

March 21, 2017

Rear Admiral Kurt B. Hinrichs
Director, Reserve and Military Personnel
U.S. Coast Guard
2100 Second St SW
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Hinrichs:

The Reserve Officers Association of the United States recently sent the attached letter to the President taking a position against proposed cuts to the Coast Guard fiscal year 2018 budget. We also sent the letter to the House and Senate subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member for the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security secretary.

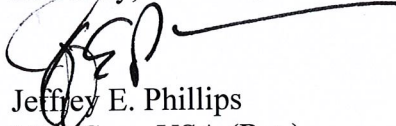
It now appears that those cuts will not take place and the Coast Guard will be given a 2018 budget at fiscal year 2017 levels. While ROA is pleased the administration changed its budget recommendation, the compromise means that the Coast Guard will not benefit from the proposed increases to the defense budget.

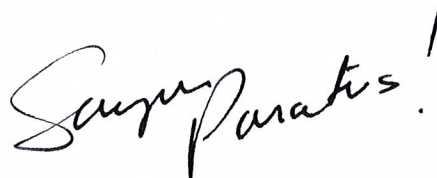
In the *America First, A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again*, it stated, "A budget that puts America first must make the safety of our people its number one priority—because without safety, there can be no prosperity." Without argument, the Coast Guard mission to "...ensure our Nation's maritime safety, security and stewardship" would support increases.

Specifically, ROA asked Congress and the Secretary consideration for funding to support increases to end strength and equipment for the Coast Guard Reserve. ROA recommended end strength be increased to 8,000. Additionally, ROA asked for funding to Port Security Units to conduct the overseas Naval Coastal Warfare mission of harbor defense and port security operations.

ROA has a membership of 50,000 and is the only national military association that exclusively supports all the uniformed reserve components of the United States. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail at slukas@roa.org with any question or issue you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey E. Phillips
Maj. Gen., USA (Ret.)
Executive Director



Attachment