



POSITION PAPER

Reserve Officers Association of the United States
One Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002-5655

Direct Line: (202) 646-7713
Toll-Free: (800) 809-9448 ext 713
www.roa.org - mhanson@roa.org

LPP 07-14 January 2014

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (MILCON)

Requested Action:

ROA urges Congress to continue appropriating funds for Military Construction [MILCON] budgets for the Reserve and National Guard.

Discussion:

MILCON funding has not generally kept pace with essential Reserve Component (RC) facility modernization, conversion and replacement requirements. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, in H.R.3547 MILCON for the Reserve Component was appropriated at \$665 million \$1.02 Billion, which is over \$335 million less than the FY 2013 level and \$535 million less than the FY 2012 level. The MILCON has been on the declined 59 percent over the last four years.

The Reserve Component’s mission has changed from being primarily strategic Reserves and “weekend warriors” to being an operational Reserve. The RC now has a required high level of mission readiness which needs to be supported by functional training and facilities for current and future needs. They must train troops, maintain facilities and prepare troops post-deployments to return to civilian life. Additionally, families are supported throughout the force regeneration cycle phases. All of these initiatives require maintaining, renovating and modernizing facilities.

As morale and combat readiness can be significantly affected by inadequate facilities, it is prudent to sustain higher levels of improvement in funding and allocation of projects in FY-2015.

Component	FY-2013 Level	FY-2014 Level
Army National Guard	\$613.8 Million	\$314.74 Million
Air National Guard	\$42.38 Million	\$119.8 Million
Army Reserve	\$305.8 Million	\$156.56 Million
Navy & Marine Corps Res.	\$49.53 Million	\$29.0 Million
Air Force Reserve	\$10.98 Million	\$45.66 Million

Five-Year Project Backlog:

- Army National Guard – approximately \$ 1.22 billion
- Air National Guard – approximately \$ 606 million
- Army Reserve – approximately \$5.5 billion
- Air Force Reserves – approximately \$ 1.4 billion
- Navy & Marine Corps – approximately \$ 211 million

[over]

Notes: ARNG number is through FY-2018

ANG includes FTDP \$\$s and beyond.

USAR number includes Future Years Defense Programs (FYDP) years.

The military construction program is one of the most visible means of improving Reserve Component working conditions. In 2011, the U.S. Senate found that Army National Guard facilities average over 40 years in age. U.S. Marine Forces Commander, LtGen Steven A. Hummer testified that 93 of our 173 Reserve training centers are more than 30 years old and 54 are more than 50 years old.” The other Reserve components suffer similar challenges with aging infrastructure.

MILCON requests fund the Reserve’s most critical facilities and support Total Force Transformation. The Reserve and National Guard will be realigning its forces to operational missions to provide increased combat service, while the Active Duty end strengths are being reduced.

The Reserve and Guard manpower potential to meet and maintain authorized strengths of Reserve Component Units need to be taken into consideration as part of the cost analysis of approving projects. Older facilities discourage serving members to remain in the Reserve Component, increasing personnel training and recruiting costs to ready replacements.

Background

These programs provide funding for military construction projects in the United States and territories are authorized in the Military Construction Acts and are approved by Authorization and Appropriation legislation.

Minor Construction provisions allow construction of unspecified projects that have not been individually authorized by law, but are determined to be urgent requirements that do not exceed the \$2.0 million threshold established in 10 USC 2805. However, life-, health-, or safety-threatening projects may be approved if costs do not exceed \$3.0 million.

