

GOP, Democrats plan media blitz on Iraq

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Republicans reportedly are planning to blitz Democrats' stance on the war in Iraq before next week's congressional update from U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus. A strategy memo from GOP leadership calls on congressional Republicans to advance the party's position with conservative bloggers and talk-show hosts, including a nationwide radio event April 9, The Washington Times reported Tuesday. The memo said the message should focus on military successes in Iraq and the need to pass war funding not tied to troop withdrawal, reported the Times, which saw a copy of the memo. It also suggested working with organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign War or the American Legion to deliver the message. Democrats, meanwhile, are preparing their own media blitz, pointing to national polls that indicate a growing dissatisfaction with the war, the Times said. Lawmakers are expected to consider this month a supplemental \$102.5 billion request for 2008 war spending, which Democratic leaders indicated they plan to link to a withdrawal plan. Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker are scheduled to speak before Senate and House committees April 8-9. Petraeus is expected to recommend stopping troop reductions while the security situation in Iraq is assessed.

GOP, Democrats plan media blitz on Iraq by UPI