

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Verma, Richard R <VermaRR@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2009 10:02 PM  
**To:** H; Lew, Jacob J  
**Subject:** Murtha at Bethesda Naval Hosp w/gallbladder issue

John Murtha Hospitalized:

David Rogers December 14, 2009 12:03 PM EST

With the annual Pentagon budget bill due on the House floor this week, a familiar face may be missing. Rep. John Murtha, chairman of the House Appropriations defense panel, was hospitalized Sunday night because of abdominal pains. The 77-year-old Pennsylvania Democrat had been feeling ill with what he thought last week was swine flu but the hospitalization appears related to his gall bladder. "He's currently resting and doing well," his office said. But a major committee hearing Murtha had planned for Tuesday on the growing U.S. military commitment in Afghanistan has been postponed