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MFSO Alaska Urges Senator Murkowski to Call for the Resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and for All Our Troops to be Brought Home Now

Letter blasts Rumsfeld for misleading Stryker families about levels of violence in Baghdad

ALASKA – The Alaska Chapter of Military Families Speak Out has sent to Senator Lisa Murkowski a strongly worded letter urging her to call for the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and for all of our troops to be brought home now.

Several members with family in the 172nd Stryker Brigade attended a meeting with Rumsfeld on August 26 in regard to the late July redeployment that extended their tour beyond their scheduled return to the states in August. Some soldiers were actually back in the country and forced to return to Iraq.

At that meeting, Rumsfeld told the family members that since the arrival of the Strykers, that violence in Baghdad had been drastically curtailed. News reports two weeks later indicated that since August the Pentagon has altered the method for counting civilian deaths to exclude fatalities due to mortar attacks and car bombs.

Senator Murkowski has been very active in challenging the reasons for the redeployment, especially the last minute method in which the decision was made and how the soldiers and families notified. She has been receptive and supportive to MFSO members who have been in communication with her frequently since the redeployment – but this is not enough.

MFSO Alaska feels that Senator Murkowski needs to take a stronger stance to acknowledge that the continuing occupation of Iraq, justified by false information from the beginning, jeopardizes the lives of American soldiers and brings shame to the American image throughout the world. Donald Rumsfeld must go, and all the troops must be brought home NOW.

MFSO Alaska's letter was endorsed and circulated by the national office of Military Families Speak Out and the Veterans for Peace, Juneau Chapter.

To view MFSO Alaska's letter to Senator Murkowski go to:
<http://www.mfso.org/downloads/Murkowski%20Letter.pdf>

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