



## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

### PRESS RELEASE

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## HUNTER STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECT GROUND COMBAT POLICY

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) today issued the following statement regarding the Department of Defense Direct Ground Combat Policy.

“It has always been our intent to inject Congress into any policy changes that the Department of Defense may propose regarding the assignment of women to units such as infantry, armor and artillery. This provision does that. I’m grateful for the hard work on this issue by many Members of Congress, especially Congresswoman Thelma Drake (R-VA) and Congressman John McHugh (R-NY).”

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld told Hunter of his support for the provision in a conversation yesterday.

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<http://armedservices.house.gov/>

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Hunter (manager’s) amendment will:

- Strike the existing language in Section 574.
- Require the Secretary of Defense to give notice to Congress and wait 60 days of continuous session of Congress before:
  - Implementing any proposed change in the ground combat exclusion policy set out by the Secretary of Defense in 1994; or
  - Opening or closing women-specific job descriptions (called Military Occupational Specialties or MOS in the armed services).
- The amendment also requires the Secretary to report by March 31, 2006 on the current and future personnel assignment policies to ensure compliance with the 1994 policy.