

Public Abstract

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Title:Saigon to Baghdad: Comparing Combat Correspondents' Experiences in Vietnam and Iraq

This study compared the responses of journalists who covered the Vietnam War with responses of reporters who covered the conflict in Iraq. The comparison showed that reporters working in Iraq faced more constraints in accessing the news because of greater physical danger and less cooperation from the military. The rules covering embedded journalists in Iraq were more limiting than what journalists in Vietnam encountered. Vietnam era journalists were more likely to use confidential sources than those who covered Iraq. Improved technology helped reporters in Iraq to deliver news more quickly and reliably. In Iraq, the Internet enabled troops in the field to see what the reporters were writing about them. Journalists said the technological improvements should make coverage more accurate. Vietnam era reporters were more likely to have had prior military experience, a difference that might have given them more insight into what was happening.