

March 18, 2009 - Murtha Statement on DoD Stop-Loss Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, released the following statement today in response to the Defense Department's decision to immediately compensate service members held under stop-loss orders. Murtha included \$72 million in the fiscal year 2009 Defense Appropriations Bill for this compensation.

"I have said repeatedly that stop-loss is little more than a backdoor draft, disrupting the lives of our service members and their families. Congress has made it clear that service members who are stop-lossed will be given additional compensation for their service.

"I'm proud to announce today, that approximately 12,000 soldiers currently held on stop-loss orders will be receiving an extra \$500 per month for every month their service has been extended. Our commitment certainly doesn't stop there. We will continue to work with the Defense Department to eliminate stop-loss, and to provide compensation to the nearly 185,000 service members who have been held under stop-loss orders since September 11, 2001."

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