# Bush Administration Downplayed Cost of Iraq Reconstruction

**"That's correct. 1.7 billion [dollars] is the limit on reconstruction for Iraq…. In terms of the American taxpayer contribution, that is it for the US. The rest of the rebuilding of Iraq will be done by other countries and Iraqi oil revenues."**

**–USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios**
**ABC's "Nightline" with Ted Koppel**
**April 23, 2003**

# Bush Administration Downplayed Cost of Iraq Reconstruction

**"The oil revenues of Iraq could bring between $50 and $100 billion over the course of the next two or three years…We're dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon. "**

– Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz
Testimony Before House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense
March 27, 2003

# Bush Administration Belittled Suggestions War Would Be Costly

**STEPHANOPOULOS:** "What should the public know right now about what a war with Iraq would look like and what the cost would be?"

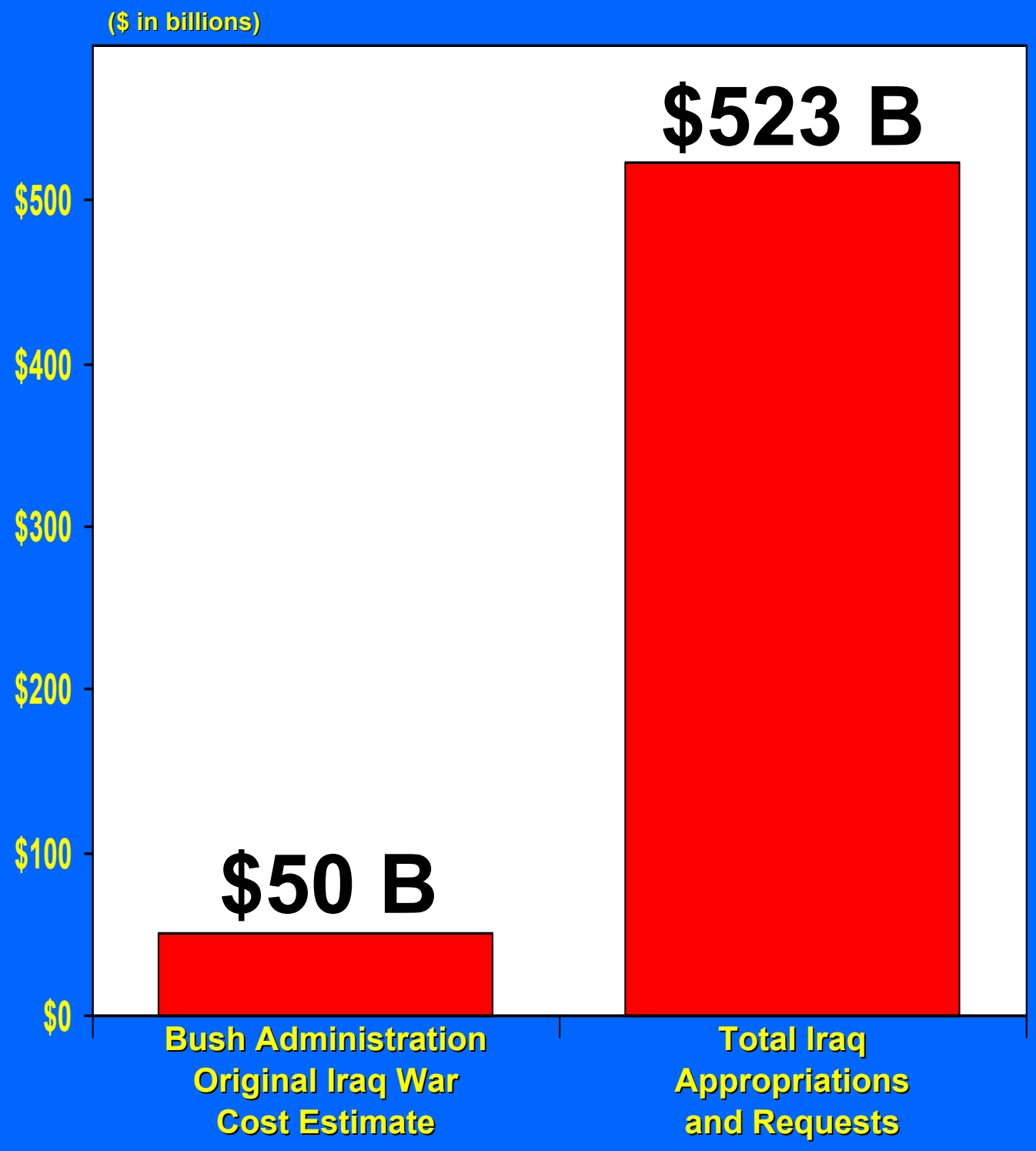
**RUMSFELD:** "...The Office of Management and Budget estimated it would be something under $50 billion."

