



ANCHOR WATCH

Jan - Mar 2022

Joining the Reserve Force

Thinking about joining the Naval Reserves?
This article might help!

COMMODORE'S CORNER



COMMODORE, CWG-6

Capt. Holly A. Yudisky

CWG6 War Fighters,

Much has changed since the last issue of Anchor Watch was published. The world witnessed the invasion of a sovereign country in what is now the largest conflict and refugee crisis in Europe since WWII. Russia's invasion of Ukraine left many of us wondering about the implications for our families, our Nation, and the world.

As a Navy, it also gave us pause to

stop and think about what it all means for us as a fighting force. Some of us deployed unexpectedly, many of us adjusted schedules or work roles to augment operational work centers directly involved in the crisis, and all of us rose to the challenge of sustaining a heightened operational tempo in the face of an uncertain future. In addition to our own roles, the Russia/Ukraine crisis also highlighted the importance of those that serve alongside us in the Navy Reserve. In fact, when we knew we would have to meet increased operational demands over an extended period of time, one of the first things we identified was the need to augment our normal operations with Reserve personnel and the critical warfighting expertise they bring to bear.

This quarter's issue of Anchor Watch focuses on Reserve units to recognize their incredible contribution to the Group and Navy, and to bring awareness to the important roles they fulfill. Navy

Reservists serve our country in uniform while simultaneously maintaining a civilian career and tending to family. They possess critical skills our Navy needs whether in peacetime or in conflict, and they are a critical component of our overall mission readiness. I recently had the opportunity to visit our Reserve Unit at Fort Devens along with CAPT Nate Bailey, the Commanding Officer of our CWG-6 Reserve unit here at Fort Meade. That visit highlighted the tenacity, ingenuity, and teamwork that is evident across our entire CWG-6 Reserve footprint, and the importance of maximizing their integration with our active duty commands.

Current events have certainly highlighted the importance and value of the ENTIRE CWG-6 team. Thanks to each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our Navy and to ensuring our nation remains the greatest nation on the planet.

In the 15 years in uniform, I spent on active duty before transitioning to the Reserves in late 2007, I did not think much about the Navy Reserve at all. During those years on active duty, I did not have much exposure to Reservists – nor did I have mentors engage in conversations about life in the Reserve Force. In short, I was quite ignorant – and in that ignorance, developed a sort of benign indifference to our Shipmates that make up our Total Force.

Well, life is full if irony and shortly after my decision to transition from active duty and did have someone reach out to have a conversation regarding continued service as a Reservist. My attitude was still pretty aloof, but because of my respect I had for this friend, I was open to the conversation. I will forever be grateful that someone took the time to cast a vision of continued service nearly 15 years ago.

My wife calls it my paid hobby. I see it as an amazing opportunity for my family to establish roots in a community, while pursuing a civilian career – all while staying connected to service in uniform with the Navy. Sure, there are some amazing benefits you accrue as a Reservist – and those are certainly worth examining and understanding – but the biggest benefit I get is the opportunity to lead and serve alongside some amazing patriots who are amazing

in their civilian career, while being willing to live a “pruned life” for the honor to serve and wear the cloth of the Nation.

As the Commodore mentioned, the Reserve Component is not an afterthought in operations – but a critical ingredient to mission success. I am grateful that this Command not only values the significant talent and expertise the Reserve Force contributes to the mission – but cares enough to ensure you are equipped to make informed decisions when it comes time for you to transition from active duty.

On behalf of all Reservists within the CWG-6 enterprise, thank you for all you do in your service to our Navy and Nation. If you are considering a move from active duty, please know that your Reserve Shipmates stand ready to answer any questions and assist with a smooth transition as part of a continuum of service.



COMMANDER, CWG-6 Reserve

Capt. Nate Bailey



IN THIS EDITION

- 3. Sailor in the Spotlight
- 4. CWG-6 Highlights
- 6. USN Reserves
- 4. USNSCC

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Commodore
CAPT Holly Yudisky

Executive Officer
CDR Henry Gilbert

Command Master Chief
CMDM Allen Keller

Public Affairs Officer
MCC Thomas Miller

Public Affairs Staff
MC1 Ruben Reed
MC2 Kenneth Rodgers
MC2 Brianna Thompson

ABOUT ANCHOR WATCH

In its 48th year of production in 2022! The "Anchor Watch" is produced by Cryptologic Warfare Group SIX.

Opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy nor the U.S. Government. We reserve the right to correct, edit and omit material. Photos are official U.S. Navy unless otherwise indicated. Story ideas are due the first working day of each quarter to the Public Affairs Office.

