

Key service member benefits included in the Senate Armed Services Committee passed National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2006.

- * Approved a 3.1 percent pay raise for active duty and reserve component service members.
- * Increased the Army's active duty end strength by 20,000 to a total of 522,400 soldiers.
- * Authorized an increase in the death gratuity payable to survivors of service member decedents to \$100,000 when the death is incurred under combat-related conditions or in designated combat operations or areas.
- * Increased the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) benefit from \$250,000 up to \$400,000.
- * Increased the period of TRICARE Prime health care benefits without enrollment fees for the surviving children of service members who die while on active duty, from three years after the death of a service member until the child reaches 21 or 23 years of age.
- * Authorized \$50.0 million in supplemental educational aid to local school districts affected by the assignment or location of military families, including \$5.0 million for educational services to severely disabled children, and \$15.0 million for districts experiencing rapid increases in the number of students due to rebasing, activation of new military units, or base realignment and closure.
- * Increased Selected Reserve affiliation bonus of \$10,000 and an enhanced unit affiliation bonus of \$50 per drill for members who are assigned to high priority reserve units.
- * Authorized an inter-service transfer bonus of up to \$2,500 for active and reserve service members who transfer to the active or reserve component of another military service.
- * Authorized a critical skills retention bonus for members of the Selected Reserve.
- * Authorized an extension of the payment to wounded members of imminent danger and hostile fire pay from three months to the duration of their hospitalization.
- * Authorized a \$20.0 million increase in clinical diagnosis and care of victims of blast injury, including traumatic brain injury.
- * Directed the Army to conduct a pilot program Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) option that would provide for matching funds contributions of up to 5% of basic pay for first term enlistees.
- * Authorized a pilot program to improve early diagnosis and treatment by military medical personnel of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health ailments, including assistance to civilian providers who serve the Reserve Component.
- * Required annual medical examinations for all members of the Selected Reserve.