

Number of private contractors killed in Iraq and Afghanistan passes 1,000

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The US Department of Labor has released data showing that more than 1,000 private military contractors have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, in response to a Freedom of Information request filed by Reuters.

Iraq War

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Background

- [Wikipedia article about the Iraq War](#)

The number is based on insurance claims filed on behalf of contractors that had been killed, and includes both US and foreign contractors.

As of March 2007, an additional 10,569 contractors have been wounded in Iraq and 2,428 in Afghanistan.

There are disputes about the exact number of contractors in Iraq, but it is estimated to be between 130,000 and 180,000 US-paid private military contractors, compared to 157,000 US military personnel.

Despite beliefs that the contractors all belong to large military-oriented groups such as the British intelligence firm Aegis or Blackwater USA which has been labelled "mercenaries", the jobs of contractors killed have been as varied as electrical engineer Ronald Schulz, translator Kim Sun-il and truck driver Murat Yuce.

Sources

- Bernd Debusmann "In outsourced U.S. wars, contractor deaths top 1,000 (http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070703/wl_nm/usa_iraq_contractors_dc) ". *Reuters*, July 3, 2007
- T. Christian Miller "Private contractors outnumber U.S. troops in Iraq (<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-private4jul04,1,277453.story?track=crosspromo&coll=la-head>) ". *Los Angeles Times*, July 3, 2007

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