

Modernize US Coast Guard Reserve Structure to optimize Mobilization Strength

(1: Coast Guard)

Resolution No. 23-01

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Selected Reserve has been significantly reduced from a high of 12,000 authorized to currently 7,000; and

WHEREAS, chronic gaps in end strength hinder the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve's ability to "mobilize with critical competencies in boat operations, contingency planning and response, expeditionary warfare, marine safety, port security, law enforcement and mission support"; and

WHEREAS, the USCG is one of the five armed forces, has participated in every armed conflict since 1790, and serves as a crucial response element of the Department of Homeland Security as the nation's "Maritime First Responder"; and

WHEREAS, the USCGR supports the USCG in defending the U.S. against terrorist attacks, which includes protecting hundreds of ports, more than 100,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways, and 4.5 million square miles of territorial and economic zone waters; and

WHEREAS, both components of the armed forces are facing the most challenging recruitment and retention environment since the inception of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2022, the USCG missed its accession mission by over 25 percent, the fourth year in a row in which it missed its mission; and

WHEREAS, the March 2023 *USCG Reserve Component Action Plan*, aligned with the *Coast Guard Strategy and Commandant's Intent* (2022), provides a framework focused on setting a "proactive approach to recruit, organize, train, and employ the Coast Guard Reserve workforce"; and

WHEREAS, to effectively augment missions that require reserve support, the USCG must sustain further growth by adopting the right force mix, personnel management system, and a diverse set of onboarding and talent management practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. Reserve Organization of America, urges Congress to increase the USCGR end strength to 8,000, which was the amount at 9/11; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ROA urges the USCG to expediently implement the *2022 Commandant's Strategic Intent* and *2023 USSCG Reserve Component Action Plan* to achieve family-friendly work life balance, enhance reserve leadership at all levels, and improve the recruiting and retention of Coast Guard members in all components.

Adopted by the National Convention, 1 Oct. 2023

Passed by R&L Committee, 28 Sept. 2023

Edited by national.

Submitted: Dept of North Carolina, 1 Sept. 2023