WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1) today released the following statement in reaction to President Barack Obama's announcement of the withdrawal of all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by the end of 2011:

"Each time I visited with Virginia servicemen and women deployed in Iraq, I was in awe of their selfless commitment and sacrifice to this nation and to democracy around the world. My thanks, on behalf of America's First District, to every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and military family who have sacrificed for freedom and stability in Iraq. The improvement in Iraqi security and within the region is remarkable and due to the dedication of American forces. Too many in our Armed Forces were wounded or gave the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. I remain concerned that the job must be completed; we must ensure their sacrifice was not in vain. It is my hope that we continue to work with the Iraqi government to ensure stability and to prevent violent extremism. Today, we join with military families anxious for the safe return of their loved ones – my prayers for our U.S. forces for a smooth transition home."

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Armed Services Committee where he is the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.