

THE WAR IN IRAQ: 5TH YEAR BEGINS TODAY

Today, March 19th, marks the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq. Democrats believe it is time to forge a new direction that holds the Bush Administration and Iraqi government accountable.

In contrast, Republicans support an open-ended commitment and handing President Bush yet another blank check to continue his failed policies. Here's a brief look at what another four years in Iraq could look like if we pursue Republicans' stay-the-course strategy:

LENGTH OF CONFLICT

"It is unknowable how long that conflict [the war in Iraq] will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months." [Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, 2/7/03]

- Current months of conflict: **48**
- Total months of conflict after another four years: **96**

COST

"There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money, and it starts with the assets of the Iraqi people... We're dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon."

[Former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, 3/27/03]

- Current amount already appropriated: **\$379 billion** [CRS]
- After four more years at current levels: **\$763 billion**
- Amount Iraqi government says is needed over the next four years to rebuild the country's infrastructure: **\$100 billion** [Reuters, 10/31/06]

NUMBER OF TROOPS

"To suggest that we need several hundred thousand troops there after military operations cease, after the conflict ends, I don't think is accurate. I think that's an overstatement." [Vice President Dick Cheney, 3/16/03]

- The current number of troops in Iraq after four years: **141,000**
- Current number of troops killed in Iraq: **3,186** [DoD, 3/9/07]
- Number of troops killed after four more years at current levels: **7,586**
- Current number of troops wounded in Iraq: **23,924** [DoD, 3/9/07]
- Number of troops wounded after four more years at current levels: **51,364**
- Current number of wounded in action, unable to return to duty: **10,627** [DoD, 3/9/07]
- Number of wounded in action, unable to return to duty after four more years at current levels: **21,075**