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## 'All Glory Comes from Daring to Begin'

*Special note: Spam blockers and firewalls are making it difficult for the monthly e-newsletter to reach many REA members. So, the Reserve Officers Association has offered to include us in its magazine readership and reserve space in each issue for REA updates. Many thanks to ROA for its continued support!*

**W**hen I was asked to lead the effort in getting an enlisted Reserve association off the ground, I didn't know the first thing about starting an association, and I didn't know the intricacies of "working the Hill." But, I knew yours was a story that deserved to be heard and I would do whatever I could to make sure it was. Well, we're telling your story and people are listening. I know that if we harness the dedication and power of the enlisted Reserve force, improving your quality of life and securing the future for you and your family in a big way is just a matter of time. September is REA's three-year anniversary. It's a new day and we have work to do—let's begin!

### Legislation

For a detailed outline of REA's legislative progress, go to the legislative section at [www.reaus.org](http://www.reaus.org) and check out the "Year In Review."

**Reduced age retirement**—The Senate's version of the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a proposal from Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) recommending a reduction in the retirement age for Reserve and Guard members. In his Senate floor speech, REA was the only enlisted group mentioned as supporting the amendment. The Senate passed the proposal, but it needs to get through the House. When Congress returns from its August recess it will finalize the act. Between now and then I encourage you to write or call your representative and ask him or her to support Sen. Chambliss' amendment. Collect signatures and send them to your state delegation; this is an effective way to let them know how many people support the change.

**BRAC transition initiatives**—We're contacting House and Senate members on the need for transition incentives to help members affected by the Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC). Permanent change

of station (PCS) moves, early retirement, and inactive duty training (IDT) travel pay would help servicemembers during BRAC implementation. Congress included transition incentives in previous BRACs, but not this time. We'll work to get it in next year.

**Other legislative provisions**—REA has shared its position with the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on more than 30 legislative provisions that affect the Reserve Components. Go to [https://www.reaus.org/issues\\_.html](https://www.reaus.org/issues_.html) and click on "REA Position." Pick a few issues that are most important to you and contact your state delegation. You can contact your congressmembers' Washington or local office. Either way is effective because the local staff shares constituents' concerns and works closely with the D.C. office. Just remember, you cannot use government resources or be on government time when addressing these issues.

### Association News

- ReservistMall.com is open for business. Your board of directors said "no" to your receiving unsolicited fundraising requests, so the Reservist Mall was built to generate much-needed, non-dues revenue. When you (your friends, co-workers, or neighbors) shop at any of the Mall's 600+ businesses—e.g., Best Buy, Target, Home Depot, Old Navy—REA receives a small fee. There are no discounts based on your REA membership or additional costs to cover the fee REA receives because of your shopping experience.

- Career Connections is now available on our website to help you connect with companies nationwide. Post your resume and apply online for thousands of job opportunities.

- The REA Foundation was incorporated this month; this is the umbrella under which scholarship and educational programs will be developed.

- SpREAd the Word! The Air Force is outpacing the other services in membership numbers; sounds like an opportunity for a little friendly service competition.

### Lani's Bottom Line

Remember, more than 108,000 Reserve and Guard members are currently mobilized. Keep them in your prayers as you are in mine. Thank you for your service. ▲