



---

**The Center for Strategic and International Studies**

**Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy**

**1800 K Street, NW • Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20006**

**Phone: +1-202-775-3270 • Fax: +1-202-457-8746**

**Web: [www.csis.org/burke](http://www.csis.org/burke)**

# **The Patterns in Violence and Casualties in Iraq 2007:**

## **The Need for Strategic Patience**

**Anthony H. Cordesman**  
**Arleigh A. Burke Chair**

**January 2008**

# The Challenge of Strategic Patience

- Consolidate gains against Al Qa'ida in Mesopotamia
- Move towards stable accommodation: Change de-Baathification law, provincial powers act and elections, oil law, etc.
- Keep Shi'ite militias (Sadr forces) under control, and prevent more sectarian and ethnic cleansing in greater Baghdad area.
- Consolidate creation of tribal militias, ensure they get proper central government support, and that central government recognizes importance of Sunni Sheiks.
- Stabilize provinces that still have serious conflict - Ninewah, Salahideen, Diyala -- and prevent Al Qa'ida in Mesopotamia forces from moving north.
- Avoid major intra-Shii'ite power struggles and conflicts in south.
- Limit Kurd, Arab, minority fighting in North.
- Resolve the "federalism" issue through peaceful referendums.
- Develop truly capable Iraqi Army and regular forces to phase US role down to overwatch.
- Find solution to failure to develop effective approach to police force, and to dealing with local security forces, militias, and Facilities Protection Force.
- Establish effective local criminal justice system and local, provincial and national government presence.

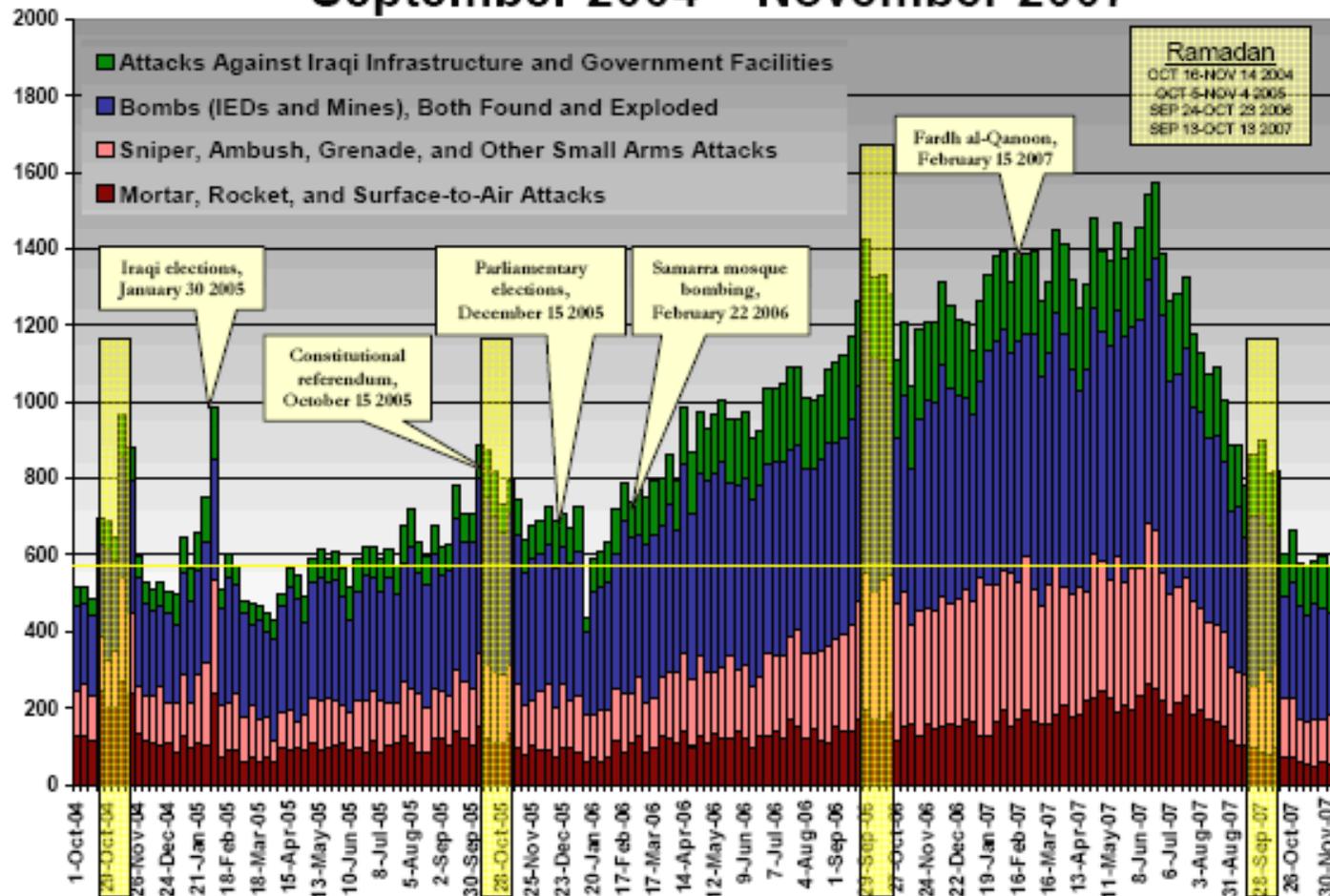
## **Patterns in Overall Iraqi Violence: Major Progress is Not Yet Victory**

