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## ***PRESS CONFERENCE***

### **MILITARY FAMILIES AND IRAQ WAR VETS TO DELIVER PETITION TO RUMSFELD CALLING FOR END TO THE “BACK DOOR DRAFT” AND FOR ALL TROOPS TO BE BROUGHT HOME NOW**

Washington D.C., November 7, 2006 – Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), a national organization of people opposed to the war in Iraq who have relatives or loved ones in the military expect over 30 military families from California, Colorado, Missouri, New Jersey and other areas around the U.S. to gather in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, November 9, 2006. They plan to deliver petitions to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld calling for an end to troop extensions, stop-loss orders, involuntary re-calls, multiple deployments, and other aspects of the “back door draft,” and for all troops to be brought home now. This action comes in the wake of criticism of Secretary Rumsfeld from four major military publications Monday.

**Thursday November 9, 2006: Press Conference**

<b>WHO:</b>	Military families, Iraq War veterans
<b>WHAT:</b>	Press conference and March over the Bridge across the Boundary Channel to Pentagon to deliver petitions to Secretary Rumsfeld
<b>WHERE:</b>	Press conference will be held at the <b>Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove Parking Lot</b> , located near the Pentagon and Arlington Memorial Cemetery, off George Washington Memorial Parkway. Participants will then march to <b>Pentagon</b> to deliver petition to Secretary Rumsfeld
<b>WHEN:</b>	Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 11:00am
<b>VISUALS:</b>	Military families with photos of their loved ones, posters, banners will cross the Boundary Channel to deliver petitions to Secretary Rumsfeld

“The back-door draft is yet another way this administration does not support our troops,” said Military Families Speak Out member Tim Kahlor of Temecula, California, whose son in the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division has been extended on both tours of duty to Iraq. “We need all our troops to be brought home now!”

Since July of this year alone, 7,500 troops have had their tours of duty extended in Iraq, including 3,500 members of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade, poised to return home after a year long deployment, who were extended an additional four months as of July 2006; as well as 4,000 soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division who were extended in Ramadi in September 2006. Additionally, in August, 2006, the Marine Corps announced the recall of 2,500 inactive reservists to active duty; and this month, and the Army announced it would be keeping 120,000 troops in Iraq until 2010, requiring more extensive use of National Guard and Reserve forces. Servicemen and women continue to be placed under stop-loss orders and held in the military after their years of service are up, while many troops are experiencing multiple deployments.

**Military families coming in to Washington, D.C. to meet with Secretary Rumsfeld will be joined by other families on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, when Military Families Speak Out will honor the over 2,800 American service members and tens of thousands of Iraqi children, women, and men who have died as a result of the war in Iraq, with an exhibit of flags and photographs on the National Mall.**

**Saturday November 11, 2006: Veterans Day Memorial**

<b>WHO:</b>	Military families, Iraq War veterans
<b>WHAT:</b>	Memorial to honor American and Iraqi casualties of the War in Iraq
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>National Mall</b> (between 14 <sup>th</sup> St. and 15 <sup>th</sup> St. at Constitution Ave., near the Washington Monument)
<b>WHEN:</b>	Saturday, November 11, 2005 from 10:00am – 5:00pm
<b>VISUALS:</b>	Military families with photos of their loved ones, posters, banners will pay tribute to victims of the Iraq War with flags and photographs on the National Mall

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