

Editorial

Keep the National Guard home

Until recently, the Oklahoma National Guard was not deployed overseas in combat zones. During the Vietnam War, the Guard was stationed only stateside.

Sen. Nathan Dahm, R-Broken Arrow, has filed legislation to ensure men and women serving in the Oklahoma National Guard are only deployed as directed by the U.S. Constitution.

Known as the “Defend the Guard” Act, SB 1101 wants to make sure the Oklahoma National Guard could not be deployed overseas unless Congress fulfilled the constitutional requirements of declaring war as seen in article one, section eight, clause 11 of the U.S. Constitution and insurrections as seen in article one, section eight, clause 15.

“There is a growing movement of people in this country who realize the best way to be pro-military is to follow the Constitution and not put our service men and women needlessly in harm’s way,” Dahm said. “By not declar-

ing war, we are bogged down in endless wars with rules of engagement that tie our soldiers’ hands and do not allow for victory that enables us to bring our service members home.”

It just makes sense that the Guard only be used in situations where America is officially at war overseas. Plus, control of the Guard should rest with each state and not entirely at the whim of the federal government.

“The best thing for our men and women in uniform is for them to be at home with family, especially during the holidays, work their jobs and be ready to defend us if needed,” Dahm said. “Our Oklahoma Guard has been stretched thin with multiple deployments overseas, adding strain in multiple ways to our state. President Trump and other strong military supporters have seen the benefit of bringing our troops home. This bill is a way we can work towards this goal.”

Let’s hope this bill gets proper examination in the next session.