July 30, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman, Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman, Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

On behalf of the Reserve Organization of America, representing members, families, and veterans of the Reserve and National Guard, we write to address provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 in H.R. 6395 and S. 4049.

ROA appreciated additional consideration with Senate Sec. 518 in this year’s NDAA for issuing a DD Form 214 to Reserve Component servicemembers. Since last year’s NDAA provision on the DD214, we have met with the DoD working group, explaining that the information we had compiled showed a need for a predictable periodic DD214. The working group seemed pleasantly surprised that our recommendations would reduce the workload these forms require under the current policy.

We explained that providing qualifying time for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and early-age retirement could be done separately through the personnel system. We believe the Senate section will resolve problems experienced by Reserve Component veterans.

House Sec. 518 to standardize Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay would also resolve a longstanding discrepancy by ensuring the Active and Reserve Components receive the same monthly pay. There has never been an acceptable reason for a Reserve Component servicemember to receive 1/30th pay, as both components must meet the same proficiency standards.

Regarding those sections pertaining to the renaming of military installations and property: ROA has written the president of our support for this reform, which we believe would strengthen recruiting and retention, and thus readiness. Our wonderful young men and women wearing the nation’s uniform deserve an environment that supports their service and reflects our nation’s diversity. ROA respectfully prefers the Senate provision establishing a commission, which would ensure a deliberate, informed, and inclusive approach to the challenges inherent in renaming. ROA would be honored to be considered among commission participants.

Other House and Senate NDAA section comments are in the attached spreadsheet. Please contact Kevin Hollinger at 202-646-7734, khollinger@roa.org, for any additional information ROA can provide.

Sincerely,

Col. Judith A. Davenport, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
National President

Executive Director

Attachments as indicated.