- **US Data in December 2007 report on *Security and Stability in Iraq* show a major drop in overall violence and casualties in Iraq through November 2007**
  - **Attack frequency down to June 2006 levels and close to summer of 2005 by end of 2007.**
  - **Same pattern in overall civilian casualties. Combined Coalition and Iraqi data show are down from peak of 3,000 per month in November 2006 to around 700 in November 2007. (Coalition count alone shows drop from over 1,500 in October-November 2006 to around 300 in November.**
- **Total high profile bombings down from peak of around 130 in June 2007 to around 50 in November 2007.**
- **Ethno-Sectarian incidents down from peak of nearly 1,100 in December 2006 to a little over 100 in November 2007**
- **Ethno-Sectarian casualties down from peak of nearly 2200 in December 2006 to around 200 in November 2007.**

# Overall Weekly Iraq Attack Trends

(Includes Found and Cleared Bombs)

## September 2004 – November 2007

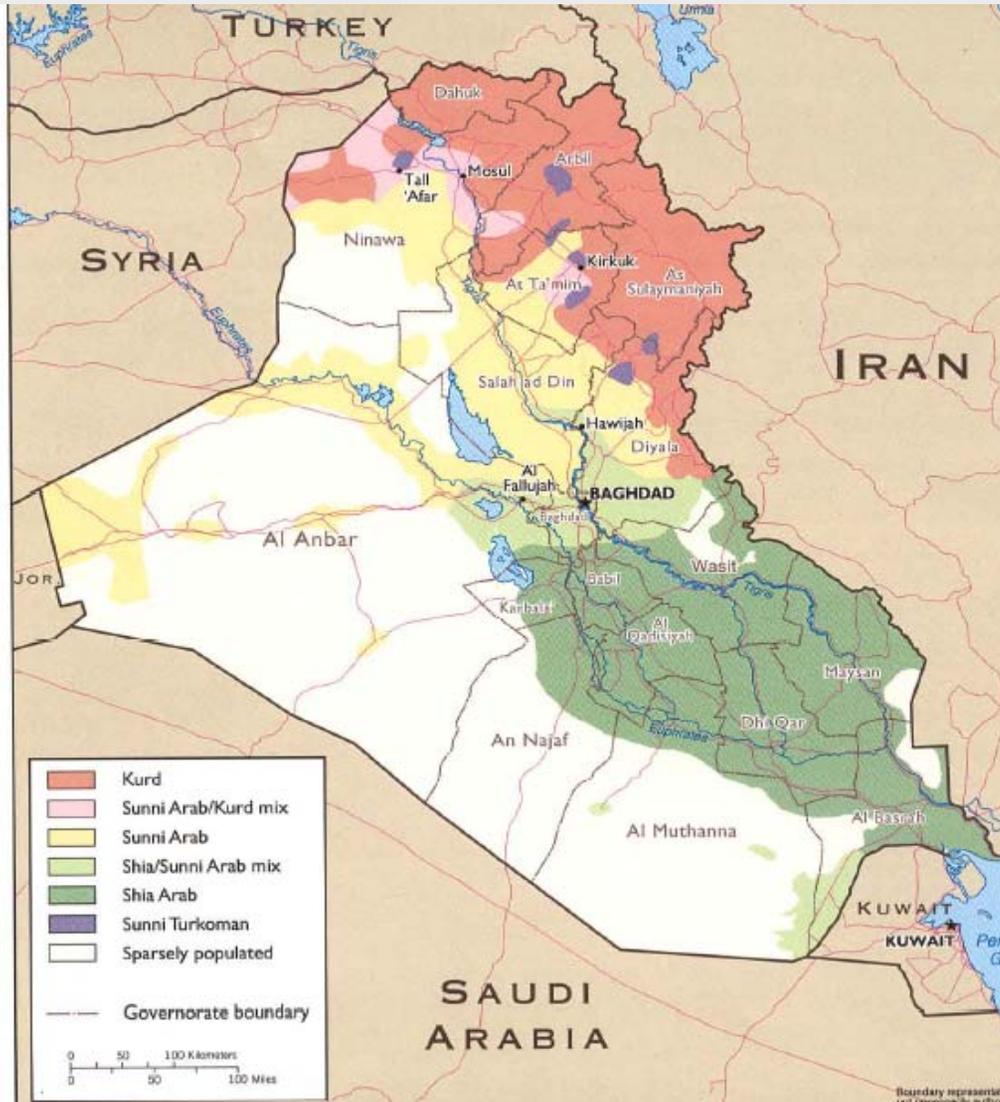


This chart has been added since the last report. It is included to show overall insurgent activity and methods of attack and therefore includes found and cleared bombs. Source: SIGACTS III Database (Coalition Reports only)—Chart includes executed attacks and potential (found and cleared) events; as of Nov 30 2007.

