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<u>American Military Deaths in Iraq</u>		
	Total	In Combat
Since war began:	<b>2684</b>	<b>2182</b>
Since 5/1/2003:	<b>2547</b>	<b>2083</b>
	Official	Estimated
Total Wounded:	<b>19945</b>	<b>20000-48100</b>

## “Be ready to move by Oct. 1 ...”

Monday, September 18th, 2006 in [News](#) by [Justin Raimondo](#)

From *Time* magazine [Sept. 25] via [Joshua Micah Marshall](#):

“The first message was routine enough: A ‘Prepare to Deploy’ order sent through naval communications channels to a submarine, an Aegis-class cruiser, two minesweepers and two mine hunters. The orders didn’t actually command the ships out of port; they just said to be ready to move by Oct. 1. But inside the Navy those messages generated more buzz than usual last week when a second request, from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), asked for fresh eyes on long-standing U.S. plans to blockade two Iranian oil ports on the Persian Gulf. The CNO had asked for a rundown on how a blockade of those strategic targets might work. When he didn’t like the analysis he received, he ordered his troops to work the lash up once again.

“What’s going on? The two orders offered tantalizing clues. There are only a few places in the world where minesweepers top the list of U.S. naval requirements. And every sailor, petroleum engineer and hedge-fund manager knows the name of the most important: the Strait of Hormuz, the 20-mile-wide bottleneck in the Persian Gulf through which roughly 40% of the world’s oil needs to pass each day. Coupled with the CNO’s request for a blockade review, a deployment of minesweepers to the west coast of Iran would seem to suggest that a much discussed—but until now largely theoretical—prospect has become real: that the U.S. may be preparing for war with Iran.”

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