ROA IS ON A NEW FLIGHT PATH MOVING TOWARD OUR SECOND CENTURY.

ROA, rechristened The Reserve Organization of America, has taken flight and is gaining speed and altitude each and every month. We now welcome all ranks to membership, and at dues rates recently reduced. We continue to focus on our top three priorities: Legislative, Member Services, and Communications programs.

We’ve completed our third consecutive year with balanced budgets and positive net income—a tribute to the staff, budget and finance committee, and elected leaders on the National Executive Committee. Income (operational and nonoperational) has exceeded expenses for the past three years, equaling about $2.8 million.

ROA has paid more than $544,000 owed in past-due term and life membership rebates to every department, save one still working to update reporting requirements. The Henry J. Reilly Scholarship program has been reinstated, and $130,000 in new scholarships has been granted in the past three years.

Our current budget includes funds to grow both our Legislative and Communications programs. For example, this document in your hands represents ROA’s return to print communications. We will publish a print magazine in February with Reserve Chiefs columns and many of the same features you valued in The Officer. Renamed Reserve Voice Magazine, this annual is the first stage of what we foresee as a quarterly, tangible touchpoint as our resources continue to improve into our centennial year.

Department and member participation in the past several years is on the upswing. So is attendance at each of our national conventions and March National Council and Leaders conferences. If you haven’t been to one lately, you may enjoy our more robust agendas, dynamic, prominent speakers, and networking opportunities. You’re still in time for our Des Moines convention in late September—details inside.

My thanks to the dedicated ROA members who have revived our standing committees; many are meeting every month. The Membership Committee has been particularly active, addressing our Recruiting and Retention Plan and making several proposed governance changes to be addressed at our Des Moines convention.

I’ve appointed four ad hoc committees to address challenges and opportunities as we reach our 2nd century:

- **Resource Development Committee**, to guide our comprehensive fundraising campaign.
- **Organizational Structure and Policies Review Committee**, to look at improving our governance.
- **Website Committee**, to develop our online presence.
- **Family Support Committee**, to further our mission of strengthening the third leg of the Reserve three-legged stool: ROA families. This committee builds on the integration of the Reserve Officers Association League (ROAL) into ROA. ROAL has proudly served and supported ROA for 70 years and will continue to do so as regular ROA members for the future.

We are well on our way to achieving the goals of our 2017–2022 Strategic Plan.

Speaking of 2022, I’m currently forming a Centennial Celebration Committee to plan commemorations of our 100th Anniversary throughout the year 2022. I welcome volunteers to contact me at stocktondl@aol.com. Right around the corner, 2022 will be an exciting year for ROA. I also welcome all questions and comments.

It has been a privilege to serve as your national president.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Stockton
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)
80th ROA National President
For ROA, fiscal year 2019 (April 1, 2018–March 31, 2019) will be remembered as the year that the association's members seized the opportunity to transform ROA; this was the year we equipped ROA for a future of profoundly enhanced capability to fulfill our founding purpose.

Our association's revitalization continued its march forward, with a financial recovery that once again balanced the budget, increased our legislative effect on Capitol Hill and in the Administration, and consistently grew term and associate memberships.

With confidence in our future and our role in the nation's security restored, the association's members at last year's national convention in Omaha voted overwhelmingly to expand membership eligibility to all ranks. The sincerity of this historic reform was demonstrated with the member-driven adoption of a “doing business as” name reflecting our inclusiveness: Reserve Organization of America.

We are a new ROA.

And yet, with these attributes of gathering strength, we are fundamentally the “old ROA” too. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly a century ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong Reserve force.

That is still the most important thing we do.

One of the pleasures of being your executive director is summarizing in an annual report the story of the preceding fiscal year. This is my third report; with each iteration, the story takes us farther along our journey of service to nation.

I will present this annual report, as I have all others, along the five lines of effort that organize the ROA Strategy 2017–2022.
1. INCREASE REVENUE AND DECREASE EXPENSES

ROA ended another year of fiscal recovery with an unaudited surplus of $809,351. We began the fiscal year with $596,316 and concluded it with $761,394 cash on hand. (We restricted $223,997 more to ensure adequate funds for Minuteman Memorial Headquarters Building maintenance work, at that time not yet concluded. At the time of writing, we have a total of $537,397 in unrestricted cash.) We took no draws against any ROA fund to pay operational or nonoperational expenses during the year.

