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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that ten of his nominees to our nation's military academies have accepted appointments.

"These young men and women are among our nation's best and brightest. They are the future leaders of our military and I am proud that they have chosen to serve our great country. It is an honor to nominate each one of them to our military academies," Murtha said.

Those who have accepted appointments are:

#### U.S. Air Force Academy

\* Richard A. Gelles, son of Richard and Tammy Gelles of Windber, Somerset County, will be admitted to the USAFA on June 28, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Forest Hills High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Dangerous Decisions, Class Treasurer, Steering Committee for Jayceess/Jayceettes and Power Lifting. He participated in football, track and field and basketball. He is a member of First United Methodist Church, the National Wild Turkey Federation and Boy Scouts.

#### U.S. Naval Academy

\* Jeffrey P. Baluch, son of Jeffrey and Vicki Baluch of Perryopolis, Fayette County, will be admitted to the USNA on June 27, 2007. He is a 2006 graduate of Geibel Catholic High School and is currently attending Grove City College. While in high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Chess Club and Students Against Dangerous Decisions. He participated in basketball, baseball and is a member of St. Johns Roman Catholic Church youth group.

\* David J. Heider, son of David and Nancy Heider of Westmoreland County, will be admitted to the USNA on June 27, 2007. He is a 2006 graduate of Bishop McCort High School and has recently completed his studies at the Naval Academy Preparatory School. While in high school, he was a member of the Scholastic Quiz Team, Spanish Honor's Society, Key Club and Ski Club. He participated in the swim team and is a member of the St. Mary Orthodox Church and the Boy Scouts of America, where he is an Eagle Scout.

\* Kendall J. Ignatz, son of Steve and Diana Ignatz of Ford City, Armstrong County, will be admitted to the USNA on June 27, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Ford City High School and is a member of the Student Council, Class Cabinet, Marching Band, Quiz Bowl, Math League, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Newspaper Staff, the Junior Representative to the School Board and L.E.O. He participated in cross country and track and field. He is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, P.A. State Police Camp Cadet Counselor, and Boy Scouts of America where he is an Eagle Scout.

\* Jason A. Retter, son of Randy and Joanne Retter of Apollo, Westmoreland County, will be admitted to the USNA on June 27, 2007. He is a 2006 graduate of Kiski Area High School and has recently completed his studies at the Naval Academy Preparatory School. While in high school, he was a member of the Student Council, Key Club/Kiwanis Youth, Pride Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Wrestling Club. He participated in baseball and football, and was captain of both teams his senior year. He is a member of St. Gertrude Church.

#### U.S. Military Academy

\* Corey M. Faish, son of Steven and Adele Faish of Ebensburg, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 25, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Central Cambria High School and is a member of the National Honor Society and Weightlifting Club. He participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. He is a member of the Holy Name Church, Outdoor Odyssey Leadership Academy and Western P.A. Youth Leadership Academy.

\* Ian F. Miscoe, son of Frederic Miscoe and Stacey Locher of Johnstown, Cambria County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 25, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Westmont Hilltop High School and is a member of the Student Council, Kiwanis Key Club, Yearbook and Forensics Debate Club. He participated in basketball, golf team and track. He is a member of Moxham Luthern Church, Fellowship of Young Christian Athletes and Boy Scouts of America. Ian was the recipient of a Presidential nomination.

\* Michael S. Smith, son of Steve and MarLinda Smith of Indiana, Indiana County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 25, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Indiana Area Senior High School and is the Senior Class President, a member of the K.E.Y. Club, Student Government Association, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America and an after school math tutor. He participated in football and track and field. He is a member of Grace United Methodist Church. His brother William is a freshman at the U.S. Naval Academy.

\* Sabrina R. Szabo, daughter of Charles and Barbara Szabo of Smithton, Westmoreland County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 25, 2007. She will be graduating this year from Geibel Catholic High School and is the Senior Class President, member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Math League, Pi-Day, Prom Committee, Spirit Weekly, Students Against Dangerous Decisions, Calligraphy Club and music/campus ministry. She participated in basketball, soccer and softball. She is a member of St. John the Baptist Church.

\* Nate R. Webster, son of Daniel and Cynthia Webster of Uniontown, Fayette County, will be admitted to the USMA on June 25, 2007. He will be graduating this year from Trinity Christian School and is a member of the School Newspaper, Yearbook Publication, Voice of the Morning Announcements, French Club, Foreign Culture Club and Pep Club. He participated in basketball and baseball. He is a member of Alliance Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.