



Ready Now!



The Theme for DoD's observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Hurts One. Affects All." This strong message highlights the importance of intervention, while also emphasizing the impact of sexual assault on mission readiness.

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Enhancing Readiness

April 2012

Shipmates,

Every day, throughout the Navy Reserve we are working to be "Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere." During drill weekends, on exercises, at naval air stations and at sea, we are all working together to ensure that we possess the capabilities to defend our nation and to foster good will around the world.

One of the main reasons we are successful in what we do is that we adhere to our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. We treat each other with professionalism, dignity, and respect. That is why sexual assault has no place in the Navy Reserve and will not be tolerated – at any level. Not in our Navy. Not in YOUR Navy. No one has the right to inflict the life-long wounds of a sexual assault on another.

The problem of sexual assault within our ranks is real. That is why in 2009, the Secretary of the Navy created the Department of the Navy (DoN) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office (SAPRO), and made it part of his secretarial staff. Since then, members of DoN SAPRO have been visiting bases and speaking with leadership to understand how widespread sexual assault is in order to better address this problem.

To focus attention on this problem, the Chief of Naval Operations designated April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During this month, the Navy is launching a comprehensive, Navy-wide awareness program. This effort is focused on fostering an environment of professionalism, respect and trust, and promoting a climate in which reporting sexual assault is encouraged so victims receive care and perpetrators are held accountable.

Sexual assault is not only reprehensible, it is a criminal act. Preventing sexual assault is everyone's responsibility. When one person is hurt we are all hurt. Let us work together to end sexual assault everywhere. Know that leadership will respond to victims and hold offenders accountable.

Your personal responsibility is to intervene when you observe a situation that looks dangerous to a Shipmate. Our ultimate goal is a Navy culture of gender respect where sexual assault is never tolerated and completely eliminated.

"Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line every day to try to keep America safe. We have a moral duty to keep them safe from those who would attack their dignity and their honor."

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

For more information, please visit the DoN SAPRO website at http://www.donsapro.navy.mil/

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The Navy Reserve is always looking for good action photos of Navy Reservists (minimum 300 dpi) that tell a story of Reserve training or support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph, including their respective rating, rank and command. Photos should also include a visual information record identification number or VIRIN Information about VIRINs is available online at www navy mil/photo submit asp. Submissions should be received eight weeks prior to publication month (i.e. October 1st for the December issue). Material will not be returned.

NEWS ONLINE ... The Navy Reserve current and past issues can be accessed online at http://www.navvreserve.navv.mil. Navv Reserve News Stand a Web site featuring Navy Reserve news and photos, plus links to Navy fleet pages, can be viewed at www.news.navv.mil/local/nrf.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ... Selected Reservists with address changes need to provide updates to the NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) via their NOSC Personnel Office.

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COVER PHOTO: An aircrew member assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209 celebration at Joint Base Andrews Naval Specialist 2nd Class Clifford L. H. Davis.

greets his loved ones during a homecoming Air Facility. Photo by Mass Communication

Letter from the Editor



Readers.

This month I am making a little change to my usual letter to you. I want to thank you all for the work you do being ready and accessible to meet the Navy's mission. Instead of my typical letter I repost some information about a very important topic to us all. So with that said please keep reading and I hope you find the messages below as important as I do.

Thanks,

Jim Vorndran
Editor-in-chief
The Navy Reserve Magazine

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and presents an opportunity for units around the world to dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating this crime. Sexual assault is a crime that devastates victims, undermines teamwork, threatens unit cohesiveness, and ultimately reduces fleet readiness. Awareness through education, training and leadership is vital to the success of the Navy's prevention and response program.

Sexual Assault Is a Crime that Will Not Be Tolerated

The Navy's "zero tolerance" sexual assault policy requires support from all Sailors—from the deck plates to the blue tile—to successfully eliminate sexual assaults from the Navy.

