

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 00:19

Interviewer: Welcome to Congressman G.V. Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio show from Washington. Congressman as a ranking member of the National Defense Committee can you give us the details on the 1997-Armed Serves Bill?

Montgomery: We'll take this bill up next week on the House floor, then it goes to the to the Senate and then we go to conference and it goes to the President. We hope he will sign the bill. This is called the Defense Authorization Bill that runs the military forces for 1997. That includes the Active Forces as well as the National Guard and Reserve. I think it's a pretty good bill. I supported it. We did add 13 billion dollars to this legislation. We need the money. You cannot carry on operations in Bosnia and in Haiti and Germany and all around the world without increasing the defense budget so we did add 13 billion dollars and I would hope that the President would would accept these add-ons. As I said earlier it's a pretty good bill, it will it will help Mississippi. It protects our Active Forces down there and it protects the National Guard and Reserve. There will not be any real reductions of our military forces in Mississippi under this legislation that goes into effect in 1997.

Interviewer: Speaking of the money, what funding can we expect for the Active Forces and the National Guard in Mississippi?

Montgomery: We came out pretty well there briefly over in Rankin County the Air Guard unit will get an additional 1 million dollars for an operational training facility to get them ready for the C-17s which will be coming in into the Rankin County replacement of the 141 airlift aircraft, C-17s we hope will be coming in to Rankin County in about 1997-98 or might even get into the next century. But we're gone get those airplanes and in the middle of Mississippi we have the adventure program going into effect. It's a new weapons system but we had to redo all those armories over there and we ran out of money so we had to find some more money to complete the battalion headquarters in Newt, Mississippi, made some repairs in Decatur and in Morton and in Bay Springs and in Forrest. But this is a great unit, Mississippi should be proud. We were the first National Guard group to get this Avenger System, it fires at low craft, low flying aircraft that comes in as an enemy. Keesler field will get some additional money, over in Meridian they'll be some money to modernize 160 units of on base housing and we're getting 10 million dollars for modern tank ranger at Camp Shelby. So, Mississippi on construction came out pretty well other than we don't have any money as to improve or build new armories in our state. Or any other state we didn't put any monies in there for new armories and we should have done it for the National Guard and Reserve.

Interviewer: Congressman a number of bills presented on the House floor this week deal with increasing penalties for crimes against children. You have cosponsored a bill currently in

committee that not only increases the sentence a repeat child offender will receive but also allows for more public awareness. Do you think these steps are necessary?

Montgomery: I certainly do. We've got to stop these people from harming little children. Taking advantage of them. It's just terrible and so this week in Congress we passed some strong bills that we double the penalties for people who who harm and fool around with small children. And this should be done, and the Congress is very strong about that and I think the bills we pass we double the penalties on these sick people, and it'll pass the senate and I believe that the President of the United States will sign it.

Interviewer: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman G.V. Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio show from Washington.

Audio ends at 04:44