The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/14/76 - Remarks Upon Signing S. 2115: Selected Reserve of the Armed Forces, Louisville, Kentucky” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

SIGNING CEREMONY; SENATE BILL S. 2115

FRIDAY - MAY 14, 1976

1.

IN CREATING AN ALL VOLUNTEER MILITARY FORCE;

OUR COUNTRY HAS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE KEY ROLE WHICH OUR

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES PLAY IN OUR OVERALL DEFENSE.
2. Existing law requires that a national emergency be declared prior to any involuntary mobilization of our reserve forces. This means that these forces are not now available to augment our active forces in the very cases where their prompt availability might indeed prevent a situation from developing into a genuine emergency.

3. This bill provides the president with the authority to call to active duty no more than 50,000 members of the selected reserve to serve for a period not to exceed 90 days.
4. UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE MANY KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, OVER 60 PERCENT OF OUR TACTICAL AIRLIFT AND OVER 50 PERCENT OF OUR STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY ARE MADE UP OF RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL.

5. IN SIGNING THIS BILL, I CAN ASSURE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT ITS PROVISIONS WILL BE INVOKED ONLY WHEN CLEARLY WARRANTED AND AT SUCH TIMES MOST JUDICIOUSLY;

END OF TEXT