

# Invisible Wounds of War

Psychological and Cognitive Injuries,  
Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery

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Center for Military Health Policy Research

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## **Part I: Introduction, Current Policy Context, and Historical Perspective**

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Chapter One briefly describes the psychological and cognitive injuries associated with combat, discusses the unique features associated with the current deployments, introduces the issues surrounding caring for servicemembers with these invisible wounds, and provides an overview of RAND’s study on these topics and the scope of this monograph.

Chapter Two provides a thumbnail sketch of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, describing the composition of the U.S. forces in terms of both demographic components and their organizational affiliations in the Active and Reserve Components; placing the conflicts in perspective, comparing them with other wars the United States has fought; showing the history of troop deployments in the war on terrorism and arraying them against signal events that have occurred in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF); discussing the casualties sustained in Iraq in terms of killed in action (KIA) and wounded in action (WIA) in Iraq for ground forces—that is, the predominantly Active and Reserve forces of the Army and the Marine Corps—and showing the numbers who have died as a result of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); and providing a brief overview of the health care systems that serve OEF/OIF veterans.