

Military Support

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A strong national defense is critical to the security of America's citizens. I strongly support our military personnel serving at home and abroad. I have regularly visited Iraq, Afghanistan, and military installations in Kansas to spend time with our troops to ensure they have the resources they need to perform their vital missions.

Supporting service members and veterans, including members of the Guard and Reserve, is one of my highest priorities. Especially since September 11, citizen soldiers from communities across Kansas are playing significantly increased roles in our nation's defense. From defending our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as responding to unprecedented natural disasters, current demands on the Guard and Reserve must be matched with greater commitments by our federal government. I am pleased to have successfully advocated in Congress to ensure that the benefits military personnel receive, including important improvements to health care, education, and retirement pay, match the sacrifice to their country.

I also work to support military installations in Kansas and their communities. After nearly 10 years away, the 1st Infantry Division, known as the "Big Red One," came home to Fort Riley in 2006. Fort Riley's population is doubling in size, therefore, I am working to make sure that the fort and the surrounding communities have the facilities, housing, roads and other resources necessary for the quality of life necessary to support a incoming military personnel and their families.

Additionally, I have joined with the Kansas National Guard to provide improved training capabilities for service members and first responders at the 34,000 acre Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range near Salina. With the establishment of a 65-

person Air Support Operations Squadron, several new facilities, a first responder training area, and new Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) opportunities, Smoky Hill Range has become one of the top joint training areas in the country.

[Click here to read my latest efforts to support our military.](#)