

IRAQ – AFGHANISTAN WAR SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING FISCAL YEAR 2008 (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008)

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(The following discussion written on April 29, 2008)

According to an April 29 article on CQ Politics (www.cqpolitics.com), the House will likely vote on a new Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental during the week of May 5, with Senator Harry Reid stating that he wants the Senate to vote on the bill prior to Memorial Day.

Details of the supplemental are being closely guarded by the Democratic party leadership. However, the supplemental is based upon President Bush's request for an additional \$108 billion in supplemental funding for the Iraq – Afghanistan war for the current fiscal year (FY 2008, which ends on September 30, 2008). Of this amount, \$102 billion will be for the military.

Congress may also appropriate—in the same bill—an additional \$70 billion as a “down payment” on funding the war in FY 2009 (which runs from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). This additional \$70 billion would fund the war through at least March 2009 and (depending upon how it is spent and how other Department of Defense funds are utilized) most likely through June 2009.

That would bring the total Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental for military spending to \$178 billion (with more no doubt to be appropriated after the next President assumes office in January 2009). And don't forget that in a series of votes in October, November and December 2007, Congress already appropriated \$86.8 billion for the Iraq – Afghanistan war for this fiscal year.

Negotiations to develop the current supplemental spending bill have been taking place behind closed doors between Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate. These negotiations are laying the ground work for a quick vote on the bill once it reaches the floor of the House and the floor of the Senate. These negotiations are also laying the groundwork for the possibility that identical bills may be voted upon in both the House and the Senate, which would eliminate the necessity to create a conference committee (consisting of members of the House and Senate) to craft a final compromise bill.

According to an April 29 report by CQ Politics:

“A senior House aide said that the current plan is to hold three separate votes in the House: one for the war funding, one for domestic items, and one for a series of Iraq-related war policy provisions. These votes, which likely would all be called ‘amendments,’ would then be joined together and sent to the Senate as a package.”

It is quite possible—indeed probable—that the House version will not be publicly available until the morning of the vote. It is also quite possible that the date the vote takes place on Iraq – Afghanistan war spending won't be known until the night before the vote is scheduled to occur. This means that it will be next to impossible to mobilize significant opposition to the Iraq – Afghanistan war spending bill.

Therefore, it is indeed critical that phone calls begin now to Representatives and Senators to express opposition to any additional funding for the Iraq war—and especially so if the funding does not have concrete, date-certain timetables for complete withdrawal from Iraq with the provision that the funds can only be used for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

CALL CONGRESS TODAY

It is critical that phone calls and lobbying—both legal and extralegal civil disobedience—be ongoing at the offices of Representatives and Senators with the message being simple: Vote against any additional funds for the Iraq war.

You can contact your Representative and Senators via the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

You can find out your Representative's and Senators' direct contact information by visiting the website of Contacting Congress: <http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/>

Following is a "Question and Answer" piece on the status of the Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental as well as two charts that summarize the components of the war spending request.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE IRAQ – AFGHANISTAN WAR SUPPLEMENTAL FOR FY 2008

How much did President Bush request for the Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental?

President Bush requested a total of \$189.3 billion in funding for the Iraq – Afghanistan wars in Fiscal Year 2008. This Fiscal Year runs from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

This includes: \$17.8 billion for Personnel Costs; \$92.5 billion for Operations & Maintenance costs; and \$71.6 billion for Procurement costs.

How much has Congress already appropriated for the wars in Fiscal Year 2008?

\$86.8 billion is already appropriated by Congress for FY 2008. Funds were appropriated on three occasions. In September, Congress appropriated \$5.2 billion in the Continuing Resolution (HR 52). In November, Congress appropriated \$11.6 billion and included this amount in the baseline budget for the Department of Defense. In December, Congress appropriated an additional \$70 billion as a supplemental included in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008.

How much remains to be appropriated for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles in FY 2008?

Congress fully funded the procurement of MRAP vehicles in the Continuing Resolution of September and in the Department of Defense baseline budget of November. It appropriated a total of \$16.8 billion for procurement, maintenance and transport of MRAPs. This is the total amount requested by the Bush Administration for FY 2008 for MRAP vehicles.

How much remains to be appropriated of the amount requested by President Bush?

Of the funds requested by President Bush for the military, \$102.4 billion remains to be considered by Congress.

This includes: \$16.7 billion for Personnel costs; \$34.9 billion for Operations & Maintenance costs; and \$44.4 billion for Procurement costs.

Will the final Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental be available to the public before the vote in Congress?

Yes, but substantively no. The probability is high that the pattern of prior supplemental spending bills will be followed. Backroom deals will be negotiated by the powers-that-be and a final bill will be posted on the House of Representatives website on the morning of the vote. In May 2007, the final version of the House supplemental spending bill was not posted and available to the public until 6 a.m. on the morning of the vote.

Do funds appropriated by Congress for FY 2008 have to be spent by the military before September 30, 2008?

A Fiscal Year for the federal government begins on October 1 and ends the following September 30.

Funds appropriated for Personnel Costs and for Operations and Maintenance costs must be spent during the fiscal year for which they are appropriated—or, in this case, by September 30, 2008.

