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U.S. Rep John Murtha, D-Johnstown, met with Pennsylvania service members at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan, Sunday as part of an overseas trip.

This is Murtha's third trip to Afghanistan since 2001 and he has visited the area multiple times in the past few decades, said Matthew Mazonkey, Murtha spokesman.

"Congressman Murtha has always believed that the best way to analyze a situation is by getting first-hand information from the ground," he said.

Pennsylvania service members were able to ask Murtha, who is the House of Appropriations Committee-Defense Subcommittee chairman, questions while at the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan headquarters. Murtha also spoke about Tri-Care, the military health care system and Stop-Loss, which is the policy of extending soldiers' enlistment beyond their original commitment. He also met with U.S. Forces Commander General McKiernan, the Afghan Defense and Interior Ministers, Mazonkey said.

"Congressman Murtha also met with the Afghan Defense and Interior Ministers to discuss the progress of the Afghan Security Forces," Mazonkey said.

According to a press release from the United States Central Command, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan provides advisors, mentors and trainers to work with the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior to support the Afghan National Security Forces.

"With the rise in the number of attacks on both U.S./NATO forces and Afghan civilians, he visited Afghanistan

to meet with U.S. troops and commanders to discuss the current combat situation," Mazonkey said.

Murtha is set to return to the United States Thursday. He is on a Congressional Delegation trip and shared Thanksgiving with troops and commanders at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Before injured troops return home from Iraq and Afghanistan, they receive care at Landstuhl. He also visited the Czech Republic to discuss missile defense and Israel to discuss current threats to the Middle East. More information on his trip is expected to be released upon his return.