We continue to increase revenues from the Minuteman Memorial Building and its strategic location at 1 Constitution Avenue NE, steps away from the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol, and the Library of Congress. Tenant revenues from our second- and third-floor and garage parking leases total some $700,000. Our Top of the Hill Banquet and Conference Center, managed by Condor Communications on the basis of a fixed fee plus commission, grossed $1 million in calendar year 2018.

ROA’s fundraising program continues to show steady growth in support from members, primarily through the Pershing Society. Since April 1, 2017, ROA raised $909,544 in cash and pledges, with an additional $100,000 committed at the March Leaders Conference that put us over the $1 million mark. (That’s more in the past two years than the $906,000 total raised in the 18 years between 1998 and 2016.)

The program is professionally managed by Military Non-Profit Consulting, LLC, a family-run business focusing on military organizations. Its compensation is a fixed management fee plus expenses. MNPC is continuing its work for us; in the first three months of FY2020, the program has generated another $300,000 (in cash, pledges and verbal commitments) to bring the current total to over $1.3 million.

The association has no external debt, but is “repaying itself” for an internal FY2017 loan of $2.1 million from the Memorial Endowment Trust Fund to help retire a TD Bank loan that required monthly payments of $22,658; ROA now makes $7,248 monthly payments to the fund. We maintain a balance on our single PenFed credit card of approximately $1,000, paid regularly.

We ended the fiscal year with $1 million in our contingency fund.

Our investments yielded 3.2% over the fiscal year, and we have just over $9 million in our funds, including the contingency fund. For CY2019, so far we are up over 11%.

2. INFLUENCE LEGISLATION, MILITARY POLICY

Director of Legislative and Military Policy Lt. Col. Susan Lukas, USAR (Ret.), provides a full report on ROA’s effectiveness on the Hill and in the Pentagon on page 12.

From my point of view, FY2019 saw continued progress in revitalizing our foundational capability.

For example:
• ROA achieved in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act the support for a reserve component cyber mission.
• We also influenced Congress to ensure funding for the A-10, C-130H, and KC-135 until replacement aircraft are identified.
• ROA’s advice regarding member problems with out-of-pocket expenses incurred under the DoD cap on travel payments influenced Congress to direct that travel reimbursement limitations be removed.

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3. GROW MEMBERSHIP

Fiscal year 2019 was historic in one very important aspect: it was the last year in the past several that saw straight monthly decreases in total membership. The first month of the new fiscal year saw a net rise, and while we won’t see this every month, the “spell” is broken.

April 2019’s membership growth success was made possible by departments and chapters fired up about ROA’s revitalization, out there strengthening their own outfits and recruiting new members. We concluded FY2019 with consistent gains in term and associate memberships, with an anticipated drop at (fiscal and membership) year’s end as 40 percent of members did not renew.

However, the 60% renewal rate for FY2019 was higher than last year’s, and we have seen consistent term and associate gains since then through June. The gains of April 2019 included 216 new members when ROAL integrated into ROA. Only our life memberships continue to decrease, these patriots sadly leaving our ranks as age takes its toll.

New chapters are sprouting in South Carolina and at Dover Air Force Base; and at Joint Base Andrews, the
chapter is revitalizing under sponsorship of the command group, including the command chief master sergeant. In my experience, functioning chapters are vital to our ability to retain members, with their orientation on a smaller locale and scale more amenable to activity; their growth is a bellwether.

To encourage this growth, the Department of South Carolina is building a chapter-development coaching program to help all state departments looking to start or revitalize chapters.

As President Stockton wrote in his accompanying letter, we paid term and life membership rebates totaling $544,865.07 to all departments complying with the IRS regulations and other requirements established in our constitution and bylaws. We look forward to seeing Puerto Rico come into compliance and making it 100%. ROA’s leadership is deeply appreciative of the $31,659.40 in rebate dollars refunded by eight states to help our national revitalization!

Increasing the value of membership, the Department of Pennsylvania has volunteered to develop and pilot a mentorship program for ROA. As many of us know, a good mentor can make a powerful difference in the success of a young officer or NCO. I have been an Army mentor for years, partnering with an Army Reserve Engineer Corps 1st lieutenant and helping him along the way. Just over a year ago, his wife and I pinned on his major’s oak leaves in Texas where he was an ROTC assistant professor of military science.

