

December 5, 2007- Army Warns of Holiday Email Hoax

(Washington D.C.)- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, issued the following statement today following his visit last week to Iraq:

"The military surge has created a window of opportunity for the Iraqi Government. Unfortunately, the sacrifice of our troops has not been met by the Iraqi Government and they have failed to capitalize on the political and diplomatic steps that the surge was designed to provide.

"The fact remains that the war in Iraq cannot be won militarily, and that we must begin an orderly redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq as soon as practicable."

"The House of Representatives has passed a \$50 billion funding bill that provides the President, our troops, and our nation with a responsible plan for bringing our troops home. The President should heed the advice of the American people and allow this funding bill to become law."

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The U.S. Army is warning the public of a holiday "hoax" email asking recipients to send cards or packages to recovering Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The email suggests recipients to send Christmas cards to "A Recovering American Soldier," and lists a Walter Reed, Washington, D.C., address. But, U.S. post offices won't deliver general-address cards, letters or care package. Under a 2001 policy designed to improve security, hospitals can't accept mail addressed to "Any Wounded Soldier" or "A Recovering American Soldier."

The Army appreciates the support of the American public, and there are other ways citizens can demonstrate their

support. One of them is to visit the Department of Defense's "America Supports You" website - www.americasupportsyou.com - which is a great place to visit to learn what you can do to support our Soldiers and their Families.

Additionally, the Walter Reed website, <http://www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/Lists/WRNews/DispForm.aspx?Id=25&>, has the following information posted about their position on receiving letters and packages addresses to our Wounded Soldiers.

Other organizations that offer means of showing your support for Soldiers or assist wounded service members and their Families include:

<http://www.usocares.org/>

<http://www.redcross.org>

<http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/>

For individuals without computer access, your local military installation, the local National Guard or military reserve unit in your area may offer the best alternative to show your support to our returning troops and their families.

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