

## 5/17/2007 Moran Announces House Approval of Fort Riley Construction Projects

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Legislation also Enhances Benefits for Service Members and Retirees

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced House approval of the annual policy and funding blueprint for the Department of Defense. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 1585, authorizes more than \$260 million for military construction projects at Fort Riley and enhances benefits for military personnel and retirees.

"The soldiers at Fort Riley are making tremendous sacrifices for our country," Moran said. "This legislation lays the groundwork for providing them the facilities crucial to their training and the quality of life they deserve. It also makes improvements to military pay, health insurance and military retiree benefits that are essential to showing our support for those who serve our country."

The legislation passed today by the House approves military construction projects at Fort Riley. Legislation to fund these projects will be considered by Congress later this year. Authorized projects include:

- Combat Aviation Brigade Complex (Phase 2) - \$109 million
- Air Support Operations Squadron Complex - \$12.5 million
- Barracks - \$50 million
- Child Development Center - \$8.5 million
- Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex - \$28 million
- Hospital Addition and Dental Clinic - \$8.8 million

- Military Dog Facility - \$1.9 million
- Unit Operations Facilities - \$43 million

This legislation also enhances benefits for service members and retirees, including:

- Provides a 3.5 percent pay raise for all service members.
- Blocks the Administration's proposed increases in TRICARE and pharmacy user fees for service members and retirees.
- Establishes a \$40 monthly payment to surviving spouses who are denied the full amount of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefit because of concurrent receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- Expands combat-related special compensation eligibility to include retirees with fewer than 20 years service but a minimum of 15 years who have a combat-related disability rating of at least 60 percent.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act now awaits action by the U.S. Senate.

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