

Military Web ban draws fire

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A U.S. senator says he plans to investigate why soldiers no longer can use military computers to upload personal videos to some Internet sites.

"I am going to jump on that like a June bug right now," said Sen. John Warner, R-Va. "There is nothing more important to the men and women of the armed forces than to have that connection to home."

Service members can submit footage for broadcast on the Multi-National Force-Iraq YouTube channel, but they no longer can access the site through military computers, Warner said. The Department of Defense ban affects YouTube and 12 other similar Internet sites.

The majority of videos on YouTube posted by soldiers, their families and friends are personal messages, said YouTube spokeswoman Julie Supan.

"We certainly don't want YouTube to be used to share sensitive security information or put anyone in harm's way," Supan said.

In March, the Multi-National Force in Iraq launched its own channel on YouTube to spotlight the Coalition's activity in the region. That channel now has almost 4,000 subscribers, Supan said.

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