

*May 12, 2010*

Washington, D.C. – Provisions championed by Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) to increase pay for the men and women serving our country in combat zones today passed the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee with bipartisan support as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

During a trip to Afghanistan last year, Congressman McNerney met with soldiers who asked him to work to increase pay for the troops. Many men and women in uniform haven't seen an increase in military specialty pay in years. Upon his return, Congressman McNerney introduced legislation that would increase pay for service members.

"Last year I traveled to Afghanistan as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation to see first-hand the situation on the ground and visit with our service members," said Rep. McNerney. "Many of the men and women I spoke with shared the struggle they face providing for their families while away from home and in the midst of grueling conditions."

"Our men and women in uniform are making tremendous sacrifices for our country and they need our support back home," continued Rep. McNerney. "Raising pay for our troops is simply the right thing to do."

Over the past months, Congressman McNerney worked closely with the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee to incorporate a pay increase for troops and their families into the NDAA. Thanks to Congressman McNerney's efforts, the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee today passed increases in the following categories: Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) and Family Separation Allowance (FSA).

Hostile Fire Pay, currently set at \$225 per month, is for service members exposed to hostile fire or explosion of hostile mines. Family Separation Allowance, currently set at \$250 per month, is a partial reimbursement for service members involuntarily separated from their dependents and is intended to provide for extra expenses that result from such a separation. Under the proposal currently under consideration, HFP would increase to \$260 per month and FSA would increase

to \$285 per month.

The House Armed Services Committee is next expected to take up consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including the provisions championed by Congressman McNerney.