

Legislation assures military drawdown is safe and responsible

(WASHINGTON)--- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) today introduced the Limited End Strength Reduction Act of 2012, ensuring our Army and Marine Corps have the financial resources they need for a responsible drawdown in Afghanistan, while continuing to meet our National Security objectives. The bill slows the pace of the President's end strength reductions by placing limits on the number of troops than can be eliminated annually.

"Our men and women in the Armed Forces do not need to continue to be the bill payer for fiscal irresponsibility," West said. "We cannot ask our Army and Marines to fight these wars and not supply them with the resources they need to end these combat operations without undue risk."

The bill requires the Army not be reduced by more than 15,000 members per year during fiscal years 2014 through 2017. The bill requires the Marine Corps not be reduced by more than 5,000 members per year during fiscal years 2014 through 2017.

"No one knows the perils of an insufficiently manned Army better than Allen West," said United States House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA). "His combat experience and service to this nation, both in Congress and in the Army, give him unique expertise. This legislation helps us not only pave a path to security, it eases the strain on our heavily-stressed military. Mr. West's bill has my full support."

In addition, the Limited End Strength Reduction Act assures our military has the resources it needs to prevent overly burdensome or repeated deployments among our men and women serving, who have been at war now for more than ten years.

"Our men and women in uniform have paid a great price already, with years away from their families, serious injuries, both physical and emotional, and all too often, with their own lives," West said. "We owe it to our military to continue to provide them the resources and support needed, and the Limited End Strength Reduction Act does just that."

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