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**MILITARY FAMILIES RESPOND WITH SADNESS AND OUTRAGE TO PRESIDENT'S CALL
FOR MORE TROOPS IN IRAQ**

January 11, 2007 – Nationwide - **Military Families Speak Out (MFSO)**, an organization of over 3,100 military families who are opposed to the war in Iraq today criticized President Bush's plan for an escalation of the war in Iraq.

"Military families across the country were deeply saddened and outraged to hear President Bush once again engage in fear-mongering to continue and expand the war in Iraq," said Nancy Lessin, co-founder of Military Families Speak Out. "He lied about weapons of mass destruction and non-existent connections between Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden to take this nation into war, and the result has been the deaths of over 3,000 U.S. troops and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, women and men. Now he is asking the American people to trust him as he escalates a war that should never have happened."

"Placing another 20,000 troops on the ground in Iraq will only ensure that even more of our soldiers will die," said Brenda Hervey of Sioux City, Iowa, whose son is in the Army. "My son, who is currently in Germany recuperating from combat injuries, may rejoin his unit in Al Anbar if their deployment time is extended. Already a victim of stop-loss, Michael should have been home in October 2006. An escalation in troop numbers doesn't mean fresh troops – rather, it means our already tired and overextended soldiers are forced to continue fighting this unjustified war."

"The President's call for more sacrifice will only mean that more of our troops will be sacrificed," said Charley Richardson, another co-founder of Military Families Speak Out. "It is now up to Congress to prevent the President's plan for escalation, and to use their power of the purse to support the troops and de-fund the war."

Members of Military Families Speak Out with loved ones currently deployed, loved ones facing deployment, loved ones who have returned and loved ones who have died as a result of the war are available to respond to the President's speech.

For more information about *Military Families Speak Out*, please visit: <http://www.mfso.org>