

## DEMOCRATS CLAIM DISCLOSING TRAVEL IS A SAFETY RISK—EXCEPT WHEN THEY DO IT

Democrats falsely claim that the whereabouts of congressional delegations to high-risk zones are not discussed until after they return to the United States – but apparently their own senior members did not get the message.

“Generally speaking, we encourage the members to hold off on any communication until they are wheels down at Andrews Air Force Base,” said Courtney Littig, an Intelligence Committee spokeswoman. Disclosing the movements of a high-profile delegation, she said, not only put at risk the safety of the members but also the military escorts who accompany them.

The Caucus—The Politics and Government Blog of the Times,  
N.Y. Times, February 9, 2009  
<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/02/09/in-iraq-to-twitter-or-not-to-twitter/>

There is no such formal rule or policy. In fact, senior Democrats have followed a different policy. President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, Secretary Clinton, and even Chairman Reyes are among the many Democrats who have announced their travel to Iraq or other sensitive destinations before arrival or while in country, and have participated in publicized events abroad before returning to the United States.

### **March 17, 2005 - Leader Pelosi Announces Her Departure the Next Day for the Middle East:**

On March 17, 2005 Speaker Pelosi announced that she would lead a Congressional delegation departing the following day for Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.

- “House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will lead a Congressional Delegation to the Middle East. The group will travel to Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon from March 18 to March 25.” <http://www.house.gov/pelosi/press/releases/March05/CODEL.html>

### **January 26, 2007 - Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Reyes Issue Statement While In Baghdad:**

- “Our delegation traveled to Iraq to thank our troops for the way they are doing their difficult jobs under extremely dangerous conditions. We expressed our unwavering support for them, and for their families, as well as our hope that they will come home safely and soon.” <http://www.ibabuzz.com/politics/2007/01/26/pelosi-lantos-visit-baghdad/>
- “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has traveled to Iraq for a quick fact-finding visit that will include a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The delegation is scheduled to return to Washington on Monday.” <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/01/26/MNGVLNPHIH1.DTL>

**January 27, 2007 - Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Reyes Participate in Meeting with President Musharraf in Pakistan Publicized the Same Day by the Embassy of Pakistan:**

- “A high-level U.S. Congressional delegation, led by Speaker of the House of Representatives Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi” met with President General Pervez Musharraf earlier in the day.” The Congressional delegation included six other Democrat Members including



Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Silvestre Reyes and Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton. <http://www.pakistan-embassy.org/news243.php>

**July 20, 2008 – U.S. Embassy in Iraq Announces Arrival of Barack Obama After He Does Live CBS TV Interview from Afghanistan:**

- “Senator Barack Obama arrived in Iraq this morning as part of a Congressional delegation, along with Senators Jack Reed and Chuck Hagel,” embassy spokesman Armand Cucciniello said.” <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hTMrVonvtzuD4nDAA7UPCg9qAUw>
- “As he began the trip designed to bolster his foreign policy credentials, the Illinois senator talked to CBS from Kabul Sunday as though his election — and re-election — were foregone conclusions. ‘The objective of this trip was to have substantive discussions with (leaders) ... who I expect to be dealing with over the next eight to 10 years,’ Obama said on *Face the Nation*.” [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-07-20-obama-afghanistan\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-07-20-obama-afghanistan_N.htm)

**February 19, 2005 - Hillary Clinton Participates in Live CNN Feed from Baghdad:**

- “[CNN’s Betty] NGUYEN: Good morning, everybody. We are standing by to hear from the congressional delegation in Baghdad. Here is a live look at the room right now. Senators Clinton and McCain are expected to talk about their trip to the region. We’ll bring that to you live when it happens.” <http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0502/19/smn.04.html>

**January 13, 2007 – Hillary Clinton Participates in ABC News Interview in Baghdad, Arrival Announced by Voice of America:**

- “In an exclusive interview with ABC News in Baghdad . . . Clinton spoke with ABC News after meeting with Gen. George Casey and Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, the top American commanders here. She is one [sic] a one-day visit to Iraq as part of congressional delegation that includes Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., and Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y.” <http://abcnews.go.com/International/IraqCoverage/story?id=2792632>
- “U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and other members of a congressional delegation met in Baghdad Saturday with Iraq’s prime minister and U.S. military commanders to discuss plans to stem violence in the country. VOA’s Jim Randle reports from the Iraqi capital.” <http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2007-01/2007-01-13-voa26.cfm>