One year, day by day

Although U.S. forces rolled through Baghdad less than a month after the war began, much still remains to be done. As troops continue to be killed daily, the new Iraqi government stumbles to get on it's feet and govern itself.

Research poll
Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

Right **Wrong** **Don't know**

Death toll*
● = represents one U.S. military death

1/28/03: State of the Union. President Bush catalogs evidence of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in Iraq.

2/5: Secretary of State Colin Powell presents evidence to U.N. Security Council of Iraq's WMD programs.

3/19-20: U.S. forces launch overnight airstrikes at sites near Baghdad. Ground war begins in afternoon near Kuwaiti border. ●●●●

3/20-22 **71% 22% 7%**

3/21: ●●●●●●●●●●

3/22: ●●●●●●●●●●●

3/23: Deadliest day for U.S. troops, including 28 Americans killed near Nasiriyah. Toll includes 11 from an attack on supply convoy; nine are wounded and seven captured, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

3/23-24 **74% 21% 5%**

3/24: ●●●●●●

3/25: ●●●●●●●

3/25-27 **74% 21% 5%**

3/26: Two missiles hit a Baghdad neighborhood, killing 14 and injuring 30, according to Iraq. Northern front opened as 1,000 Army troops parachute into Kurdish-controlled enclave. ●●

3/27: ●

3/28: With port of Umm Qasr cleared of mines, British ship makes first sizable humanitarian delivery. ●●●

3/28-4/1 **69% 25% 6%**

3/29: ●●●●●●●

3/30: ●●●●●

3/31: ●●

4/1: Lynch rescued by U.S. special operations forces. ●●●●

4/2: ●●●●●●●●●●

4/2-7 **72% 20% 8%**

4/3: ●●●●●●●●●●●

4/4: ●●●●●●●●●●●

4/5: American troops smash Republican Guard defenders and drive through part of Baghdad. U.S. troops seize Saddam International Airport. ●●

4/6: ●●●●●

4/7: U.S. tanks rumble through downtown Baghdad, seizing an opulent palace. Bunker-buster bombs hit buildings where Hussein and other officials are believed to be. British forces take Basra. ●●●●●●●●

4/8: ●●●●●●

4/8-9 **74% 19% 7%**

4/9: American commanders declare Hussein's regime no longer rules Baghdad. Jubilant crowds greet troops, go on looting rampages and topple a statue of Hussein.

4/10: ●●

4/10-16 **74% 19% 7%**

4/11: ●

4/12: ●●

4/13: Remaining seven U.S. POWs are freed. ●

4/14: ●●●●●●

4/15

4/16

4/17: ●

4/18: First video and audio recordings by Hussein since the fall of Baghdad surface.

4/19 ●

4/20

4/21: Retired U.S. Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, Iraq's postwar administrator, arrives in Baghdad.

4/22: ●●●●

4/23

4/24

4/25: ●●

4/26

4/27

4/28: U.S. troops, who say they were being shot at, fire on protesters in Fallujah, killing 18. ●

4/29

4/30: ●

5/1: President Bush, speaking on aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, declares "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." ●

5/2

5/3: ●

5/4: ●

5/5

5/6: ●

5/7

5/8: ●

5/9: ●●●●

5/10: ●

5/11

5/12: L. Paul Bremer replaces Garner as head of interim administration. ●●

5/13: ●●

5/14: ●

5/15

5/16: ●

5/17

5/18: ●●

5/19: ●●●●●●●●

5/20

5/21: ●

5/22: U.N. resolution recognizes United States and Britain as occupying powers, in control of Iraq until a new government is formed. Economic sanctions are lifted, allowing Iraqi oil revenue to be used for reconstruction.

5/23

5/24

5/25: ●

5/26: ●●●●●●

5/27: ●●

5/28: ●●

5/29

5/30: ●●●

5/31

6/1

6/2

6/3: ●

6/4

6/5: ●

6/6: ●●

6/7: ●

6/8: ●

6/9

6/10: ●

6/11

6/12: ●

6/13: ●

6/14

6/15: ●

6/16: ●●

6/17: ●●

6/18: ●

6/19: ●

6/20:

6/20-7/2 **67% 24% 9%**

6/21

6/22: ●

6/23

6/24: ●●●●●●●

6/25: ●●●●●

Who controls Iraq

- **U.S.:** 101st Airborne has been replaced by Stryker Brigade
- **U.S.:** 1st Armored has been replaced by 1st Cavalry Division
- **Polish:** About 12,000 continue operations
- **U.S.:** 4th Infantry has been replaced by 1st Infantry Division and 30th Infantry Division
- **U.S.:** 82nd Airborne has been replaced by 1st Marine Expeditionary
- **British:** About 12,000 continue operations

Ethnicities of Iraq

- Kurd
- Sunni Turkoman
- Shia/Sunni Arab mix
- Sparsely populated
- Sunni Arab/Kurd mix
- Sunni Arab
- Shia Arab

Sunni Triangle: An approximate area northwest of Baghdad. U.S. troops are facing most resistance in this area where Saddam Hussein had strong support.

