

8/26/2003 Moran Fights to Maintain Pay for Military Men and Women

Moran Fights to Maintain Pay for Military Men and Women

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he is working to ensure that the pay for military men and women will not be cut at the end of the current fiscal year. Moran has contacted both the Under Secretary of Defense David Chu, and the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, Duncan Hunter (R-CA), urging them not to reduce the compensation for soldiers serving in hostile areas.

"Because the War on Terrorism isn't over, and because our soldiers serving overseas are still in harm's way, we cannot cut the pay of the men and women putting their lives on the line for the security of our nation," Moran said. "Our service men and women are willing to give the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a free society, and they should receive adequate compensation for their hard work and dedication to this country."

In April, Congress passed pay increases for troops serving in hostile areas and made those pay increases retroactive to October 1, 2002. However, unless Congress acts soon, the pay raises are set to expire when the federal fiscal year ends on September 30th.

Imminent-danger pay, given to service members in combat zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan, was raised, as was the family-separation allowance. The separation allowance goes to help military families pay rent, child care or other expenses while soldiers are away. Both increases would be cut back if Congress does not keep them as part of next year's defense appropriations.

"Congress needs to act quickly to restore these cuts," Moran said. "Although the focus has changed from a full-scale war to the stabilization of the government and infrastructure, our men and women are still very much at risk, and neither they, nor their families, should have to deal with cuts in pay."

###