Sexual assault is a crime that is detrimental to readiness, retention, and morale. It attacks the human dignity of our people and is inconsistent with the Navy Ethos and Core Values.

Victims of sexual assault should be directed to the Safe Helpline website or call 877-995-5247 for support and confidential guidance.

Eliminating Sexual Assault from Our Ranks Is an All Hands Effort

The Navy is dedicated to establishing a culture and work environment that is safe and sexual assault-free.

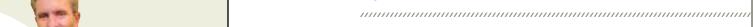
The Navy is committed to training its people to understand and recognize when a situation may lead to sexual assault. Shipmates should look out for one another and prevent harm before it occurs.

Alcohol is associated with many sexual assault cases, as offenders often victimize and target individuals who are under the influence of alcohol. Stopping alcohol abuse in the Navy and Marine Corps will vastly impact and decrease the number of sexual assaults in the Department of the Navy.

Navy Leadership Must Educate Sailors, Respond to Victims and Hold Offenders Accountable.

Leadership should recognize SAAM within their commands and dedicate focused attention on the importance of eliminating sexual assaults in their organizations and throughout the Navy.

Justice is upheld through the reporting, investigation, prosecution and defense process.





The Power of the Navy Reserve Reporting Module

Written by Lt. Cmdr. Mark Moreno, CNRFC N31C

NOTABLE

Are you ready? Can you go if called at anytime? Can you go anywhere? Who is ready to mobilize? Who is not ready and why? These are some of the questions Reserve leaders ask each day. In the past, much time and effort was needed to pull together the information to get the answer. Now with the powerful capability that resides in the Navy Reserve Reporting Module (NRRM) this information is available on demand to all levels of leadership and to individual members.

The Purpose Fulfilled: NRRM is a program of record that provides information to the Defense Readiness Reporting System—Navy (DRRS-N). The Navy Reserve primarily brings the asset of manpower to a mission. NRRM reports show how well a person fits into a strategic billet, how well billets are filled and if those people are ready to deploy.

The Flow of Information: NRRM receives data from six authoritative databases; Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS), Navy Marine Corps Mobilization Processing System (NMCMPS), Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS), Reserve Headquarters Support System (RHS), Navy Training Management Planning System (NTMPS) and Navy Reserve Order Writing System (NROWS). The information is organized and displayed in several ways. Users can see status dashboards, individual selected Reservist readiness portfolios and preformatted or customized Excel files. NRRM provides an effective and efficient capability to view integrated Navy Reserve personnel readiness information and data from a broad force roll-up view to the lowest deployable unit: the individual.

Value Added: NRRM allows leadership to readily identify deployable assets, assess trends pertaining to readiness, view current employment of Reserve forces, and manage unit billets and training. Every unit commanding officer (CO) has a NRRM account. If you are a unit CO or officer in charge without an account, you can obtain one by contacting the NRRM application support analyst Mary Gilmore, emailing customer support at NRRM-Support@ innovasi.com, or by signing into the Navy Reserve Homeport and selecting NRRM from the applications menu.

Future efforts: Currently the dashboards focus primarily on the administrative chain of command. Each fiscal year several updates are placed in service. Current planned improvements include: assigning access to user profiles by communities of interest, allow user defined customized dashboards, employ advanced technologies aimed to improve the user experience and increase visibility on operational support and missions supported.

Feedback from the field is the best way to improve this system. It is not enough to say that we have the right person in the billet. We must provide assurance that our people are trained and ready now to leave at anytime to go anywhere in the world supporting the mission.

NRRM Points of Contact:

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TRICARE Transitional Coverage

Written by CNRFC Force Medical

The DoD recently released a Compensation and Benefits Handbook outlining benefits you may be eligible for as a Navy Reservist, two of which are TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) and the Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP). Although the handbook was compiled for the wounded, ill and injured, it also serves as a TRICARE reference guide for Reserve members in four different benefit categories.

