



December 12, 2018

The Honorable Trent Kelly
United States House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Walz
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Kelly and Walz,

On behalf of the members of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S. (EANGUS) and the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), who represent the members and veterans of the National Guard and Reserves, we are pleased to offer our support for the *Reserve Component DD214 Act of 2018*.

Currently, there is no document that summarizes both Reserve Component (RC) and Active Component (AC) service. The current process disregards transitions across the continuum of service between AC and RC through a servicemember's career. The lack of a DD Form 214 inhibits RC servicemembers from claiming earned benefits and proving the full scope of their military service. Additionally, when an RC member does receive a DD Form 214 upon completion of active service, it often does not include cumulative service. This makes it difficult for RC members to show that they have earned various important benefits.

Due to the nature of AC and RC orders, they often do not meet the minimum requirement of 90 consecutive days of Active Duty in order to receive a DD Form 214. Complicating the process further, RC servicemembers can transfer states, known as Interstate Transfer (IST), over the course of their career, but the records don't always follow. Critical service-related documentation often remains in the issuing state. Human error and a convoluted personnel system can cause orders to be incorrectly documented or not documented at all. The result of the current, disaggregated personnel system results in many servicemembers receiving only a portion of their benefits.

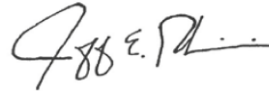
We thank you for giving this issue your attention and for your support of those in the Reserve Component community. For these patriots to receive on a reliable and equitable basis the benefits they earned, it is necessary to inform the Secretary of Defense to modify the title of the DD Form 214 to be more inclusive of Guardsmen and Reservists on Active Duty, and to issue a DD Form 214 upon separation or discharge from Reserve Component that is reflective of all their service.

This change will enable members of the RC to get the benefits they earned, and will facilitate the ability of RC servicemembers to get education benefits and even Veterans preference for federal hiring purposes. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill and we welcome the opportunity to help your teams with legislative issues that impact our nation's servicemembers and veterans. Thank you for your own military service!

Sincerely,



Frank Yoakum
Sergeant Major
U.S. Army (Retired)
Executive Director
EANGUS



Jeffrey E. Phillips
Major General
USA (Retired)
Executive Director
Reserve Organization of America