



MISSION: READINESS MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS

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Virginia's Retired Military Brass Concerned: 75 Percent of Young Americans Unfit for Service

Va. retired military leaders back pre-kindergarten to strengthen military, boost grad rates

RICHMOND, VA. -- Startling statistics released by the Pentagon show that 75 percent of young people ages 17 to 24 are unable to enlist in the military because they fail to graduate high school, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit. Seven retired admirals and generals from across Virginia will hold a news conference at the State Capitol Tuesday to address this threat to national security that could undercut the future of America's fighting force.

The retired military brass will release a report from the group MISSION: READINESS called "Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve," detailing evidence that providing at-risk kids with pre-kindergarten increases graduation rates and decreases later arrest rates. The retired military leaders, along with legislators from both sides of the aisle, will explain the need for greater investment in high-quality early education to ensure that the U.S. military and Virginia National Guard have a well-qualified pool of recruits for the future.

WHO: **Gen. Richard E. Hawley (USAF, Ret.) — Newport News, Va.**
Vice Admiral James A. Zimble (USN, Ret.) — Midlothian, Va.
Maj. Gen. Frank R. Faykes (USAF, Ret.) — Williamsburg, Va.
Maj. Gen. James A. Kelley (USA, Ret.) — Arlington, Va.
Maj. Gen. Carroll D. Childers (USA, Ret.) — Fredericksburg, Va.
Brig. Gen. Clara L. Adams-Ender (USA, Ret.) — Lake Ridge, Va.
Brig. Gen. John W. Douglass, (USAF, Ret.) — Alexandria, VA
Sen. Harry B. Blevins (R-Chesapeake)
Delegate Mayme E. BaCote (D-Hampton, Newport News)

WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009
11 a.m.

WHERE: General Assembly Building, House Briefing Room
910 Capitol Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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MISSION: READINESS is the nonprofit, bi-partisan organization of senior retired military leaders ensuring continued American security and prosperity into the 21st century by calling for smart investments in the next generation of American children.

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