

## January 5, 2006 Murtha Statement on recruiting issues

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - "Nobody admires our armed forces more than I do, and I'm so proud of the service of our military men and women. I've worked hard during my 32 years in Congress to make sure that our military has the equipment, training, medical care and other support it needs to accomplish its mission, and to save and protect the lives of service members and their families.

"The military had no problem recruiting directly after 9/11 because everyone understood that we had been attacked. But now the military's ability to attract recruits is being hampered by the prospect of prolonged, extended and repeated deployments; inadequate equipment; shortened home stays; the lack of any connection between Iraq and the brutal attacks of 9/11; and - most importantly - the administration's constantly changing, undefined, open-ended military mission in Iraq. I didn't have concerns like these when I enlisted in the Marines during the Korean War or volunteered to go to Vietnam.

"I have devoted my entire career to supporting our military forces and will continue to do so. I believe there is no greater honor than to serve and defend this great nation."