



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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April 19, 2010

The Honorable Tom Latham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Boren
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Latham and Boren:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, would like to thank you for introducing HR 4947, the *Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act*. HR 4947 would correct a gross inequity on the crediting of active duty service performed by reservists for early retirement purposes.

Under current DoD policy, reservists may only be credited for 90 days or more cumulative active duty service performed within a fiscal year. HR 4947 would permit “rollover” credit of qualifying active duty service of 90 days or more from year to year throughout a Guard or Reserve career.

The TMC is most appreciative of the provision in the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that authorizes Guard and Reserve members to begin receiving retired pay earlier than age 60 for qualifying active duty service performed after 28 January 2008.

The intent of the early reserve retirement provision was to reduce the retirement age for time spent deployed by 3 months for every 90 days spent on active duty over the course of one’s career. However, many members of the Guard and Reserve are losing retirement credit for some or all of their deployments, due to a technicality that only periods of service totaling 90 days served entirely within a fiscal year may count towards an earlier retirement.

Over 770,000 Reserve Components members have been called to active duty in support of OIF/OEF missions since September 11, 2001. Under DoD’s “operational reserve” policy, the reserve forces are expected to play a central role in all U.S. military operations at home and overseas. Improving their reserve retirement compensation should continue to be modernized to help retain those willing to meet these arduous demands. Ensuring Reserve component members do not lose credit for early retirement is critical to morale and career retention.

Thank you for your support of our nation’s operational Guard and Reserve men and women.

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Michael M. Dumas
Air Force Association

Doll Dornier-Candi
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Patricia K. Murphy
Air Force Women Officers
Associated

Richard P. Ryan
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