However, Procurement funds can be carried over from one year into the next. The military operates on a 3 year procurement cycle. In order to allow for bids to be placed; contracts to be signed; production to be completed and equipment to be delivered, Congress allows money appropriated for procurement to be spent up to three years into the future. Therefore, if Congress ends up approving the full \$71.6 billion for procurement originally requested by President Bush, the Department of Defense will have until September 30, 2010 to actually spend the money for procurement. Much of the equipment to be purchased with these funds won't be delivered to the military until 2009 or 2010.

The purchase of body armor and other protective gear for soldiers is contained within the Operation and Maintenance portion of the budget, a portion of the budget that must be spent by September 30, 2008.

Is President Bush seeking any Iraq – Afghanistan war funds for Fiscal Year 2009?

Yes. President Bush included a \$70 billion “placeholder” in his budget for FY 2009 (which runs from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). This is the same tactic that was used in prior fiscal years when Congress approved “bridge” funds or “reserve” funds for the Iraq – Afghanistan wars which were then contained as separate “supplemental” sections within the baseline Defense appropriations bill.

In testimony before Congress in early February, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates estimated that the total spending request for FY 2009 for the Iraq – Afghanistan wars will be about \$170 billion. He stated that this is only a guess and is based solely upon a straight line projection of current year costs into next year.

FY 2008 President's Budget
Funds Requested, Enacted and Pending

(dollars are in thousands -- i.e., multiply each number by 1000) -- See explanations at end of this chart

Account Title	FY 2008 GwOT Request Oct 2007 Amount	FY 2008 MRAP/IFF Adjustments Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Adjusted Request Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Enacted P.L. 110-161 Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Pending Request Amount
MILITARY PERSONNEL					
Military Personnel, Army	\$12,317,555	\$0	\$12,317,555	\$782,500	\$11,535,055
Reserve Personnel, Army	\$299,200	\$0	\$299,200	\$0	\$299,200
National Guard Personnel, Army	\$1,136,747	\$0	\$1,136,747	\$0	\$1,136,747
Military Personnel, Navy	\$791,677	\$0	\$791,677	\$95,624	\$696,053
Reserve Personnel, Navy	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
Military Personnel, Marine Corps	\$1,790,021	\$0	\$1,790,021	\$56,050	\$1,733,971
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps	\$15,420	\$0	\$15,420	\$0	\$15,420
Military Personnel, Air Force	\$1,415,890	\$0	\$1,415,890	\$138,037	\$1,277,853
Reserve Personnel, Air Force	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
TOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL	\$17,839,510	\$0	\$17,839,510	\$1,072,211	\$16,767,299

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

Operation & Maintenance, Army	\$54,933,351	-\$1,060,868	\$53,872,483	\$35,152,370	\$18,720,113
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve	\$196,694	\$0	\$196,694	\$77,736	\$118,958
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard	\$757,008	\$0	\$757,008	\$327,000	\$430,008
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$2,700,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
Iraq Security Forces Fund	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Operation & Maintenance, Navy	\$6,252,693	-\$89,928	\$6,162,765	\$3,664,000	\$2,498,765
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps	\$4,674,688	-\$403,000	\$4,271,688	\$3,965,638	\$306,050
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve	\$83,407	\$0	\$83,407	\$41,657	\$41,750
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve	\$68,193	\$0	\$68,193	\$46,153	\$22,040
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force	\$10,809,673	-\$104,461	\$10,705,212	\$4,778,000	\$5,927,212
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve	\$24,266	\$0	\$24,266	\$12,133	\$12,133
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard	\$103,267	\$0	\$103,267	\$51,634	\$51,633
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide	\$6,402,785	-\$1,065,447	\$5,337,338	\$2,116,950	\$3,220,388
Office of the Inspector General	\$4,394	\$0	\$4,394	\$0	\$4,394
Iraq Freedom Fund	\$207,500	\$3,643,577	\$3,851,077	\$3,747,327	\$103,750
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense	\$257,618	\$0	\$257,618	\$192,601	\$65,017
Defense Health Program	\$1,137,442	\$0	\$1,137,442	\$575,701	\$561,741
TOTAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	\$91,612,979	\$919,873	\$92,532,852	\$57,598,900	\$34,933,952

