



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler Backs Plan to Improve the Readiness of America's Troops *Bill Requires Time at Home Equal Time Deployed in Iraq*

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler voted to provide America's men and women in uniform the time they need at home between deployments to Iraq to recover physically and mentally. This minimum rest and recuperation period will allow our Armed Forces to alleviate the readiness crisis they are currently facing. The Ensuring Military Readiness through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act, HR 3159, was approved by the House of Representative this afternoon.

“Our brave men and women in uniform have performed brilliantly and bravely, and this Congress is committed to giving them all the tools they need to succeed. That includes guaranteeing them time at home to rest, recuperate, and retrain before they are redeployed,” said Shuler. “Our troops and their families sacrifice every day for our Nation, and they deserve our unending thanks.”

The legislation mandates minimum periods of rest and recuperation for units and members of regular and reserve components of our Armed Forces between deployments. The bill states that if a unit or member of a regular component of the Armed Forces deploys to Iraq, they will have an equivalent amount of time at home before they are redeployed.

In 2001, all active duty Army divisions were rated at the highest readiness levels and were fully manned, equipped, and trained. Now, the Administration's failed policies in Iraq have depleted our military and put a tremendous strain on our troops.

All of the Army's available active duty combat brigades have served at least at least one year-long tour of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. An estimated 250,000 soldiers and Marines have already served more than one tour in Iraq. Additionally, the Secretary of Defense announced this spring that all tours of duty for active duty Army unities would be extended from 12 to 15 months.

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