Providing such mentorship to young ROA members is a natural for us more seasoned members; most of us have a depth of experience and the perspective that comes only with “fine aging.”

4. PROVIDE QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
Given that ROA’s founding purpose is support of a strong national defense, focusing on the Reserve Components, and that a growing and engaged membership is central to the effectiveness of that effort, services that facilitate growth and engagement of our members are among the association’s most important.

The mentorship and chapter-coaching programs, cited in the “Grow membership” section, are in fact powerful services. So was the development this year of “service-themed” ROA brochures that departments and chapters can download from ROA’s website for local or in-house printing; they are customizable as well. National staff also designed a floor banner, and the

I am proud that, given a “good crisis,” we didn’t waste it. We made the hard decisions as a team, honored the wisdom of our founders, trusted each other, and seized the opportunity.
The revision of ROA’s website, now underway under the guidance of National Membership Committee Chairman Lt. Col. Milt Houghton, PhD, will improve member services as well as facilitate recruitment and retention. Colonel Houghton and his committee are redesigning the website to be fully mobile-friendly; he is also tackling how we use data to help us understand it more clearly.

For example, early in the current fiscal year, between his work and reviews on our membership made by our development firm, MNPC, Inc., we discovered some 2,000 names in our database that belonged to members no longer living. We’ve known for years that we had this sort of problem; we’ve now extracted the information and corrected our records. In the process, we also cleaned up a sizable number of outdated phone numbers and email addresses (we still have emails for only about half our members, though). We have quite a way to go, but are making progress via the efforts of committee and supporting members alike.

Our third annual Henry J. Reilly Scholarship round, for academic year 2019–2020, saw the awarding of 22 scholarships, each valued at $2,500, to deserving undergraduate students, all members of ROA families.

To enhance membership value, ROA rolled out several new affinity programs during the fiscal year:

**Student Loan Refinancing:** CommonBond, a leading student lender, helps refinance federal or private student loans at a lower interest rate. ROA members get $100 cash back from CommonBond when they refinance.

**Prescription Discount Card:** Save an average of 20% on prescription drugs not covered by insurance and as much as 50% on select generic medication when ordering by mail.

When ROA members present their card at participating pharmacies, they pay either the discounted rate or the pharmacy’s regular retail price, whichever is less.

**American Hearing Benefits:** Access to free hearing consultations and significant discounts on hearing aids through AHB’s nationwide network of hearing professionals

**Vision Insurance:** A VSP plan gives our members access to eyecare services and products. You’ll see substantial savings.

**Total Brain:** A program and app to understand and improve brain performance, Total Brain helps you overcome daily challenges and be more productive throughout the day.

**ID Theft Defense:** InfoArmor’s industry-leading technology detects fraud before major damage is done. Included for members is a monthly credit score, an annual credit report, and continuous credit monitoring to protect your identity and finances from fraud.

**Estate of Mine Organizers:** EOMO’s organizational system facilitates the handling of estate matters for ROA members for $199 instead of its standard cost of $250.

**Collette Guided Travel:** More than 160 guided tours spanning all seven continents allow you to find an adventure anywhere in the world. Collette offers its full services to ROA members—from helping you select a destination and taking you to the airport to 24/7 support while you’re there—at a discount.

5. IMPROVE STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

“Receiving a Henry J. Reilly Scholarship is an honor, and I will remember the sacrifices of our military as I begin my life and prepare to make contributions of my own in the future. Throughout my life I hope to embody the selflessness and strength that they all possess and apply it in everything that I do,” said scholarship recipient Elizabeth Kenney, entering her sophomore year studying criminal justice and psychology at Johnson & Wales University.

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afford a return to print, we continued to rely on digital communications. With Reserve Voice going out twice each month by email, we at least kept informed the one-half of ROA members for whom we have an email address.

Thanks to our professionally managed development campaign, we did mail fundraising letters which carried some information; but they were not—nor were they intended to be—substitutes for a magazine or newsletter.

The advantage of print is that we have good “snail” mail addresses for virtually everyone. Over the past four years, we’ve also found that old-fashioned print communications have a better “open” rate; the flood of emails these days can weary the most ardent digital native.

