

## Mahoney Returns from Iraq

(July 30, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) will return from a trip to Iraq late today. Mahoney was one of six members of Congress to travel on a congressional delegation trip to Iraq this weekend through the Department of Defense. Mahoney was joined on the trip by Representatives Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Mary Fallin (R-OK), Keith Ellison (D-MD), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Peter Roskam (R-IL).

"When you meet our troops on the ground and see the work they are doing, you find a highly trained, very capable, highly motivated group of people who love their jobs and are doing an amazing service for America. These men and women have shown tremendous courage fighting under very difficult circumstances," said Congressman Tim Mahoney

"It was clear to me that one of the most significant challenges facing Iraq is the gridlock in their federal government. Sunni and Shia within the government will need to come together to show the leadership necessary to bring the country together and provide the resources needed to support national reconciliation and, ultimately, success. I believe that America's role in Iraq should be one of eliminating Al Qaeda and training Iraqi troops, not policing their religious civil war," said Congressman Mahoney.

While in Iraq, Mahoney met with troops from Florida, met with General Petraeus and Baghdad Embassy staff, traveled to Ramadi to visit with Major General Gaskin; visited the 11th Division in East Baghdad; and met with General Adnan, Iraqi Deputy Ground Forces Commander.

Photos are Attached.