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Murtha campaigned throughout the Western Pennsylvania Rust Belt with Hillary Clinton, bringing her a decisive victory in the April 22 primary. Shown, Murtha and Clinton at a rally in Uniontown, March 24, 2008.

attack Murtha and tout carpetbagger Russell's candidacy nationally.

Russell's campaign violated the letter and the spirit of the "Open Letter" directive of Joint Chiefs of Staff head Adm. Michael Mullen in late Spring, in which he had admonished members of the military that they must remain apolitical (see box). Russell appeared in the media and raised funds, while actively serving in the Reserves; on his campaign website and in brochures, he was pictured in uniform, and identified as Lt. Col. William Russell: These are violations of Article 88 of the Military Code.

Russell's campaign activity is now under investigation by the Judge Advocate General and Inspector General of the Command of the U.S. Army Reserves in Ft. McPherson, Georgia. Public affairs acting chief Scott Ferguson informed this news service on Sept. 4 that the probe will not be completed "for months," despite the election scheduled for Nov. 4—and that no information will be made public before the entire investigation is completed. The slow-paced investigation is not the first favor that Russell has received from a right-wing faction in the military. During his activation from approximately April 1 to July 31, he was assigned to a chemical unit in Johnstown—where he wished to run for Congress—despite the fact that this

was outside his military occupational specialty. The question of who arranged this for his campaign is one of the issues under investigation.

Russell's Fundraising Profile

Russell's campaign raised \$918,000 from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2008, from individuals through direct mail, according to his Federal Election Commission (FEC) reports. In the 1st Quarter 2008, only \$34,409 of \$214,168—16%—of that was "itemized"—with names, addresses, employers, and occupations reported. Only 8% of the identified contributors of that \$34,000 were from Pennsylvania—a sampling which shows that a national mailing list of "Swift Boat" donors was used to foist Russell on the 12th Congressional District.

In the 2nd Quarter, only \$137,835 of \$669,534—21%—of the money raised, was itemized. Only 10% of the contributors were from Pennsylvania, providing another sampling which shows that out-of-state money is being raised to defeat Murtha and install a carpet-bagger.

On May 15, FEC campaign finance analyst Robin Kelly wrote to Russell's treasurer: "Your report disclosed \$185,575.09 in unitemized contributions..." She required the campaign to either amend the report with more data, or to "clarify that for the contributions in question, the aggregate total ... for each contributor does not exceed \$200." FEC spokesman Bob Birkenstock told *EIR* that the fact that the FEC sent the inquiry, showed that the Commission considered the campaign's high number of un-itemized contributions to be unusual.

Col. Donahue Speaks Out In Support of Murtha

Lieutenant Colonel Hal Donahue (USAF-ret.) served in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since retiring after 20 years in the military, he has been employed as a vice president of several major energy companies. He now devotes his time to assisting military veterans and working to elect veterans and their supporters to all levels of political office. Lieutenant Colonel Donahue wrote the following statement for EIR on Sept. 10.

The Bush Administration began with intimidation of senior military officers. Then accelerating their tactics, they began retaliating outright against general officers who dared to give their best military advice when it countered Bush Administration “thought.” General Shinseki is the most obvious example, but over 20 general officers have retired in disgust. The results were predictable. The military became mired in the Middle East.

Then in 2006, numerous military veterans ran as Democrats. The Department of Defense appeared to selectively target veteran candidates attempting to restrict their use of hard-earned military credentials. Jack Murtha is a military icon. President Bush identified Democratic Congressman Murtha as his “go-to man” in Congress for all military issues. Military people from all over the country know “Jack Murtha” as their defender, whether in Congress or the Pentagon. Yet, when Congressman Murtha, in a true profile in courage, spoke out against how the Bush Administration was mishandling the Iraq War and the military, the entire might of the Bush Machine turned against him. Luckily for the nation, the people of Congressman Murtha’s district are made of the right stuff. Murtha’s constituents knew two things. First, their Congressman did his job, and did it well. Second, if the folks in Washington, D.C. were coming to their district to tell them what to do, those D.C. people would get nowhere—nor did they.

Now here we go again, and the Bush/Rove/McCain hate machine learned from 2006. They went out and recruited military veterans to run against the 2006 military veterans. The constituents seem aware of the tactic, and I expect all to be reelected. Congressman Murtha has opposition apparently handpicked in Washington and the candidate, a retired Reserve LTC named Russell, stands accused of running his campaign out of the Pentagon itself, while on active duty. The Bush Administration apparently escalated their use/abuse of military officers into paying full-time officers and funding them to seek political office. In addition to using Pentagon office space, telephones and equipment, LTC Russell appeared on an extreme right-wing talk show, also while serving on active duty. Now an investigation is being conducted into the whole affair. *But*, the Command of the Army Reserve at Ft. McPherson in Georgia, where the complaints are before the Inspector General and the Judge Advocate General, is “taking its time” and the elec-

tion will be decided before any findings. Is this delay, the Bush Administration politicizing the military, nothing? I will let you decide. I think the answer is an obvious yes.

Joint Chief of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen’s strong admonition in late Spring: “The U.S. military must remain apolitical at all times, in all ways. A good first step is keeping our politics private.”

Why did the Admiral say that? Because the military is sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. If the military becomes actively involved in politics, they almost by definition endanger the Constitution. This was exactly how Ollie North disgraced himself, when he deliberately lied to Congress and violated his oath as an officer. This is why so many military officers retire to oppose the Bush Administration.

I strongly support Congressman Murtha for his years of support for the military and its members, whether a general or a private, but most of all for Congressman Jack Murtha’s principled stand against an out-of-control Bush war in Iraq, which resulted in change of direction in that war.

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