



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD

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MAY 7 - 2018

CHAIRMAN

INFO MEMO

FOR: DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: MajGen Arnold L. Punaro, USMCR (Ret), Chairman, Reserve Forces Policy Board

SUBJECT: Report of the Reserve Forces Policy Board on Support for ongoing Duty Status Reform efforts led by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) is a federal advisory committee established in law to provide you with independent advice and recommendations on strategies, policies and practices designed to improve and enhance the capabilities, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Reserve Components.

The RFPB met on March 7, 2018 and discussed how no less than seven studies have been conducted since 1999 aimed at addressing Duty Status Reform to address the current problems that occur when a National Guard/Reserve member is ordered to serve. The RFPB has consistently supported efforts to reduce the number from 32 to a handful. The culmination of these studies led to NDAA '16 and NDAA '18 direction to the Department of Defense to assess and report to Congress by April 30, 2019 with recommended legislative proposals to reduce the number of statutory authorities down to no more than eight, grouped into four duty categories to which specific pay and benefits may be aligned. Initial research presented during the September 13, 2017 meeting of the RFPB indicates at least 450 statutes will need to be changed to accommodate the new construct proposed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)).

While previous reform efforts failed, USD (P&R) has built momentum that has this important initiative moving forward, and with continued persistent determination, achieving truly beneficial Duty Status Reform is within reach. After careful review and analysis, the RFPB recommends the Department of Defense fully support the Duty Status Reform efforts led by USD (P&R), to include their ongoing analysis, methodology, and timeline.

Recommendation: The Department continue to fully support the ongoing Duty Status Reform efforts led by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the recommendations were deliberated and approved in an open, public session. The briefing presented to and approved by the Board, as well as copies of the Senate and House bills, are on file with our sponsor.

COORDINATION: NONE

Attachment(s): NONE

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