

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE ENLISTED PERSONNEL PAY DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today adopted an amendment by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act calling for the payment of a Basic Allowance for Subsistence for enlisted military personnel on authorized leave of absence, confined to a hospital, or performing travel under orders away from their designated duty post (providing they would normally qualify for this allowance).

Under current law, officers on temporary duty receive both per diem pay and a Basic Allowance for Subsistence, while enlisted personnel on temporary duty have per diem pay subtracted from their Basic Allowance for Subsistence to which they would be entitled.

The Dole amendment also requires the secretary of defense to establish rates sufficient to cover costs of meals sold at messes to officers, civilians or enlisted personnel entitled to per diem.

"I am pleased that the Senate has adopted this amendment, in an attempt to eliminate per diem pay discrimination against enlisted personnel," Dole said. "This amendment should not be expected to solve the problems of our enlisted personnel, but it can begin to show to these dedicated Americans that their government intends to treat them fairly.

"With the problems the military is experiencing in recruitment, retention and morale, we should constantly be about the business of eliminating such glaring forms of discrimination against either commissioned or non-commissioned officers of our armed forces."