

White House Line on War Cost Called Too Low

Three independent assessments place the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus anti-terrorism activities, at amounts in excess of the Bush administration's figures. The difference ranges from \$16 billion in the estimate of the Government Accountability Office to \$18 billion in the

view of the Congressional Budget Office to \$23 billion in the estimate of the Congressional Research Service. These agencies also allocate their estimates in somewhat different ways: CRS breaks down the cost by operation, while CBO separates amounts by spending bill.

Estimates on the total cost of the war, 2001-2007*

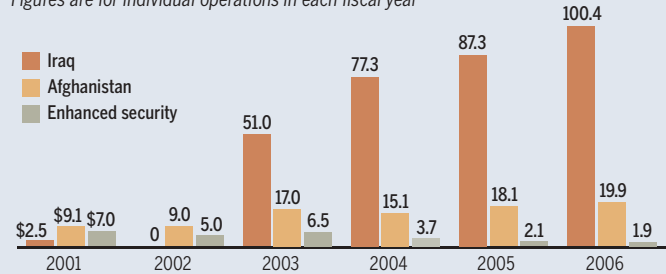
in billions

	2001-06	2007*	Total
Congressional Research Service	\$437	\$70	\$507
Congressional Budget Office	433	70	503
Government Accountability Office	430	70	500
Bush administration	414	70	484

* Money for fiscal 2007 is for "bridge funding," included as part of the regular Defense appropriations law. Requests for additional appropriations are expected.

Congressional Research Service estimates of war costs, in billions

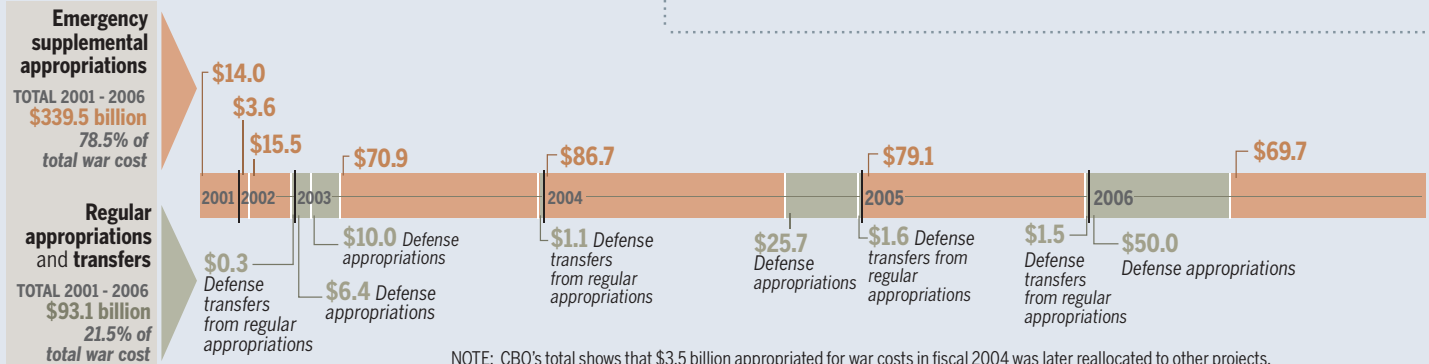
Figures are for individual operations in each fiscal year



NOTE: \$2.5 billion appropriated for fiscal 2001 later was used to finance the war in Iraq. CRS found an additional \$3.9 billion in war spending that could not be allocated to a specific operation.

Congressional Budget Office estimates of war costs, in billions

Breakdown is by legislation Congress passed in each fiscal year



NOTE: CBO's total shows that \$3.5 billion appropriated for war costs in fiscal 2004 was later reallocated to other projects.

Total cost, CBO estimate: **\$432.6 billion**