**STEPHANOPOULOS:** "Outside estimates say up to $300 billion."

**RUMSFELD:** "Baloney."

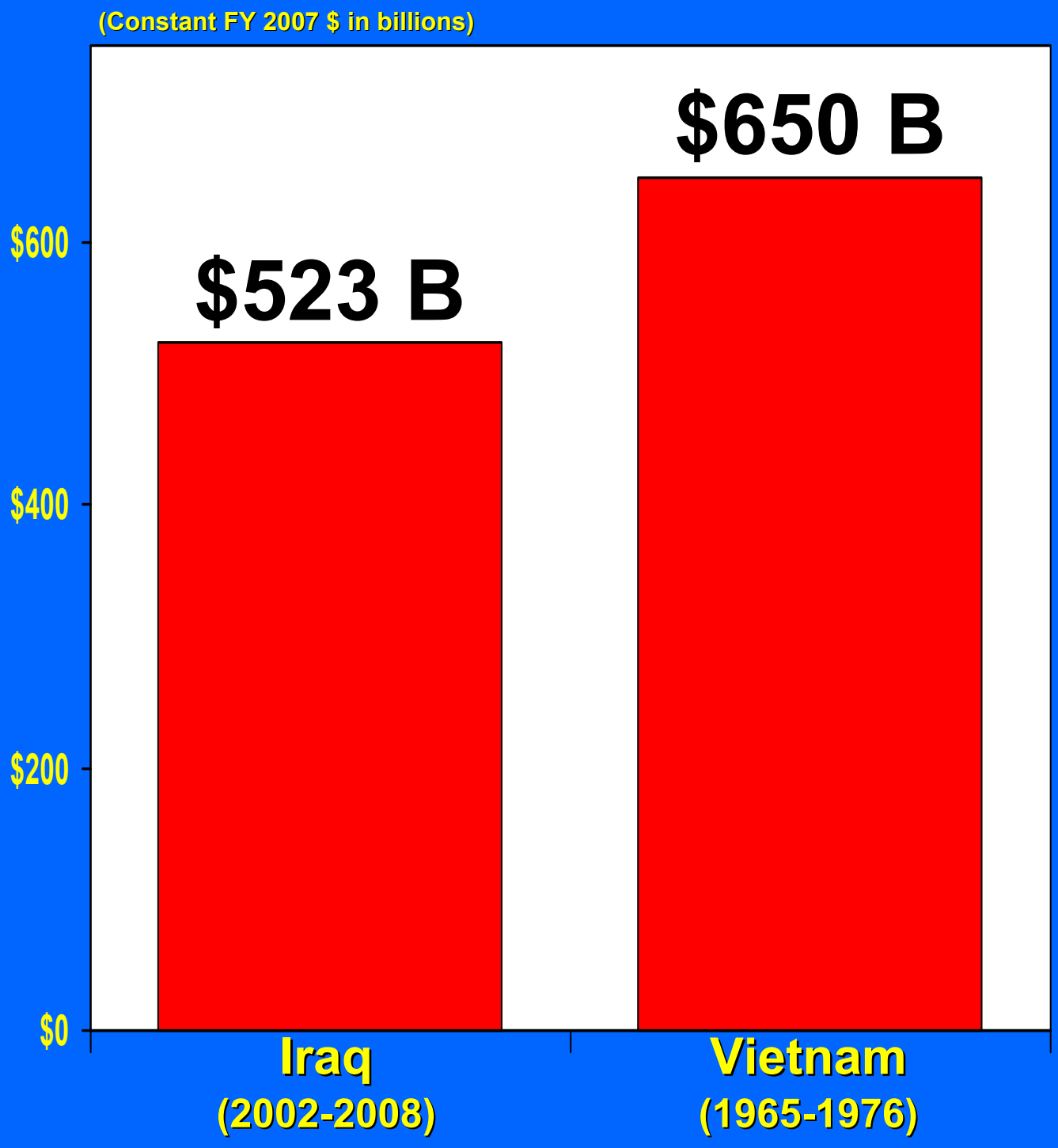
– Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Interview on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"
January 19, 2003

