HLS 15RS-1910 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Requests the U.S. Army and federal government to fully support and maintain Ft. Polk at its present level of personnel and troops

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the governor of Louisiana to express support of the U.S. Armed
3	Services Active Duty, Reserve Component, and National Guard; to recognize the
4	impact of the military on Louisiana's economy; to resource adequately those efforts
5	designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability
6	of Louisiana's military installation and defense communities.
7	WHEREAS, Moody Analytics' Precis lists the number one, four, and five largest
8	employers in Louisiana other than state government as Fort Polk, Barksdale Air Force Base,
9	and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; and
10	WHEREAS, the 2013 Statewide Military Economic Impact Analysis, commissioned
11	by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, indicates an annual military
12	economic impact of \$8.7 billion to the Louisiana economy; and
13	WHEREAS, the military economy supports 82,800 jobs throughout Louisiana,
14	representing 4.35% of total state employment, annually contributes \$287.3 million in state
15	and local revenue, and represents 2.20% of Louisiana's gross domestic product; and
16	WHEREAS, the military economy is measurable in every region of Louisiana,
17	having an impact of: \$286 million in the Acadiana region, \$527 million in the Bayou region,
18	\$793 million in the Capital region, \$1.76 billion in Central Louisiana, \$141 million in
19	Northeast Louisiana, \$1.86 billion in Northwest Louisiana, \$2.86 billion in Southeast
20	Louisiana, and \$508 million in Southwest Louisiana; and

1	WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base provides an annual impact of \$1.15 billion
2	to the Louisiana economy; and
3	WHEREAS, Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center provides an annual
4	impact of \$2.17 billion to the Louisiana economy; and
5	WHEREAS, the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base-New Orleans, based in Belle
6	Chasse, Louisiana, provides an annual \$573 million impact to the Louisiana economy; and
7	WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Support Facility-New Orleans, home of the Marine
8	Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North Commands, which combined are the largest
9	commands in the U.S. Marine Corps, provide an annual \$269 million impact to Louisiana's
10	economy; and
11	WHEREAS, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) Center Atlantic,
12	Detachment New Orleans, provides an annual impact of \$147 million to Louisiana's
13	economy; and
14	WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard provides an annual impact of \$694
15	million to Louisiana's economy; and
16	WHEREAS, the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget for the U.S. Department of
17	Defense will shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years and could shrink even
18	more pending full enactment of sequestration; and
19	WHEREAS, the proposed budget calls for reducing the size of the U.S. Army to as
20	low as 440,000 active duty soldiers from its current size of 520,000; and
21	WHEREAS, the proposed budget envisions a five percent reduction in the Army
22	National Guard and Army Reserve; and
23	WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force proposes to eliminate the entire A-10 "Warthog"
24	fleet, having begun these cuts originally in 1992, then in 2005, and again in 2012, at
25	Louisiana military installations; and
26	WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2015 budget proposes a round of base closures and
27	realignments to occur in 2017; and
28	WHEREAS, these strategic cuts are applied to the U.S. Armed Forces across the
29	globe and these actions and the preceding actions have been felt in Louisiana; and

1	WHEREAS, in 2013, the U.S. Army's 2020 plan to reduce the force from 570,000
2	to 490,000 personnel threatened to eliminate the 4 th Brigade Combat Team of the 10 th
3	Mountain Division, the largest brigade at Fort Polk; and
4	WHEREAS, the U.S. Army's current Programmatic Environmental Assessment
5	continues to restructure the force to as low as 440,000 soldiers, thereby revisiting the
6	possibility of deep cuts at Fort Polk; and
7	WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force initiated cuts to the overall A-10 fleet, resulting
8	in the loss of approximately 500 personnel at Barksdale Air Force Base; and
9	WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force proposed to eliminate the 259th Air Traffic
10	Control Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard, which provides air traffic control
11	services to both civilian and military aircraft, particularly those in support of training
12	operations at Fort Polk; and
13	WHEREAS, in 2012, the U.S. Navy eliminated the VAW-77 "Night Wolves"
14	squadron of E-2s and its critical drug interdiction mission, resulting in the loss of
15	approximately 150 personnel; and
16	WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy VFA-204 "River Rattlers" squadron of F/A-18s continues
17	to experience persistent underfunding of maintenance requirement, potentially jeopardizing
18	the airworthiness and mission capability of the squadron, and potentially denying U.S. air
19	combat forces ideal adversarial training; and
20	WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force proposes to eliminate three F-15s from the Louisiana
21	Air National Guard 159th Fighter Wing, which maintains the only Active Duty mission at the
22	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and is among only five Alert Missions in the United
23	States that remain on 24-hour standby to protect America's perimeter defenses; and
24	WHEREAS, SPAWAR instituted a rule in 2013 preventing Navy Working Capital
25	Fund enterprises like SPAWAR Detachment New Orleans from supporting mission
26	requirements of non-Navy federal programs and clients, including the Veterans
27	Administration; and
28	WHEREAS, force restructure and cuts to Louisiana- based personnel and assets have
29	largely occurred outside the bounds of congressional oversight or in the formal environment
30	of an official Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and

1 WHEREAS, unchallenged, these threats to operations and assets at Louisiana 2 installations will persist, potentially resulting in loss of personnel, assets, missions and 3 installations; and 4 WHEREAS, Louisiana's defense communities have struggled financially to meet the 5 challenge of these threats, and in some cases have been incapable of mounting any efforts 6 to challenge these threats. 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 8 express its support for the commitment, sacrifice, and honor demonstrated by the service 9 personnel of the United States Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component, and 10 National Guard. 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 recognize the irreplaceable impact of the military on the Louisiana economy and that action 13 to protect Louisiana's defense communities must be swift and sufficient. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express 15 its support, and likewise urges the governor of Louisiana, to adequately resource those 16 efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability 17 of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities. 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to 19 Governor Bobby Jindal.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 163 Original

2015 Regular Session

Armes

Requests the governor to express support of the U.S. Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard to adequately resource those efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life, and economic viability of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities.