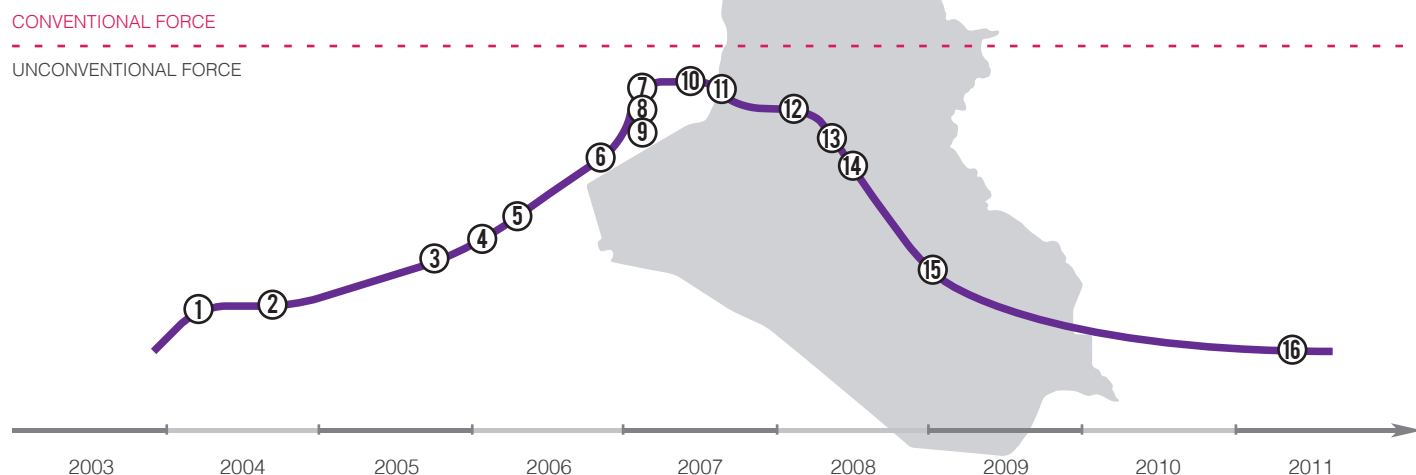


Conflict Escalation: Iraq, 2003–11



① LATE 2003–SPRING 2004

Iran ramps up support for Moqtada al-Sadr's JAM militia.

② OCTOBER 2004

Iran-supported Badr Corps try to assassinate Saddam-era intelligence figures and members of newly constituted National Intelligence Service.

③ SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2005

First wave of EFP incidents begins.

④ MARCH 2006

Escalation of sectarian violence following the February 26 bombing of the al-Askari mosque in Samarra. Second wave of EFP incidents begins.

⑤ MAY 2006

Lebanese Hezbollah militiaman Ali Musa Duqduq meets with Abdul Reza Shahlai, deputy commander of the Qods Force's Department of External Special Operations, in Tehran. Receives orders to oversee the training of militiamen in Iraq.

⑥ DECEMBER 21, 2006

US forces raid home of prominent Shiite politician and find Brig. Gen. Mohsen Chirazi, IRGC Qods force third in command, and Col. Abu Amad Davari.

⑦ JANUARY 11, 2007

United States raids Iranian consulate in Irbil and detains five suspected IRGC Qods Force members.

⑧ JANUARY 20, 2007

Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haqq (with Iranian cooperation and likely direction) raids US PJCC Karbala and kidnaps and kills five US soldiers.

⑨ LATE JANUARY 2007

US announces the "surge" in Iraq. IRGC begins a period of consolidation, expanding training and supply to Iraqi militia fighters. The United States begins aggressively targeting IRGC and proxy actors.

⑩ MARCH 2007

Qais Khazali, leader of Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haqq, captured by US forces.

⑪ AUGUST 29, 2007

Moqtada al-Sadr calls for a ceasefire after brutal fighting between JAM, Badr Corps, Iraqi government, and US forces in Karbala.

⑫ MARCH 2008

Iraqi security forces begin "Charge of the Knights," aimed at quelling violence in Iraq's southern province of Basra. Concurrent increase in violence and EFP attacks, but conscious decision by Iran to stand down some of their more closely controlled militia groups and allow Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki to regain control of the country.

⑬ MAY 2008

Final wave of EFP attacks peaks and then begins to decline in preparation for Status of Forces Agreement negotiations.

⑭ AUGUST 2008

Reports suggest that Iranian-backed militias are struggling to finance operations.

⑮ DECEMBER 2008

US Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz reports that the number of explosive devices entering Iraq from Iran has decreased.

⑯ JUNE–JULY 2011

A final wave of Iranian-directed attacks hit US troops in Iraq, designed to ensure that forces depart as scheduled.