

July 9, 2008 - Murtha Applauds Secretary Gates' Decision to Recompete the AF Tanker Program

WASHINGTON, DC -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, released the following statement after speaking with Defense Secretary Robert Gates about the Air Force Aerial Refueling Tanker Program:

"I agree with Secretary Gates' decision to recompete the Air Force Tanker Refueling Program and to place this recompete under the authority of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics).

"I would expect the Secretary to take into full consideration the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

"The Tanker Refueling Program is vital to our national security, and I will recommend to the subcommittee that we provide the funding necessary to support an expedited decision. I'm hopeful that a decision can be made by December of this year, and once the competition is complete the subcommittee's goal will be to build 24-36 Air Force Refueling Tankers per year."

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