
FACT SHEET

The Reserve Officers Association is a 75,000-member, professional association of officers, former officers, and spouses of all the uniformed services of the United States, primarily the Reserve and National Guard. It is a congressionally chartered Association that advises the Congress and the President on issues of national security on behalf of all members of the Reserve Component.

ROA's Congressional Charter

In 1950, the U.S. Congress granted a Charter to the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, stating that the purposes of the Association are **to promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security**. Some basic facts regarding ROA's Charter are:

- A Congressional Charter means the Association is recognized and incorporated by the U.S. Congress, a claim only a few organizations can make.
- ROA's Charter states that "the corporation and its members and officers shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist a political party or candidate for elective office." This means ROA focuses on the issues, not elected officials or political parties.
- President Harry S Truman, who was a former Army Reserve soldier, signed ROA's Charter.

ROA Carries Out Its Charter by:

- Advising the President, Congress, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and other agencies and organizations on programs and policies that affect the Nation and those who serve it.
- Educating the public, Congress, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and other organizations about important issues regarding the Reserve Components and the Nation's defense.
- Producing a magazine and other publications that provide in-depth analysis of the issues affecting the Reserve Components of the United States.

Legislative Priorities

ROA's history of strong and effective legislative activity includes many legislative victories on behalf of the nation's warrior citizens, such as drill and retirement pay. Today's legislative priorities, largely shaped by the requirements of the Global War on Terrorism are:

- Fully funding the equipment and training requirements of the National Guard and Reserves.
- Providing adequate resources and authorities to support recruiting and retention requirements of the National Guard and Reserves.

Details of these legislative initiatives and ROA's victories for serving and retired members of the Reserve are at: http://www.roa.org/legislative_affairs/legislative_victories_arch.asp#2003.

Basic Facts About ROA

- ROA was founded in 1922 in Washington, D.C. One of those responsible for its founding was Gen. John J. "Blackjack" Pershing.
- ROA membership is open to all federally recognized commissioned officers and warrant officers, and their spouses, from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marine Corps, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- ROA's membership includes Industry Partners and "Civilian Patriots" who, while not in the military, demonstrate their support of the Association and its commitment to national defense.