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## PRESS RELEASE

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March 11, 2009

### ROA URGES QUICK ACQUISITION OF NEW TANKER AIRCRAFT

WASHINGTON – The Reserve Officers Association emphatically issued the following statement today regarding Department of Defense acquisition priorities:

“The Pentagon must expedite the acquisition of a new Air Force tanker.

“Tankers are the key cog in all joint military operations. Tankers ensure mobility aircraft deliver equipment, supplies and troops globally. Tankers allow Navy and Marine aircraft flying off of carriers to penetrate deeper distances against adversaries for medium-range strikes, and close air combat support in Afghanistan. Tankers expedite transport of wounded patients to necessary medical care, sometimes carrying the patients themselves. Refueling fighter aircraft ensures they can provide constant watch overhead on combat air patrols. Bombers are only capable of long-range strike because of their refueling capabilities. These things will not occur if the Air Force does not have a viable fleet of tankers.

“Right now, because the KC-135 is so old, its mechanical problems not only affect operations significantly, but it could potentially pose a danger to the men and women who operate them. Further, it must be remembered that there is a manufacturing lead time before a new aerial tanker will actually fly and fulfill the mission, adding an additional two years.

“The acquisition of a new Air Force tanker must rise to be DoD’s number one acquisition requirement. As the administration deliberates budget trade-offs, it must consider the national security ramifications of delaying a replacement for America’s Eisenhower era KC-135s.”

The Reserve Officers Association is the professional association for all uniformed services of the United States. Chartered by Congress and in existence since 1922, ROA advises and educates the Congress, the President and the American people on issues of national security, with unique expertise on Reserve issues. ROA advocates for adequate funding of equipment and training requirements, recruiting and retention incentives, and employment rights for all members of the Reserve.

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