

**Protect and Strengthen NOAA Corps Operations
(5: NOAA & USPHS)
Resolution No. 24-01**

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is an environmental science operations and protection agency formed in 1970 from legacy federal earth observation bureaus with missions of weather forecasting, operating ocean survey ships, monitoring atmospheric climate conditions via satellites and aircraft, and protecting marine ecosystems in the U.S. coastal zone; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's mission supports economic vitality and military readiness and affects more than one-third of America's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's Commissioned Officer Corps is one of the nation's eight uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, NOAA provides technically skilled Officers of its Commissioned Corps to the U.S. Armed Forces during wartime and supports defense requirements in peacetime; and

WHEREAS, this includes but is not limited to operating the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program in partnership with the U.S. Air Force, which provides environmental information and weather data to the military for planning and conducting operations; and

WHEREAS, NOAA also harnesses the skills of veterans to support its mission through its employment and training programs, including NOAA Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the services of NOAA Fisheries, particularly the issuing of incidental take authorizations, have been requested by the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force more than 40 times since 2014 to aid and support with military surveillance, testing, training, and readiness activities; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's ability to monitor hurricanes, mitigate coastal flooding, perform ocean charting, and issue weather forecasts protects U.S. public safety and security while enabling joint-operations with the other uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's Commissioned Officer Corps and agency staff have been a value add to military readiness and national security despite being under-resourced and under-strength; and

WHEREAS, NOAA's current structure, organization, and funding fails to keep pace with an expanding mission tempo prompted by extreme weather events and the need to field current capabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. the Reserve Organization of America, urges Congress to support NOAA as one of the nation's eight uniformed services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ROA urges Congress to ensure NOAA is adequately manned, trained, and equipped to execute its mission and jointly-operate with the other uniformed services to ensure military readiness.