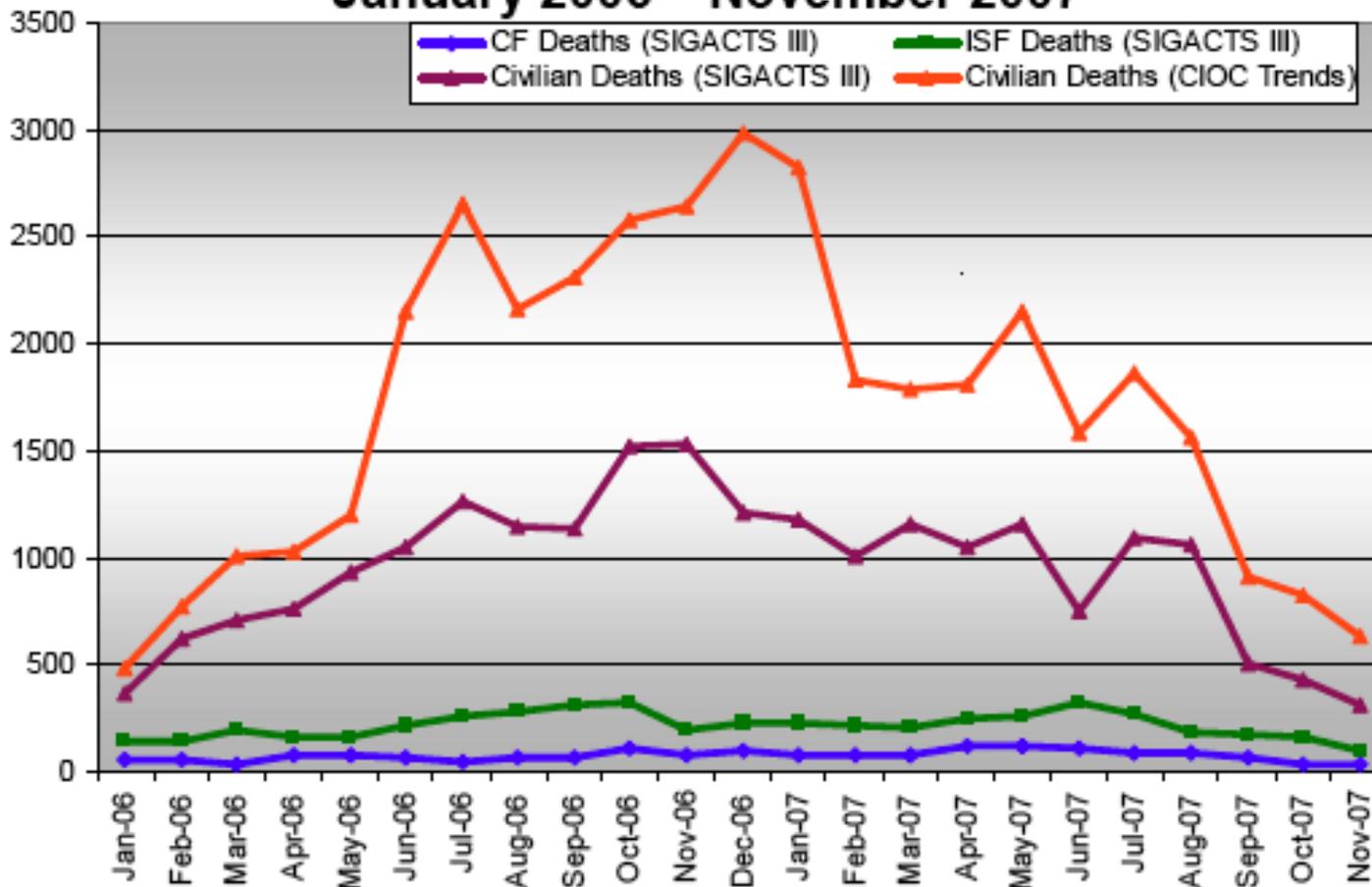
# **Ethnic and Sectarian Violence Remain Major Issues at the National Level**

- **Combined Iraqi and Coalition Data show just how serious the trend in ethno-sectarian violence remains.**
- **Trends would be much clearer if shown by province for the high conflict provinces, or mapped in terms of sectarian and ethnic migration.**
- **Does not take account of lower levels of violence, displacements, extortion, home and business seizures, kidnapping that now characterize a large portion of sectarian and ethnic cleansing .**
- **Does not count intra-Shi'ite, intra-Sunni and Kurd versus minority violence and casualties.**
- **Does not take account of pervasive criminal violence and extortion and corruption by police, security forces, and officials.**
- **Cannot gauge impact on repatriation of 2.4 million Iraqi refugees inside and outside Iraq.**

