



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

For the Week of:
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Help At Home for Fighting Families

Everyday, we hear about the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Like many of you, my wife and I pray for the safety of those brave men and women who are sacrificing everything so we can continue to enjoy the freedoms of this great country.

While we support our soldiers, we must not overlook those families who are also making great sacrifices while their loved ones are serving. It is an honor for me to have been asked by my colleagues to serve as a leader on these and other military issues.

For the past three years, there has been a group in place that looks at the needs of not only soldiers but also their families. The [Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission](#) is the result of [Senate Bill 252](#). In 2007, I was fortunate enough to be appointed to this Commission. The Commission was formed after the federal government put together a panel of people charged with forming a list of military bases to close. This was of great concern to my district, particularly those counties neighboring [Whiteman Air Force Base](#).

The commission's role is to make recommendations on military issues. They serve as a clearinghouse regarding federal actions affecting the military and the results those actions could have locally. There are a lot of great programs out there. Sometimes, it is a question of knowing where to look. That is where the Commission comes in. For instance, last month we talked about the taxes residents in the military pay and a waiver that exists for military personnel. The quickest way to get more information is to visit the [Missouri Department of Revenue's](#) website. Here is the direct link:

<https://dory.dor.mo.gov/dor/tax/nri/default.aspx>

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The application is for people in the military who are stationed in Missouri or who have a home here but do not have to file a state income tax return. The form walks you through the information. There are several things military members and their families can get from the Missouri Department of Revenue. All of those can be found by going here:

<http://dor.mo.gov/tax/personal/military/>

I also suggest contacting the Missouri Veterans Commission to check for any programs or benefits that are available to both veterans and currently serving soldiers. They can be contacted toll free at (866) VET-INFO (838-4630) or at:

<http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/>

I am currently sponsoring legislation that is a result of recommendations from the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission. [Senate Bill 1167](#) helps the children of those in the military by changing certain rules related to entering kindergarten, tuition and grant eligibility, and renames the Guard at Home program the “Hero at Home” program. That would ensure all services offered in the program would continue to go to [Missouri National Guard](#) members and their families for one year after discharge.

Finally, my staff and I are continually working with effective programs to benefit our youth. One such program is [4-H Operation Military Kids](#). For more information about that program, visit:

[http:// www.operationmilitarykids.org/](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org/)

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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