Our Facebook page has steadily increasing visits. We explored video blogs on our website, which also hosts five special-interest group forums: CIOR, Coast Guard, Family Support, Legislative “Red Cap” Grassroots, and Membership.

So, we did what we could with what we had. But it wasn’t enough—and we have better in the works.

The good news is that in the current fiscal year, we’re returning to print. You’re reading our first foray: a newsletter with a National Convention special section as well as ROA president’s message, annual report, and legislative update.

Then in February, ROA member mailboxes (the analog ones with little hinged doors) will see the first edition of Reserve Voice Magazine, renamed from The Officer to align with our new all-ranks membership eligibility. Reserve Voice Online will hit your email once each month; it has been redesigned to be heavy on legislative info, plus the other items you’ve become accustomed to.

THE ROAD AHEAD WIDENS

As we near our centennial anniversary in October 2022, ROA’s “road to revitalized” is unrecognizable from yesterday’s rocky path; we’ve taken the onramp, with the horizon of relevancy and opportunity opening before us.

Everywhere we look, our association is strengthening, even if it is just the first signs of regrowth. I am proud that, given a “good crisis,” we didn’t waste it. We made the hard decisions as a team, honored the wisdom of our founders, trusted each other, and seized the opportunity.

I have watched departments, refreshingly optimistic and purposeful, welcome new young members and returning older members—and include them in the reshaping of chapters and departments.

We have seen our clout on the Hill and in the Pentagon increase as policymakers grasp that ROA has a focused value proposition on the Reserve Components—and backs it up with expertise and a collaborative approach.

This is the stuff of an organization that is confident, an organization with a future, an organization making a difference.

This is your ROA.

Jeffrey E. Phillips
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
ROA Executive Director
Join us at the
ROA®
NATIONAL CONVENTION
26-29 September 2019 | Des Moines, Iowa

For more information and to register:
www.roa.org/event/NC2019
Preliminary Agenda

Registration
Thursday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday, 6:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sunday, 7–8:30 a.m.

General Sessions and Social Events
Welcome Reception, Thursday, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
General Assembly, Friday, 8 a.m.–noon
Lunch, Friday, Noon–1:30 p.m.
Air Force, Army, and Naval Services Section Meetings, Friday, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
Memorial Breakfast, Saturday, 7–8:30 a.m.
General Assembly, Saturday, 10 a.m.–noon
Air Force, Army, and Naval Services Section Meetings, Saturday, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
ROA Reception, Saturday, 6–7 p.m.
ROA Banquet, Saturday, 7–10 p.m.
General Assembly and ROA Business Meeting, Sunday, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings
Thursday
Executive Committee, 8 a.m.–Noon
National Resolutions and Legislation Committee, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
National Junior Officers Committee, 1–2:30 p.m.
ROA STARs Foundation Board Meeting, 1–2:30 p.m.
Outstanding Army Junior Officer Selection Board, 2:30–5:30 p.m.
National Constitution and Bylaws Committee, 3–4:30 p.m.
National Endowment Committee, 3–4:30 p.m.
Outstanding Warrant Officer Award Selection Board, 3–5:30 p.m.
Department Presidents and Department National Council Members, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Friday
Army Nominations Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.
National Communications Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.
National Insurance and Financial Services Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.
National Strategic Planning Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.
Organizational Structure and Policies Review Committee, 4–5:30 p.m.

Saturday
National Credentials Committee, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
National Board of Trustees, 8:30–10 a.m.
National Resource Development Committee, 8:30–10 a.m.
National Health Services Committee, 3–4:30 p.m.
National Membership Committee, 3–4:30 p.m.
Past National Presidents, 3–4:30 p.m.
National Resolutions and Legislation Committee, 3–5:30 p.m.

Sunday
Executive Committee Meeting, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

See ROA.org for a full agenda. Please be sure to check the program on site to confirm meeting times and room locations.

ROA C&B AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

Convention delegates will:
• Elect 12 new members of the National Executive Committee;
• Consider several proposed amendments to the ROA Convention and Bylaws.

Members are encouraged to apply to their department leadership to become a delegate; departments submit their delegates to ROA headquarters by September 13. To identify your department leader, visit your department’s group webpage or contact Ashika Grimes at agrimes@roa.org or 202-646-7700.

For each service section, the convention will elect a vice president, a junior vice president, and two Executive Committee members. For the Naval Services section, one executive committeeman will be from the Navy, PHS, or NOAA; the other will be from the Marine Corps, PHS or NOAA.

