

## House Approves Troop Pay Raise

The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday approved a 2.1 percent pay raise next year for troops. The measure was included in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which the lower chamber overwhelmingly backed by a vote of 375-34. The massive \$619 billion bill sets policy and spending goals for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. "This bipartisan bill focuses on our troops, America's most important national defense resource," Rep. William "Mac" Thornberry, a Republican from Texas and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "It provides them a full pay raise for the first time in four years, it stops layoffs of our military personnel and actually increases the end strength of our Armed Forces, and it starts to stabilize the readiness problems that are making it more difficult for our troops to accomplish their mission and increasingly represent a danger to their lives," he added. "It contains landmark reforms to improve our military's strength and agility." [Read more...](#)