# Iraqi Sectarian & Ethnic Divisions

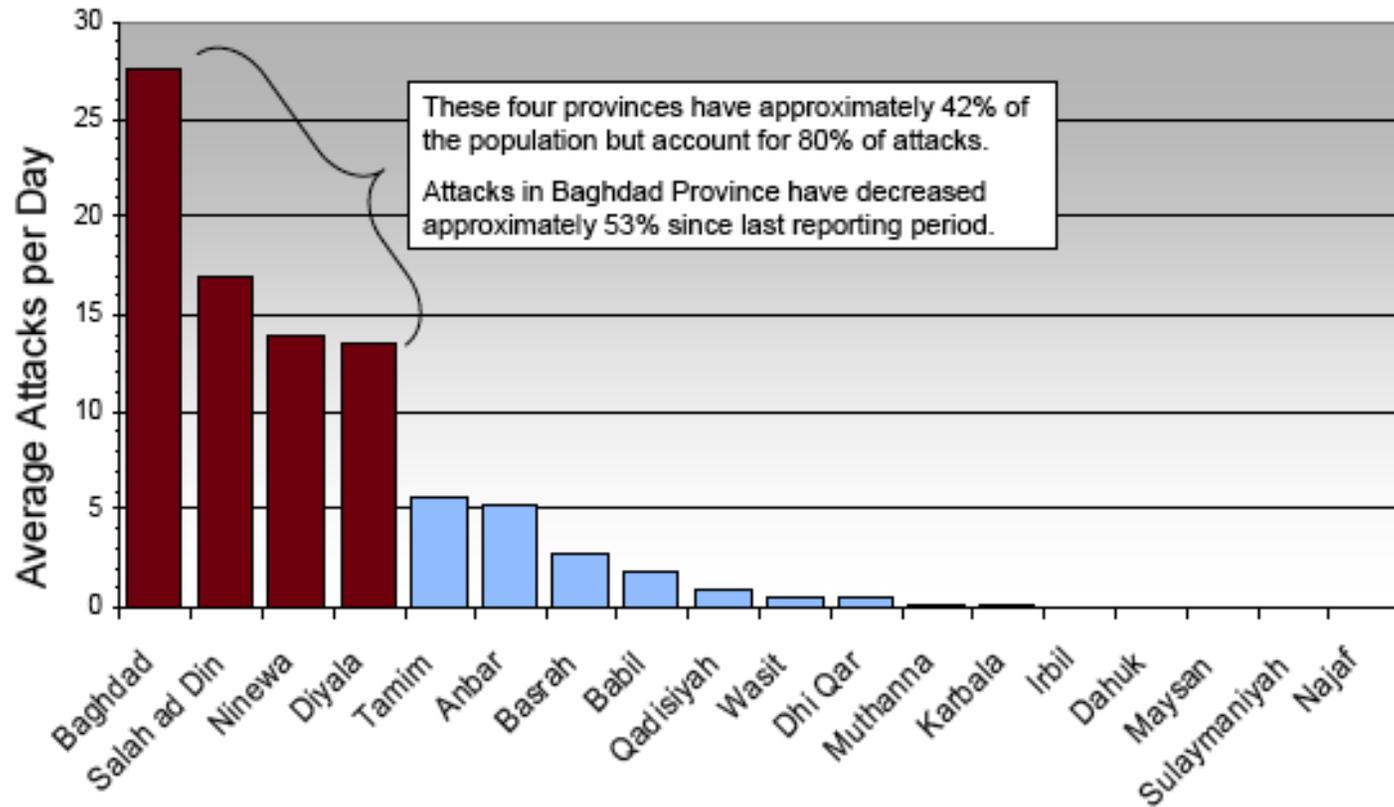


## Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and Civilian Deaths January 2006 – November 2007



*This chart has been added since the last report. It shows the number of civilian deaths from two separate databases: CIOC Trends database (Coalition and Host Nation Reports) and SIGACTS III database (Coalition reports only). Host nation reports capture some types of deaths on which the Coalition does not have visibility, in particular, murders and deaths in locations where Coalition forces are not present. Utilizing both types of reports enables a more comprehensive assessment of civilian death trends; as of Nov 30 2007.*

## Average Daily Attacks by Province July 2007 – November 2007



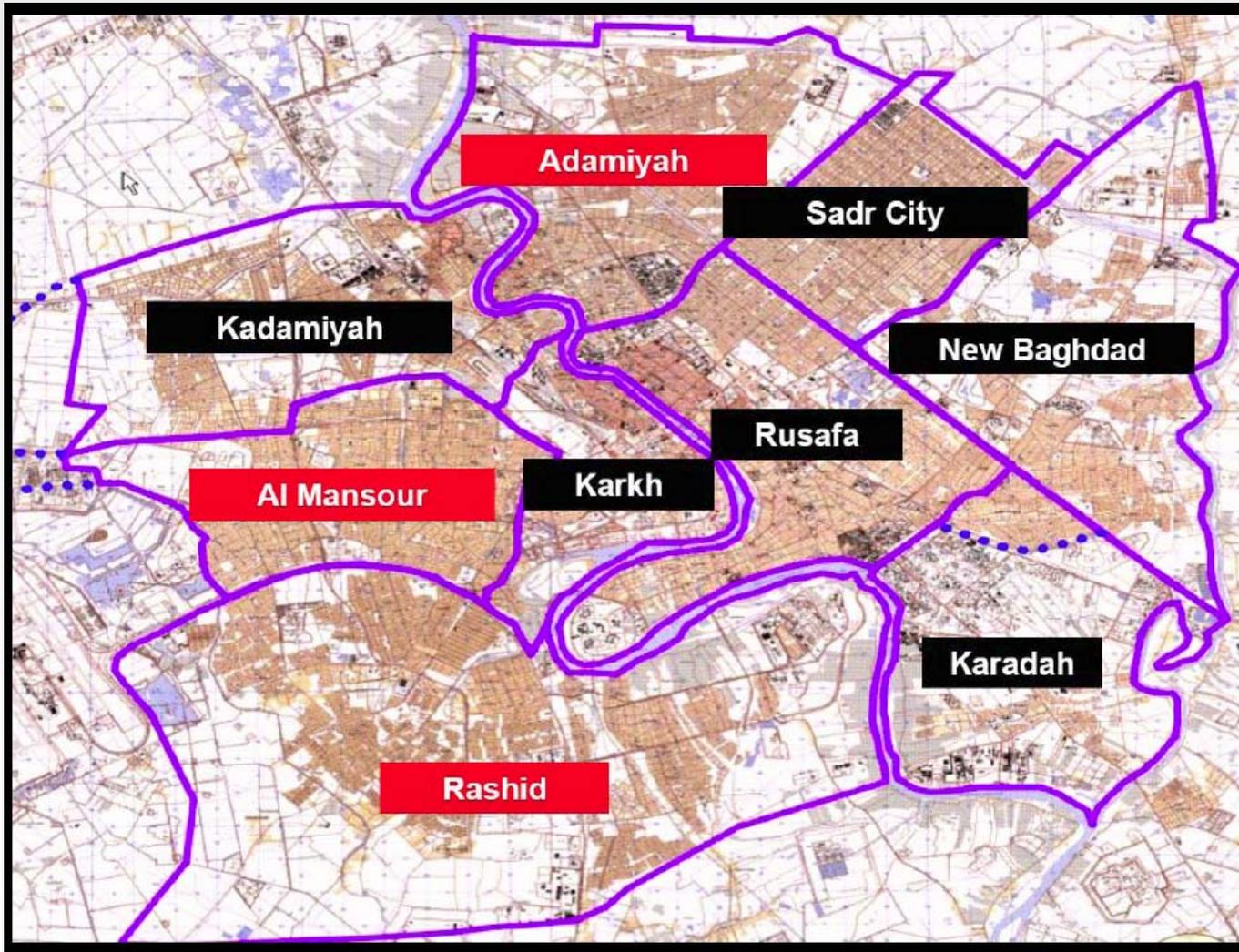
Source: SIGACTS III Database (Coalition Reports only) as of Nov 30 2007.

