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ROA IS AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCES

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9.0—Miscellaneous

Q: I have heard that ROA is one of the “golden nine” military associations that are authorized to receive official support for annual conferences. Is that true?

A: Yes. I invite the reader’s attention to Department of Defense (DOD) Instruction 5410.19 of November 13, 2001. This Instruction and all other DOD Instructions are readily available on the Internet. Be sure to review the current edition (2001), because the earlier editions also show up in Internet searches.

Section 2558 of title 10 of the United States Code (10 U.S.C. 2558) authorizes but does not require the military services to provide certain support to annual conferences of national military associations designated by DOD. Here is a copy of that section in its entirety:

§ 2558. National military associations: assistance at national conventions

(a) Authority to provide services. The Secretary of a military department *may* provide services described in subsection (c) in connection with an annual conference or convention of a national military association.

(b) Conditions for providing services. Services *may* be provided under this section only if--

(1) the provision of the services in any case is approved in advance by the Secretary concerned;

(2) the services can be provided in conjunction with training in appropriate military skills; and

(3) the services can be provided within existing funds otherwise available to the Secretary concerned.

(c) Covered Services. Services that *may* be provided under this section are--

(1) limited air and ground transportation;

(2) communications;

(3) medical assistance;

(4) administrative support; and

(5) security support.

(d) National military associations. The Secretary of Defense shall designate those organizations which are national military associations for purposes of this section.

(e) Regulations. The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

10 U.S.C. 2558 (emphasis supplied).

The regulations referred to in 10 U.S.C. 2558(e) can be found in Enclosure 10 (pages 68-72) of DOD Instruction 5410.19. Attachment 1 to Enclosure 10 (page 72) lists the “golden nine” associations that are authorized to receive such support, and ROA is indeed on the list. The organizations are listed alphabetically, and ROA is last only because it follows the other listed organizations in the alphabet. The other associations are the Adjutant General Association of the United States, the Air Force Association, the Association of the United States Army, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, the Marine Corps League, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Navy League, and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America.

ROA is most pleased to be on this list. At our 2013 National Security Symposium, we expect to receive significant color-guard, musical, and other DOD assistance at no cost.