# Iraq War Costs Exceed Half a Trillion Dollars



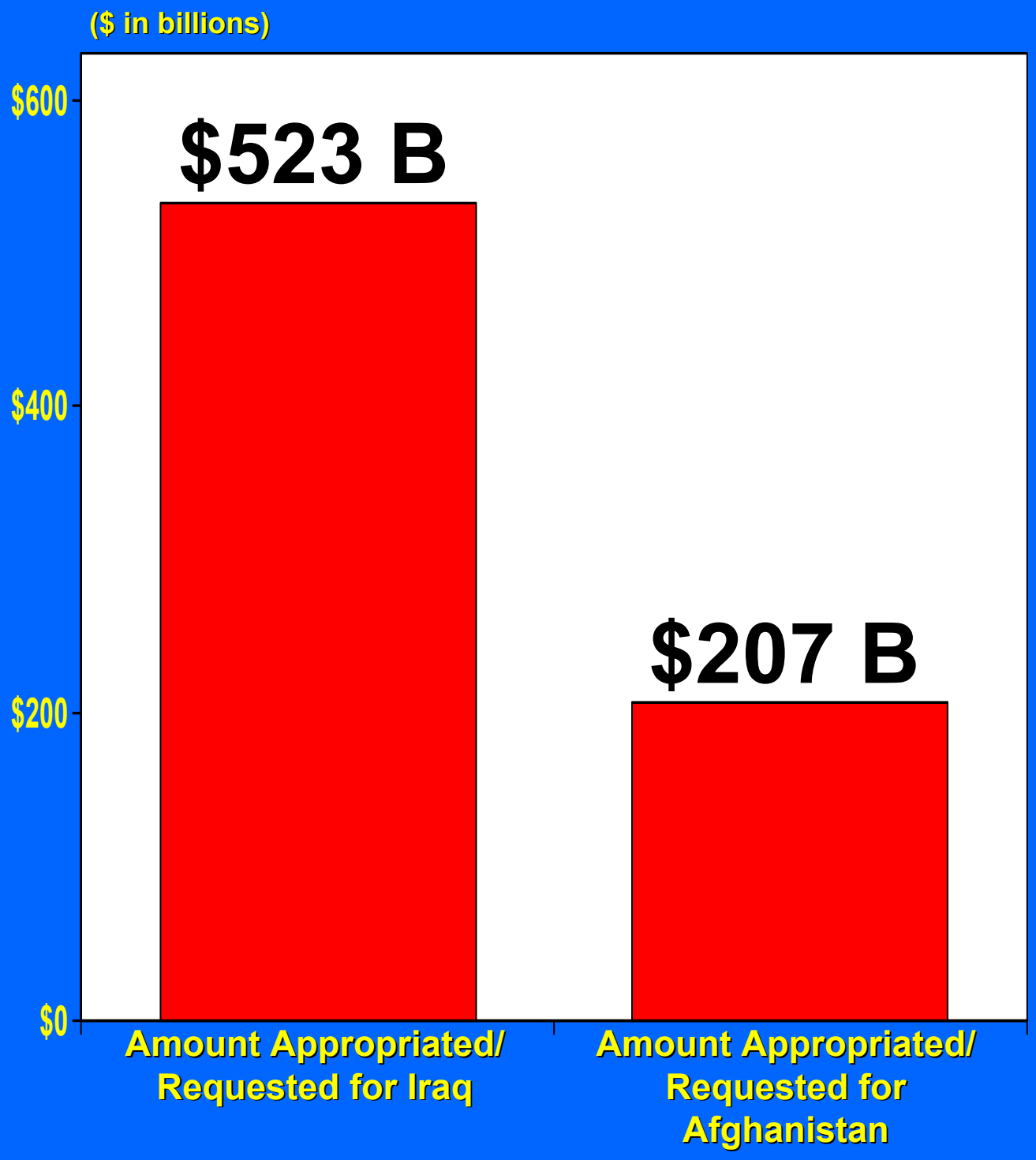

Source: OMB, CBO, and SBC Democratic staff

# Iraq War Approaching Cost of Vietnam War



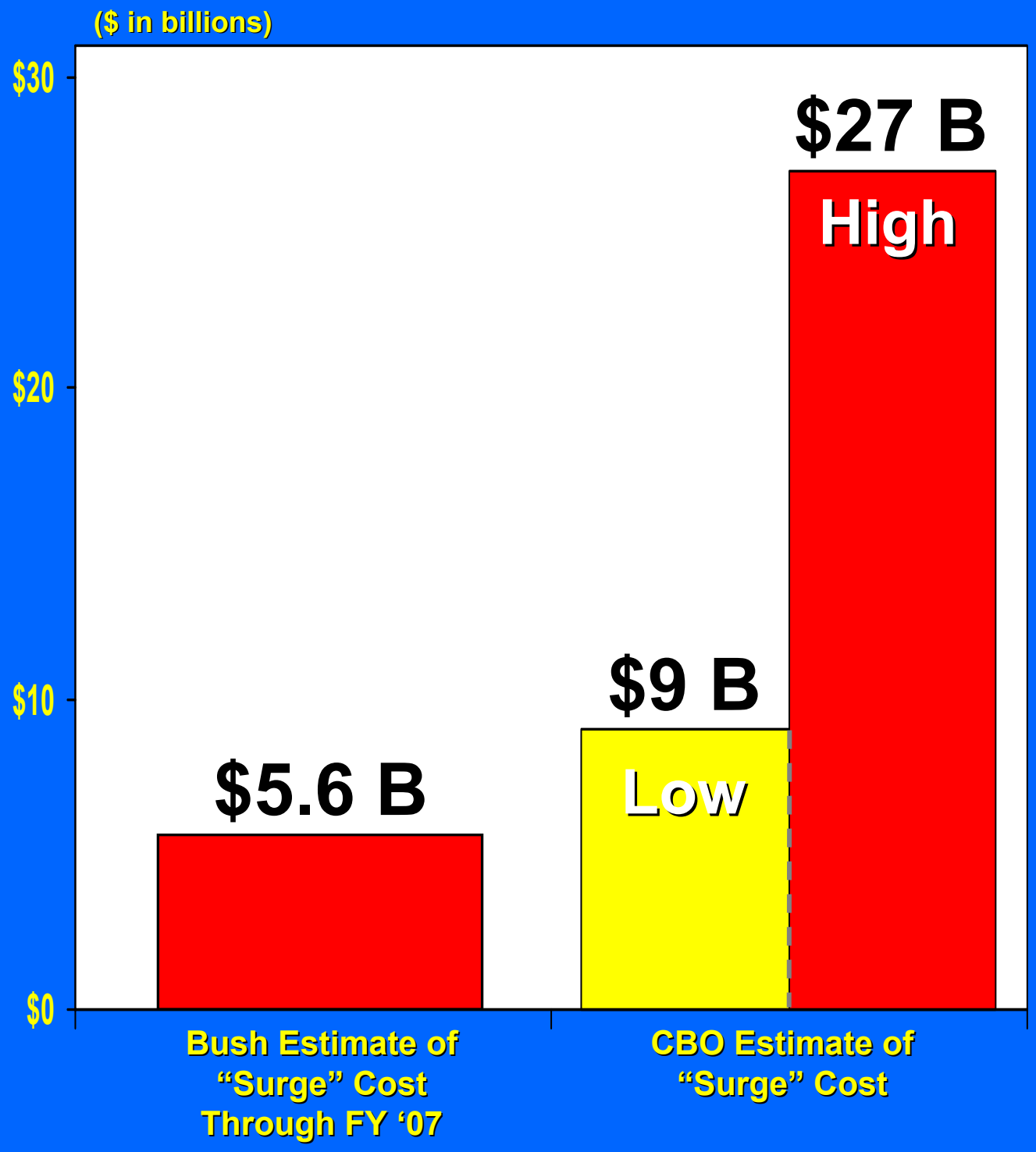

Source: CBO, OMB, CRS, and SBC Democratic staff

# The Wrong Priorities:
## Iraq Diverting Resources from Effort in Afghanistan




Source: CBO, OMB, SBC Democratic staff

# Bush Understates "Surge" Cost




Source: White House, CBO
Note: CBO estimate of 12-month peak deployment cost for an additional 48,000 troops.