6/26: ●●●

6/27: ●

6/28

6/29

6/30

7/1: ●

7/2: ●

7/3: ●●

7/4: An audio tape alleged to be by Saddam Hussein says he is still in the country organizing resistance.

7/5

7/6: ●●

7/7: ●●

7/8: ●

7/9: ●●●●

7/10

7/11: ●

7/12

7/13: U.S.-appointed 25-member national governing council of prominent Iraqis from diverse political and religious backgrounds takes office. ●●

7/14: ●

7/14-8/5 **63% 30% 7%**

7/15: ●

7/16: Gen. John Abizaid, new American commander in Iraq, acknowledges that coalition forces are facing a "classical guerrilla-type war situation." ●

7/17: An audiotape purporting to be by Hussein denounces the new Governing Council as a tool of the American occupiers. ●●

7/18: ●●

7/19: ●

7/20: ●●●●

7/21: ●

7/22: Hussein's sons, Qusay and Uday, killed in gunbattle with U.S. troops in Mosul. ●

7/23: ●●

7/24: ●●●●

7/25

7/26: ●●●●

7/27: ●

7/28: ●●

7/29: The Iraqi Governing Council appoints a nine-member rotating presidency.

7/30: ●

7/31: ●●

8/1: ●

8/2

8/3

8/4: ●

8/5: ●●

8/6: ●●●

8/7: Bomb explodes outside the Jordanian Embassy, throwing cars onto rooftops and killing 19 people. ●

8/8: ●●●

8/9: ●●

8/10: ●

8/11

8/12: ●●●●●

8/13: ●●

8/14: ●

8/15

8/16: ●

8/17

8/18: ●●

8/19: Truck bomb hits U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22. U.N. mission leaves Iraq.

8/20: ●●

8/21: ●●

8/22

8/23: ●●●●●

8/24

8/25: ●●

8/26: ●

8/27: ●●●●

8/28

8/29: Car bomb explodes at Iraq's holiest shrine, killing top Shiite cleric Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim. ●

8/30: ●●

8/31

9/1: ●●●

9/2: ●

9/3:

9/3 **63% 31% 6%**

9/4: ●

9/5

9/6

9/7: Bush says he is asking Congress for $87-billion to fight terrorism.

9/8

9/9: ●

9/10: ●

9/11: ●

9/12: ●●

9/13

9/14: ●

9/15: ●●

9/16

9/17

9/18: ●●●●

9/19

9/20: ●●●

9/21

9/22: ●

9/23: ●

9/24: ●

9/25: ●●●

9/26

9/27

9/28

9/29: ●●●

9/30: ●●

10/1: ●●●

10/2

10/3: ●

10/3 **60% 33% 7%**

10/4: ●

10/5

10/6: President Bush announces that the White House is taking a stronger role in overseeing reconstruction by creating an interagency group led by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. ●●●

10/7

10/8

10/9: ●●●●

10/10

10/11

10/12: ●

10/13: ●●●●●

10/14

10/15

10/16: ●●●

10/17: ●

10/18: ●●

10/19

10/20: ●

10/21: ●

10/22: ●●

10/23: ●

10/24: ●●●

10/25

10/26: ●●●●●●

10/27: International donors pledged $13-billion (most in loans) for Iraqi reconstruction at a conference in Madrid, short of the $55-billion needed. ●●

10/28: ●●●

10/29

10/30

10/31: ●●●

11/1: ●●●

11/2: An Army helicopter carrying troops headed for leave is downed by a shoulder-fired missile near Fallujah, killing 16 and wounding 20. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

11/3: ●

11/4: ●●

11/5: ●

11/6: ●●●●

11/7: ●●●●●●●

11/8: ●●●●

11/9: ●

11/10

11/11: ●●●

11/12: Suicide bomber attacks headquarters of Italy's paramilitary police in southern city of Nasiriyah, killing more than 30. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

11/13: ●●

11/14: ●●

11/15: Bremer and Iraqi Governing Council agree on plan to transfer power to provisional Iraqi government on July 1, 2004. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collide near Mosul, killing 17 troops. ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

11/16

11/17: ●●●●

11/18: U.S. jets and helicopter gunships launched the biggest air operation in central Iraq since active combat ended, blasting suspected ambush sites and hide-outs with 500-pound bombs.

11/19: ●

11/20: ●●

11/21: ●

11/22: Car bombs hit two police stations northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 12 Iraqis. ●●

11/23: ●●●●●

11/24

11/25: Top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Husseini al-Sistani criticizes the U.S. transition plan.

