

## Return to Duty Rate of Amputee Soldiers in the Current Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq

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**Background:** The purpose of this study was to determine the percentage of amputee soldiers who sustained their injury during the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and have returned to duty. In addition, the authors plan to identify the factors that influence the amputee's likelihood to return to duty.

### Conclusion

In summary, during the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, soldiers with major limb loss are returning to duty at a significantly higher rate than seen previously. After the amputation has been performed, the rehabilitation process begins. With the advent of amputee centers providing specialized care and modern prosthetics, soldiers with limb loss are afforded the opportunity to rehabilitate in an environment that is specifically tailored to meet their individual needs. As a result, more are remaining on active duty. Although we are returning more amputees to active duty, further studies are needed to look at factors leading to and outcomes associated with combat-related amputations to allow us to better serve our wounded.

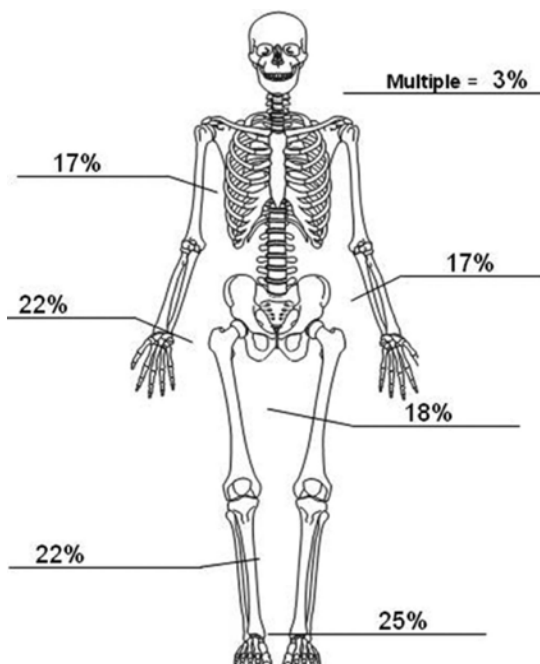


Figure 2. Return to duty rate for each amputation level.

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