

## 10/11/2004 Funding for Kansas Defense Passes House

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Moran Supports New Facilities, Increased Pay and Better Benefits for Military Retirees

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran announced passage of legislation to increase military pay, improve funding for housing on Kansas military installations and provide better benefits for military retirees. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 was approved by both the House and Senate and now goes to the President for his signature.

"Kansas soldiers who have been asked to protect this nation are being called away from their families, their communities and their jobs to serve our country overseas," Moran said. "These men and women of the National Guard, reservists, and active duty soldiers, as well as retirees, have fought to defend our great nation. They have earned the privileges this legislation helps provide."

The legislation authorizes:

- New Kansas Military Facilities. Construction funded includes \$7.451 million for an Army Reserve Facility in Hays, \$33 million to replace family housing at Ft. Riley, \$41 million for new barracks at Ft. Riley, \$15 million for maintenance facility revitalization at Ft. Riley and \$3.05 million for a new communication center at Ft. Riley.
- Improved Pay and Benefits. Enacts a 3.5 percent, permanent, across-the-board pay increase for military personnel. Makes permanent the increased rate for imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month and the increased rate for family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month. It also eliminates out-of-pocket housing expenses.
- Better Benefits for Military Retirees. Eliminates the reduction in Survivor Benefit Plan annuities faced by beneficiaries over age 62. Also allows 100 percent disabled military retirees to be eligible for concurrent receipt beginning on January 1, 2005, rather than having to wait for the ten-year phase-in of concurrent receipt.
- Expanded Access to TRICARE. Provides that, for every 90 days of consecutive service on active duty, a reservist and their family will be eligible for a year of TRICARE while on non-active duty. Currently, most reservists have access to

TRICARE only while on active duty and immediately after.

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