



News Release From . . .

U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander & U.S. Rep. Jim McCrery

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ALEXANDER, MCCRERY EARMARK FUNDING FOR FORT POLK

FUNDING TO BE USED FOR FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD CARE FACILITY

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, and U.S. Rep. Jim McCrery, R-Shreveport, today praised the passage of **H.R. 5385** - Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY07.

The bill, which includes funding for military installations and bases, includes an earmark totaling \$6.1 million for a future child care center at Fort Polk (Leesville).

This funding still awaits conference.

The child care facility will serve children ages 6-12 at Fort Polk. It is estimated that the impact of Army Transformation at Fort Polk will place new demands on the existing child care facilities which are already at capacity. The availability of high-quality, affordable child care can have a significant economic impact on Army families. Support for Army families is essential to soldier recruitment, retention and morale.

"Jim and I know the importance and value of Fort Polk to Louisiana," Alexander said.

"We are pleased that this funding will be used to enhance the current base structure. We (McCrery and Alexander) fought hard to protect Fort Polk during last year's BRAC recommendations. Now, it is encouraging to see that the federal government is continuing to invest in Fort Polk."

"Fort Polk is a vital part of the surrounding communities, and a key resource to prepare our nation's soldiers for the battlefields of the future. I am proud that this child care facility will help support the families of those who serve our country at Fort Polk," McCrery added.