



Comparison of Agendas on Armed Forces & Veterans



	Democrats	President Bush/House GOP
Pay Increase for those in Imminent Danger & Away from their Families	Yes. Have fought for a permanent increase in imminent danger and family separation pay, which succeeded in getting a nine-month extension.	No. The Bush Administration proposed a cut in imminent danger pay and separation allowance, but then reversed itself due to widespread opposition.
Bonus & Support for Troops in Iraq & Afghanistan	Yes. Fought to provide a bonus to troops and to provide <u>\$4.6 billion more</u> for our troops than Republicans to improve their safety and quality of life – some of which was enacted into law.	No. Voted against a bonus, and rejected additional support for our troops including funds for repairing equipment, ensuring our troops have clean drinking water, and covering troops' R&R transportation costs.
Improve Military Quality of Life	Yes. Fought to increase President's budget by \$1 billion for better housing for military personnel.	No. GOP bill cuts military construction spending – much of which goes for military housing – by \$1.5 billion.
Protect Veterans' Benefits	Yes. Fought against Republican-passed budget cuts in veterans' benefits.	No. House Republicans voted for \$14 billion in cuts to veterans' pension, compensation, education and other benefits.
Improve Veterans' Health Care	Yes. Fought to provide \$10 billion over 10 years in veterans' health care, and succeeded in providing additional health care to National Guard and reservists.	No. House GOP voted to cut veterans' health care by \$14 billion in the budget. Then they reneged on a promise to increase veterans' health care by \$1.8 billion.
End Tax on Disabled Veterans	Yes. Have a discharge petition to end the tax on all 560,000 disabled veterans who are military retirees now.	Not fully, not now. Opposed all year, but then reversed their position. Their plan leaves out two-thirds of disabled military retirees, and makes those they do cover wait 10 years for full benefits.
Tax Relief for Military Families	Yes. Have worked to increase the child tax credit that would help the families of 260,000 children in military families.	No. Opposed increasing the child tax credit, which would help families of 260,000 children in military families, and have held up military tax bill since last year.
Improve Survivor Benefits (SBP)	Yes. Included in the Democratic Salute to Veterans and the Armed Forces Package.	No. Republicans on the House Budget Committee voted down this provision.
Improve Education	Yes. Worked to protect Impact Aid, the education program for schools near military bases.	No. President's budget includes \$206 million cut in Impact Aid.