

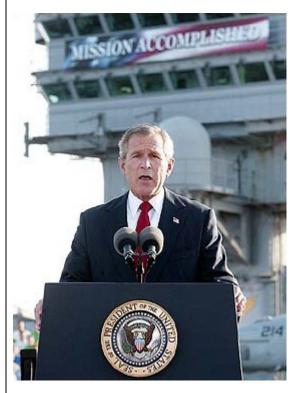
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Rahm Emanuel, Chairman John B. Larson, Vice Chair

BUSH SLOGANS VS. IRAQ REALITIES RATION SLOGAN REALITY IN IRAQ

BUSH ADMINISTRATION SLOGAN MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

"... [M]y fellow Americans: Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed. [Remarks by President Bush, 5/1/03, <u>www.whitehouse.gov</u>]



BUSH: "STAY THE COURSE" IN IRAQ

"It's hard to advance freedom in a country that has been strangled by tyranny. And, yet, we must stay the course, because the end result is in our nation's interest... And my message today to those in Iraq is: We'll stay the course; we'll complete the job. My message to our troops is: We will stay the course and complete the job and you'll have what you need." [Presidential Remarks, 4/13/04; www.whitehouse.gov]

FREEDOM IS ON THE MARCH

"Because we acted to defend our country, because we acted in our self-interest, 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq have been liberated. Our world is changing. Freedom is on the march." [Presidential Remarks, 9/3/04; <u>www.whitehouse.gov</u>]

BUT THE WAR CONTINUES

Almost Four Years Later, U.S. Still in Iraq. Over Forty-five months after President Bush declared Mission Accomplished, U.S. forces are still in Iraq.

Military Deaths in Iraq Now Total Over 3,000. As of Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, at least 3,117 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. [Associated Press, 2/9/07]

Over 23,000 American Soldiers Injured in Iraq. Through February 7, 2007, there have been 23,417 injuries sustained by U.S. soldiers during the Iraq War. [Brookings Institute, <u>www.brookings.edu</u>]

Iraq War Has Cost Over \$500 Billion So Far. According to a report by the Congressional Budget Office, an updated account of spending on the Iraq War shows that thus far \$532 billion has been appropriated by Congress or requested by the Administration. This total is more than double the \$214 billion requested or appropriated for the war in Afghanistan. [Congressional Quarterly, 2/8/07]

BUSH NOW SAYS TO CHANGE COURSE; BUT SAME AS THE OLD COURSE

In January 2007, Bush said, "the new strategy I outline tonight will change America's course in Iraq." But the Associated Press reported that "President Bush's new plan for Iraq sounds a lot like his old one. Send in more troops, set goals for the Iraqi government and assure Americans it's better to wage war there than here." [Presidential Remarks, 1/10/07; www.whitehouse.gov; AP, 1/10/07]

IRAQIS LIVE IN STATE OF CIVIL WAR

In November 2006, NBC News branded the Iraq conflict a civil war — "a decision that put it at odds with the White House and that analysts said would increase public disillusionment with the U.S. troop presence there. NBC said the Iraqi government's

	inability to stop spiraling violence between rival factions fit its definition of civil war." [MSNBC, 11/27/06]
INSURGENCY IN ITS LAST THROES	BUT EVEN RUMSFELD SAID THAT THE
"The level of activity that we see today from a	INSURGENCY HAD GROWN STRONGER
military standpoint, I think, will clearly decline. I	Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
think they're in the last throes, if you will, of the	acknowledged in December 2005 that the
insurgency." [Dick Cheney Interview, 5/30/05;	insurgency in Iraq has been stronger. [Associated
www.cnn.com]	Press, 12/5/05]
TURNED THE CORNER	BUT IRAQ DESCENDED INTO VIOLENCE
President Said Iraqi Election Would be a	Insurgency Achieved Strategic Success.
Turning Point. In January 2005, President Bush	According to the Washington Post, in late 2006, the
said, "Tomorrow the world will witness a turning	Pentagon said that violence in Iraq soared to "its
point in the history of Iraq, a milestone in the	highest level on record and acknowledged that anti-
advance of freedom, and a crucial advance in the	U.S. fighters have achieved a 'strategic success' by
war on terror. The Iraqi people will make their way	unleashing a spiral of sectarian killings by Sunni
to polling centers across their nation." [Presidential	and Shiite death squads that threatens Iraq's
Radio Address, 1/29/05, <u>www.whitehouse.gov</u>]	political institutions." [Washington Post, 12/19/06]
White House Said 2005 Was a Turning Point for Iraq. "In three days, they will go to the polls for the third time this year and choose a new government under their new constitution. Difficult work remains, but 2005 will be recorded as a turning point in the history of Iraq, the Middle East, and freedom." [White House Fact Sheet, 12/12/05 www.whitehouse.gov]	Insurgency Has Gotten Worse. According to the Washington Post, a senior Defense Department official said in mid-2006, "The insurgency has gotten worse by almost all measures, with insurgent attacks at historically high levels. The insurgency has more public support and is demonstrably more capable in numbers of people active and in its ability to direct violence than at any point in time." [Washington Post, 8/17/06]
STAND UP; STAND DOWN	BUT IRAQI FORCES DID NOT STAND UP
"Our strategy can be summed up this way: As the	In October 2006, the <u>Washington Post</u> reported
Iraqis stand up, we will stand down." [Remarks by	that, "U.S. Military Is Still Waiting For Iraqi Forces
President Bush, 6/28/05, <u>www.whitehouse.gov</u>]	to 'Stand Up'" [<u>Washington Post</u> , 10/1/06]