

Position: The Reserve Organization of America urges Congress to compel the implementation of **Duty Status Reform**.

Background: Reserve and National Guard service members currently report for scheduled training or operational support in one of 32 separate and distinct duty statuses, each with varying degrees of pay and benefits.

Active component service members, by contrast, serve under a single duty status with a uniform set of benefits.

According to the Reserve Forces Policy Board, a federal advisory committee within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, “these myriad duty statuses . . . were directed by law or policy in order to track the costs associated with the administration, training, and use of reserve forces.”

However, the current duty status system creates systemic biases and inefficiencies that impede use of the reserve components in accordance with the National Defense Strategy.

These facts prompted Congress to codify SEC. 513 of Public Law No: 115-91, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*, which required the Secretary of Defense to establish a consolidated duty status system for implementation by April 30, 2019.

The proposal (which was even publicized by the Department of Defense on its military compensation website) accomplishes many key objectives, including:

- Ensuring reserve component members receive pay and benefits commensurate with the nature and performance of their duties;
- Providing commanders and leaders with further flexibility to meet emerging requirements;
- Improving access to reserve component forces; *and*
- Facilitating a better means of tracking reserve component usage.

Despite this, DSRs implementation is being prevented by the Office of Management and Budget without any indication of intent to take next steps.

OMB's objection to the **congressionally required** DSR proposal is reportedly due to a perceived lack of detail on the benefits attached to each duty status.

ROA is deeply concerned with OMB's unwillingness to move forward with DSR implementation and urges Congress to **establish a DoD/OMB working group** required to reconcile DSR differences and put forward a ready to implement proposal for inclusion in the FY 2025 NDAA.

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