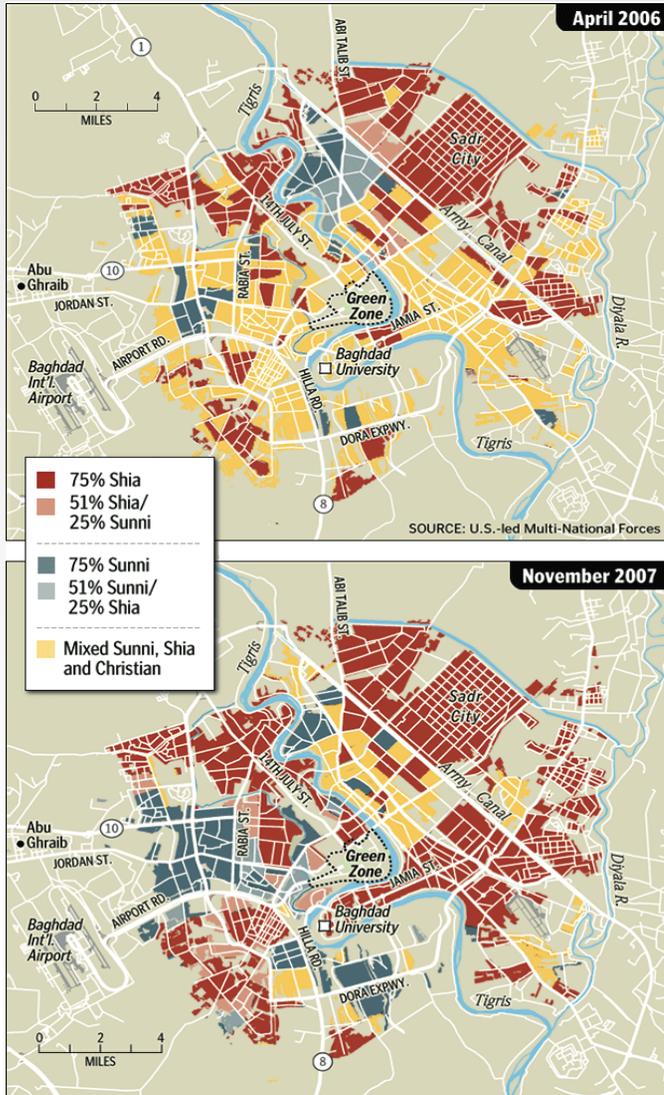
Data reflects enemy attacks targeted against Coalition, ISF, civilians, infrastructure, Iraqi government organizations and reconstruction operations centers.

# Patterns in Violence and Casualties in Baghdad Show the Need For Strategic Patience

- The Iraqi data for Baghdad provide a clear warning of the need for strategic patience. They are uncertain, but cover a wider range of violence and casualties than US data.
- Very real progress is anything but stable victory even in the area where the US and Iraqi surge has been most effective.
- US ability to secure Sunni and Shi'ite zones, and some mixed areas, in Baghdad has not brought lasting stability and security to city.
- Rushing down US troops could leave too few troops to cover a renewal of sectarian cleansing in greater Baghdad and deal with most violent provinces, much less new outbreaks of fighting in North and South.
- Need time and US aid to provide Iraqi police and criminal justice system, effective government presence and services, and translate progress in accommodation at legal and legislative levels into stable, functioning city.
- *And, Baghdad is just the beginning of a process that must last well into the next Administration.*

