

Iraq

"The United States and coalition troops have done all they can in Iraq, but it is time for a change in direction. Our military is suffering. The future of our country is at risk. We can not continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interest of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf Region."

- Congressman Murtha, November 17, 2005

Congressman Murtha voted to give President George W. Bush authorization to use military force against Iraq in October 2002. He inspected the build-up of U.S. troops in the Gulf Region weeks before the invasion and five months later in August 2003.

He found severe shortages of body armor, electronic jammers, and vehicle spare parts. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that our troops have the proper equipment and training that they need. He wrote President Bush in September 2003 warning that, "we have severely miscalculated the magnitude of the effort we are facing" and said that he agreed with an assessment by Dr. John Hamre that we have a "narrow window of opportunity available to deliver progress in terms of economic infrastructure, security and basic service improvements." He received a reply seven months later from the Department of Defense saying that "we have made substantial progress in the very ways that you suggest";

After voicing his concerns and suggestions directly to the Administration and being continually ignored, he made the decision to publicly argue for the redeployment of U.S. Iraq on November 17, 2005.

Since then, he has become one of Congress's most outspoken critics of the War in Iraq, convinced that the conflict can only be solved politically, diplomatically and economically by the Iraqis, not the American military.

Since the war in Iraq has begun, Congressman Murtha has made seven visits to the region.

For additional reference, please visit:

2008

May 1st - Murtha Remarks on the Fifth Anniversary of "Mission Accomplished"

February 7th - Murtha Addresses the Hidden Costs to the War in Iraq at CSIS

January 28th - Hidden Costs to the War in Iraq --- The Problems we Face

2007

November 30th - Comments on the Iraq Surge

November 29th - Comments on President Bush's Readiness and War Funding Remarks

November 20th - Reps. Obey and Murtha Hold Press Conference to Discuss Iraq War Funding

November 16th - Two Years after Calling for a Redeployment of U.S. Forces from Iraq --- President Bush Refuses to Provide the American People with a Responsible Exit Strategy

November 14th - Statement on the Bridge Fund and the Redeployment of U.S. Troops from Iraq

September 17th - Murtha's Iraq Remarks to the National Press Club

August 22nd - Murtha's Response to President Bush's Address Before the VFW

May 25th - To End the Iraq War - September will be Key

April 26th - Chairman Murtha to President Bush: Sign the Iraq Accountability Act

April 18th - Murtha Calls for Responsibility on the Part of the President

April 4th -Murtha Reacts to President's Veto Threat

March 23rd - Murtha Announces that the House Passes the Iraq Accountability Act

March 15th - Emergency Supplemental Bill Focuses on Military Readiness and Troop Wellness

January 23rd - Murtha Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

2006

December 6th - Murtha Statement on Release of Iraq Study Group Report

September 13th - Reps. Obey and Murtha Press Conference on Military Readiness

August 30th - Murtha Responds to Rumsfeld's Comments

July 20th - "Strengthen by Re-Deployment" Speech

July 11th - Murtha Compares Cost of War and Domestic Expenses

May 18th - Six Months Since Speaking Out Press Conference

April 20th - Speech before the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

April 7th - Speech before the City Club of Cleveland

February 1st - Letter to President Bush

January 5th - Statement on Recruiting Issues

Congressman Murtha and then Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi Inspect the Build-up of U.S. Marines just prior to the 2003 U.S. Invasion of Iraq.