

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4983

To recognize the exemplary service of the National Guard in Iraq and to direct the President to begin the redeployment of United States military forces from Iraq, starting with National Guard units.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To recognize the exemplary service of the National Guard in Iraq and to direct the President to begin the redeployment of United States military forces from Iraq, starting with National Guard units.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “First Step to Redeploy-
5 ment Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL GUARD.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The men and women of the United States
2 Armed Forces have carried out their mission in Iraq
3 with courage, professionalism, and honor.

4 (2) Units and personnel of the National Guard
5 have been a major component of United States mili-
6 tary forces in Iraq.

7 (3) Since the start of the occupation of Iraq,
8 the Iraqi people have successfully voted in three elec-
9 tions, approved a constitution, and established a
10 government.

11 (4) United States national security interests, as
12 well as the future stability of Iraq, would now be
13 best served by the phased redeployment of United
14 States military forces from Iraq and refocused polit-
15 ical, diplomatic, and reconstruction efforts.

16 (5) The extended deployments of National
17 Guard units in Iraq have placed an undue burden on
18 the families of members of the National Guard, the
19 communities in which the members live, and the
20 States.

21 (6) The National Guard is a critical element of
22 the Total Force concept of the Armed Forces.

23 (7) Because of the dual role of the National
24 Guard under the Constitution to both the Federal
25 Government and the various States, including the

1 States' reliance on the National Guard for disaster
2 response and homeland defense, the redeployment of
3 Armed Forces from Iraq should begin with the rede-
4 deployment of the National Guard.

5 (b) CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION.—Congress—

6 (1) expresses its deep appreciation to the mem-
7 bers of the National Guard and all other members
8 of the Armed Forces for their service and commends
9 their achievements, their sacrifices, and the sac-
10 rifices of their families;

11 (2) declares that there is no more capable sol-
12 dier than the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard;

13 (3) reaffirms the critical role of the National
14 Guard in defending the United States, carrying out
15 combat missions, responding to domestic emer-
16 gencies and disasters, and securing the homeland;

17 (4) recognizes the importance of the National
18 Guard in ensuring a connection between the military
19 and local communities; and

20 (5) opposes any attempt to reduce the role of
21 the National Guard within the Total Force concept
22 of the Armed Forces.

1 **SEC. 3. REDEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED**
2 **FORCES FROM IRAQ.**

3 The President shall begin the redeployment of United
4 States Armed Forces from Iraq, starting with the orderly
5 redeployment of National Guard units.

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