

ROA OFFICIAL STATEMENT

(June 24, 2009)

ROA legislative efforts see progress in the form of 2009 Supplemental Bill

ROA saw good progress this week in its advocacy mission to fully fund, reset and equip the Reserve Components. The 2009 Supplemental Appropriations for Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Pandemic Flu that was passed this week includes language for \$500 million to fund National Guard and Reserve equipment.

This funding is crucial for the Reserve Components to finance unfunded equipment that will help reset and modernize Reserve forces' requirements not covered in the annual defense fills.

Congressional recognition for the need of these funds partly can be attributed to ROA's legislative efforts both at the grass roots and from the national level.

Broken down, this bill provides an additional \$300 million for the Army National Guard, \$75 million for the Army Reserve, \$50 million for the Air National Guard, and \$25 million each for the Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve. These funds were above and beyond the dollars requested by the Department of Defense.

The bill specifically provides: "These funds may be used only to procure high priority items of equipment that may be used by reserve component units for combat missions or for units' missions in support of the State governors." It further states "The Chief of the National Guard and Chiefs of the Reserve Components must submit to the congressional defense committees a listing' of items of equipment to be procured for their respective National Guard or Reserve component."

The supplemental bill separately included money for eight C-17s and seven C-130J aircraft on top of the \$500 million. Hundreds of ROA members responded earlier this year to an ROA alert and wrote to Congress on the C-17. ROA testimony highlighted the need for additional C-130Js. The Officer magazine, distributed to Congress, has also been a voice in this effort.

Separately, the House mark-up of the National Defense Authorization Act includes \$600 million for the National Guard and Reserve. Additionally, another \$440 million was included for Reserve Component military construction. The House passed the MILCON appropriations this week. The Senate will be marking up its defense authorization this week.



The supplemental bill can be found at:

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/FY09_Supp_Summary_06-11-09.pdf

ROA tips its hat in a shared success to the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), who along with ROA, are peerless in their mission to advocate funding of the Reserve Components equipment and training.