Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on progress in Iraq and President Obama' plans for a drawdown of combat troops by Aug. 31, 2010.

“The dramatic decline in violence made possible by the steadfast commitment of our troops and commanders has created a sufficiently stable environment to continue a responsible and aggressive drawdown,” Fortenberry said.

“Reached in consultation with key U.S. commanders, this plan appears to be largely consistent with the Status of Forces agreement concluded with the Iraqi government late last year. Acknowledging the delicate security situation in Iraq, it encourages an ongoing peaceful transition and respects Iraqi sovereignty while maintaining a U.S. military presence to address potential vulnerabilities. As Iraqis continue to make progress, the country will hopefully emerge as a model of self-governance in the Middle East.”

Fortenberry is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Middle East and South Asia Subcommittee.

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