

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 8 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to establish and fund a comprehensive reintegration program that maintains National Guardsmen and Reservists on Title 10 Orders for an orderly 90- to 120-day transition “soft landing” after deployment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans and their families were not taken care after their return from war
- Recognized National Guard/Reserve citizen soldiers in combat operations need more time to gradually reintegrate
- The current redeployment system is inadequate and needs major improvements that incorporate family
- Role of the Oregon Military Department’s Reintegration Team

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Joint Memorial 4 was brought forward through the Governor’s Task Force on Veterans’ Services. The Task Force determined that the current redeployment system back to the citizen soldiers’ communities provides too short a decompression period for veterans who have been exposed to combat operations and as a result may be suffering from physical or emotional disabilities, such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Current deployment training is an orderly four to six month “train up” mobilization schedule designed to prepare National Guard members and Reservists for the rigors and complexities of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, National Guard and Reserve citizen soldiers can go from patrolling violent neighborhoods in Baghdad, Iraq or the villages surrounding Kabul, Afghanistan and be redeployed to U.S. Main Street in less than a week.

Redeployment training can involve briefings on acclimating to the civilian world and signs of stress to visits to the medical, dental and chaplain offices. Redeployment training does not involve the soldiers’ family and it is the last period of active duty for service members before returning home to their loved ones. Often, citizen soldiers may deny they have a known medical condition that may prevent them from returning to their families and consequently forego their earned medical care.

House Joint Memorial 4 recognizes that an appropriate reintegration program of 90- to 120-day transition “soft landing” for National Guard/Reserve citizen soldiers provides a system for the soldier and their families to gradually readjust to civilian life ensuring accessible medical care, time for combat decompression, and reunification family time under the auspices of Title 10 Orders.

2/6/2009 3:47:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.