

Post 9/11 Major Military Operations

You may not always know which operation the parents of your students are, or have been, deployed on. If you are discussing parental absence and deployment with students, it will help to understand some background of recent major military operations. Remember, while it may be helpful to discuss more operation-specific backgrounds and contexts with some students, it may be disturbing or painful for others. When engaging with students regarding military operations, be sure to check in with them before, during, and after each discussion to ensure they have an accurate understanding of the information and to assess their well-being. Below you will find a brief overview of each operation.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began on October 7, 2001 and officially ended December 31, 2014. OEF was a joint U.S., U.K., and Afghan operation focused on defeating terrorist organizations in Afghanistan and eliminating support to global terrorism. OEF operations were predominantly conducted in Afghanistan but also occurred in other regions of the world (e.g., Horn of Africa, Trans Sahara). OEF was separate from The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) International Security Assistance Force mission, which had similar objectives and occurred in Afghanistan at the same time.

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) began on March 20, 2003 and ended August 31, 2010. OIF was conducted by a U.S. led coalition of nations designed to end Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, destroy Iraq's ability to develop or use weapons of mass destruction, and end Iraq's support to global terrorism. Once the initial invasion was complete and Hussein was removed from power, the operations focused on stabilizing Iraq and fighting insurgent forces that opposed the occupation.

Operation New Dawn (OND) began on September 1, 2010 and officially ended on December 15, 2011. OND marked the end of combat operations by U.S. forces in Iraq and signaled a shift towards a predominantly civilian presence focused on providing stability to Iraq, performing counterterrorism operations, and rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and civil capacity.

Operation Odyssey Dawn (OOD) and NATO's Operation Unified Protector (OUP) began on March 19, 2011 and officially ended on October 31, 2011. OOD was a U.S. led military operation in Libya designed to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which was designed to help end civilian casualties resulting from the Libyan Civil War. NATO's OUP took over leadership of the operations on March 31, 2011 for the duration of the conflict.

Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) began on October 15, 2014. OIR is a coalition of more than 60 countries that contribute to operations aimed at militarily defeating the terrorists in Iraq and Syria who call themselves the Islamic state. In addition, OIR aims to increase the security capacity of local forces fighting terrorism.

Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS) and NATO's Operation Resolute Support (ORS) began on January 1, 2015. OFS and ORS provide training, advice, and assistance to Afghan security institutions in addition to counterterrorism support required to build Afghan security capabilities and long-term, sustainable, stability for the Afghan people.