Address: NBP 306, Suite 175, Fort Meade, Md. 20755-5290.
Phone: (240)636-9699
Email: cwg6pao@gmail.com



SAILOR *In the* SPOTLIGHT

Q: Why did you join the Navy?

A: I had a hard home life, and it was 2008 right as the recession started happening. I could see the writing on the wall that if I didn't start the process of leaving immediately, that I would be stuck where I was, racking up college debt when I wasn't sure what my path should be.

Q: What's the most important thing that you've learned from your time on Active Duty?

A: Most of my important lessons I captured in my advice to new Sailors, but I will say my most valuable thing I gained was the value of Diversity. I come from suburban/rural Midwest, so there was not a lot of diversity in my roots. Being continuously exposed to so many people with so many backgrounds and patterns of thought and working every day with them to get the mission done (sometimes under seemingly impossible timelines with little resources), has really benefited the way I think and see the world.

Q: What is your next career goal?

A: I spent the last 6 years doing Offensive Cyber Planning and Intel analysis, I wanted to delve back into my Hunt roots and be able to be more present with my family. For my next step I want to finish off my degree and branch out into malware analysis and network forensics for incident response.



Navy Reservist

CTNC Kayla Fondren

Q: What is your favorite part of being in the Navy?

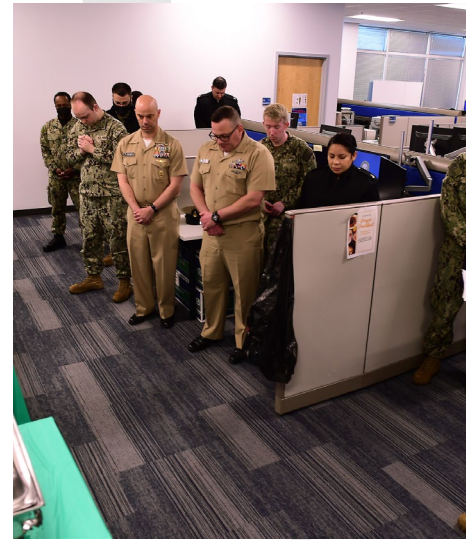
A: My favorite part has and always will be the people. The sense of camaraderie and pooling together to get the mission done, figuring out how to make it work with limited time, resources, expertise, or even a roadmap because it hasn't been done before are skills and memories I will deeply value all of my days.

Q: What made you decide to get out of active duty?

A: I made the heartbreaking decision to transition from active due in part to an overseas assignment. My daughter has autism and needs consistency. When we move it would set back her progress significantly based on experience from the last move, and then I knew we would have to move again in 3 years setting her back yet again. Her EFMP category allowed us to move, but overall moving would have been a major detriment. We also own a house we love, and my family's mental health has never been better than here.

CWG-6 HIGHLIGHTS





USN RESERVES

What you need to know

Story by MC1 Ruben Reed

John Coltrane, famous jazz artist, Pete Buttigieg, the current Secretary of Transportation, John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, 15 Medal of Honor recipients, and Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, were all members of the U.S. Navy Reserve. Americans have the option to join the reserves directly, either as a commissioned officer or enlisted, or after spending time in active duty. They enjoy many benefits such as medical care and work/life balance with limited obligations as well as the satisfaction of serving their country. Reservists can be called upon to help in times of need to support situations such as the Global War on Terrorism, the COVID-19 pandemic and other national emergencies.

Currently, there are around 60,000 Navy Reservists in its ranks. One Sailor assigned to Cryptologic Support Activity (CSA) 63 is choosing to transition into the reserves after 12 years of active duty service.

Chief Cryptologic Technician (Networks) (CTN) Kayla Fondren, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, joined the Navy shortly after the recession of 2008. She was motivated to change her situation for the better and leave her hometown.

“My favorite part has and always will be the people,” Fondren said. “The sense of camaraderie and pooling together to get the mission done, figuring out how to make it work with limited time, resources, expertise, or even a roadmap because it hasn’t been done before are skills and memories I will deeply value all of my days in the Navy.”

When asked why she was making the decision to join the Reserves, Fondren explained the need to provide more stability to her family and her desire to be

more present with them.

“I didn’t want to entirely give up the Navy, and the Reserves badly needed CTN’s,” said Fondren. “I also wanted to look into government contracting and still rack up my retirement benefits vice going government civilian and buying back my time. The choice felt like the best of both worlds. I had four months from my decision to when my terminal leave started, so absolutely not an ideal timeline, but I tackled it just like any other problem



The thing I like most about my job is helping people get back into the Navy and informing them of all the benefits the Reserves has to offer



in the military with communication, checklists, and support.”