# Baghdad Neighborhoods



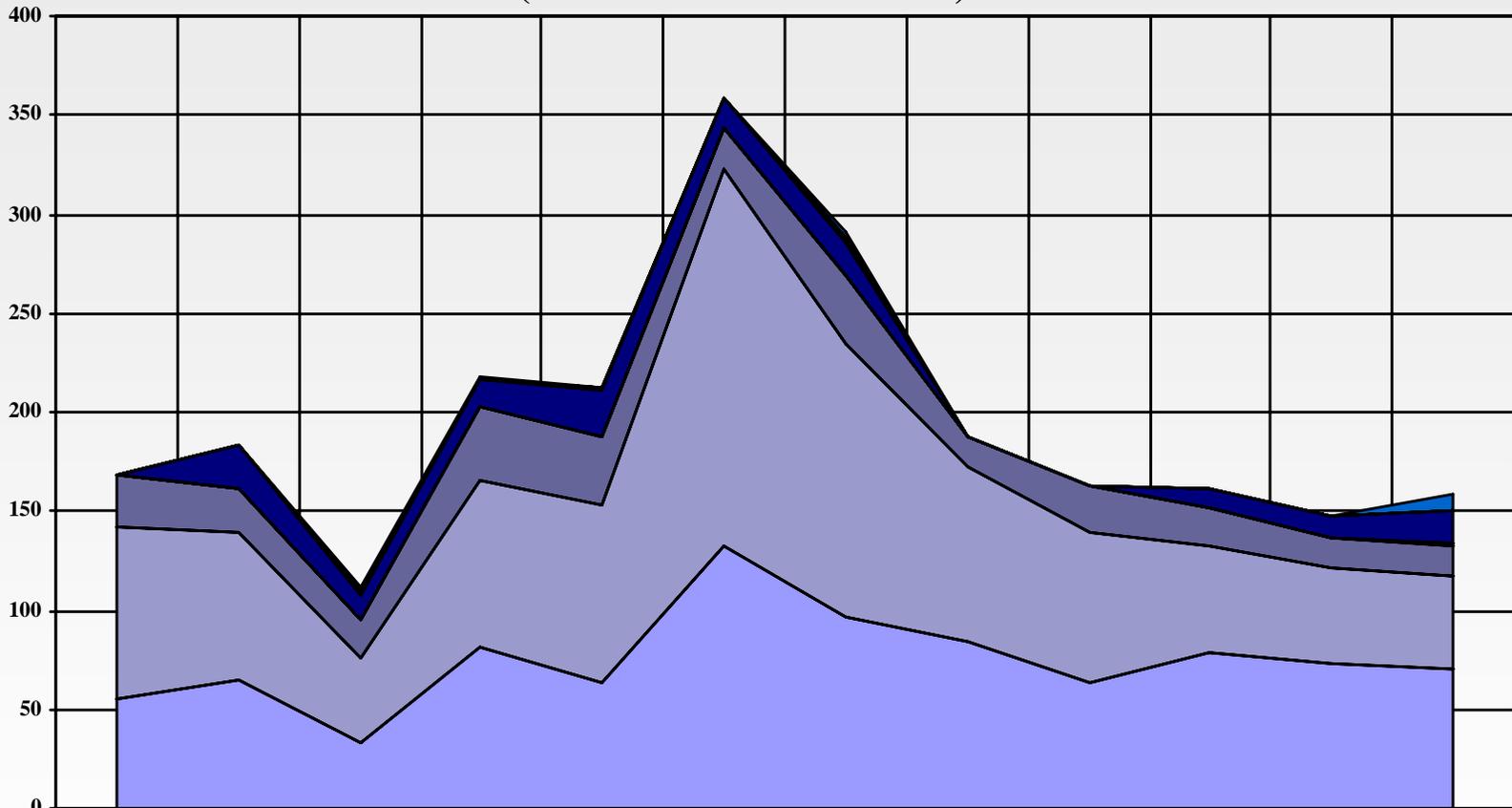


## Sectarian Cleansing in Baghdad: April 2006- November 2007

The *Washington Post* estimate

# Baghdad: Major Incidents of Violence in 2007

(Trend in Total Incidents)

