



To the Honorable Darrell Issa,

11/18/2025

The Special Operations Association of America (SOAA) thanks you for introducing **H.R. ????**, “The Jax Act”, addressing the often-unrecognized service of Cultural Support Teams (CST) and mandating the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reevaluate the more than 300 CST Veterans who have been denied combat presumption in order to treat their wounds from war.

While recognized for their contributions to Village Stability Operations, it is not widely known that CSTs’ service included Direct Action Operations outside the SOF community. They are SOF combat veterans who fought and died in the Global War on Terror. These female Veterans earned the same combat badges and incurred the same hardships as their male battle-buddies, but did not receive the same care from VA.

There is a clear knowledge gap, combined with a lack of proper documentation or transparency, inhibiting CST veterans from receiving proper disability ratings and treatment by VA caregivers, including: The members of the Cultural Support Team Program were recruited from various MOS from the Army Total Force (National Guard, Reserves, and Active Duty). But, no Additional Skill Identifier is attached for Cultural Support Team Veterans under their MOS on their DD Form 214. Further, When CST veterans attempt to receive a disability rating for injuries incurred while deployed, their MOS will indicate them as a Finance Officer, for example, and not a Special Operations combat Veteran. Consequently, CST veterans are not extended Combat Presumption by VA rating officers when determining service-connection for their injuries incurred in combat.

“SOAA has been the driving force behind the Jax Act from day one. As a founding board member, I’ve witnessed firsthand the organization’s relentless dedication to ensuring that those who served in silence are finally seen and supported.” said SOAA Board Member, Jaclyn “Jax” Scott. Founder Daniel Elkins added, “The Jax Act represents every Cultural Support Team member who stood shoulder to shoulder with our nation’s most elite forces, carrying out missions that changed history yet often went unrecognized. This bill is not just legislation, it’s a promise kept to the warriors who gave everything for this country.”

The Special Operations Association of America thanks you for your attention to the Cultural Support Team members of our community, and we look forward to your leadership and support on behalf of our nation’s Special Operations forces.

Respectfully,  
Daniel Elkins  
President  
Special Operations Association of America