

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the proposed budget calls for reducing the size of the U.S. Army to as
20 low as 440,000 active duty soldiers from its current size of 520,000; and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, these strategic cuts are applied to the U.S. Armed Forces across the
29 globe and these actions and the preceding actions have been felt in Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2013, the U.S. Army's 2020 plan to reduce the force from 570,000
2 to 490,000 personnel threatened to eliminate the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 10th
3 Mountain Division, the largest brigade at Fort Polk; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, SPAWAR instituted a rule in 2013 preventing Navy Working Capital
25 Fund enterprises like SPAWAR Detachment New Orleans from supporting mission
26 requirements of non-Navy federal programs and clients, including the Veterans
27 Administration; and

28 WHEREAS, force restructure and cuts to Louisiana-based personnel and assets have
29 largely occurred outside the bounds of congressional oversight or in the formal environment
30 of an official Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Armes

Requests the governor to express support of the U.S. Armed Services Active Duty, Reserve Component and National Guard 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.