

Introduction: Combat Support Hospitals (CSHs) function under adverse operational conditions while delivering care to diverse patients. The appropriate allocation of resources and the focus of training are dependent on an accurate assessment of the needs of the population. The purpose of this study was to describe the patient population served by the 228th CSH in Tikrit from 12/04 to 11/05. **Methods:** The medical databases of the 228th CSH were retrospectively reviewed. Coalition (co) patients were defined as US soldiers, their allies and support staff. Non-coalition (non-co) patients were defined as non-allied forces and Iraqi civilians. Mechanisms of injury were defined as gunshot wound (GSW), innovative explosive device (IED), shrapnel and burn injuries. **Results:** There were 1054 hospital admissions. 66% were co patients and 34% were non-co. Admission categories included: 56% disease, 35% battle injury (BI) and 9% non-battle injury. The most common disease diagnoses were: cardiovascular (24%), general surgery (23%) and infectious (18%). There were 365 patients with BI (53% non-co). Non-co patients were more injured (ISS 7 vs 3), had longer lengths of stay (9 days vs 2 days) and required more operations per patient (3.9 vs 1.5) all $p < 0.01$. Mechanisms of injury are shown in the table. 613 out of 953 operative procedures were performed in BI patients (451 non-co, 163 co).

	Non-Co	Co	p
GSW	60%	9%	<0.01
IED	13%	47%	<0.01
Shrapnel	19%	37%	<0.025
Burns	8%	7%	NS

The most common operation performed was soft tissue debridement (52%). Non-co patients required more abdominal procedures (12% vs 5%) and dressing changes (15% vs 3%) $p < 0.05$. Co patients required more orthopedic (24% vs 14%) and vascular procedures (7% vs 2%) $p < 0.01$. **Conclusions:** CSHs treat large numbers of patients with diseases commonly seen by civilians while managing combat casualties. Non-co patients are more severely injured, have different patterns of injury and consume significantly more operative resources than co patients.