

PRESIDENT BUSH: IT'S MY-WAY-OR-THE-HIGHWAY

President Bush continues to ignore the will of the American people who want to see a change of direction in Iraq. Despite repeated overtures from Congress, the President continues his “my-way-or-the-highway” approach, which will delay the necessary change of course in Iraq.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS PLAYING GAMES WITH TIME FRAME

“It has now been 57 days since I requested that Congress pass emergency funds for our troops.” - President Bush, 4/3/07

In an effort to hide the enormous costs of the war, President Bush has declined – in an unprecedented manner – to budget for the war in Iraq, forcing Congress to pass supplemental appropriations bills each year. Until now, President Bush was considerably less concerned with how long Republican Congresses took to enact supplemental bills. In fact, the past two Republican Congresses have taken significant amounts of time:

FY 2005: Submitted Feb. 14, 2005
Enacted May 11, 2005
87 Days

FY 2006: Submitted Feb. 16, 2006
Enacted June 14, 2006
119 Days

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FAILED IRAQ POLICY IS HARMING OUR READINESS

“[Other families] could see their loved ones headed back to the war sooner than they need to.” - President Bush, 4/3/07

*“We are having to go to some extraordinary measures to ensure we can respond... We are continuing today to get requests for forces that continue to stress us.”
- Army Chief of Staff Peter J. Schoomaker, Washington Post, 2/16/07*

Despite years of repeated warnings from top military officials, President Bush has refused to acknowledge the strain that the Iraq war has put on our troops. Now he is trying to tie supplemental war spending to poor readiness levels, rather than taking responsibility for the widely documented effects of his failed policies:

“The 4th Infantry Division headquarters unit from Fort Hood, Texas, will return to Iraq after a little more than seven months at home — the largest departure to date from the Army's goal of giving units at least a year's rest after every year deployed. The 1st Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division, based at Ft. Drum, N.Y., will go back to Iraq after just 10 1/2 months at home.” [AP, 4/3/07]

OUR TROOPS WILL HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED

“If Congress fails to act in the next few weeks, it will have significant consequences for our men and women in the Armed Forces.” – President Bush, 4/3/07

President Bush is engaging in political theater rather than assessing the situation honestly and working with Congress to change direction in Iraq:

“Bush's warning is at odds with a Congressional Research Service report last week that said Congress can delay the supplemental funding until late July without seriously hampering Army operations.” [Bloomberg, 4/3/07]