Dear Friend,

I recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan and Iraq where Governor David Paterson, Rep. Anthony Weiner and I had the opportunity to meet with members of the New York National Guard and other service members who are overseas. It was incredible to see firsthand how the situation in these two theaters has changed since my previous visits, and I hope we reminded our troops that everyone back home is thinking of them this holiday season. It's vitally important that we continue to work together, at the state and federal level, to take care of our troops and their families all year round.

You can read my blog posts from the trip and view photos and a short video on my website by clicking here . At this time of the year, I know we all share the same gratitude to our fellow New Yorkers and others who are bravely serving our country.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress