

August 1, 2008 - Murtha: House Votes to Provide Design Funding for PA National Guard Maintenance Shop

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a \$72.7 billion fiscal year 2009 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that includes design funding for a Pennsylvania National Guard Maintenance Shop in Coraopolis, PA. The House passed the Appropriations bill 409-4.

"Pennsylvania has one of the most heavily deployed National Guard forces in the country," commented Murtha. "We must provide them with state-of-the-art maintenance facilities to properly and safely maintain both equipment and combat vehicles."

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The appropriations bill provides \$3,250,000 for a new 130,000 square foot administrative, supply and maintenance support facility. The project will consolidate four inadequate maintenance facilities in the Pittsburgh area by creating a state-of-the-art complex to maintain Army National Guard ground vehicles throughout Western Pennsylvania.

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"It is mandatory that we provide our guardsmen with the most up-to-date facilities to maintain equipment and meet the challenges of an operational force," said Major General Jessica L. Wright, the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania. "The Combined Support Maintenance Shop, proposed for Coraopolis, will greatly increase our capability to meet these needs. It will consolidate four inadequate facilities into one state-of-the-art facility which will greatly assist us in meeting the challenges of our state and federal mission, now and into the future."

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The new facility will be able to accommodate the largest vehicles in the Army inventory, including Stryker Brigade equipment, and is the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's number one priority for Military Construction.

The Appropriations bill also provides:

\$24.8 billion, \$400 million above the President's request, for military construction and quality of life initiatives.

\$47.7 billion, \$2.9 billion over the President's request, for veterans medical care, claims processors, and facility improvements.

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