11/26: ●

11/27: Bush pays a surprise 2 1/2 hour Thanksgiving visit to U.S. troops at Baghdad International Airport. ●

11/28: ●

11/29: ●●●●●●●●●

11/30

12/1: ●

12/2: ●●

12/3

12/4

12/5: ●

12/6

12/7: ●

12/8: ●●●●

12/9

12/10: ●●●●

12/11: ●

12/12: ●●

12/13: Hussein captured in "spider hole" south of Tikrit.

12/14: Suicide car bomb outside a police station in Baghdad kills at least 17 people and wounds 33. ●●

12/15: ●

12/15-17 **67% 26% 7%**

12/16: ●

12/17: ●

12/18: ●

12/19: ●

12/19-1/4 **62% 28% 10%**

12/20

12/21

12/22: ●●●

12/23

12/24: ●●●●●

12/25: ●●

12/26: ●●●

12/27: Suicide bombers and militants attack two coalition bases and the governor's office in Karbala, killing 19 people. ●●●●●●●

12/28: ●●●

12/29

12/30: ●

12/31

1/1/04: ●●●

1/2: ●●●●●

1/3

1/4

1/5

1/6:

1/6-11 **65% 30% 5%**

1/7: ●●

1/8: ●●●●●●●●●

1/9

1/10

1/11

1/12: ●

1/13

1/14: ●

1/15

1/16: ●●

1/17: ●●●

1/18: A suicide truck bomber kills at least 31 Iraqis outside the main gate of the coalition's headquarters in Baghdad.

1/19

1/20

1/21: ●●●

1/22: ●

1/23: Chief U.S. weapons inspector David Kay resigns. He later tells reporters he had concluded, after nine months of searching, that Iraq did not have stockpiles of forbidden weapons. ●●●

1/24: ●●●●●●

1/25: ●●●

1/26

1/27: ●●●●●●●

1/28

1/29

1/30

1/31: ●●●●

2/1: Twin suicide bombers kill 109 at two Kurdish party offices in northern city of Irbil. ●●

2/2

2/3: ●

2/4

2/5: ●

2/6

2/7

2/8: ●

2/9: ●●

2/10: Truck bomb explodes outside police station in Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing 53. ●

2/11: Car bomb blows up in crowd of Iraqis waiting outside army recruiting center in Baghdad, killing 47. ●●

2/11-16 **56% 39% 5%**

2/12: ●●

2/13: ●

2/14

2/15

2/16: ●●●

2/17

2/18

2/19: ●●

2/20: ●

2/21

2/22

2/23: United Nations concludes it is not possible to hold elections for an interim government before the July 1 hand-over, as Shiite leaders want.

2/24

2/25: ●●

2/26

2/27

2/28: ●

2/29

3/1

3/2: Series of coordinated blasts kill 181 at shrines in Karbala and Baghdad as thousands of Shiite Muslim pilgrims gather for a religious festival. ●

3/3

3/4

3/5: ●

3/6

3/7: ●

3/8: Iraqi Governing Council signs interim constitution for the country. Shiites sign despite objections. The document ignores the critical question of who will be in the interim government and how they'll be selected. ●

3/9: ●●

3/10: ●

3/11: ●●

3/12

3/13: ●●●●●●

3/14

3/15: ●

3/16: ●●

3/17

3/18

3/19

3/20

Updated deck of cards

In custody · Killed · At large

♠ A **Saddam Hussein,** President · K · Q · J · 10 · 9 **Rukan Razuki Abd al-Ghafar Sulayman al-Majid al-Tikriti,** Chief of tribal affairs · 8 · 7 · 6 · 5 · 4 · 3 **Nayef Shedakh,** Baath Party command chairman for Najaf · 2 **Rashid Taan Kazim,** Baath Party regional command chairman for Anbar governorate

♥ A · K **Hani Abd al-Latif Tilfah al-Tikriti,** Special Security Organization director · Q · J **Rafi Abd al-Latif Tilfah al-Tikriti,** director of general security · 10 · 9 · 8 · 7 · 6 · 5 · 4 · 3 · 2

♣ A · K **Izzat Ibrahim al-Doori,** Vice chair of Republican Command Council (RCC), north region commander · Q · J **Sayf al-Din Fulayyih Hasan Taha al-Rawi,** Republican Guard chief of staff · 10 · 9 · 8 · 7 · 6 · 5 · 4 · 3 · 2

♦ A · K · Q · J **Tahir Jalil Haboush,** Iraqi Intelligence Service director · 10 · 9 · 8 · 7 · 6 **Sabawi Ibrahim Hasan,** Presidential adviser, Saddam's maternal half brother · 5 **Abdel Baqi Abdel Karim al-Sadun,** Baath Party command chairman, Baghdad · 4 **Yahya Abdellah al-Aboudi,** Baath Party regional command chairman for Basra gov. · 3 · 2

*An additional 6 deaths are of unknown dates

Sources: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press survey conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, Associated Press, NASA Visible Earth

Times graphic – MICHAEL GUILLÉN