

To whom it may concern,

I spent four years active duty in the USAF, and four years as a weekend warrior in the reserves during the global war on terror era.

I support this bill because it helps restore the Guard to its historical role. The guard exists to protect America, render aid in emergencies and to mobilize in times of great threat, such as the world wars. Advertising is conducted along these lines, and this is the promise made to those who choose it.

In recent years, that promise is often neglected, with guard deploying at higher rates than active duty, and sometimes being unavailable in emergencies at home as a result. When Katrina hit, the local guard helicopters were deployed to the sandbox, resulting in significant delays before assistance arrived from other states. Furthermore, most guardsmen serve vital roles in their communities. Each deployment pulls them from those roles, causing a range of costs.

I support this effort to restore the Guard to its historical role, and I hope you all will as well.

Thank you,
Travis Lerol