

VETERANS

Filner pushes program to train vets as cops

WHAT'S UP: Rep. Bob Filner of California, the former chairman and now ranking Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, has not given up on the idea of a program that helps recently separated service members get hired as law enforcement officers. The Justice Department had such a "Troops to Cops" program from 1994 to 1999, and Filner has introduced a bill, HR 715, that would reinstate grants to help train and hire honorably discharged service



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members to be police officers, sheriffs and marshals.

WHAT'S NEXT: Filner sees Troops to Cops as a way for veterans to get jobs in a field where their military-learned skills could be an asset. The program also would help law enforcement agencies pay for training. But the weak economy makes it hard for Filner to get a commitment to provide grants, and it also makes it unclear whether state and local law enforcement agencies are going to be hiring.