

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MARCH 18, 2003**

**CONTACT: MURFY**  
**ALEXANDER**  
**615.736.5295**

**COOPER MAKES STATEMENT ON TROOPS IN IRAQ**  
*Praises Tennessee's Proud Tradition of Service*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – I stand completely, 100%, with our troops. As Tennessee's only member of the House Armed Services Committee, my job is to work tirelessly to help our troops do their job.

Tennessee is the Volunteer State, and, in that proud tradition, almost 3,500 National Guardsman and Reservists have already left their families and homes to serve our nation. One of the greatest fighting forces the world has ever known, the 101st Airborne from Ft. Campbell, is in the Middle East preparing for war.

Our men and women in uniform should know that America is proud of their patriotism, protective of their families, and prepared to do whatever it takes for them to return home safely and with honor. Our prayers are with each and every one – whether on land, sea or air.