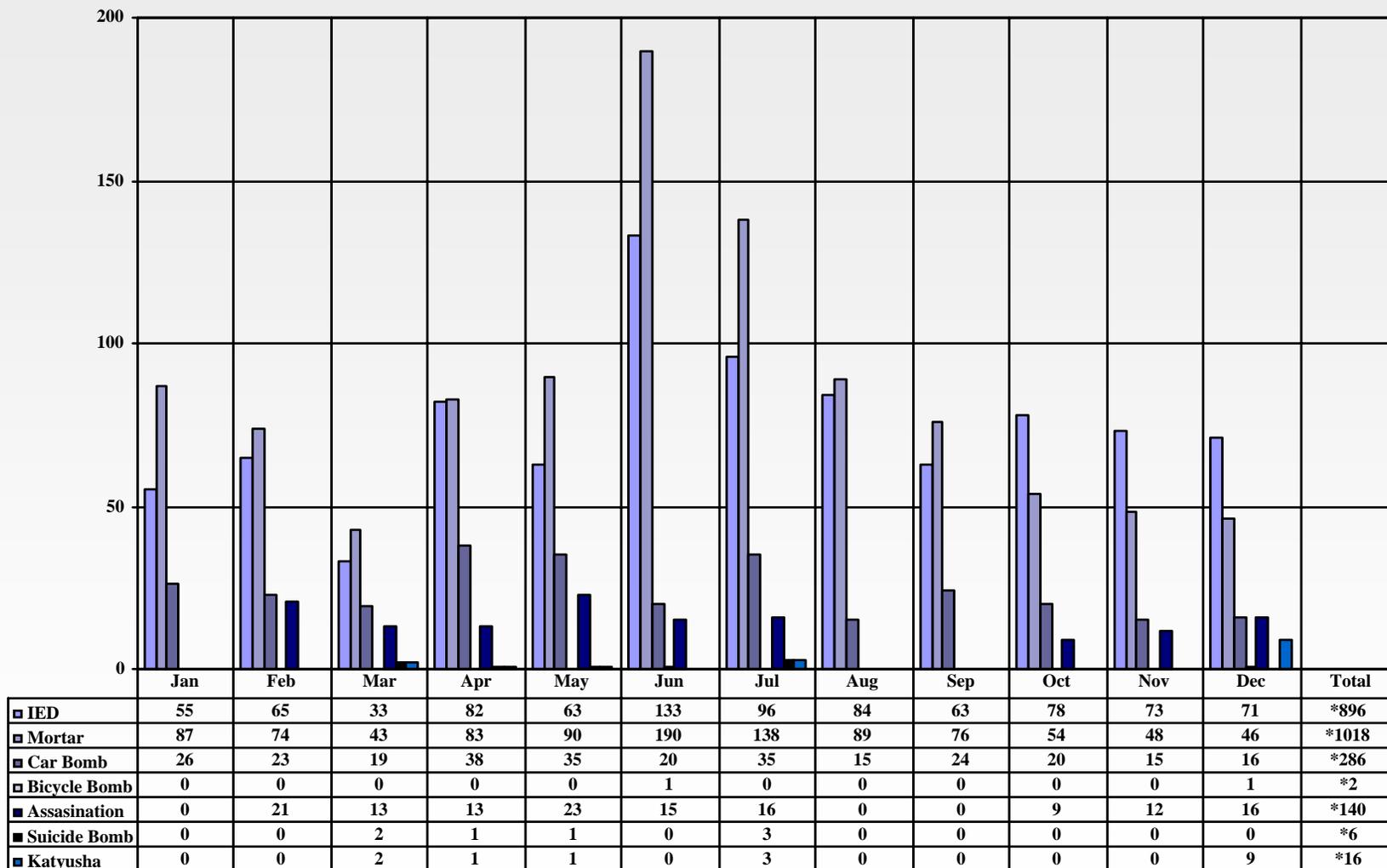


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
■ Katyusha	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
■ Suicide Bomb	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
■ Assasination	0	21	13	13	23	15	16	0	0	9	12	16
□ Bicycle Bomb	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
■ Car Bomb	26	23	19	38	35	20	35	15	24	20	15	16
■ Mortar	87	74	43	83	90	190	138	89	76	54	48	46
■ IED	55	65	33	82	63	133	96	84	63	78	73	71

Source: Iraqi Official

# Baghdad: Major Incidents of Violence in 2007

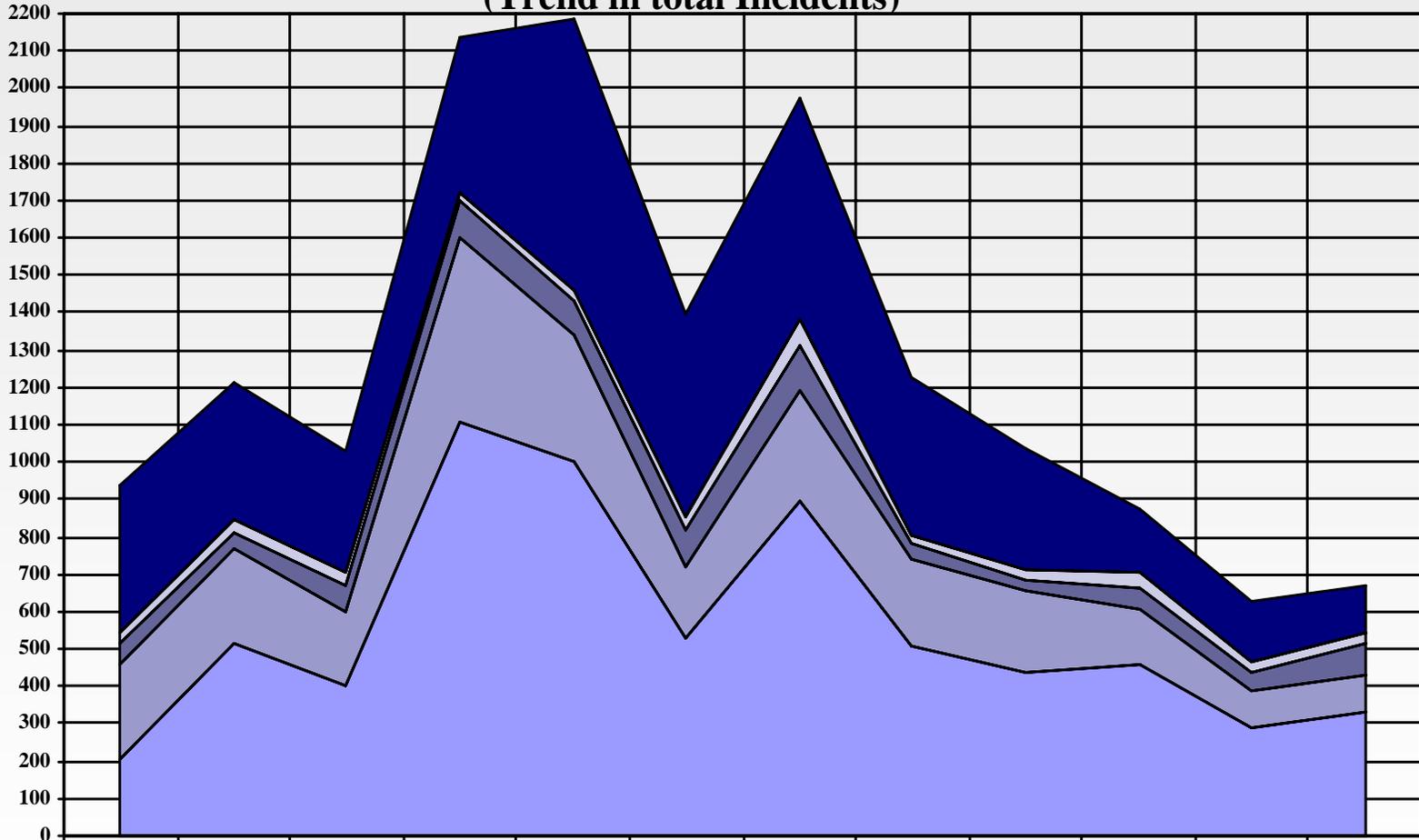
## (Monthly Distribution)



