

10 April 2012

FROM: Morgan Little, National- and Dept TX ROA Legislation Chair
TO: Senate Business & Commerce Committee

SUBJ National Guard & Reserve

ENCL: 1. ROA Press Release that the 800,000th Reservist Mobilized
2. *Business Week*, 13 Dec 2004. "Working Life, The Military"
3. The Business Case for Hiring Veterans, by Susan H. Burnell
4. Top Ten Reasons to Hire Member of the National Guard & Reserve
5. National Guard & Reserve Mobilization data for 2011 and 2012 (so far)

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman, Members and Guests

I am Morgan Little, Retired Navy Reserve Captain. I am a Vietnam, Cold War and Bosnia veteran. During Vietnam I was aboard a destroyer, lots of preparation for "smoke on the water" during the Cold War and during Bosnia – a unit I commanded did the OPERational EVALuation for the Navy's ONLY operational chemical/biological decontamination facility at the Naval Hospital, Sigonella, Sicily. The reason for bringing that up is – the reserve unit did this two-year project using only regular drills and Annual Active Duty for Training. After this assignment – as a "post-command captain" I was part of a task-force of about 15 from around the naval reserve examining the naval reserve for the Chief of Naval Surface Reserve. The message here is the guard & reserve are not the old weekend warriors.

Encl 1: ROA had a press release that 800K guardsmen and reservists had been mobilized. Over time since US troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan somewhere between 45-55% of those in theater were guardsmen and reservists. Many made multiple trips – some as many as –five, -six or seven.

Encl 2: This ***Business Week*** article indicates some major corporations seek guardsmen and reservists who have deployed to become employees.

Encl 3: The Business Case for Hiring Vets, by Susan H Burnell. Short article quotes Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, who has made hiring veterans a top priority.

Encl 4: The Top Ten Reasons to Hire Members of the National Guard and Reserve. Assembled by the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the Department of Labor. Ten attributes that guardsmen and reservists bring to a workplace.

Encl 5: This spreadsheet contains numbers from the Department of Defense/Reserve Affairs Office. These are released – usually on Tuesdays. I have followed these since about 2006. This spreadsheet has news: ***Guardsmen and Reservists are coming home.*** Your attention is invited to the numbers for January 2012. The demobilization has begun. DoD released over 14,000 guardsmen and reservists in January. Now, I seriously hope that Texans who have been on the "tip of the spear" can come back home to jobs.

Senators, we have Guardsmen and Reservists coming home – now!!! They will be looking for the same things veterans from all wars have wanted – education, jobs, VA care and a chance to "get it together again." Guardsmen & Reservists are different from other veterans – they can be "called up again" in no time. Let's help them get back to work and rejoin their communities.

Thank you for your time!!!