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Inglis plans Mideast trip
Upstate congressman to make his third visit to Iraq

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U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis is heading to the Middle East for a four-country tour that will include his third visit to war-torn Iraq.

The fifth-term Republican from Travelers Rest will visit Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and Jordan, according to his office.

No itinerary was released, but Inglis' spokesman, Price Atkinson, said the trip was to begin Monday and end next Monday.

Inglis will be part of a bipartisan, six-member delegation including Reps. Steve Lynch, D-Mass.; Chris Murphy, D-Conn.; Peter Welsh, D-Vt.; Todd Platts, R-Penn.; and Chris Shays, R-Conn.

Advertisement The group will check out U.S. reconstruction programs and the military situation in Iraq and Afghanistan and meet with American military personnel.

"We'll get to see the most impressive people in the world-America's best serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," Inglis said. "We'll also get a feel for how the surge is working in Iraq."

This will be Inglis' third trip to the two war zones.

Previous visits focused on meetings with Iraqi leaders, but this one will be focused on reconstruction and meeting U.S. troops.

"It's going to be good to get out to some of these projects and see how we're progressing," Inglis said.

With approximately 1,600 South Carolina Army National Guard troops shipping out for Afghanistan this month, Inglis said he wanted to see what conditions they will face.

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