

9/26/2008 Moran Announces House Approval of Fort Riley Projects

MORAN ANNOUNCES HOUSE APPROVAL OF FORT RILEY PROJECTS

Funds Granted for Veteran Medical Care, Mileage Reimbursement and Military Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran this week announced House passage of funding for veterans medical care and projects at Fort Riley as part of the final Military Construction and Veterans Affairs spending bill for Fiscal Year 2009. This funding is expected to be considered by the Senate and signed into law by the end of September.

The legislation will provide more than \$150 million for military construction projects at Fort Riley and a \$4 billion increase in funding for veterans care, including an increase to the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans traveling to VA facilities. Moran has worked on this issue since first coming to Congress and was successful in increasing the rate last year for the first time in more than 30 years.

"One of my top priorities in Congress is ensuring strong support for our nation's service men and women and veterans. This legislation ensures we continue providing the best facilities and care for those whom we owe so much," Moran said. "Especially with today's high gas prices, the increased mileage reimbursement will help many rural veterans who would not otherwise be able to afford the trip to VA facilities."

This legislation increases the travel reimbursement rate from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile and freezes the deductible for veterans traveling to access VA care. Last year, the House approved Moran's amendment to raise the 1978 rate from 11 cents to 28.5 cents per mile. Also included is additional funding for fee-based services to improve access to care where VA services are not available and funding to start enrolling additional Priority 8 veterans in VA medical care. This will begin the enrollment of this service group for the first time since 2003 and includes veterans with moderate income levels and no service-related disabilities.

The legislation also funds several Fort Riley construction projects. The projects include:

- Brigade Complex - \$79 million
- Battalion Complex - \$38 million
- Commissary - \$23 million
- Rail Siding - \$15 million
- Fire Station - \$3 million

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

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