

May 2, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Chapter Presidents and Legislative Coordinators

RE: Military Pay Raise Increase

**SUMMARY: Today the Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the House Armed Services Committee reported legislation to increase the military pay raise to 3.5 percent.**

Today, the Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the House Armed Services Committee reported legislation to increase the military pay raise to 3.5 percent, one-half percent higher than the Administration's budget requested. This measure, which was promoted by NTEU, passed with unanimous bipartisan support. It will be considered next week by the Full House Armed Services Committee.

As I reported earlier to you, on March 20, 2007, I wrote to every member of the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel urging them to add one-half percent to the budget request. Like federal civilian employees, the military faces a serious pay gap with private sector employees and last year the 2.2 percent raise received by both groups was inordinately low. As I told the subcommittee members, prior to 2007, both the military and federal workers received a pay raise that equaled the Employment Cost Index (ECI) plus one-half percent. For 2008, this amounts to a 3.5 percent raise for both groups if past precedent is followed.

While the military pay raise will need to be approved by the full Committee and also considered by the Defense Appropriations Committees in both the House and the Senate, this is a significant step forward. In recent years, pay parity has occurred between both the military and federal civilian work forces, and I will continue to fight for the 3.5 percent level for our federal workers. When I testified before the Subcommittee on Financial Services of the House Appropriations Committee on March 6, 2007, I pointed out that federal employees are paid 13 percent less than their private sector counterparts. Enacting the 3.5 percent level will begin to close that pay gap.

If you have any questions on this subject, please call Gail Amidzich in the Legislation Department at 202-572-5500, ext. 7048.

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National President