

## Richardson ad speaks of troop withdrawal

*by UPI*

WASHINGTON -- Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Richardson launched a new ad campaign to bolster his candidacy by bringing Iraq to the forefront again. The political ad seeks to set the New Mexico governor apart from his Democratic rivals by calling for a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq within a year, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday. Democratic front-runners Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Clinton of New York, along with former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, call for a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq or hesitate to dictate a definitive timetable for a complete withdrawal. Richardson hopes the new ad will revitalize the debate over Iraq and draw his campaign out from the second tier ahead of the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. "We believe that this debate isn't happening right now, and it needs to happen," Richardson campaign manager David Contarino said in the newspaper. "The governor is concerned that the media has forgotten about Iraq and so, perhaps, have some of the other candidates in this race. He still believes this is the most important issue."

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