Departments should submit their completed delegate-reporting form to national headquarters no later than September 13, 2019. Forms should be sent to Diane Markham at dmarkham@roa.org. Need answers to questions? Phone 202-646-7728.

To be considered for an elected office, you must be endorsed by your department. Endorsement letters must be signed by your department president or secretary, then sent to Diane Markham (dmarkham@roa.org or 1 Constitution Ave NE, Washington DC 20002).

For more information on the convention, online registration, updates to the agenda, delegate-reporting form, and the Candidates’ Corner, visit www.roa.org. The direct link to Convention information and registration is www.roa.org/event/NC2019.
In and Around Des Moines

Just a few of many ideas...

Explore military and cultural history at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum (25 minutes’ drive north from hotel).

Browse world-caliber art and architecture at the Des Moines Art Center (10 minutes west).

Find some local and American Craft art of your own at Sticks Gallery (10 minutes east).

Take a boat out, eat a picnic, or wind down on a beach at Saylorville Lake (25 minutes north to visitor center).

Hike through woods, over streams, and up sandstone stairs at Ledges State Park, Iowa’s most popular park (45 minutes north).

Visit the birthplace and museum of Mamie Eisenhower (60 minutes north) or America’s first president born west of the Mississippi, Herbert Hoover (2 hours east).

Be inspired at the world’s largest collection of precious stones, gems, and fossils at the Grotto of the Redemption (2 hours 15 minutes north).

ROA Academy

Are you a leader of your department or chapter or considering running for an office in ROA? The ROA Academy is your chance to learn the nuts and bolts of leadership in the association. From finances to legislation policy, seasoned members and staff impart the skills and tools to perform the functions and responsibilities of your office. This event has no fee, but you do need to get a ticket when you register. A light working lunch will be provided.

ROUNDTABLE

During the general assembly on Friday, the convention will enjoy roundtable discussions designed to provide a personal and interactive setting for exploring key issues facing ROA and the Reserve Components; offer members an opportunity to provide targeted feedback and engage in in-depth discussions; and provide an opportunity for attendees to meet colleagues with similar interests. Each table will accommodate up to 10 participants, including a preassigned discussion facilitator.

All the topics fall under the five lines of effort as set forth in ROA’s Strategic Plan: Influence Legislation & Military Policy, Grow Membership, Increase Revenue & Decrease Expenses, Improve Strategic Communications, and Provide Quality Products and Services.

Throughout the morning, attendees will have an opportunity to join two separate discussion groups. Table topics will include

• Legislation & Policy Impacting the Reserve Components
• Grassroots Advocacy
• Membership Recruiting & Retention
• Revenue and Fundraising
• Communications
• Member Services
• Family Support and Services

An informal lunch will be provided at the end of the session to give attendees an opportunity to continue the discussions, collaborate, and socialize with old and new friends.

During the general assembly on Saturday, the convention will receive a briefing on the findings of the roundtable discussions.
Registration

Advance registration will be open through midnight, Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

Standard Registration: $225 includes welcome reception, all meetings, coffee breaks, lunch on Friday, and option to purchase tickets to Memorial Breakfast and ROA Banquet.

Registration fee is waived for award finalists, who also have option to purchase Memorial Breakfast and ROA Banquet tickets.

Optional events open to all members on first-come, first-served basis:
- Memorial Breakfast, $35
- ROA Banquet and reception, $65

Hotel Information

Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 245-5500

ROA’s room block offers a rate of $109 (single) plus 12% applicable tax. The group rate is available three days before and three days after the convention based on availability. Reservations for the group rate must be made by 5 p.m. (Central), Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

The easiest way to make your reservation is through ROA’s Reservation Portal at

WWW.ROA.ORG/EVENT/NC2019

Questions? Contact Diane Markham | dmarkham@roa.org | 202-646-7728

Dress

Recommended attire for all meetings, memorial breakfast, and welcome reception is business casual. Saturday night’s ROA Banquet is formal/black tie.

Members in uniform are expected to adhere to the grooming, physical, and uniform standards of their respective services.
Unlike any other association, ROA has a legislative agenda that tackles strategic and operational issues extending across all the Reserve Component services. Supporting the Reserve forces is part of what some other associations do; it’s all that ROA does.

