

Position: The Reserve Organization of America urges Congress to strengthen the National Defense Strategy by clearly defining the role of reserve components.

Background: The Total Force concept was designed to properly use the military's active and reserve components to meet national defense objectives. While the NDS outlines threats, readiness, and priorities, it lacks a specific focus on reserve components.

Given their growing role in both domestic and overseas operations, ROA believes the NDS should include a clear "strategy" for integrating, using, and preparing these forces.

Why this is needed

- ✚ **Operational necessity:** The reserve components are essential in conflicts, disaster response, and homeland security. A dedicated reserve component section within the NDS will ensure their capabilities are maximized during peacetime and wartime.
- ✚ **Readiness and mobilization:** A section for the reserve components in the NDS will improve Total Force planning, ensuring these forces are adequately manned, trained, and equipped to execute their respective mission(s).
- ✚ **Coordination and integration:** A formal section within the NDS will encourage stronger cooperation and collaboration between the active and reserve forces, improving joint operations and overall effectiveness.

Legislative proposal

To properly incorporate the reserve components in the NDS, ROA proposes the following amendment to Title 10, Section 113(g)(1)(B), and is open to further suggestions:

In subparagraph (B), insert the following new clause after clause (x):

"(xi) A strategic framework prescribed by the Secretary to guide how the Department will integrate the reserve components into the Total Force. This includes their roles in operational and strategic planning, force mobilization, sustainment, and readiness. The framework will address the use of reserve components in both peacetime and wartime, their interoperability with active-duty forces, and the policies necessary for effective integration into the overall defense strategy."

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