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2007

# Equipment For Added Troops Is Lacking

## *New Iraq Forces Must Make Do, Officials Say*

*By* ANN SCOTT TYSON
*Washington Post Staff Writer*

Boosting U.S. troop levels in Iraq by 21,500 would create major logistical hurdles for the Army and Marine Corps, which are short thousands of vehicles, armor kits and other equipment needed to supply the extra forces, U.S. officials said.

The increase would also further degrade the readiness of U.S.-based ground forces, hampering their ability to respond quickly, fully trained and well equipped in the case of other military contingencies around the world and increasing the risk of U.S. casualties, according to Army and Marine Corps leaders.

"The response would be slower than we might like, we would not have all of the equipment sets that ordinarily would be the case, and there is certainly risk associated with that," the Marine Corps commandant, Gen. James Conway, told the House Armed Services Committee last week.

President Bush's plan to send five additional U.S. combat brigades into Iraq has left the Army and Marines scrambling to ensure that the troops could be supported with the necessary armored vehicles, jamming devices, radios and other gear, as well as lodging and other logistics.

Trucks are in particularly short supply. For example, the Army would need 1,500 specially outfitted — known as "up-armored" — 2½-ton and five-ton trucks in Iraq for the incoming units, said Lt. Gen. Stephen Speakes, the Army's deputy chief of staff for force development.

"We don't have the [armor] kits, and we don't have the trucks," Speakes said in an interview. He said it will take the Army months, probably until summer, to supply and outfit the additional trucks. As a result, he said, combat units flowing into Iraq would have to share the trucks assigned to units now there, leading to increased use and maintenance.

Speakes said that although another type of vehicle — the up-armored Humvee — continues to be in short supply Army-wide, there would be "adequate" numbers for incoming forces, and each brigade would receive 400 fully outfitted Humvees. But he said that to meet the need, the Army would have to draw down pre-positioned stocks that would then not be available for other contingencies.

Still, U.S. commanders privately expressed doubts that Iraq-bound units would receive a full complement of Humvees. "It's inevitable that that has to happen, unless five brigades of up-armored Humvees fall out of the sky," one senior Army official said of the feared shortfall. He expects that some units would have to rely more heavily on Bradley Fighting Vehicles and tanks that, although highly protective, are intimidating and therefore less effective for many counterinsurgency missions.

Adding to the crunch, the U.S. government has agreed to sell 600 up-armored Humvees to Iraq this year for its security forces. Such sales "better not be at the expense of the American soldier or Marine," Speakes told defense reporters recently, saying U.S. military needs must take priority.

Living facilities in Iraq are another concern for the additional troops, who would be concentrated in Baghdad, Army officials said. The U.S. military has closed or handed over to Iraqi forces about half of the 110 bases established there after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Decisions are being made on where to base incoming units in Baghdad, but it is likely that, at least in the short term, they would be placed in existing facilities, officials said.

Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, the new top U.S. commander in Iraq, has requested that additional combat brigades move into Iraq as quickly as possible. But accelerated deployments would mean less time for units to train and fill out their ranks. Brigades are required to have an aggregate number of soldiers before deploying but may still face shortages of specific ranks and job skills.

Meanwhile, the demand for thousands more U.S. forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan is worsening the readiness of units in the United States, depleting their equipment and time to train, Army officials said. "We can fulfill the national strategy, but it will take more time and it will also take us increased casualties to do the job," Speakes said.

Army Chief of Staff Peter J. Schoomaker testified last week before the House Armed Services Committee that, regarding readiness, "my concerns are increased over what they were in June."

"To meet combatant commanders' immediate wartime needs, we pooled equipment from across the force to equip soldiers deploying in harm's way," he said. "This practice, which we are continuing today, increases risk for our next-to-deploy units and limits our ability to respond to emerging strategic contingencies."

Schoomaker called for additional funding to fix "holes in the force" and "break the historical cycle of unpreparedness."

The equipment shortages are pronounced in Army National Guard units, which have, on average, 40 percent of their required equipment, according to Army data. Senior Pentagon and Army officials say they expect to have to involuntarily mobilize some National Guard combat brigades earlier than planned to relieve active-duty forces. But the Guard as a whole is not expected to return to minimum equipment levels until 2013, Army figures show.

The Army seeks to increase its permanent active-duty ranks by 65,000 soldiers by 2012, creating six new combat brigades at a total estimated cost of $70 billion.