

*Inscribed on the back of the War on Terror Monument*

(Once the first and third campaigns are over the U.S. forces casualty numbers will be added)

---

THE WAR ON TERROR (WOT) OFFICIALLY BEGAN WHEN THE ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUP, AL QAEDA, CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUS SUICIDE ATTACKS ON THE TWIN TOWERS OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY AND THE PENTAGON IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. THE JIHADISTS HIJACKED TWO PASSENGER PLANES, AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS 11 AND 175, AND FLEW THEM INTO THE TOWERS. BOTH BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED. 2,996 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND OVER 6,000 WERE INJURED. AT THE SAME TIME A THIRD PASSENGER PLANE, AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 77, WAS HIJACKED AND CRASHED INTO THE PENTAGON. ALL 64 ON BOARD WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER 120 KILLED AND 675 INJURED IN THE PENTAGON. A FOURTH PASSENGER PLANE, UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93, WAS HIJACKED BY THE JIHADISTS. THE PASSENGERS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TRYING TO TAKE BACK CONTROL OF THE PLANE AND CRASHED IT INTO A FIELD IN PENNSYLVANIA TO PREVENT IT FROM REACHING ITS TARGET. 44 PEOPLE DIED.

THE LEADER OF WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE 9/11 ATTACKS WAS OSAMA BIN-LADEN. HE WAS TRACED TO AFGHANISTAN AND PROTECTED BY THE TALIBAN, THE RULING PARTY AND A KNOWN ISLAMIC JIHADIST GROUP. WHEN THE TALIBAN REFUSED TO SURRENDER BIN-LADEN, THE UNITED STATES INVADED AFGHANISTAN TO CAPTURE HIM AND SHUTDOWN THE TERRORIST TRAINING CAMPS OF BOTH GROUPS. OSAMA BIN-LADEN FLED AND HID IN PAKISTAN. IN A COVERT OPERATION IN MAY 2011 SEAL TEAM SIX WENT INTO PAKISTAN TO CAPTURE HIM BUT IN THE ATTACK HE WAS KILLED. FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN CONTINUED AGAINST THE TALIBAN AND AL QAEDA. THIS WAS THE FIRST OF THREE CAMPAIGNS IN THE WAR ON TERROR.

IN 2003 A SECOND CAMPAIGN IN THE WAR ON TERROR WAS LAUNCHED BY THE UNITED STATES BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS WORLD INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. SADDAM HUSSEIN, THE RULER OF IRAQ, WAS BELIEVED TO BE AFFILIATED WITH OSAMA BIN LADEN AND HAD IN THE PAST USED A BANNED NERVE GAS ON HIS PEOPLE AND THE IRANIANS. THIS

CONFLICT WAS TO PREVENT THE GAS FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF ISLAMIC JIHADISTS. SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS CAPTURED, TRIED AND EXECUTED BY THE IRAQI PEOPLE. BY THE END OF THIS CAMPAIGN IN 2011 4,411 U.S. FORCES WERE KILLED AND 31,957 WERE WOUNDED.

WITH THE DEATH OF AL QAEDA'S LEADER, ANOTHER JIHADIST GROUP, WHICH HAD PLEDGED ITS ALLEGIANCE TO AL QAEDA, CAME TO THE FOREFRONT. THE GROUP CALLED ITSELF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS). ISIS LEAD BY KNOWN EX-MILITARY OFFICERS OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, BEGAN A MOVEMENT TO REESTABLISH THE 11TH CENTURY ISLAMIC CALIPHATE. IT HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND MAINSTREAM MUSLIM GROUPS. THROUGH ACTS OF TERROR IT QUICKLY SPREAD INTO SYRIA AND LIBYA. BY INFILTRATING REFUGEES FROM THESE WAR TORN COUNTRIES AND USING THE MANTRA OF RECREATING THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE, ISIS WAS ABLE TO GROW IN NUMBER WORLDWIDE. THIS THIRD CAMPAIGN OF THE WAR BECAME OFFICIAL IN 2014.