

ROA Meets with the Honorable James Stewart



A roundtable discussion with [Mr. Stewart](#), Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness was held on Mar 27, 2019 with Reserve Component (RC) military service organizations. Mr. Stewart retired from the United States Air Force as a Major General after 37 years of service in the active and reserve components. He met with ROA, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the National Guard Association of the United States NGAUS, and the Fleet Reserve Associations (FRA).

Susan Lukas, ROA Legislative and Military Policy Director, discussed that since the dissolution of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, the Reserve Component seems to be left out of proposed legislation and policy changes. For example, a study on modernizing the Department of Defense Form 214 for active Duty Service did not include the RC. This was particularly disturbing since the report will identify there is quite a backlog of issuing the 214 to mobilized Reserve and National Guard service members. ROA has a legislative proposal to change the 214 so it will be issued to RC members the same was as active duty personnel at reenlist, separation/discharge or retirement. This would significantly reduce the workload for the services while at the same time ensuring every RC member will get a 214 at some point in their career.

This is also happening with the Defense Health Agency merger of health care military treatment facilities and personnel. This is a problem because RC servicemembers have reported to ROA they are being sent home from mobilization centers without resolving medical conditions that occurred while on orders. Additionally, the merger is not considering moving any positions cut from active duty to the RC in order to strengthen surge capability and preserve specialty experience from the AC to the RC. ROA is proposing that the medical community merger include a study on transferring active duty positions and personnel to the RC that are part of the drawdown. This would ensure the RC has a strong surge capability in the normally critically short medical field.

Mike Hadley, NGAUS Legislative Director, discussed the new duty status reform effort and the need for the associations to see the draft legislative proposals in order to make sure all issues have been addressed. Problems with the [Insurrection Act](#) have been identified by The Adjutant Generals. ROA agrees with NGAUS that it is important for the associations to be part of the duty status evaluation process. Susan Lukas explained, "The problems with the Blended Retirement System serve as an example of why associations need to be involved at the beginning of the process."

Frank Yoakum, EANGUS Executive Director, talked about the importance of establishing continuity of health care for Reserve Component servicemembers and their families. Too often they lose health insurance coverage as they move from one duty status to another. He met with the Managed Care Support Contractors and has come up with a workaround until the next

round of TRICARE contracts. He also explained that the Air National Guard is the only component not eligible for federal tuition assistance and is seeking resolution. EANGUS is working closely with NGAUS to obtain TRS for Federal employees for continuity of care. ROA agrees with EANGUS that offering TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) to all RC members will help to ensure servicemembers meet health standards for deployment. A bonus is that TRS can provide an additional recruiting and retention tool. Frank also brought up granting an exception to policy for autism care in Guam by the only provider on island and conveyed the need for another exception to policy in the DOD Pay Manual for Guam Guard AGR members to be able to lease from relatives since so many on Guam are related.

Reserve Component

Recruiting. The service data below represents the Reserve Components' cumulative monthly goals and monthly gains for FY 2018. Two of the six Reserve Components met or exceeded their accession goals for FY 2018.

- Army NG Gains: Goal 44,342; Attained 34,629 (78.10 percent/-9,713).
- Army Reserve Gains: Goal 15,600; Attained 11,327 (72.61 percent/-4,273).
- Navy Reserve Gains: Goal 7,518; Attained 7,097 (94.40 percent/-421).
- Marine Corps Reserve Gains: Goal 8,990; 8,990 (100.00/+ 0).
- Air NG Gains: Goal 10,529; Attained 9,659 (91.74 percent/-870).
- Air Force Reserve Gains: Goal 5,282; Attained 7,193 (136.18 percent/+1,911).

Source: DoD Release No: NR-324-18, Nov 15, 2018