

F a c t S h e e t

Army Soldiers Who Are Non-Deployable

(Source: US Army figures and senior leaders quotes in USA Today article of 3 MAR 10, "Army Sees Sharp Rise In Unfit Soldiers")

Percentage of soldiers who are unavailable for combat has risen from 11% in 2007 to 16% in 2010.

The largest group of non-deployables is soldiers with **health problems**, such as temporarily sidelined for rehabilitation or surgery, or are **awaiting medical review** to determine fitness for remaining in the Army.

Examples:

- Between 2006 and 2008, bad backs, strained knees and other ailments increased from 1.4 million cases in the overall military to 1.9 million, according to Defense Department records.
- Mental health disorders increased by 67% during that time from 657,144 cases to 1.1 million today.

How the Army is addressing the issue:

- Increasing awareness of Soldiers, commanders and medical professionals.
- Restoring balance/improving dwell time. Critical to Soldiers' physical and mental recovery from deployments. Longer dwell times helps soldiers recover, to wit: one brigade that had 28 months of dwell had only 4% of its soldiers unable to deploy, he said.
- The continued drawdown in Iraq will help this effort. BCT dwell time on average is about 15 months and growing.
- Grow the Army. Congress has authorized temporary increase of 22,000 for overall Army end strength of 569,400.

What Army leaders are saying:

- **VCSA:** "These are folks (non-deployables) who had a knee problem after the first (combat) rotation and then, finally, after the third one of humping a rucksack in Afghanistan at 10,000 feet, the doc says, 'I don't care if you're going to deploy again, the fact of the matter is you're going to (stay back until you) get your knee fixed. '"
- **CSA:** "With the drawdown in Iraq and the growth that we've completed, we're starting to see (time between deployments) stretch out and that's only going to help us."

Background Info:

- Of the Army's current roster of 460,000 enlisted soldiers, half have deployed once, nearly a third twice, 13% with three deployments and 4% have deployed four times.
- Average number of soldiers per combat brigade unavailable to go to war. (percentage of 3,500-soldier brigade)
 - o 2007: 391 (11%)
 - o 2008: 467 (13%)
 - o 2009: 502 (14%)
 - o 2010: 567 (16%)