

Report: Bush to seek \$50B more for Iraq

by UPI

WASHINGTON - After a congressional briefing on Iraq next month, U.S. President George Bush will seek \$50 billion more for the war, a source told The Washington Post. A White House source, who asked not to be identified, told the newspaper the supplemental request will follow what is expected to be a promising assessment by U.S. Army Gen David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker. The rationale is that Congress will be unlikely to balk so soon after hearing of progress, the newspaper said. So far, \$460 billion has been allocated to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in the fiscal 2008 defense budget and there is a pending \$147 billion supplemental bill for Iraq before Congress, the report said. The cost of the war in Iraq exceeds \$3 billion a week, the newspaper said. Pentagon officials said recently the cost of the Iraq war has surpassed \$330 billion since the March 2003 invasion, while the war in Afghanistan has cost \$78 billion.

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