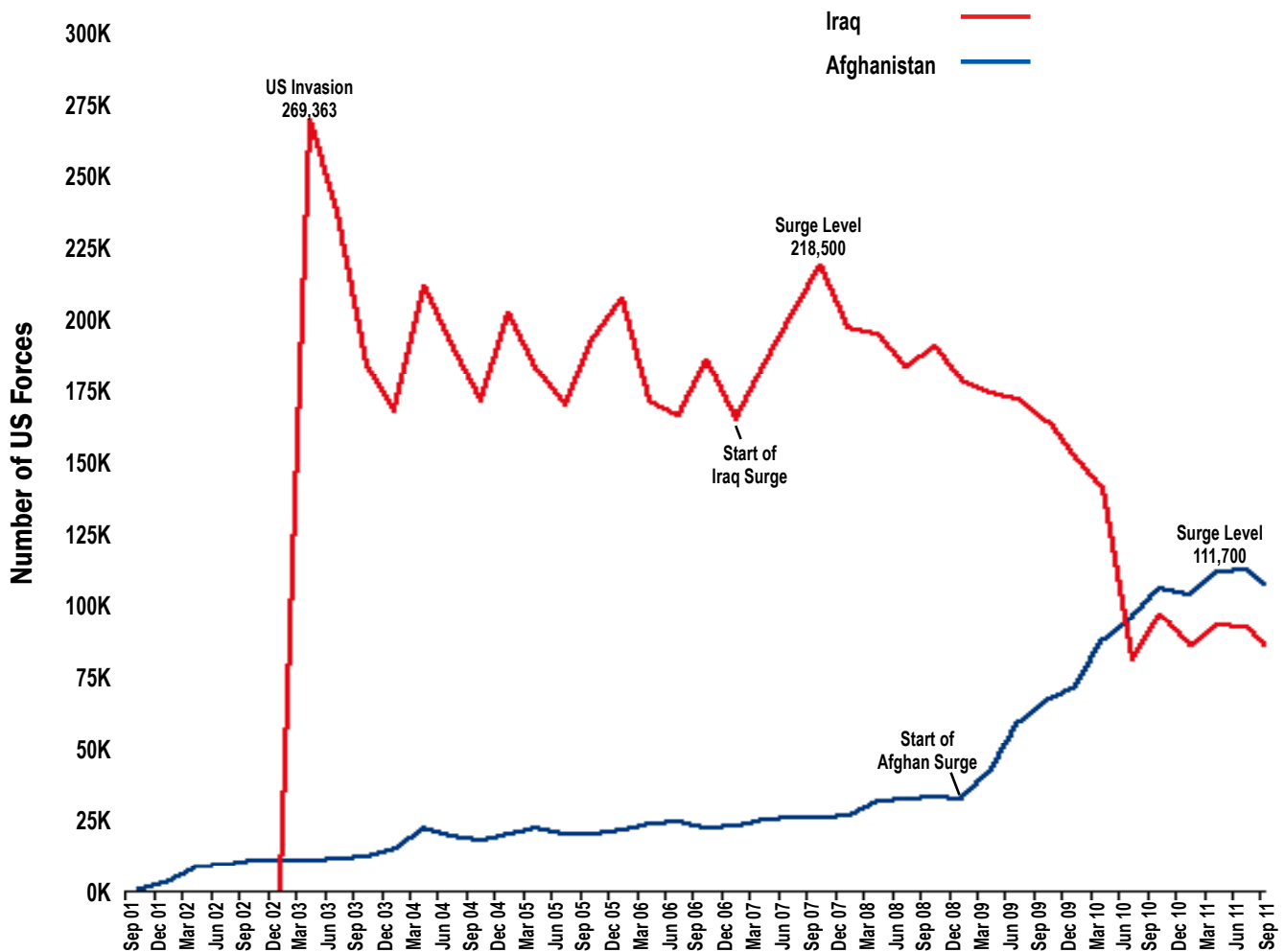


## Shifting Lines of War

America's two major wars of the past decade have been fought with dramatically different approaches. As the chart shows, commitment of US troops *in and around* Afghanistan was slow and steady, with a major surge since early 2009. In sharp contrast, the war in Iraq began with a huge immediate US troop deployment. Troop levels *in and around* Iraq fluctuated based on major rotations, but stayed at high levels, capped off by a major surge in 2007. After that, force levels declined quickly.

As of the end of September, the US had approximately 90,000 troops *inside* Afghanistan and 40,000 remaining *inside* Iraq. Plans call for withdrawing virtually all troops from Iraq by the end of 2011 and from Afghanistan by 2014. Still, Washington plans to maintain substantial combat forces on the periphery of both former war zones.

### Decade of US Troop Deployments In and Around Afghanistan, Iraq



Source: Department of Defense; active duty troops plus deployed Guardsmen and Reservists. Figures include not only the US troops inside Afghanistan and Iraq but also committed US forces based outside those nations. Totals are for the last day of each given month. Initial figures for Afghanistan operations (Fiscal 2002, 2003, and 2004) are derived from other official DOD data.