

# Supporting Our Troops

***“Each and every member of our military is part of the American family. Their service is a tremendous sacrifice at a great risk. U.S. troops have earned our support, not just in words but with deeds.”***

As a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Mikulski is committed to supporting our troops, both in combat and at home.

## **Supporting Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan**

**Senator Mikulski is fighting for federal support of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan:**

- Demanding a clear plan to bring our troops home.
- Advocating for almost \$500 million to buy advanced body armor and armored Humvees to protect troops in combat.
- Calling for a clear timetable of troop rotation and visits home, including airfare to their homes for servicemen on R&R.

## **Improving the Quality of Life for Our Military**

**Senator Mikulski is working to improve quality of life for military personnel and their families:**

- Championing the Residential Communities Initiative, which uses private investments to improve military housing.
- Fighting to expand veterans’ outpatient clinics like those in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Fort Howard, Loch Raven, Glen Burnie, Greenbelt, Charlotte Hall, Cambridge and Pocomoke City.
- Supports keeping schools and commissaries open for military personnel.
- Supports legislation to subsidize the first \$2,000 of the cost for private child care for reservists and guardsmen.
- Championed an increase in the Fallen Heroes Compensation from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and made sure survivors aren’t taxed on military death benefits.

## **Fighting for Adequate Military Compensation**

### **Senator Mikulski is a champion for the financial security of our troops and their families:**

- Voted 19 times to increase military pay and supported a pay raise of 3.7 percent to 6.25 percent in 2004.
- Worked for a \$3 billion increase for military allowances, including an increase in the Family Separation Allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month.
- Fought to increase Armed Forces monthly combat pay by 50 percent and pressured Congress to make these increases permanent for all servicemen serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Championed legislation requiring the federal government to pay military reservists the difference between military pay and government service pay while on active duty.
- Supported the Deployed Service Members Financial Security and Education Act to provide \$1,000 per month for lengthy or numerous deployments.

## **Protecting the Health of American Troops**

### **Senator Mikulski fights hard to make sure our troops and their families have access to affordable, quality health care:**

- Supported efforts to provide all reservists, veterans and their families, regardless of deployment status, access to TRICARE health insurance.
- Fought to reduce insurance co-payments for family members of deployed, active duty Guard and Reserve personnel.
- Supports medical research and education at Walter Reed, Uniformed Services University Health System (USUHS), Fort Detrick and other military research institutions.

## **Preserving Educational Opportunities For Our Troops**

### **Senator Mikulski helps our troops have access to higher education:**

- Fighting for legislation that makes sure service members called to active duty do not lose their academic status.
- Championed a 47 percent increase in GI benefits.

## **Supporting Maryland Bases**

### **Senator Mikulski fights for Maryland Military Facilities:**

- Ensures federal investments in new facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head and Carderock Divisions, Fort Detrick, Fort Meade, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the United States Naval Academy, and the Army Research Lab.
- Strongly supports the U.S. Service Academies and is a member of the Board of Visitors at the Naval Academy.