 2004 to December 2005: 15 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

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MINNESOTA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 1st BCT/34th ID had the longest continuous deployment in the US military: 22 months, 16 of those in Iraq.

34th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OIF, April 2006 to July 2007: 8 fatalities
 - 16-month tour
- The 1st BCT/34th ID had the longest continuous deployment of any unit in the US military: 22 months. The unit deployed to Kosovo in September 2005. Once its six-month tour was completed, it was immediately redeployed to Iraq for a 12-month deployment. In January 2007, the Pentagon then announced that the brigade's Iraq tour would be further extended to 16 months.
- The brigade's extraordinarily long deployment led the Minnesota National Guard to develop the "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program, which is designed to assist Guardsmen reintegrate into their civilian lives and to help them find treatment for any medical or psychological issues related to their service. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 mandates that this program become nationwide.

NEW JERSEY

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Approximately 3,000 Soldiers from the 50th Heavy Brigade Combat Team are scheduled to begin mobilization in May for a deployment to Iraq in the fall of 2008. This is roughly half of New Jersey's National Guard.

50th Brigade Combat Team

NEW YORK

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

When the 42nd Infantry Division was deployed to Iraq, it became the first Army National Guard division headquarters to deploy into combat since the Korean War.

42nd Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, October 2004 to November 2005: 14 fatalities
 - 13-month tour

42nd Infantry Division, 27th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2004: 1 fatality

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27th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OEF, March 2008 to Present: 0 fatalities
 - First month of estimated ten-month tour
 - The 27th BCT's tour to Afghanistan is its first as a brigade. The brigade is the largest single unit from the State of New York to deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq.

NORTH CAROLINA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 30th Heavy BCT was deployed to Forward Operating Base Caldwell, in the Diyala Province, during their tour of Iraq. The 30th BCT is scheduled to be mobilized, for the first time, as a Stryker brigade in January 2009 for deployment to Iraq in April of that year.

30th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, February 2004 to February 2005: 4 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

OHIO

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 37th BCT's deployment to Iraq was comprised of 1,600 Soldiers from Ohio and 900 from Michigan. The deployment is the Ohio National Guard's largest troop mobilization since World War II.

37th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, December 2007 to Present: 1 fatality
 - Four months served of estimated 12 months

OKLAHOMA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 45th BCT deployed to Iraq in January 2008. This is the first deployment of the brigade as a whole, but each of the brigade's units has previously deployed separately to either Afghanistan or Iraq.

45th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF/OIF, 2002 to 2007: 2 fatalities
 - OIF, January 2008 to Present: 0 fatalities
- Units of the 45th BCT have deployed separately to Afghanistan and Iraq since 2002, participating in operations such as Task Force Phoenix. The entire brigade deployed as a whole to Iraq in January 2008.

OREGON

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 41st BCT has served two tours, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. It is scheduled to deploy again in 2009.

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41st Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, May 2003 to May 2004: 8 fatalities
 - 12-month tour
 - OEF, June 2006 to July 2007: 2 fatalities
 - 13-month tour

PENNSYLVANIA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 56th BCT is scheduled to be mobilized, for the first time, as a Stryker brigade in November 2008 for deployment to Iraq the following February.

55th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, 2007: 2 fatalities
 - OIF, 2004 to 2005: 12 fatalities

56th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2005: 7 fatalities

28th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, June 2005 to July 2006: 7 fatalities
 - 13-month tour

PUERTO RICO

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Guardsmen of Puerto Rico's 92nd BCT have been deploying to OIF since 2003, but have not deployed as a brigade.

92nd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2003 to 2008: 1 fatality

SOUTH CAROLINA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 1,800 soldier deployment of the 218th BCT to Afghanistan was the largest single unit deployment from the South Carolina National Guard since World War II.

218th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, April 2007 to March 2008: 3 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

TENNESSEE

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

During its tour to Iraq, the 278th ACR sent 3,200 Soldiers, marking the largest single deployment of Soldiers from Tennessee since World War II. In December 2004, Spc. Thomas Wilson raised the issue of inadequate armored vehicles at a public event with Donald Rumsfeld, to which the former Defense Secretary famously

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replied: "As you know, you go to war with the Army you have. They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

278th Armored Cavalry Regiment

- Tours:
 - OIF, November 2004 to November 2005:
10 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

TEXAS

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Texas' 56th BCT has deployed to Iraq as a brigade once.

56th Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OIF, December 2004 to December 2005:
8 fatalities
 - 12-month tour

VERMONT

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The participation rate of the Vermont National Guard is four times the national average. Vermont has lost more Soldiers per capita in Iraq and Afghanistan than any other state for both the National Guard and for all military branches combined.

42nd Infantry Division, 86th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2005: 2 fatalities
 - OEF, 2006: 1 fatality

VIRGINIA

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

Over 4,000 Soldiers of the Virginia Army National Guard have been mobilized in support of OEF or OIF.

116th Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OEF, 2004 to 2005: 3 fatalities

WASHINGTON

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 81st BCT from Washington has deployed to Iraq as a brigade once. The brigade is slated to return to Iraq in late 2008.

81st Brigade Combat Team

- Tour:
 - OIF, February 2004 to March 2005:
9 fatalities
 - 13-month tour

WISCONSIN

The fatality figures in this report are VFA's best estimate.

The 32nd BCT is scheduled to deploy as a brigade in 2009, although its units have deployed separately to Iraq.

32nd Brigade Combat Team

- Tours:
 - OIF, 2004 to 2007: 8 fatalities
 - The units of the 32nd BCT have deployed separately, not as an entire brigade. The unit is scheduled to deploy as a whole in 2009.



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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Figure current as of latest DoD deployment figures from December 31, 2007.
- ² Department of Defense Task Force on Mental Health, "An Achievable Vision: Report of the Department of Defense Task Force on Mental Health," June 2007, p. ES-2.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Fatality figures in this report are derived from two primary sources: Department of Defense, *Operation Enduring Freedom: Military Deaths from October 1, 2001 by Name as of March 1, 2008*, http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oef_list_of_names.pdf; Department of Defense, *Operation Iraqi Freedom: Military Deaths from March 19, 2003 by Name as of March 1, 2008*, http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oef_list_of_names.pdf; VFA research.
- ⁵ Government Accountability Office, "VA and DOD Health Care: Administration of DOD's Post-Deployment Health Reassessment to National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers and VA's Interaction with DOD," January 25, 2008, pp. 3-4.
- ⁶ Audrey McAvoy, "Lee doubts island Guard members will be mobilized soon," *Associated Press*, January 12, 2007.
- ⁷ Gregg Kakesako, "National Guard: Orders saddled on isle Guard," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 20, 2007.
- ⁸ For more information on the deployment history of the 39th BCT, see p.5 of this report.
- ⁹ Office of the Arkansas Secretary of State, "Thousands Gather to Honor Fallen Heroes of 39th Brigade," April 25, 2005, and Amy Schlesing, "GIs' shift to civilian life lacks breather," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, March 16, 2005.
- ¹⁰ Joe Darby, "Return from Iraq proves no vacation: General leads team helping to rebuild La.," *Times-Picayune* [New Orleans, LA], November 13, 2005.
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1025 Vermont Ave, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005
P 202 483 9222 F 202 483 9312 W veteransforamerica.org