

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

MILITARY AFFAIRS. Expresses support of the U.S. Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard; recognizes the impact of the military on Louisiana's economy; requests the governor of Louisiana to resource adequately those efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life and economic viability of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor of Louisiana to express support of the United States Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard; to recognize the impact of the military on Louisiana's economy; to resource adequately those efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life and economic viability of Louisiana's military installation and defense communities.

WHEREAS, Moody Analytics' *Precis* lists the number one, four and five largest employers in Louisiana other than state government as Fort Polk, Barksdale Air Force Base, and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Statewide Military Economic Impact Analysis, commissioned by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, indicates an annual military economic impact of \$8.7 billion to the Louisiana economy; and

WHEREAS, the military economy supports 82,800 jobs throughout Louisiana, representing 4.35% of total state employment, annually contributes \$287.3 million in state and local revenue, and represents 2.20% of Louisiana's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the military economy is measurable in every region of Louisiana, having an impact of: \$286 million in the Acadiana region, \$527 million in the Bayou region, \$793 million in the Capital region, \$1.76 billion in Central Louisiana, \$141 million in

1 Northeast Louisiana, \$1.86 billion in Northwest Louisiana, \$2.86 billion in Southeast  
2 Louisiana, and \$508 million in Southwest Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base provides an annual impact of \$1.15 billion  
4 to the Louisiana economy; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center provides an annual  
6 impact of \$2.17 billion to the Louisiana economy; and

7 WHEREAS, the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base-New Orleans, based in Belle  
8 Chasse, Louisiana, provides an annual \$573 million impact to the Louisiana economy; and

9 WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Support Facility-New Orleans, home of the Marine  
10 Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North Commands, which combined are the largest  
11 commands in the United States Marine Corps, provide an annual \$269 million impact to  
12 Louisiana's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) Center Atlantic,  
14 Detachment New Orleans, provides an annual impact of \$147 million to Louisiana's  
15 economy; and

16 WHEREAS, the Louisiana National Guard provides an annual impact of \$694  
17 million to Louisiana's economy; and

18 WHEREAS, the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget for the U.S. Department of  
19 Defense will shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years and could shrink even  
20 more pending full enactment of "Sequestration"; and

21 WHEREAS, the proposed budget calls for reducing the size of the Army to as low  
22 as 440,000 active duty soldiers from its current size of 520,000; and

23 WHEREAS, the proposed budget envisions a five percent reduction in the Army  
24 National Guard and Army Reserve; and

25 WHEREAS, the Air Force proposes to eliminate the entire A-10 "Warthog" fleet,  
26 having begun these cuts originally in 1992, then in 2005, and again in 2012, at Louisiana  
27 military installations; and

28 WHEREAS, the fiscal year 2015 budget proposes a round of base closures and  
29 realignments to occur in 2017; and

30 WHEREAS, these strategic cuts are applied to the U.S. Armed Forces across the

1 globe and these actions and their predecessors have been felt in Louisiana; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2013, the United States Army's 2020 plan to reduce the force from  
3 570,000 to 490,000 personnel threatened to eliminate the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the  
4 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, the largest brigade at Fort Polk; and

5 WHEREAS, the Army's current Programmatic Environmental Assessment continues  
6 to restructure the force to as low as 440,000 soldiers, thereby revisiting the possibility of  
7 deep cuts at Fort Folk; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force initiated cuts to the overall A-10 fleet, resulting  
9 in the loss of approximately 500 personnel at Barksdale Air Force Base; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Air Force proposed to eliminate the 259<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic  
11 Control Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard, which provides air traffic control  
12 services to both civilian and military aircraft, particularly those in support of training  
13 operations at Fort Polk; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, the U.S. Navy eliminated the VAW-77 "Night Wolves"  
15 squadron of E-2s and its critical drug interdiction mission, resulting in the loss of  
16 approximately 150 personnel; and

17 WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy VFA-204 "River Rattlers" squadron of F/A-18s continues  
18 to experience persistent underfunding of maintenance requirement, potentially jeopardizing  
19 the airworthiness and mission capability of the squadron, and potentially denying U.S. air  
20 combat forces ideal adversarial training; and

21 WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Force proposes to eliminate three F-15s from the Louisiana  
22 Air National Guard 159<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, which maintains the only Active Duty mission at the  
23 Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and is among only five Alert Missions in the United  
24 States that remain on 24-hour stand by to protect America's perimeter defenses; and

25 WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command  
26 (SPAWAR) instituted a rule in 2013 preventing Navy Working Capital Fund enterprises like  
27 SPAWAR New Orleans from supporting mission requirements of non-Navy federal  
28 programs and clients, including the Veterans Administration; and

29 WHEREAS, force restructure and cuts to Louisiana-based personnel and assets have  
30 largely occurred outside the bounds of congressional oversight or in the formal environment

1 of an official Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC); and

2 WHEREAS, unchallenged, these threats to operations and assets at Louisiana  
3 installations will persist, potentially resulting in loss of personnel, assets, missions and  
4 installations; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana's defense communities have struggled financially to meet the  
6 challenge of these threats, and in some cases have been incapable of mounting any efforts  
7 to challenge these threats.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 express its support for the commitment, sacrifice and honor demonstrated by the service  
10 personnel of the United States Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component, and  
11 National Guard.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 recognize the irreplaceable impact of the military on the Louisiana economy and that action  
14 to protect Louisiana's defense communities must be swift and sufficient.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express  
16 its support, and likewise urges the governor of Louisiana, to adequately resource those  
17 efforts designed to protect and promote the missions, quality of life and economic viability  
18 of Louisiana's military installations and defense communities.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
20 Governor Bobby Jindal.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

John Smith

SCR No. 92

Requests the governor to express support of the United States Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard; to recognize the impact of the military on Louisiana's economy; to urge and request the governor 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.