Source: Iraqi Official

# Baghdad: Major Iraqi Casualties in 2007

(Trend in total Incidents)

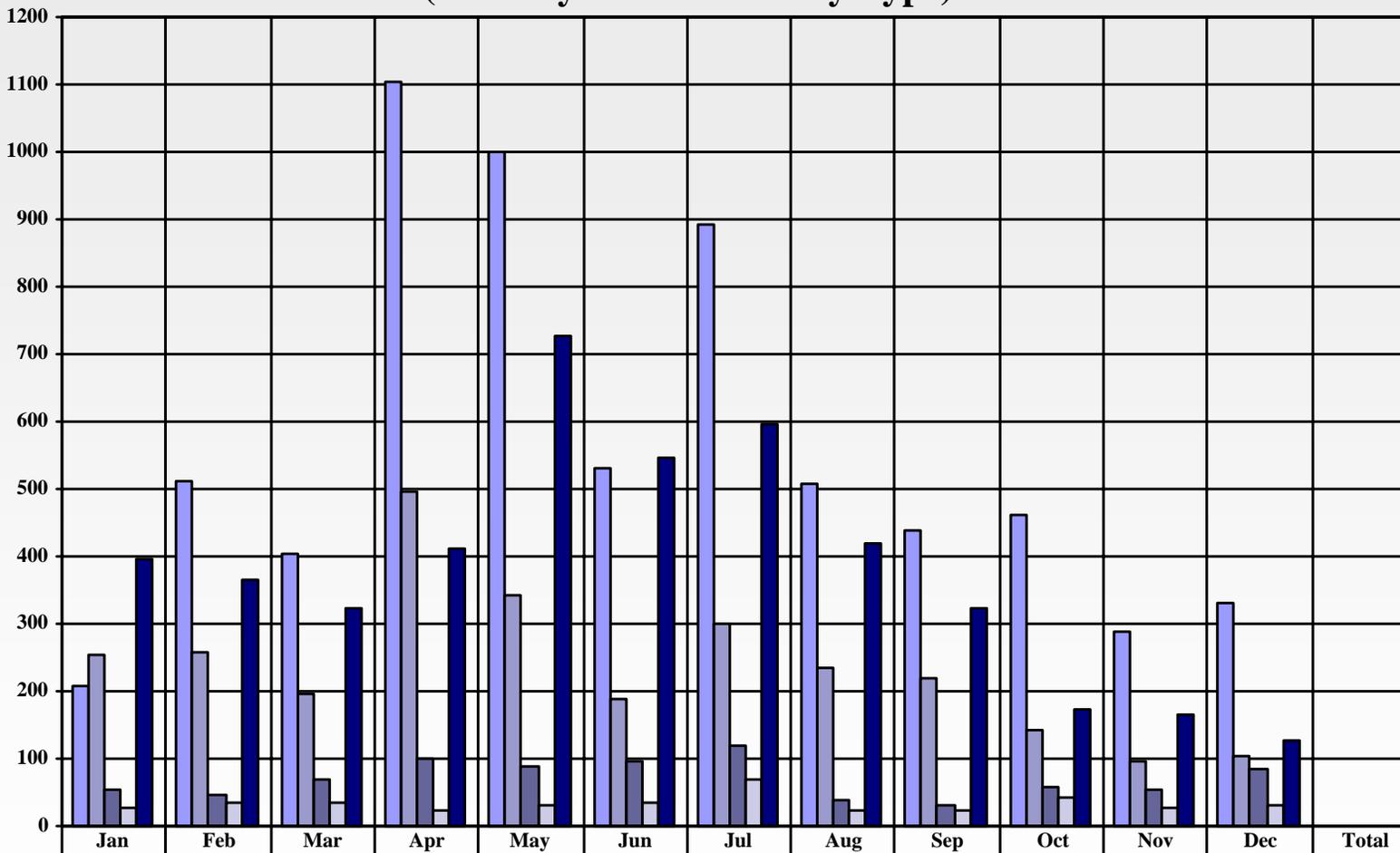


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
■ Body Found	395	365	324	411	726	548	596	421	324	174	165	126
□ ISF Dead	28	36	33	25	32	35	69	22	23	41	26	29
■ ISF Wounded	55	45	69	100	88	95	119	40	31	58	54	84
■ Dead Civilian	255	256	198	495	344	190	300	235	219	143	98	104
■ Wounded Civilian	206	512	403	1104	999	530	893	507	437	461	287	329

Source: Iraqi Official

# Baghdad: Major Iraqi Casualties in 2007

(Monthly Distribution by Type)



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Wounded Civilian	206	512	403	1104	999	530	893	507	437	461	287	329	*6668
Dead Civilian	255	256	198	495	344	190	300	235	219	143	98	104	*2837
ISF Wounded	55	45	69	100	88	95	119	40	31	58	54	84	*838
ISF Dead	28	36	33	25	32	35	69	22	23	41	26	29	*399
Body Found	395	365	324	411	726	548	596	421	324	174	165	126	*4,575

Source: Iraqi Official