From ROA’s headquarters just across the street from the U.S. Capitol, legislative national staff meets with congressional officials and their staffers to inform and guide policies that affect members of the Reserve Components.

While the ROA legislative national staff advocates on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., it is no substitute for representatives and senators hearing directly from their constituent—YOU!

ROA members have told us time and again that legislative action—protecting and promoting the Reserve Components among your elected representatives—is one of the most important reasons to join ROA.

Thus in 2019 ROA added another legislative tool to its grassroots effort to make it as easy as possible for you to communicate with your congressional delegation. Called VoterVoice, this Web-based service allows ROA to alert membership quickly to a Call to Action campaign, match members to their representatives, and guide them in sending a message, all in a matter of minutes.

In June ROA launched the first Call to Action via VoterVoice on the Department of Defense Form 214, and the response was overwhelming. Here’s how it worked.

We initiated a Senate Call to Action to ROA members via email:

“I am calling to ask my Senator to cosponsor S. 1360. Reserve Component (RC) servicemembers do not receive a DD214 unless they are on active duty orders for more than 90 consecutive days. Without a DD214 being provided when RC members serve less than 90 days, they cannot prove eligibility for federal veteran benefits such as the GI Bill, veterans’ preference for federal
employment, and military funeral benefits. When an RC member does receive a DD214, it often does not include cumulative service. This makes it difficult for RC members to maximize their earned benefits.

“ROA feels this cannot be resolved in DoD policy. We have brought this issue to DoD for many years, and they have not fixed the documentation and proof-of-service issues. We feel it will need to be handled in legislation ensuring our RC service members have the same access to benefits they have earned throughout their service on active duty.”

Less than 24 hours after Call to Action emails started arriving in Senate in-boxes, ROA legislative staff was called to an emergency meeting with a Senate office to introduce a DD214 bill as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

Many ROA members added their own personal stories about the DD214, which brought the problem to life for senators. A couple examples:

- “Good work on this! This is SO important. Now that I am out of the Guard and working for the federal government, I am having difficulty getting federal retirement service credit for my active duty time served in RC status (before going AGR) because the time was not documented on a DD214.”
- “As a Reserve Component military member, this fix is badly needed and of little to no cost. Additionally, the current system is another example of how active duty and the Reserve Components are being treated differently regardless of our fighting the same wars.”

TALK TO ROA

Talk to ROA is a way for the ROA legislative team to ask members about issues being worked either through legislation or policy.

Each Reserve Voice e-newsletter will include a Talk to ROA question. Follow the link, and in turn we’ll share the results with you.

Please share the link with other Reserve and National Guard servicemembers who may not be ROA members. Not only does it broaden our feedback, it’s a great recruiting tool you can use to increase ROA chapter membership!

Thank you to everyone who responded to ROA’s first Talk to ROA. The results tell us that the military exchange is a benefit that ROA should work to preserve.

**JUNE QUESTION:**

How often do you use the military exchange?

- A. Twice a month
- B. Once a month
- C. Quarterly
- D. Twice a year
- E. Once a year
- F. Never

And below is our latest Talk to ROA.

**AUGUST QUESTIONS:**

Earlier this year the Department of Veterans Affairs implemented the Mission Act, intended to be an improvement on the Choice Act. The purpose of both acts is to provide community care to veterans to relieve the long waiting periods for appointments with VA.

ROA would like to know how many members have used either of these programs to receive medical care.

- **Are you a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disabled veteran with a service-connected disability?**
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

- **Have you ever used the VA community health care program under the Choice Act or Mission Act?**
  - A. Yes
  - B. No

Go to www.ROA.org to submit your response!
Here’s a summary of other ROA legislative achievements in FY2019:

• Worked with Congress on the A-10, C-130H, and KC-135 to ensure continued funding until replacement aircraft are available. Congress agreeing, included funding and provisions.

• Acted on ROA input regarding member problems with out-of-pocket expenses incurred under the DoD cap on travel payments. Congress directed that travel reimbursement limitations be removed.

• Helped defeat increases to TRICARE costs for retirees who were previously grandfathered for program changes.

• Directed Congress’ development of an information system to track the health of Special Operations Forces personnel after ROA cosponsored a medical seminar for congressional members and staff.

• Partnered with ROA and NGAUS to drive policy reform that authorized Reserve Component servicemembers to buy Army combat uniforms from AAFES online, eliminating yet another AC-RC inequity.

