

WASHINGTON – U.S. troops will redeploy from Iraq by the end of 2008 under a plan passed today by U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell and the House of Representatives. H.R. 4156, Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, passed with a 218 to 203 vote.

“The President seems determined to ‘stay the course’ in Iraq and run out the clock on his administration. That’s unacceptable. The American people expect more than just more of the same,” said Mitchell. “A year ago, the President and the Iraqi government agreed to meet certain benchmarks, and they failed to do so. The President has done absolutely nothing to demand accountability.”

The Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act of 2008

- Sets a target completion date of Dec. 15, 2008 for the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq.
- Changes the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq from combat to force and diplomatic protection, counterterrorism operations, and limited support to Iraqi security forces.
- Requires all U.S. government personnel to follow the Army Field Manual on permissible interrogation techniques.
- Provides \$50 billion to meet the needs of the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan but defers the consideration of the remainder of the president’s \$200 billion request.

Just a few months ago, the House passed legislation with strong, bipartisan support that requires the President to report to Congress plans for the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq within 60 days. That measure, H.R. 3087, which requires the President to present a plan to redeploy troops from Iraq within 60 days, and continued reports every 90 days after that, passed with a 377 to 46 vote.