



Action Alert

Legislative Alert #112-11: SUPPORT S. 2121 and H.R. 4045, Post-Deployment/ Mobilization Respite Absence Act and its consideration in the FY13 NDAA
DEFENSE

[Take Action!](#)

Issue Background: In January of 2007, the Department of Defense (DOD) established the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) program, to allow more post-deployment leave for servicemen and women returning from multiple tours in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. This post-deployment leave is crucial to the United States Navy Reservist, who needs time for both transit and reintegration. However in October of 2011, DOD reduced the amount of leave for deployed sailors promised to them under the policy in effect when their deployments began. In some cases this policy change can result in the loss of up to 24 days of transit and reintegration time.

Action Required: Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to support S. 2121, introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN), and H.R. 4045, introduced by Representative John Kline (MN-02), which would allow sailors who were deployed before 1 October 2011 to keep the time promised to them under the conditions of their enlistment/commission.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

As Congress begins its consideration of S. 2121 and H.R. 4045 (both currently included in the markup of the FY13 NDAA), it is important that Congress is aware of the necessity of this legislation. These bills modify the Department of Defense (DOD) Program Guidance relating to the award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) administrative absence days to members of the reserve components. In particular, S.2121 and H.R. 4045 would exempt any member whose qualified mobilization commenced before 1 October 2011, and continued on or after that date, from the changes to the program guidance that took effect on that date.

These bills hold great importance to the men and women who volunteered to make up the vital reserve component, which is essential to our nation's defense. By "grandfathering" those who made the decision to join the Naval Reserve, before 1 October 2011, the bills ensure that our nation keeps the promise it made to potential recruits at a time when our nation was fighting two wars. Our service members are already being asked to sacrifice precious time with their families, serving multiple (in some cases four or five) tours of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). By reducing the amount of leave allowed to service members coming off of extremely demanding deployments and mobilizations, we would be asking our completely volunteer

defense force to give up more time away from their families and loved ones, than they already are being asked to sacrifice.

Take Action: Click the “Take Action” link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN’s website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.