Communication and support came from Navy Counselors (NC), Sailors with the responsibility of helping personnel with their career choices whether it be remaining on active duty, transitioning into the Reserve or even separating from the service entirely.

Chantell Wilson, from Trenton, New Jersey, a Navy Counselor 1st Class assigned to Navy Recruiting Command (NRC), helps Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines enter the Reserves after they’ve left active duty service.

“The thing I like most about my job is helping people get back into the Navy and informing them of all the benefits the Reserves has to offer,” said Wilson. “One big thing people don’t know is that they’re able to apply and receive their disability

benefits from active duty service while they’re in the Reserves and even add on to their claims as they stay in the service.”

z“The reserves is really flexible,” said Walthall. “It moves with you. If you want to move to California, you could switch units to a unit in California. It’s more to supplement your civilian life, not the other way around. There’s also a two year mobilization deferment for Navy personnel so you don’t have to worry about mobilizing until after that”

When Sailors are 15 months away from end of service, they receive a required Career Waypoints (C-Way) Career Development Board, where they can request a reenlistment quota by choosing from in-rate, out of rate, reserves or release their quota for separation. After receiving a reserve quota, members will work with their command NC and reserve benefits advisor to continue their transition.

The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team and Joint forces, in times of peace or war.

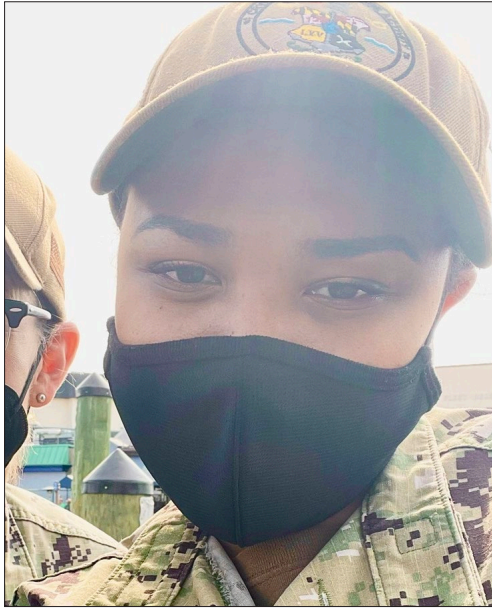
CWG-6’s primary mission is to deliver information warfare capabilities to the Navy by providing and deploying trained Sailors, expertise, and equipment to conduct signals intelligence and cyberspace operations for naval and joint forces. For more information and news from

CWG-6, visit: www.public.navy.mil/fltfor/cwg6 or www.facebook.com/CWGSIX. ⚓



BUILDING LEADERS *Through* MENTORSHIP

Story by Ens. Anthony R. Toops



and holds drill one weekend every month. Fooks ensures there are smooth transitions between training evolutions or activities, creates the plan of the month, organizing the details for guest speakers, off site training and is responsible for developing plans for each drill weekend.

“Every drill weekend is a fun experience.



**You’re surrounded
by individuals that
genuinely want to
grow and learn**



Developing leadership skills is imperative for leaders in the Navy. This can be done in many ways one way is being in a leadership position. It allows someone to find out what their leadership style is and what they need to do to improve. Another development method is to volunteer to be on the staff of the U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC).

Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Second Class Andrea E. Fooks has been volunteering with the Sea Cadets for about 10 months and serves as the operations officer for the Annapolis Division.

“As adult leaders, we are able to put our problem solving skills to work and help each cadet break down the steps needed for improvement, set milestones, and ultimately guide them towards an elevated self-awareness and foresight,” said Fooks. “It inspires me to empower others and pushes me to exercise leadership skills.”

The USNSCC Annapolis Division is a local branch which has about 25 cadets


The best parts are watching the wheels turn for cadets when we do any critical thinking activities, and seeing them strengthen bonds of camaraderie through team building exercises,” said Fooks.

