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Bush on Iraq: 'We're kicking ass'



President Bush will give his progress report on Iraq next week, based on information from Gen. David

WASHINGTON (CNN) — When President Bush made a [surprise visit](#) to Iraq last weekend, he made clear he was pleased with what he saw.

"The security situation is changing," Bush told reporters during the visit. "There's more work to be done. But reconciliation is taking place."

But according to the [Sydney Morning Herald of Australia](#), the president gave a more-to-the-point assessment to Australia Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile.

"We're kicking ass," Bush said to Vaile Tuesday, according the Herald, after the deputy prime minister inquired about his trip to Iraq.

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Petraeus.

On Thursday, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino would not confirm or deny the reported comment. (**Related Video: [Jack Cafferty reads your e-mails on Bush's blunt talk](#)**)

This isn't the first blunt comment Bush was overheard making to a world leader. At last year's G8 summit, a live microphone picked up the president telling then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair that the United Nations needs to "get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this s**t."

– CNN's Elaine Quijano contributed to this report