



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 4, 2002

**H. J. Res. 114
Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq
Resolution of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on October 3, 2002*

H. J. Res 114 would authorize the President to use the armed forces of the United States as he determines necessary and appropriate to defend the United States against the threat posed by Iraq and to enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.

By itself, the resolution would not authorize any funding for the use of force, nor would it affect direct spending or receipts. While the resolution is a step toward building consensus for the use of force, it also might improve the chances of a diplomatic settlement without the use of force. The resolution would leave the decision to use force to the discretion of the President. Nevertheless, if the President should use the resolution to initiate a war against Iraq, the budgetary effects would be significant.

In an analysis regarding this subject transmitted to the Honorable Kent Conrad and the Honorable John M. Spratt Jr. on September 30, 2002, CBO noted that estimates of the total cost of a military conflict with Iraq and the conflict's aftermath are highly uncertain and depend on many unknown factors including the actual force size deployed, the duration of the conflict, the strategy employed, the number of casualties, the equipment lost, and the need for reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure. In that analysis, CBO examined two representative examples out of the many force-level options being discussed in the media and elsewhere.

Under the assumptions incorporated in those examples, CBO estimates that the incremental costs of deploying a force to the Persian Gulf would be between \$9 billion and \$13 billion and that prosecuting a war would cost between \$6 billion and \$9 billion a month—although we cannot estimate how long such a war may last. After hostilities end, the costs to return U.S. forces to their home bases would range between \$5 billion and \$7 billion, CBO estimates. Further, the incremental cost of an occupation following combat operations would

vary from about \$1 billion to \$4 billion a month. The estimates of monthly costs incorporate no assumptions about the duration of the conflict or the occupation.

CBO has no basis for estimating other costs that might be associated with a conflict with Iraq such as the costs for coalition war fighting, reconstruction or foreign aid that the United States might choose to extend after a conflict ends, or assistance to casualties, including those that might result from the enemy's use of weapons of mass destruction.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the national security. CBO has determined that H. J. Res. 114 would fall within that exclusion.

The CBO staff contact is Jo Ann Vines. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.