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August 7, 2025

Hon. Michael Kremlacek, Acting Assistant to the Secretary
Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense
Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency – Regulatory Directorate
4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 05F16
Alexandria, VA 22350–1700
(Submitted Electronically)

RE: Docket ID: DoD–2025–OS–0021 – Comment in Support of the Reserve Component Spouse Survey

Mr. Kremlacek:

As Director of the CPAC Foundation’s Center for Regulatory Freedom—and as the spouse of a retired U.S. military officer whose 25-year service I supported—I write in strong support of the Department of Defense’s continued implementation of the Reserve Component Spouse Survey.

This issue is not theoretical to me—it is deeply personal. I have lived the sacrifices, challenges, and disruptions that come with military service. Spouses are not on the battlefield, but we are on the front lines of daily life—maintaining careers, raising families, and holding things together while our partners serve this country. Gathering our insights through regular, systematic surveys is not just smart policy—it is necessary for shaping services and programs that actually work.

Military life is not static. The demands on service members and their families evolve constantly. From economic pressures to educational needs to the strains of deployment and reintegration, the

experiences of military spouses shift year to year. Without consistent, timely surveying, policy decisions risk being out of touch, misdirected, or obsolete.

Military spouses—regardless of gender—are essential to the readiness of the force and the security of the homeland. They are the infrastructure that supports the warfighter. Understanding their lived realities is key to ensuring our national defense remains strong, sustainable, and effective.

It's also time we shed outdated assumptions. The serving spouse is not always male. The “dependent” is not always female. Frankly, not enough support exists for male spouses of women who serve—especially men trying to maintain their own professional identities while navigating military life. These voices are too often invisible. This survey helps ensure they are not ignored.

The Reserve Component Spouse Survey is an indispensable tool. It gives policymakers real data from real families. It makes sure the Department of Defense is informed by the people who know military life best—the ones living it.

Thank you for continuing this important work. I urge the Department to sustain and strengthen its commitment to hearing directly from military spouses through regular, robust surveying.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and stand ready to discuss these concerns further.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at ALanger@conservative.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew M. Langer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Langer

Director

CPAC Foundation Center for Regulatory Freedom