

THE SUN

Back pride in troops with full funding

RECENTLY, 1,300 MEMBERS of the Maryland Army National Guard received orders to prepare to join those of us on active duty, who greatly appreciate what they will bring to the fight ("1,300 heading to Iraq," April 6).

These doctors, lawyers, businessmen and other civilian-schooled and military-trained professionals provide unique and essential skills to our combat formations.

Not only do these patriots bring a wealth of specialized skills, but they also bring the hopes of their hometowns and communities with them.

But the war in Iraq has caused much controversy over the past few months — particularly in the last few weeks.

Washington is bitterly divided about how financing for the war will proceed. Some have argued that this wrangling will ultimately hurt those of us in the armed forces and our ability to help the Iraqi people bring stability to their nation.

Whether that is so remains to be seen. But rest assured that if that indeed happens, the American people will hold those leaders responsible for their negligence.

Maryland should be immensely proud of her sons and daughters who continue to serve in her defense and serve the interests of our nation.

Perhaps this pride will soon influence those political leaders who are charged with providing for those who protect them at home and abroad — our soldiers.

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