

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 12604 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to periods of inactive-duty training beginning more than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 674. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE RETIREMENT POINTS THAT MAY BE CREDITED IN ANY YEAR.

Section 12733(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “but not more than” and all that follows and inserting “but not more than—

“(A) 60 days in any one year of service before the year of service that includes September 23, 1996;

“(B) 75 days in the year of service that includes September 23, 1996, and in any subsequent year of service before the year of service that includes the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001; and

“(C) 90 days in the year of service that includes the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 and in any subsequent year of service.”.

SEC. 675. AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES TO RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 1044(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

“(4) Members of reserve components of the armed forces not covered by paragraph (1) or (2) following release from active duty under a call or order to active duty for more than 30 days issued under a mobilization authority (as determined by the Secretary of Defense), but only during the period that begins on the date of the release and is equal to at least twice the length of the period served on active duty under such call or order to active duty.”.

(b) DEPENDENTS.—Paragraph (5) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended by striking “and (3)” and inserting “(3), and (4)”.

(c) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—Regulations to implement the amendments made by this section shall be prescribed not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I thank Chairman WARNER for his help and leadership in accepting my amendment to help our National Guard and Reserves. Without his steadfast support for our military personnel, the changes being endorsed in my amendment would not be possible.

In an attempt to maintain a strong national defense despite budget cuts, the President has increasingly asked the Guard and Reserves to make up the difference. Work days contributed by reservists have risen from 1 million days in 1992, to over 13 million days last year. If you look at the Armed Forces personnel participating in the Bosnia and Kosovo operations, 33 percent are members of the Guard and Reserves in Bosnia and 22 percent in Kosovo. The National Guard can provide many of the same services as the active duty personnel at a fraction of the cost. But what impact does this have on Guardsmen, Reservists, and their families?

I support the total force concept, but I don't believe we can afford to balance DoD's budget on the backs of our citizen soldiers and airmen. That's why I introduced this amendment to the Defense Authorization bill, along with Senators MCCAIN, ALLARD, SESSIONS, ASHCROFT, WARNER, and LEVIN.

My amendment addresses quality of life issues. It extends space required travel to the National Guard and Reserves for travel to duty stations both inside and outside of the United States. It also provides the same space available travel privileges for the Guard, Reserves, and dependents that the armed forces provides to retired military and their dependents. My amendment gives them the same priority status and billeting privileges as active duty personnel when traveling for monthly drills. It raises the annual reserve retirement point maximum, upon which retirement pensions are based, from 75 to 90. Finally, it will extend free legal services to Selected Reservists by Judge Advocate General officers for a time equal to twice the length of their last period of active duty service.

I believe the dramatic increase in overseas active-duty assignments for reserve members merits the extension of military benefits for our Nation's citizen soldiers. It is only fair to close these disparities. This amendment would restore fairness to Guard and Reserve members, and it would strengthen our national defense and increase our military readiness by alleviating many of the recruitment and retention problems.

These are difficult days, without clear and easy answers. But I'm glad that, as we often have during trying times, we're able to turn to the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves to help ease the way. We must not forget their sacrifices. For in the words of President Calvin Coolidge, “the nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without further debate, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3230) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3230.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3231

(Purpose: To authorize the President to award the gold and silver medals on behalf of the Congress to the Navajo Code Talkers, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator BINGAMAN, I offer an amendment that would authorize the President to award gold and silver medals on behalf of Congress to the Navajo

Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation during World War II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. Levin], for Mr. BINGAMAN, for himself and Mr. WARNER, proposes an amendment numbered 3231.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10 . CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS FOR NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl Harbor and war was declared by Congress on the following day;

(2) the military code developed by the United States for transmitting messages had been deciphered by the Japanese, and a search was made by United States Intelligence to develop new means to counter the enemy;

(3) the United States Government called upon the Navajo Nation to support the military effort by recruiting and enlisting 29 Navajo men to serve as Marine Corps Radio Operators;

(4) the number of Navajo enlistees later increased to more than 350;

(5) at the time, the Navajos were often treated as second-class citizens, and they were a people who were discouraged from using their own native language;

(6) the Navajo Marine Corps Radio Operators, who became known as the “Navajo Code Talkers”, were used to develop a code using their native language to communicate military messages in the Pacific;

(7) to the enemy's frustration, the code developed by these Native Americans proved to be unbreakable, and was used extensively throughout the Pacific theater;

(8) the Navajo language, discouraged in the past, was instrumental in developing the most significant and successful military code of the time;

(9) at Iwo Jima alone, the Navajo Code Talkers passed more than 800 error-free messages in a 48-hour period;

(10) use of the Navajo Code was so successful, that—

(A) military commanders credited it in saving the lives of countless American soldiers and in the success of the engagements of the United States in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa;

(B) some Code Talkers were guarded by fellow Marines, whose role was to kill them in case of imminent capture by the enemy; and

(C) the Navajo Code was kept secret for 23 years after the end of World War II;

(11) following the conclusion of World War II, the Department of Defense maintained the secrecy of the Navajo Code until it was declassified in 1968; and

(12) only then did a realization of the sacrifice and valor of these brave Native Americans emerge from history.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS AUTHORIZED.—To express recognition by the United States and its citizens in honoring the Navajo Code Talkers, who distinguished themselves in performing a unique, highly successful communications operation that greatly assisted in saving countless lives and hastening the end of World War II in the Pacific, the President is authorized—

(1) to award to each of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers, or a surviving family member, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design, honoring the Navajo Code Talkers; and