



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD

5109 Leesburg Pike, Suite 501
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

The Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) met on July 20, 2022 to discuss a number of critical issues relevant to the Reserve Components (RC) and all of DoD. The Board first discussed the current progress of Duty Status Reform (DSR). The RFPB has consistently supported DoD efforts to reduce the number of Reserve Duty statutes from 32 to no more than nine, grouped into four duty categories to which specific pay and benefits are aligned. DoD research in September of 2017 indicated that at least 450 statutes need to be changed to accommodate the new construct. Although the Department has garnered support for Duty Status Reform, there remains non-concurrence from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on aligning benefits to the new duty status construct.

The Board also discussed the elimination of Reserve Component General and Flag exemptions as part of Section 526 of FY2017 NDAA, known as Chairman's Reserve Positions (CRP), that take effect on January 1, 2023. The Board fully supports the Joint Staff Legislative Proposal #008, which would amend section 526a(b), adding language to reinstate the exemptions for 18 CRPs, with 15 general/flag officer positions in the CCMDs and three general/flag officer positions on the Joint Staff. These full-time, joint positions are filled exclusively by Reserve Component officers, below the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral and are not counted for the purpose of the limitation under section 526(a).

Finally, the Board discussed the importance of including the life-cycle costs of Reservists in Fully Burdened Life Cycle Cost (FBLCC) models. This is critical since knowing the fully burdened costs of each component (active, reserve, civilian, and contractor) is foundational for senior DoD officials as they make assessments and decisions on future force mix options. The office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) originally committed to this endeavor, but later ceased support due to the complexity.

I am writing you to not only apprise you of the Board's recent efforts, but to also ask for your full support for the ongoing DSR, CRP, and FBLCC efforts led by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A commitment from you to actively engage OMB, Congress, and CAPE in order to align proposed duty statuses with the required benefits, restore the Chairman's Reserve Positions, and include Reservists in Fully Burdened Life Cycle Costing will prove most beneficial in preparing our Reserve Forces for the complex strategic environment we face.

We sincerely hope you will be able to attend a future RFPB meeting. If you have questions, would like additional information, or have a topic for the board to consider, I can be reached directly at (703) 942-5770 or by email at apunaro@punarogroup.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arnold L. Punaro", is positioned above the printed name.

Arnold L. Punaro
MajGen, USMCR (Ret)
Chairman