

# FACTS AND FICTION: TIMING OF IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

***“Clearly, claims that a failure to pass a Supplemental Appropriations bill immediately will cut off funding for troops in the field are overstated at best and disingenuous at worst.”***

*– Lt. General Robert Gard, US Army, Retired, and  
Christopher Hellman, Center for Arms Control & Non-Proliferation*

President Bush continues to count the days since he submitted a supplemental war spending bill to Congress. Significantly, he is choosing to ignore three key facts: first, **previous Republican Congresses took longer to pass supplemental spending bills**. Second, the President did not submit his final request to Congress until March 10, **making his tally of days inaccurate**. Third, the President’s remarks contradict a report by the Congressional Research Service, which concludes that **the Army can continue to operate without supplemental spending being passed until late July**.

## REPUBLICANS TOOK MUCH LONGER TO PASS PREVIOUS SUPPLEMENTALS

*“Moreover, the time Congress is taking to finish the current supplemental is relatively brief so far, compared with the time Republican-controlled Congresses have taken on some supplementals in the past.” [CQ Today, 4/11/07]*

Yesterday, President Bush said that 70 days had passed since he submitted a request for supplemental war spending. What he failed to note, however, was that previous Republican-controlled Congresses took even longer than this to pass supplemental war spending bills – and the White House never criticized them for taking too long.

<b>Supplemental war spending bill</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Days elapsed*</b>
\$94.5 billion fiscal 2006 bill	Feb. 16, 2006	June 15, 2006	119
\$82 billion fiscal 2005 bill	Feb. 14, 2005	May 11, 2005	86
\$87.5 billion fiscal 2004 bill	Sept. 17, 2003	Nov. 6, 2003	50
\$78.5 billion fiscal 2003 bill	March 25, 2003	April 16, 2003	22
\$28.9 billion fiscal 2002 bill	March 21, 2002	Aug. 2, 2002	134
\$20 billion allocated under fiscal 2002 Defense appropriations bill	Oct. 17, 2001	Jan. 10, 2002	85

\* Start date to the end date, but not including the end date  
SOURCES: Office of Management and Budget and Congressional Quarterly

*\*\*Chart from CQ Today, 4/11/07*

## ONLY 38 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE BUSH MADE HIS FINAL REQUEST

*“Mr. Bush sent the speaker a request Saturday to adjust the administration's spending proposal... The new request also seeks more than \$500 million to send additional combat troops, linguists and military trainers to Afghanistan.” [NY Times, 3/11/07]*

President Bush has also failed to account for the fact that he did not make his final supplemental spending request to Congress until Saturday, March 10. This brings the total number of days since the final request was submitted to Congress to **38** – a significantly shorter amount of time than it took the previous Republican Congresses to get a supplemental war spending bill to the President’s desk.