



COST OF IRAQ WAR RISES HIGHER FOR MICHIGAN

September 2006

Congress has just appropriated another \$70 billion for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Another \$60 billion will be added onto the \$319 billion already spent or allocated for the Iraq War, bringing the new total up to nearly \$380 billion. And that will only fund the conflict through next March.¹

The rising cost to Michigan in dollars and lives

- ▶ The cost to taxpayers in Michigan of the running total of \$378 billion will be \$10.0 billion.²
- ▶ Of the 2,709 U.S. soldiers that have been killed in the Iraq War, 96 are from Michigan.³
- ▶ Of the almost 20,500 U.S. soldiers that have been wounded in the conflict, 588 are from Michigan.⁴
- ▶ The war is essentially financed through deficit spending, so interest payments over time could amount to another \$100 billion or more.⁵
- ▶ Health care costs and disability benefits for the wounded soldiers may also exceed \$100 billion.⁶
- ▶ Before the war began, administration officials projected that the conflict would cost only \$50 billion.

Cost to Cities in Michigan⁷

Detroit	\$635.5 million
Grand Rapids	\$197.9 million

To find the cost to your town or county, go to:
www.nationalpriorities.org/warcitycost
To find the cost to your congressional district, go to:
<http://database.nationalpriorities.org/tradeoff>

Notes: ¹NPP's estimate of the cost of the Iraq War includes only incremental *budgetary* costs, not interest costs or future costs. The number is based on the analysis of legislation appropriating funding for the Iraq War and Congressional Research Service reports. The funding through fiscal year 2006 was estimated to be \$318.5 billion. Based on the breakdown in fiscal year 2006, we estimate that about 85% of the \$70 billion allocation will be used for the Iraq War. (Another \$2 billion related to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan is being considered in non-DoD appropriations bills.) ²State breakdowns are based on the share of taxes paid by each state into the federal funds budget according to IRS data. ³As of Sept. 27 2006, Iraq Coalition Casualties. ⁴Dept. of Defense Directorate of Information Operations and Reports. ⁵See L. Bilmes and J. Stiglitz, 'The economic costs of the Iraq War,' which cites a range up to \$386 billion depending on the number of years and future war spending. ⁶See Bilmes and Stiglitz. ⁷Local costs are based on state breakdowns, and relative population and income levels.

Undermining National Security

The taxpayers of Michigan are paying \$10.0 billion so far for the Iraq War, a sum that may be worthwhile if U.S. national security were improved. However, after three and a half years of war the violence in Iraq is only increasing, a civil war has broken out, tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of people have died, and the Iraq War is actually undermining security.

- ▶ The latest National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) states that the Iraq War is “breeding a deep resentment of U.S. involvement in the Muslim world and cultivating supporters for the global jihadist movement.”¹
- ▶ The U.S. invasion of Iraq allowed foreign elements into the country. Now there, these foreign jihadists are using Iraq as a training ground.²
- ▶ The U.S. invasion has led to the formation of an Iraqi jihad and, according to the NIE, the Iraqi jihad is one of the four underlying factors fueling the spread of the jihadist movement. And, “The increased role of Iraqis in managing the operations of al-Qaida in Iraq might lead veteran foreign jihadists to focus their efforts on external operations.”³
- ▶ We are less prepared at home for a natural disaster or a terrorist attack because of the Iraq War. At the time of Hurricane Katrina, 30% of Army troops in Iraq were Army National Guard units, 8,200 troops from Mississippi and Louisiana alone. Not only are Guard units over-stretched, but the Army has ordered that deployed units leave equipment in Iraq. By the time of the hurricanes, non-deployed troops were estimated to have only 34% of essential equipment.⁴

In the words of Lt. General Odom (Ret.) in testimony at a recent congressional forum, the U.S. invasion of Iraq “is turning out to be the greatest strategic mistake in American history.”⁵ Across the political spectrum, experts are increasingly arguing that the solution is the responsible but swift removal of U.S. troops and the encouragement of Arab states to negotiate compromise between the divergent groups in Iraq.⁶

Annual budget authority on Iraq War

Notes: ¹Unclassified portions of the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) are available from the New York Times and in other media as of Sept. 27, 2006. ²Drawn from live testimony at a congressional forum on Sept. 26, 2006, from Dr. Paul Pillar and Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Odom available at www.politicstv.com. ³NIE. ⁴Government Accountability Office, ‘Army National Guard’s role, organization and equipment need to be reexamined,’ Oct. 20, 2005, GAO-06-170T. ⁵Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Odom has said this frequently, most recently in testimony, ‘The costs of the Iraq War,’ at a congressional forum on Iraq, Sept. 26, 2006. ⁶For example, see C. Preble, ‘How to exit Iraq,’ *The National Post*, Jan. 12, 2005; W. S. Lind, ‘Exit strategy,’ *Defense and the National Interest*, Nov. 4, 2005; H. Cobban, ‘An effective U.S. strategy from Iraq,’ *Just World News*, July 15, 2005; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Odom, ‘The costs of the Iraq War.’ Even those who argued for more gradual plans would have withdrawn U.S. troops at this point had they been enacted.