

# The Sentinel



## Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 30

Volume I, Issue I

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### FY2008 Defense Authorization Bill

The National Defense Authorization Act authorizes appropriations for the Department of Defense for military operations. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1585 defense authorization bill on May 24, 2007. The Senate Armed Services Committee finished their version of the bill S. 567, however, the appropriations bill will not be written until later this summer.

The House bill meets most of the priorities laid out by the Department of Defense in the President's fiscal year 2008 budget requests. The Senate and the House bill had provisions for a 3.5% raise, and increasing Army, USMC and Army National Guard manpower increases.

Ike Skelton stated that the "bill makes major investments in force protection for our troops in the field, with efforts to move quickly to supply Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicles that provide increased protection against improvised explosive devices."

The Democrat Majority Leader Harry Reid responded to Republican's blocking the vote on the Iraq Troop withdrawal by setting aside the defense authorization bill. Reid has indicated that they will return to the bill at an unspecified later date.



**U.S. Rep Ike Skelton**

**H.R. 1585 Sponsor**

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### Missouri Provides Income Tax Credit for Military Retirement Benefits

Most of the states that border Missouri currently provide income tax credit for military retirement benefits. Missouri House Bill 636 sponsored by representative David Day sought to bring Missouri in line with their fellow states. The bill passed in April 2007 will provide the tax credit for the amount of tax due on military retirement benefits if the taxpayers income is equal to 150% or less of the federal poverty level beginning January 1, 2007.

Supporters of the plan believe that the bill makes Missouri more attractive for soldiers retiring to remain in Missouri. Social Security benefits currently receive tax exemptions based on income thresholds. The total amount of the credit is relatively small, however, it will provide additional relief for those who need it the most. Seniors facing increased health care costs and rising costs have had to consider moving to a state that provided this credit.

Opponents argued that the State and the retirees would be better served by using the money for other programs such as senior meals and health care. Missouri AARP prefers tax credits that are income based that are not age based.

 Don't forget to update your ROA membership information with your current address email address.

**WWW.ROA.ORG**



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USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, USAA Texas Lloyd's Company and USAA Ltd., and is available only to persons eligible for P/C group membership. Financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California), and USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. Banking products provided by USAA Federal Savings Bank, an equal housing lender. Credit cards provided by USAA Savings Bank. Both banks member FDIC. Other products and services provided by USAA Investment Management Company, USAA Life Insurance Company and USAA Life Insurance Company of New York (Highland Falls, NY). Availability restrictions may apply. © USAA 2006. All rights reserved. 1635-15692



## ESGR Connection

When reservists receive their activation they are forced to leave their families and jobs behind on a short notice. This can be a hardship for both.

Sometimes when they return to their civilian employment, the soldiers may run into misunderstandings with their employer. Usually this is caused by a misunderstanding of the federal law known as the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Chapter 30 member Col Bill Hammersmidt (Ret) is helping our soldiers by serving as the St. Louis area manager

for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The ESGR volunteers help educate employers understand the law.

Another important component of ESGR is supporting relationships with area employers. Soldiers can nominate their company for an ESGR Patriot Award to recognize their support.

Reservists who have problems with their job status can call the ESGR at 1-800-336-4590. Visit their website at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) for more information.

## How Safe Are You?

You lock your doors, your careful about who you give your credit card information to and listen to your gut instincts about strangers. Your safe right? Maybe not. Identify theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States because it provides criminals a relatively low-risk, high reward endeavor.

Thieves steal your information in a variety of manners. This includes looking through your trash for bills or other personal documents, taking documents from your mailbox, stealing credit card numbers using a special device attached to credit card/debit card readers (such as the ATM), pretending to be legitimate on the internet and tricking you into revealing your personal information, and using false pretenses to obtain your personal information.

Keep in mind that the bad guys are easy to spot in the movies, but are less obvious in real life. Be aware of how information is stolen and make it more difficult for them. Request a copy of your credit report on a regular basis, look for fake websites—since they are often created in foreign countries they frequently have obvious spelling errors, do not give your account information out to individuals that call you, purchase a shredder and shred all documents with personal information, and reduce the amount of junk mail you receive by registering for a free service called the National Do Not Mail List offered by DirectMail.com.

While you are at it, add your phone number to the Do Not Call Registry at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222 from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.

### ROA 2008 Mid-Winter

2/3/2008-2/6/2008  
Hilton Washington  
Washington, DC

### Long Tours Available

USTRANSCOM currently has long tours available for FY08. If you or anyone you know is interested, contact LTC Dietrich at 618-229-7084.

**A special thanks to all those who support our Nation through their service.**



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## The Sentinel

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**The Reserve Officers Association of the United States was founded in 1922 and chartered by Congress in 1950. ROA's mission is to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security.**

**ROA provides a voice for the men and women who serve our Nation in the cause of freedom.**

*We're on the web!*

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