• Drove continued funding for the A-10 Warthog: $163.7 million in the base budget for A-10 modifications with an increase of $65 million for the A-10 wing replacement program.

Each year at the March National Council and Senior Leaders Conference, ROA members meet with their congressional delegation as part of a program we call March on the Hill. This event allows ROA members to deliver legislative priorities to Congress in a concerted effort. In FY2019, ROA members presented three specific priorities, below, and senators and representatives introduced or reintroduced several bills:

1. Veteran Status: Change Federal Hiring Preference for Reserve Component Members

H.R. 2433, Veterans Preference for Federal Hiring
ROA urges Congress to confer veteran status for purposes of
Win support of ROA’s 115th legislative agenda for the Reserve Component cyber mission as expressed by the Senate Armed Services Committee: “As the military departments continue to formalize their contribution to the U.S. Cyber Command Cyber Mission Force by acquiring, training, and managing personnel with cyber-related capabilities, the committee encourages creative utilization of personnel who serve in the Reserve Component. The private sector requirement for relevant cyber knowledge and experience continues to grow, which means the Reserve Component may be the ideal source of personnel.”

Achieved two additional entitlements for Reserve Component personnel ordered to active duty for preplanned missions in support of combatant commands (10 U.S.C. 12304b): to receive a high-deployment allowance for frequent or lengthy deployments and to prevent reduction in pay while absent from a position of employment with the federal government.

Influenced congressional language establishing U.S. policy with respect to matters pertaining to cyberspace, cybersecurity, and cyber warfare previously requested from the president.

Influenced reversal of the Army’s discharge of immigrants seeking citizenship through military service, allowing them to remain in service pending completion of security clearances.

Federal hiring veterans’ preference on Reserve Component members after 180 cumulative days on active duty versus 180 consecutive days on active duty.

2. DD Form 214: Issue upon Retirement/Separation from the Reserve Component

S. 1360, Reserve Component DD–214 Act of 2019
ROA urges Congress to direct that all members retiring from the Reserve Components receive a DD Form 214 or, if already retired, upon request by the servicemember, family, or legally recognized entity.

ROA also urges Congress to direct DoD to establish an e-DD Form 214 that is continuously and automatically populated from the military personnel system for servicemembers to access when needed; eliminating the need for an “issued” DD Form 214.

3. Toxic Exposure: Recognition of Illnesses Caused by Hazardous Warfare Agents

H.R. 633/S. 191, Burn Pits Accountability Act
H.R. 2102/S. 1023, Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances] Act/VET PFAS Act
S. 1024, Care for Veterans Act of 2019 (Wurtsmith AFB)

ROA urges Congress to enact legislation to recognize exposure to toxins as a service-connected disability for servicemembers whose service includes, but is not limited to, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Camp Lejeune, and Canada.
by Jeffrey E. Phillips, Executive Director

One of the pleasures of being your executive director is I will present this annual report, as I have all others, along the five lines of effort that organize the ROA Strategy 2017–2022. That is still the most important thing we do. That is my third report; with each iteration, the story takes us farther summarizing in an annual report the story of the preceding fiscal year. This is my third report; with each iteration, the story takes us farther summarizing in an annual report the story of the preceding fiscal year.

We are a new ROA. The ROA’s revitalization continued its march forward, with our legislative effect on Capitol Hill and in the Administration, and a financial recovery that once again balanced the budget, increased a strong Reserve force. A century ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense.

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And yet, with these attributes of gathering strength, we are fundamentally the “old ROA” too. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense. ROA, founded in 1922 to ensure a strong national defense, has worked since that October day nearly 100 years ago to develop and promote law and policy that ensure a strong national defense.

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With confidence in our future and our role in the nation’s security, we are committed to the ROA mission to advance the Reserve Components of the U.S. Armed Forces. What ROA does makes a difference. ROA’s Legislative Efforts tackles strategic and operational issues extending across all the Reserve Components. Unlike any other association, ROA has a legislative agenda that tackles strategic and operational issues extending across all the Reserve Components. Unlike any other association, ROA has a legislative agenda that tackles strategic and operational issues extending across all the Reserve Components. Unlike any other association, ROA has a legislative agenda that tackles strategic and operational issues extending across all the Reserve Components.

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