

Vince Patton Forwards Letter From Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

I received the below email from a fellow retiree who received a response from his U.S. Senator regarding the recent news reports on the proposed spending cuts that will affect military retirees, veterans as well as active duty and reserve personnel.

It's worth sharing to others ... and hopefully encourages everyone to express their concerns to their elected officials regarding this proposed initiative.

I've learned in my years of involvement with those on Capitol Hill – many feel that silence is a form of acceptance!

SEMPER PARATUS!

Vince Patton, Ed.D.
MCPOCG, USCG Retired

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2010, 11:05 AM

Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me regarding military pay raises. I welcome your thoughts and comments.

I have long been a supporter of America's military personnel. The men and women who dedicate their lives to serving our nation and defending our freedom deserve every advantage we can reasonably provide. As the Ranking Member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to fight for the benefits our servicemen and women deserve.

Recently, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced concern over Pentagon spending on military personnel. Secretary Gates indicated that maintaining these current costs could dramatically affect the readiness of the Department of Defense by leaving less money to pay for operations and maintenance. It is estimated that personnel expenses constitute about one-quarter of defense spending.

Although I greatly respect Secretary Gates and his outstanding leadership of the Department of Defense, I believe our military personnel amply deserve an increase in benefits and pay. Over the past decade, Congress has made it a priority to increase the pay of our military personnel to make it more comparable to salaries in the private sector. Furthermore, the men and women who serve our nation in uniform today have had to endure repeated deployments throughout nearly a decade of war. I simply do not concur with the argument that we must choose between compensating our military personnel adequately and maintaining military readiness. I believe we can continue to do both.

I appreciate hearing from you, and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me on any issue that is important to you.

Sincerely,
Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

