



Iraq: Iran-Backed Shia Militia Responsibility for U.S. Casualties

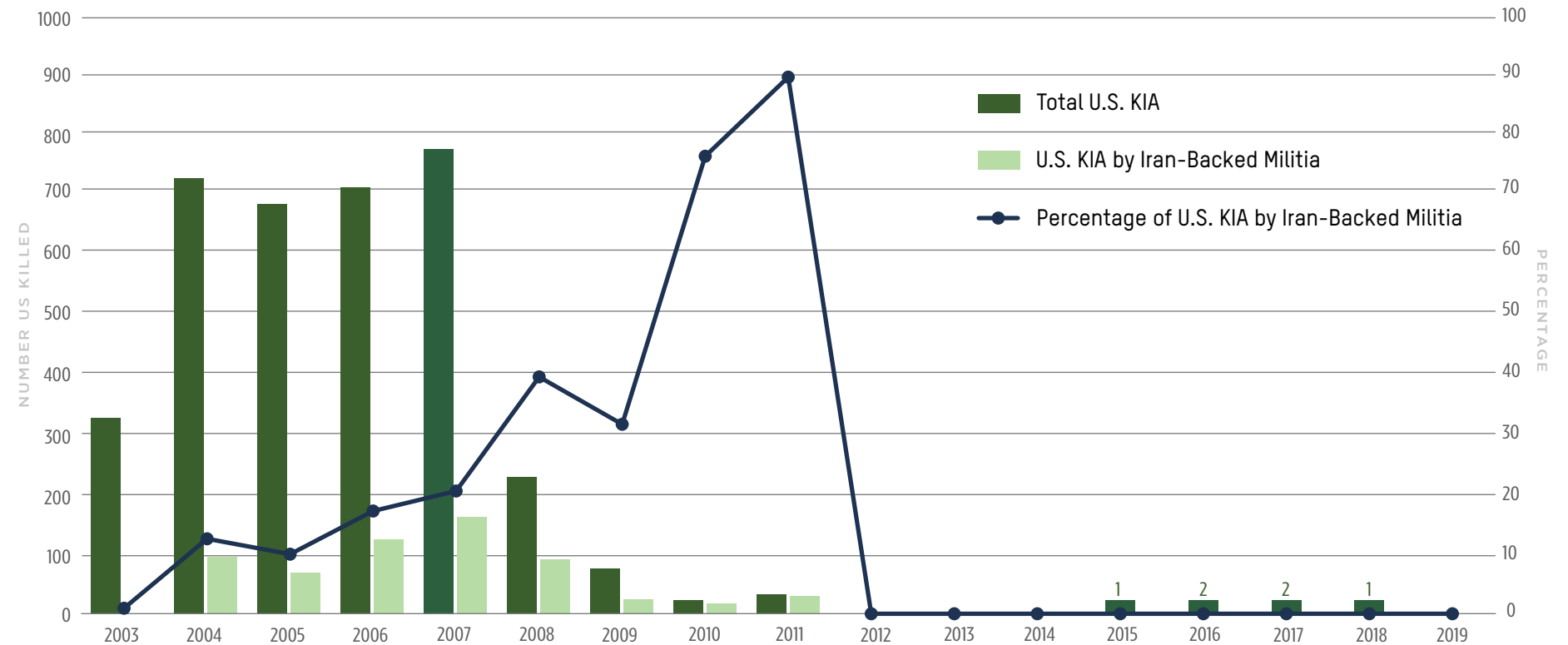
Iran-backed Shia militants probably have been responsible for at least 603 U.S. personnel killed in Iraq. The casualties, which occurred primarily in Baghdad and southern Iraq, represent 17 percent of the total 3,534 U.S. personnel killed in action in Iraq between May 2003 and January 2019. These casualties were the result of explosively formed penetrator (EFP), other improvised explosive device (IED), improvised rocket-assisted munition (IRAM), rocket, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), small-arms, sniper, and other attacks in Iraq. Since 2012, we have not conclusively linked Iran-backed Shia militants to the deaths of U.S. personnel in Iraq.

- > Between 2004 and 2011, 448 U.S. personnel were killed in EFP and other IED attacks in areas where Shia militants operate, according to U.S. military reporting. Over the same period, Iran-backed Shia militants killed 142 U.S. personnel in RPG, rocket, mortar, or small-arms attacks in central and southern Iraq, according to U.S. military reporting.
- > Between 2007 and 2011, IRAM attacks killed 13 U.S. personnel in Baghdad and southern Iraq, according to U.S. military reporting. During that period, IRAMs were used solely by Iran-backed Shia groups Kataib Hizballah and Asaib Ahl al-Haq.

Iran-backed Shia militants were responsible for the deaths of 91 percent (29 of 32) of the U.S. personnel killed in Iraq in 2011. The number of U.S. casualties by Iran-backed groups declined after 2007, however, the proportion of overall U.S. fatalities caused by Iran-backed Shia militants increased sharply.

- > Iran-backed Shia militants caused 77 percent (17 of 22) of all U.S. casualties in Iraq in 2010, 32 percent (24 of 75) in 2009, and 40 percent (90 of 225) in 2008, according to U.S. military reporting. Between 2004 and 2007, when the Sunni Arab insurgency was more active, Iran-backed Shia militants caused between 13 and 21 percent of all U.S. fatalities in Iraq.

U.S. Personnel Killed in Iraq, May 2003 - January 2019



Casualties by Weapon Type

