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McCain's Voting Record: He Does Not Support Our Troops and Veterans

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Tuesday, February 26, 2008 - Since everyone is at least a bit familiar with John McCain's record when it comes to strolling through a market in Baghdad with hundreds of his closest guards, or how he wants to stay in Iraq for 100 years (except when he flip flops on that).

But not that many really, truly know just how horrific his voting record is when it comes to the troops. And it is pretty consistent - whether it is for armor and equipment, for veteran's health care, for adequate troop rest or anything that actually, you know, supports our troops.

This is chock full of links to the roll call votes, and the roll call votes have links to the actual underlying bills and amendments. I present this so that there is support and things that can be rattled off when saying that McCain is not a friend of the military. Feel free to use it as you want, but this can be tied into the "Double Talk Express". But here is a very quick statement - *John McCain skipped close to a dozen votes on Iraq, and on at least another 10 occasions, he voted against arming and equipping the troops, providing adequate rest for the troops between deployments and for health care or other benefits for veterans.*

In mid 2007, Senator Reid noted that [McCain missed 10 of the past 14 votes on Iraq](#). However, here is a summary of a dozen votes (two that he missed and ten that he voted against) with respect to Iraq, funding for veterans or for troops, including equipment and armor. I have also included other snippets related to the time period when the vote occurred.

September 2007: McCain [voted against the Webb amendment calling for adequate troop rest between deployments](#). At the time, [nearly 65% of people polled in a CNN poll](#) indicted that "things are going either moderately badly or very badly in Iraq.

July 2007: McCain [voted against a plan to drawdown troop levels in Iraq](#). At the time, [an ABC poll found that 63% thought the invasion was not worth it](#), and a CBS News poll found that 72% of respondents wanted troops out within 2 years.

March 2007: McCain [was too busy to vote on a bill that would require the start of a drawdown in](#)

troop levels within 120 days with a goal of withdrawing nearly all combat troops within one year. Around this time, **an NBC News poll found that 55% of respondents indicated that** the US goal of achieving victory in Iraq is not possible. This number has not moved significantly since then.

February 2007: For such a strong supporter of the escalation, McCain **didn't even bother to show up and vote against a resolution condemning it**. However, at the time **a CNN poll found that only 16% of respondents wanted to send more troops** to Iraq (that number has since declined to around 10%), while **60%** said that some or all should be withdrawn. This number has since gone up to around 70%.

June 2006: McCain **voted against a resolution that Bush start withdrawing troops** but with no timeline to do so.

May 2006: McCain **voted against an amendment that would provide \$20 million** to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care facilities.

April 2006: McCain was one of only 13 Senators to vote against **\$430,000,000 for the Department of Veteran Affairs for Medical Services** for outpatient care and treatment for veterans.

March 2006: McCain voted **against increasing Veterans medical services funding by \$1.5 billion** in FY 2007 to be paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

March 2004: McCain once again voted for abusive tax loopholes over veterans when he voted against **creating a reserve fund** to allow for an increase in Veterans' medical care by \$1.8 billion by eliminating abusive tax loopholes. Jeez, McCain really loves those tax loopholes for corporations, since he voted for them over our veterans' needs.

October 2003: McCain voted **to table an amendment by Senator Dodd** that called for an additional \$322,000,000 for safety equipment for United States forces in Iraq and to reduce the amount provided for reconstruction in Iraq by \$322,000,000.

April 2003: McCain urged other Senate members to table a vote (which never passed) **to provide more than \$1 billion for National Guard and Reserve equipment in Iraq** related to a shortage of helmets, tents, bullet-proof inserts, and tactical vests.

August 2001: McCain voted **against increasing the amount available for medical care for veterans by \$650,000,000**. To his credit, he also voted against the 2001 Bush tax cuts, which **he now supports making permanent**, despite the dire financial condition this country is in, and despite the fact that he indicated in 2001 that these tax cuts unfairly benefited the very wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

So there it is. John McCain is yet another republican former military veteran who likes to talk a big game when it comes to having the support of the military. Yet, time and time again, he has gone out of his way to vote against the needs of those who are serving in our military. If he can't even see his way to actually doing what the troops want, or what the veterans need, and he **doesn't have the support of veterans**, then how can he be a credible commander in chief?