RESERVE STRENGTH.
RESERVE LIFE.
RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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ROA's 2012 Legislative Priorities:

- Recapitalize the Total Force to include adequate funding for equipment and training for the National Guard and Reserve.
- Assure that the Reserve and National Guard continue in a key national defense role, both at home and abroad.
- Provide adequate resources and authorities to support the current recruiting and retention requirements of the Reserve and National Guard. Support warriors, families, and survivors.

Issues to *Fund, Equip,* and *Train* the Reserve Component:

- Seek Joint Professional Military Education qualification credit for distant learning or blended military courses.
- Regenerate the Reserve Component with field-compatible equipment.
- Fully fund Military Pay Appropriation to guarantee a minimum of 48 drills and two weeks of training per year.
- Sustain authorization and appropriation to National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account.
- Optimize funding for additional training, preparation, and operational support.

Issues to Assist *Recruiting and Retention:*

Retention Policy Changes:

- Permit service beyond the current Reserve Officers Personnel Management Act limitations.
- Support incentives for affiliation, reenlistment, retention, and continuation in the Reserve Component.
- Advocate against cuts in Reserve Component; support Reserve commissioning programs.

Pay and Compensation:

- Reimburse a Reserve Component member for expenses incurred in connection with round-trip travel in excess of 50 miles to an inactive training location, including mileage traveled, lodging, and subsistence.
- Obtain professional pay for Reserve Component medical professionals, consistent with the Active Component member's pay.
- Eliminate the 1/30th rule for Aviation Career Incentive Pay, Career Enlisted Flyers Incentive Pay, Diving Special Duty Pay, and Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay.
- Simplify the Reserve duty order system without compromising drill compensation.

Mobilization:

- Oversee service sections' policies to reimburse mobilized reservists on Temporary Duty orders with lengths over 179 days.
- Make permanent differential pay for deployed federal employees.

Education:

- Include Title 14 duty in eligibility for the Post–9/11 GI Bill.
- Exempt earned benefit from GI Bill from being considered income in need-based aid calculations.
- Increase Montgomery GI Bill–Selected Reserve (MGIB–SR) to 47 percent of MGIB–Active.
- Include four-year reenlistment contracts to qualify for MGIB–SR.

Employer Support:

- Continue to enact tax credits for health care and differential pay expenses for deployed Reserve Component employees.
- Provide tax credits to offset costs for temporary replacements of deployed Reserve Component employees.
- Support permanent tax credits to employers who hire service members who supported contingency operations.

Employee Support:

- Permit delays or exemptions while mobilized of regularly scheduled mandatory continuing education and licensing/certification/promotion exams.
- Seek a credentialing process to recognize military skills.
- Expand ROA's Service Members Law Center services. The Law Center advises on Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and challenges of deployed Active and Reserve service members.

Health Care:

- Improve continuity of health care for all drilling reservists and their families by:
    - Implementing DoD-paid stipend toward employer's health care for dependents.
    - Seeking a Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit to evaluate the Tricare Retired Reserve premium rates.
    - Permitting active members in the Individual Ready Reserve to buy into Tricare Reserve Select' vary levels of subsidy for different levels of readiness.
- Improve post-deployment mental health evaluations of returning Reserve Component members.
- Fund restorative dental care prior to mobilization.
- Extend military coverage to 180 days for restorative dental care following deployment.

Spouse Support:

- Expand eligibility of surviving spouses to receive Survivor Benefit Plan–Dependency Indemnity Clause payments with no offset.
- Provide employment protection and provide family leave for spouses and family caregivers of mobilized Guard and Reserve for a period of time prior to or following the deployment of the military member.

Deferred Benefits and Retirement:

- Extend current early retirement legislation retroactively to Sept. 11, 2001.
- Permit mobilized retirees to earn additional retirement points with less than two years of activated service, and codify retirement credit for serving members over age 60.
- Modify the U.S. Code that requires repayment of separation bonuses if an individual receives a Uniformed Service retirement annuity.
- Continue to protect and sustain existing retirement benefits for currently retired.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act/ Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:

- Improve SCRA to protect deployed members from creditors who willfully violate SCRA.
- Fix USERRA/SCRA to protect health care coverage of returning service members and family for pre-existing conditions, and guarantee continuation of prior group or individual insurance.
- Encourage federal agencies to abide by USERRA/SCRA standards.
- Ensure USERRA isn't superseded by binding arbitration agreements between employers and Reserve Component members.
- Make the states' employers waive 11th Amendment immunity with respect to USERRA claims, as a condition of receipt of federal assistance.
- Make the award of attorney fees mandatory rather than discretionary.

Veterans Affairs:

- Calculate years of service for disability retired pay under section 12732 of U.S.Code Title 10 for Reserve Component members wounded or injured in combat.
- Extend veterans preference to those Reserve Component members who have completed 20 years in good standing.
- Make permanent Reserve Component Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Loan Guarantees expiring in October 2012.
- Eliminate the 3/4 percent fee differential between Active Component and Reserve Component programs on VA home loans.
- Support burial eligibility for deceased gray-area retirees at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Continue to seek timely and comprehensive implementation of concurrent receipt for disabled receiving retired pay and VA disability compensation.

Voting:

- Ensure that every deployed service member has an opportunity to vote by:
  - Working with the Federal Voting Assistance Program.
  - Supporting electronic voting.
- Ensure that every military absentee ballot is counted.

Service-Specific Issues:
The directors of Army, Naval Services, and Air Force directors provide service-specific legislative agendas. They can be contacted by calling 1-800-809-9448.

ROA resolutions, position papers, and white papers supporting these initiatives are available at www.roa.org/advocate. Contact CAPT Marshall Hanson, director of legislation and military policy, at mhanson@roa.org or 800-809-9448 ext 713.