



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 22, 2009

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## Memorial Day: Southern base towns suffer brunt of Iraq losses

### Half of U.S.-based troops killed in Iraq come from bases in Southern states

DURHAM, N.C. – This Memorial Day will be especially hard in places like Fort Hood, Texas, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Fort Campbell, Kentucky. That’s because these and other military base towns in the South have lost more soldiers than any other part of the country—accounting for nearly half of the U.S.-based troops killed in Iraq so far.

The new analysis by the nonprofit Institute for Southern Studies finds that base towns in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas have suffered the most. North Carolina and Texas have each lost over 500 troops in Iraq from local bases; Georgia and Kentucky have each lost more than 200.

“The impact on Southern communities is devastating,” said Chris Kromm, author of the analysis and executive director of the Institute. “Those stationed in these towns become part of the community – and their deaths leave behind broken families and neighborhoods.”

Drawing on the latest Department of Defense statistics and data collected by [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org), the Institute’s analysis shows how the concentration of military bases in the South has caused states in the region to suffer disproportionate losses from the Iraq conflict:

- **Nearly half of U.S. based troops killed in Iraq—48%—came from the South.** When one includes all U.S. troops—including the 9% stationed in Germany and other places overseas—Southern bases still accounted for 43% of those killed in the war.
- **More than a third of those killed in Iraq—38%—have come from bases in just four Southern states:** Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas.
- **Of the 20 military bases that have lost the most troops in Iraq, eight are in the South.** Fort Hood in Texas has lost more than any other base (479). Camp Lejeune, N.C. (294), Fort Campbell, Ky. (224), Fort Bragg, N.C. (190) and Fort Stewart, Ga. (171) are among the 10 bases in the world that have lost the most U.S. troops.

The South’s share of military bases has steadily grown, exposing more communities to the losses of war. An Institute for Southern Studies report in 2002 found that 56% of U.S. troops were stationed in 13 Southern states. A follow-up report by the Institute in 2005 found that the Pentagon’s latest round of base closures actually resulted in a net gain of over 15,000 military personnel at 50 Southern bases.

For more information visit: <http://www.southernstudies.org>



## Memorial Day 2009: Southern base towns suffer brunt of Iraq losses – DATA AND TABLES

### Overview: U.S. troops killed in Iraq

Number of U.S. troops confirmed by DoD to have been killed in Iraq: **4,295**

Number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq where the base that the individual was stationed has been confirmed: **4,268**

Of those where base has been confirmed, percent of U.S. troops killed that were stationed in U.S.: **91**

Percent stationed at U.S. bases overseas: **9**

Total number of troops killed in Iraq that had been based in 13\* Southern states: **1,840**

Percent of U.S.-based troops killed in Iraq that had been based in the South: **48**

Percent based in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas alone: **38**

Percent of *all* U.S. troops killed in Iraq – including those based in U.S. and overseas – that had been stationed in the South: **43**

\* Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia

**Source:** Institute for Southern Studies analysis of U.S. Department of Defense and icasualties.org data, May 2009

### Table 1: 10 U.S. military bases that have lost the most troops in Iraq

BASE	STATE	NUMBER KILLED IN IRAQ
Fort Hood	Texas	479
Camp Pendleton	California	345
Camp Lejeune	North Carolina	294
Fort Campbell	Kentucky	224
Fort Carson	Colorado	198
Fort Bragg	North Carolina	190
Fort Lewis	Washington	186
Fort Stewart	Georgia	171
Fort Riley	Kansas	126
Fort Drum	New York	116

**Source:** Institute for Southern Studies analysis of U.S. Department of Defense and icasualties.org data, May 2009

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**Table 2: Southern states that have seen the most troops  
stationed in their state killed in Iraq**

STATE	STATIONED TROOPS KILLED
Texas	563
North Carolina	513
Georgia	295
Kentucky	235
Louisiana	60
Virginia	33
Mississippi	29
Florida	26
Arkansas	25
Tennessee	26
Alabama	10
South Carolina	9
West Virginia	6

**Source:** Institute for Southern Studies analysis of U.S. Department of Defense and icasualties.org data, May 2009

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