



# POSITION PAPER

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## NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT APPROPRIATION (NGREA)

### Requested Action:

ROA urges Congress to continue the authorization and appropriate for a modern equipment account proportional to the missions being performed, which will enable the Reserve Component to meet its readiness requirements.

### Discussion:

The Reserve and National Guard are faced with ongoing challenges on how to replace worn out equipment, equipment lost due to combat operations and legacy equipment that is becoming irrelevant or obsolete. The National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriations provide critical funds to the Reserve Chiefs and National Guard Directors to improve readiness throughout procurement of new and modernized equipment. Continued receipt of NGREA and congressionally added funding will allow the Reserve Components (RC) to continue to close the Active/Reserve Component modernization and interoperability gap. The Reserve Components that were once held as a strategic force are now also being employed as an operational asset as well as a strategic reserve; stressing an ever-greater need for procurement flexibility provided by NGREA to overcome equipment obstacles and insure a sustainable Reserve Force.

“Guard and Reserve units stand ready to continue as an operational force with planned rotations and mobilizations. The RCs need the necessary resources to man, equip, sustain, and train. Modernization and recapitalization of equipment must extend to the RCs, placing particular emphasis on the cyclical needs of rotational equipment used to train for scheduled deployment,” stated the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report for Fiscal Year 2014.

The Reserve Components continues to benefit greatly from a National Military Resource Strategy that includes a National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation.

In the past, “cascading” equipment from the Active Component to the Reserve Component has been a reliable source of serviceable equipment. However, the changes in roles and missions that have placed a preponderance of combat support and combat service support in the Reserve components have not left much equipment to cascade. Also, funding levels, rising costs, and lack of replacement parts for older equipment has made it difficult for the Reserve components to maintain their aging equipment, not to mention modernizing and recapitalizing to support a viable legacy force.

### Background:

Before 1997, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Appropriation was a critical resource to ensure adequate funding for new equipment for the Reserve Components. The much-needed items not funded by the respective service budget were frequently purchased

through this appropriation. In some cases, it was used to bring unit equipment readiness to a needed state for mobilization. Frequently, the funds were used to purchase commercial off-the-shelf items that units were unable to obtain through traditional sources. For several years, Congress relied on Active Component budgeting for the Reserve Component, but was forced to return to utilizing the NGREA because of conflicting priorities during war.

With a Strategic Reserve the training equipment was not always up-to-date, because the assumption was that the Reserve component could be mobilized, trained and then deployed. The R-Date to field forces was between 30 and 90 days after the active duty deployed, which allowed time for training on contemporary equipment.

With an Operational Reserve the expectations are to field elements of the National Guard and Reserve at the same time as the Active component. This requires compatible equipment that is on par with what is used by Active Duty, and trained personnel who can use such equipment when “boots first hit the ground.” The training phase will be done while Reserve and Guard members are on inactive duty training and requires compatible equipment to be part of the training equipment allowance.

ROA thanks Congress for NGRE appropriations in the past:

**NGREA Funding (\$Mil)**

FY	ARNG	USAR	USMCR	USNR	ANG	USAFR	Total
2009	778.6	127.3	62.4	62.4	154.7	62.4	1,247.8
2010	575	85	45	55	135	55	950
2011	250	140	70	70	250	70	850
2012	325	145	65	75	315	75	1,000
2013	460	240	120	90	460	130	1,500
2014	315	175	60	65	315	70	1,000

References: ROA LPP-04-14 Resetting, and Re-equipping the RC  
 ROA LPP-02-14 Eliminating the Reserve Gap



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