During drill weekends the Cadets participate in local events and in July they

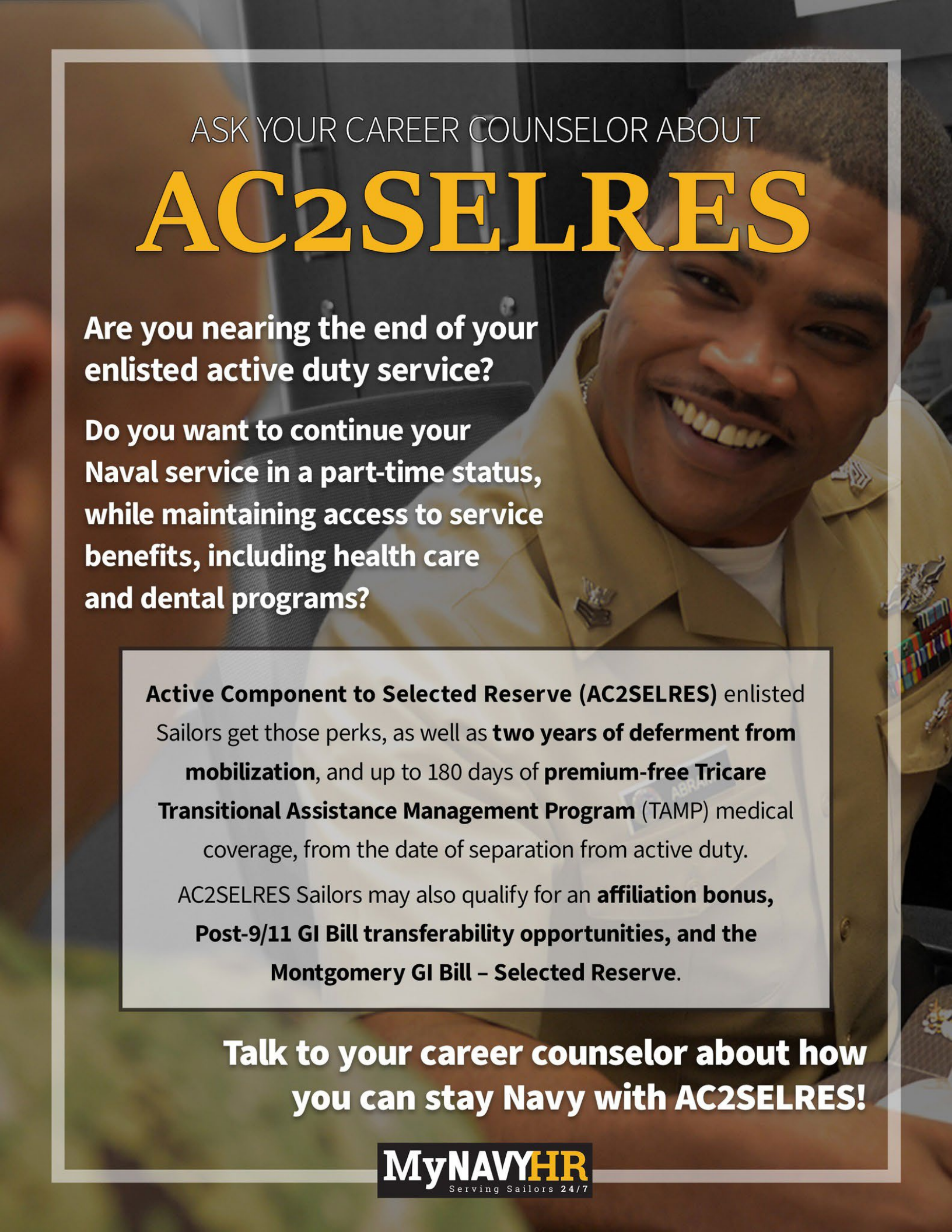
have the opportunity to attend recruit training, which is the cadet version of boot camp. They have physical readiness tests, swim qualifications and have various Navy training events.

“You’re surrounded by individuals that genuinely want to grow and learn, which truly rejuvenates the passion for one’s own personal and professional ambitions,” said Fooks. “Overall, it is my personal goal to help them solidify a habit of self-evaluation, knowing when to readjust their plan of action, and understanding how to make life decisions with intention.”

USNSCC is a program for youth ages 13-18, it was established in 1962 by the Navy League of the United States at the request of the Department of the Navy to create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth. The program exposes the cadets to a variety of career paths through hands-on training.

If you have a child who would want to join or if you want to volunteer, go to their website at seacadets.org. 





ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR ABOUT

AC2SELRES

Are you nearing the end of your enlisted active duty service?

Do you want to continue your Naval service in a part-time status, while maintaining access to service benefits, including health care and dental programs?

Active Component to Selected Reserve (AC2SELRES) enlisted Sailors get those perks, as well as **two years of deferment from mobilization**, and up to 180 days of **premium-free Tricare Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP)** medical coverage, from the date of separation from active duty. AC2SELRES Sailors may also qualify for an **affiliation bonus**, **Post-9/11 GI Bill transferability opportunities**, and the **Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve**.

Talk to your career counselor about how you can stay Navy with AC2SELRES!