

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Duncan Hunter, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN HUNTER'S STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Alone or with our allies, the United States must act to disarm Iraq

For the past 16 months, under President Bush's leadership, America's armed forces have aggressively pursued the terrorists who attacked our country. Our men and women in uniform have disrupted terrorist networks, destroyed their logistics, and kept them in a state of flight.

Congress has supported the President by providing the tools he needs for this difficult task. Tonight, having received a U.N. report cataloging Iraq's refusal to dismantle its weapons programs, President Bush asked Congress and the American people to remain resolute in our mission to disarm Iraq.

We know that some 6,500 chemical bombs, enough biological agents to produce 5,000 liters of anthrax, and a robust missile program still remain in Iraq's arsenal.

America's armed forces are moving into position to disarm Iraq. While we all hope it will be done peacefully, we must remain committed to accomplishing our mission. This is a time when Democrats and Republicans should put aside politics. This should be a time of solidarity.

Over the past many months, the House Armed Services Committee has reviewed the readiness of our armed forces and worked with the President to ensure that every advantage is given to those Americans who defend our nation.

Make no mistake, this country is prepared to act in concert with our allies or stand alone. But, Iraq *will* be disarmed.

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