

Mahoney Helps Pass Bipartisan Bill to Reestablish Oversight of Iraq War

Bill Requires the Pentagon to Report on Redeployment Plans

(October 3, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) voted in support of H.R. 3087, the Tanner-Abercrombie-English bill to establish oversight of the Pentagon's planning for redeployment from Iraq. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 377-46. It is one in a series of measures the House will consider in the coming weeks to reestablish congressional oversight of the Iraq War.

"By passing this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support, the U.S. House of Representatives has declared that our armed forces have achieved the mission they were sent to complete in Iraq. We are sending a message to the President that it is time to refocus our efforts in Iraq on fighting terrorism and supporting the Iraqi government," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

This bill requires a report on redeployment planning from DOD within 60 days. The bill requires that, within 60 days after enactment, the Secretary of Defense must submit a report to the House and Senate defense committees on the status of planning for the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq. Every 90 days thereafter the report must be updated.

The bill states that American troops completed their original mission. The bill states that:

The Government of Iraq which was in power at the time the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 was enacted into law has been removed from power and its leader indicted, tried, convicted, and executed by the new freely-elected democratic Government of Iraq.

The current Government of Iraq does not pose a threat to the United States or its interests.

After more than four years of valiant efforts by members of the Armed Forces and United States civilians, the Government of Iraq must now be responsible for Iraq's future course.

The legislation calls for congressional briefings by the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The bill requires that the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff brief the House and Senate defense committees on the report's contents. They must also brief the congressional defense committees on the subsequent reports that are updated every 90 days.

The bill calls for robust contingency planning by the Pentagon on redeployment and outlines the issues the contingency planning should address. The bill states that it is the sense of Congress that it is necessary and prudent for the Department of Defense to undertake robust and comprehensive contingency planning for a redeployment of U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq, which should address:

Ensuring appropriate protection for the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq;

Providing appropriate protection in Iraq for U.S. civilians, contractors, third party nationals, and Iraqi nationals who have assisted the U.S. mission in Iraq;
Maintaining and enhancing the ability of the U.S. government to eliminate and disrupt Al Qaeda and affiliated terrorist organizations; and
Preserving military equipment necessary to defend the national security interests of the United States.

The bill provides that the contingency planning should take account of a range of redeployment scenarios. The bill states that it is the sense of Congress that contingency planning for a redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq should:

Describe a range of possible scenarios for such redeployment;
Outline multiple timetables for such redeployment;
Describe the possible missions, and the associated projected number of members, of the Armed Forces that would remain in Iraq.

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