

July 31, 2008

Washington, D.C. – In recognition of the grueling demands on soldiers who routinely face danger while s

Rep. McNerney introduced the Combat Operations and Medical Benefit Authorization for our Troops (CO

“The multiple consecutive deployments that our troops face in Iraq and Afghanistan often include trauma

“Also included is an increase in the payment rate for military psychologists. Ensuring that the military ca

In fact, according to a recent RAND Corporation study, only about one-third of Operation Iraqi Freedom

The COMBAT Act has the support of several Veterans Service Organizations, including the VFW and Ira

“On behalf of the 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Aux

“The men and women of our Armed Services are routinely asked to serve in the most dangerous areas r

Rep. McNerney's bill increases eight types of military specialty pay, many of which have not been increased in decades.

1. Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger

- a. Hostile Fire Pay is for service members exposed to hostile fire or explosion of hostile mines. Increased from \$100 to \$150 per month.
- b. Imminent Danger Pay is for service members serving in specifically designated places deemed to be in imminent danger of hostile fire or explosion. Increased from \$100 to \$150 per month.

Note: Hostile Fire and Imminent Danger pay cannot be collected simultaneously.

2. Family Separation Pay

Partial reimbursement for those involuntarily separated from their dependents for extra expenses that result from the separation. Increased from \$100 to \$150 per month.

3. Special Warfare Officer Continuation Pay

A service member may be paid a retention bonus of up to \$20,000, an increase from \$15,000, for each year of service beyond 10 years.

4. Hazardous duty pay

This specialty pay is available to service members who encounter particularly hazardous types of duty, including:

- frequent and regular participation in aerial flight as a crew member;
- parachute jumping as an essential part of military duty;
- explosive demolition as a primary duty, including training for that duty;
- the testing of aircraft or missile systems (or components of such systems) during which highly toxic substances are used;
- the handling of chemical munitions (or components of such munitions);

Hazardous duty pays range from \$150 to \$450 per month of which service members can receive up to three types of hazardous duty pay at the same time.

5. Combat-Related Injury & Rehabilitation Pay

Service members who were medically evacuated out of a combat zone and considered "hospitalized" are eligible for this specialty pay. Increased from \$100 to \$150 per month.

6. Psychologists and Non-physician health care provider specialty pay

Pay for psychologists and other types of medical professionals who treat members of the military. The s

7. Service as member of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team

The term “Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team” means a team of members of the reserve

8. Members extending duty at designated locations overseas

Pay for a service member who has completed a tour of duty at a location outside the continental United

A PDF copy of the COMBAT Act is available on Rep. McNerney’s web site:

http://McNerney.house.gov/pdf/COMBAT_bill_07-31-08.pdf