

# Association of the United States Army



*Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier*  
*America's Army: The Strength of the Nation*



## AUSA & 2nd Session, 111th Congress = Some Progress\*

American Soldiers remain the strength of the nation. As the United States fights against extremist movements, they will remain the critical, strategic element of national defense strategy for the foreseeable future, ready to execute full-spectrum operations alongside joint, multinational and interagency partners.

The Second Session of the 111th Congress passed a pared-down authorization bill addressing the necessities in an era of national budget shortfalls. Congress provided sufficient personnel necessary for the Army to respond to the demands of the nation's security. Additional authorization included a military pay raise that will keep pace with inflation, while increases in TRICARE fees and pharmacy copays were again blocked until the end of the fiscal year. Congress also voted to maintain Impact Aid funding for schools with military populations, as well as to maintain funds for support and expansion of high-quality military housing. A substantial increase in funds for defeating improvised explosive devices was also granted, to improve countermeasures for that deadly danger.

While these and other provisions of the FY 2011 Defense Authorization Act were supported by AUSA, some important proposals were not authorized. Neither the phaseout of the disability offset to retired pay for medically retired servicemembers nor a repeal of the deduction of VA survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities was included. Congress also did not authorize funding for the Army's Network Integration Kit modernization effort. Separately, Congress delayed for one year an attempt to fix the decrease in reimbursement rates for TRICARE and Medicare providers.

Each member of AUSA is a Torchbearer, carrying the message to our elected representatives and to the American public. Some of the major objectives achieved during the last legislative session are listed below. Sustaining and improving upon these accomplishments will require continued diligent effort from all of us.

Here are some of the major objectives for the last legislative session:

### AUSA and others spoke out for:

- Maintaining an operational Army endstrength of 700,000
- Closing the pay gap between Soldiers and the private sector
- Not increasing TRICARE fees/deductibles
- Achieving affordable, adequate housing for all servicemembers and their families

### Congress responded by:

- Authorizing active component endstrength of 569,400
- Maintaining the current pay gap by approving a January 2011 pay raise of 1.4 percent for military personnel
- Fully funding Defense Health Programs and preventing increases in copayments for inpatient care in civilian hospitals under TRICARE Standard, but only through 30 September 2011
- Authorizing \$1.8 billion to support and expand high-quality housing for single Soldiers and Soldiers with families

**People**

\* This is based on the Fiscal Year 2011 Defense Authorization Act; as of this printing, the FY 2011 Defense Appropriations Bill had not been passed.

# People

- Funding the Federal Impact Aid Program to preclude children of military families from being disadvantaged in public schools
- Ensuring that compensation is adequate to retain Department of the Army civilians deployed to an imminent-danger area

Authorizing funding for Impact Aid of \$30 million for schools with 20 percent or more military dependents, \$10 million for districts experiencing enrollment changes due to rebasing or base realignment, and \$10 million for schools that serve military students with severe disabilities



One-year extension of the authority to allow premium pay for civilians deployed to Central Command



## AUSA and others spoke out for:

- Funding reserve component (RC) endstrength at 371,000 for Army National Guard and 206,000 for Army Reserve
- Funding shortfalls of RC equipment and funding accelerated modernization of RC equipment
- Funding Army procurement items deemed essential for continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Ensuring adequate stocks of munitions to support training and warfighting stockpiles
- Maintaining the Army's strategic advantage and advancing modernization
- Developing the Future Force

## Congress responded by:

Authorizing Army National Guard endstrength at 358,200 and Army Reserve endstrength at 205,000



Authorizing \$7.2 billion to address RC equipment shortfalls and authorizing \$700 million for procurement of critical, high-priority equipment to address RC unfunded equipment shortfalls



Authorizing \$3.4 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and \$3.5 billion for equipment and research to defeat improvised explosive devices



Authorizing \$1.95 billion for Army ammunition programs



Authorizing full funding for Army helicopter programs and \$1.7 billion for weapons and tracked vehicle procurement



Authorizing \$461 million for the Ground Combat Vehicle program



## Take up the torch and join our crusade!

**BECOME a member**

**STAY a member**

**RECRUIT a member**



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