

OCTOBER 23, 2003

SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -  
PROGRESS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued today's "[Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day](#)" on the progress being made in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a surprisingly honest assessment of the U.S. efforts and progress in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wrote in a memorandum to senior staff at the Pentagon that was leaked to the media:

*"It is pretty clear that the coalition can win in Afghanistan and Iraq in one way or another, but it will be a long, hard slog." (Associated Press, 10/23/03)*

And According to the *USA Today* (10/23/03):

In his two-page memo, Rumsfeld said it is "*not possible*" to change the Pentagon fast enough to "*successfully*" fight the war on terrorism, that the government has made little effort to craft a long-term plan for fighting terrorism and that U.S. forces have achieved only "*mixed results*" in destroying al-Qaeda.

However, the *Associated Press* reported on October, 12, 2003:

President Bush on Saturday offered a portrait of Iraq as a country where life is returning to normal after war, insisting that "*Iraq is making progress*" despite a steady drumbeat of bad news. Bush said that progress was coming as a result of his "*clear strategy*."

And just a few weeks ago, it was reported that the Bush Administration was launching a public relations offensive to defend its Iraq policy. *The Washington Post* (10/8/03) quoted a senior administration official describing the PR campaign as:  
*"This will be a sustained effort to talk to the nation about the progress we are making."*

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**Schakowsky said, "Is President Bush overstating the successes of the war in Iraq and the war against terrorism publicly while his Administration officials are doubting that progress in private?□ This is the disturbing question being raised by the Rumsfeld memo."**