Account Title	FY 2008 GwOT Request Oct 2007 Amount	FY 2008 MRAP/IFF Adjustments Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Adjusted Request Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Enacted P.L. 110-161 Amount	FY 2008 GwOT Pending Request Amount
PROCUREMENT					
Aircraft Procurement, Army	\$2,125,464	\$0	\$2,125,464	\$943,600	\$1,181,864
Missile Procurement, Army	\$641,764	\$0	\$641,764	\$0	\$641,764
Procurement of W&TCV, Army	\$7,289,697	\$0	\$7,289,697	\$1,429,445	\$5,860,252
Procurement of Ammunition, Army	\$513,600	\$0	\$513,600	\$154,000	\$359,600
Other Procurement, Army	\$34,931,568	-\$11,800,507	\$23,131,061	\$2,027,800	\$21,103,261
Joint Impr Explosive Dev Defeat Fund	\$4,269,000	\$0	\$4,269,000	\$4,269,000	\$0
Aircraft Procurement, Navy	\$3,908,458	\$0	\$3,908,458	\$48,500	\$3,859,958
Weapons Procurement, Navy	\$318,281	\$0	\$318,281	\$0	\$318,281
Procurement of Ammo, Navy & MC	\$609,890	\$0	\$609,890	\$304,945	\$304,945
Other Procurement, Navy	\$1,870,597	-\$264,000	\$1,606,597	\$91,481	\$1,515,116
Procurement, Marine Corps	\$5,519,740	-\$2,372,000	\$3,147,740	\$703,250	\$2,444,490
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force	\$3,946,239	\$0	\$3,946,239	\$51,400	\$3,894,839
Missile Procurement, Air Force	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force	\$104,405	\$0	\$104,405	\$0	\$104,405
Other Procurement, Air Force	\$4,621,706	-\$2,160,947	\$2,460,759	\$30,725	\$2,430,034
Procurement, Defense-Wide	\$768,157	-\$225,974	\$542,183	\$274,743	\$267,440
Rapid Acquisition Fund	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
Mine Resistant Ambush Prot Veh Fund	\$0	\$16,830,000	\$16,830,000	\$16,830,000	\$0
TOTAL PROCUREMENT	\$71,590,366	\$6,572	\$71,596,938	\$27,158,889	\$44,438,049

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVALUATION

Research, Development, Test & Eval, Army	\$183,299	-\$20,000	\$163,299	\$0	\$163,299
Research, Development, Test & Eval, Navy	\$759,496	-\$148,929	\$610,567	\$0	\$610,567
Research, Development, Test & Eval, AF	\$1,571,810	-\$84,317	\$1,487,493	\$0	\$1,487,493
Research, Development, Test & Eval, DW	\$1,357,588	-\$673,199	\$684,389	\$0	\$684,389
TOTAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST & EVAL	\$3,872,193	-\$926,445	\$2,945,748	\$0	\$2,945,748

Account Title	FY 2008 GWoT Request Oct 2007 Amount	FY 2008MRAP/IFF Adjustments Amount	FY 2008 GWoT Adjusted Request Amount	FY 2008 GWoT Enacted P.L. 110-161 Amount	FY 2008 GWoT Pending Request Amount
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION					
Military Construction, Army	\$1,440,750	\$0	\$1,440,750	\$0	\$1,440,750
Military Construction, Navy	\$237,505	\$0	\$237,505	\$0	\$237,505
Military Construction, Air Force	\$305,000	\$0	\$305,000	\$0	\$305,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	\$27,600	\$0	\$27,600	\$0	\$27,600
FY 2005 BRAC - Defense Wide	\$415,910	\$0	\$415,910	\$0	\$415,910
TOTAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	\$2,426,765	\$0	\$2,426,765	\$0	\$2,426,765
FAMILY HOUSING					
Fam Housing Construction, Navy & Marine Corps	\$11,766	\$0	\$11,766	\$0	\$11,766
TOTAL FAMILY HOUSING	\$11,766	\$0	\$11,766	\$0	\$11,766
REVOLVING & MANAGEMENT FUNDS					
Working Capital Fund, Army	\$1,364,321	\$0	\$1,364,321	\$719,900	\$644,421
Working Capital Fund, Navy	\$42,930	\$0	\$42,930	\$0	\$42,930
Working Capital Fund, Air Force	\$237,149	\$0	\$237,149	\$0	\$237,149
Working Capital Fund, Defense-Wide	\$313,275	\$0	\$313,275	\$280,100	\$33,175
National Defense Sealift Fund	\$5,110	\$0	\$5,110	\$0	\$5,110
TOTAL REVOLVING & MANAGEMENT FUNDS	\$1,962,785	\$0	\$1,962,785	\$1,000,000	\$962,785
TOTAL BUDGET AUTHORITY	\$189,316,364	\$0	\$189,316,364	\$86,830,000	\$102,486,364

CHART EXPLANATIONS

This chart reflects the total dollar amounts requested by the Pentagon to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:

“FY 2008 GWoT Request Oct 2007” – the amount requested as of October 2007.

“FY 2008 MRAP / IFF Adjustments” – reflects adjustments to the Department of Defense’ October 2007 war supplemental request for funding that the Congress appropriated directly in the Mine Resistant Ambush Protection Resistance (MRAP) Vehicles Fund and the Iraq Freedom Fund.

“FY 2008 GWO T Adjusted Request” – adjusts the Department of Defense’ October 2007 war supplemental request to reflect the changes to centrally fund MRAP and congressionally-directed programs in the Iraq Freedom Fund. This is the baseline request to be looking at to understand the total dollar amount being sought for the Iraq – Afghanistan war.

“FY 2008 GWO T Enacted P.L. 110-161” – this is the amount appropriated by Congress already for the Iraq – Afghanistan war for the current FY 2008.

“FY 2008 GWO T Pending Request” – this is the amount requested by the Pentagon but not yet acted upon by Congress. This is the dollar amount to keep an eye on in the upcoming debate on the new Iraq – Afghanistan war supplemental in April – May.