

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Where is the support for our veterans?**

**NEWTOWN, PA** – In a report recently released by the newly led U.S. Department of Homeland Security veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are singled out and labeled as potential recruits for violent right-wing extremists.

The report titled “Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment” states that the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone-wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks.”

Since the report’s release many veterans and veteran groups have taken offense to how returning military servicemen and servicewomen were singled out as worries for potential terrorists, but when asked about the report Congressman Patrick Murphy inexplicably had “no comment.”

“Where is his outrage”, offered Murphy Watch spokesperson Paul Salvatore today. “It is sad that we are now attacking those who put their lives on the line to defend this country by counting them among potential terrorists and lumping them together with neo-Nazis and white supremacists.”

Salvatore was dumbfounded with the total silence from the first veteran of the Iraq War to serve in Congress on this issue especially considering the statement from David Rehbein, National Commander of the American Legion. Rehbein stated “I think it is important for all of us to remember that Americans are not the enemy. The terrorists are.” He also added that the reports inclusion of Tim McVeigh’s military background was equally offensive to veterans stating “To continue to use McVeigh as an example of the stereotypical ‘disgruntled military veteran’ is as unfair as using Osama bin Laden as the sole example of Islam.”

Salvatore continued “As the first Iraq War Veteran to serve in Congress we hope that he would be leading the charge like Teddy Roosevelt up San Juan Hill against this outrageous rhetoric against our returning veterans. I don’t know any of my friends and family members who have recently served in the military who are not outraged by this report. The linkage of veterans to hate groups is simply beyond the pale and we ask Congressman Murphy to stand up to Ms. Napolitano and tell her to throw this report in the garbage where it belongs.”

It is interesting to note that while commenting on an article about earmarks Congressman Murphy recently had this to say “Folks in the defense industry know that I'm a former soldier who fights for our brothers and sisters who wear the uniform.”

We hope he will stand up for his “brothers and sisters who wear the uniform”, tell his taxpayer funded press person Adam Abrams to stay quiet, and condemn this offensive report.

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