- 1. TRICARE Reserve Select is for members in a paid drill status.
- 2. Reserve members are eligible for TRICARE Standard 180 days prior to a mobilization in support of a contingency operation.
- 3. The Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP/ TA-180) provides TRICARE coverage for 180 days following a mobilization in support of a contingency operation.
- 4. TRICARE Retired Reserve/TRR is for retired Reservists.

Knowing the process, keeping your Navy Operational Support Center chain of command informed, and timely follow ups as your status changes are important to ensure there is no lapse in coverage. "My transition to TAMP during demobilization was smooth. The tip is to pay attention during the demobilization briefs," said Capt. Peter Coffin.

To ensure you have a seamless transition as you move between pre-mobilization, mobilization, and demobilization there are several key areas to keep in mind.

Ensure your status has been updated in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) as soon as your orders are effective.

Once your status is changed you have to enroll in TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote for you and your dependents.

You will also be eligible for TRICARE dental care. If you are not within 50 miles of a military Dental Treatment Facility, ensure you receive authorization from TRICARE Dental and approval to see a network provider. This is to avoid charges greater than the authorized amount for outside care. For dependents, you have to enroll them and there is a monthly premium associated.

After a mobilization, ensure your status is updated to be eligible for TAMP.

To avoid a lapse in coverage, reapply for TRS 60 days prior to TAMP eligibility expiration.

Following these steps will assist you in your transition. "TRS has made my transition easy from annual training, active duty for training and active duty special work. This program allowed me to fill in the gaps between civilian coverage kicking in when getting off active duty. The program has made my transitions painless and allowed me to concentrate on the work vice family issues," said Cmdr. Rodney Bowman.

Construction Mechanic 1st Class (SCW) David Rogers had a positive experience with the transition between the different benefit programs as well. "A key thing to keep in mind is that nothing happens automatically, including transferring the member into TAMP status," Rogers said. "Someone must update DEERS and then the member must go through the proper enrollment each time their service status changes (i.e. Reserve to active), that is why your change of command has to be involved."

Contact a Navy Reserve TRS Policy Coordinator at 757-322-2641/2642 for assistance.

CULTURE OF FITNESS



Five Reasons to Run a 5K

Provided by the American Council on Exercise®

Staying fit isn't something you accomplish on drill weekends. It requires time, energy and cardio.

Think of it this way, if you had to complete your Navy physical readiness assessment today, would you pass? Could you breeze through the 1.5-mile run or would you falter? In the first of this three-part series, we're focusing on the importance of running—starting with completing a 5K.

We all know running can be painful, especially if you're a beginner or someone who's hitting the road for the first time in a while. But here are a few reasons why training for a 5K is worth it:

Improve Heart Health and Your Immune System: Running is a free and easy way to boost heart health and your immune system. According to the American Heart Association, regular exercise like running reduces your risk of heart disease and high blood pressure. It also helps reduce bad (LDL) cholesterol and keeps you from getting sick as often.

Set Your Own Goals: Chances are, finding a 5K in your city is an easy task. A favorite among running enthusiasts and beginners, 5Ks are held year-round almost everywhere in the country. Races give you a goal to stay motivated and offer a way to share your new exercise with others.

Lose Weight: So you've gained a little around the mid-section. That's okay. The important thing is to do something about it. Running burns more calories than most other exercises. More than the elliptical, stair-stepper, stationary bicycle and even the row machine. Additionally you build muscle and increase your metabolism with every step.

Vary Your Routine: Running is something you can do with friends or family, or your local running group. It doesn't require a huge time commitment. Meet new friends or spend time with the ones you have during the time it takes to run a 5K on the road or treadmill. Try a long run, ramp up intensity on short runs, or explore hilly terrain.

Stress Less: Weekends away from home, your full-time job, family or pending Reserve assignments equal stress. Running is an easy—and scientifically proven—way to relieve stress. It releases endorphins that boost your happiness level. It even has a name: "runner's high."

Beginning runners or those with health problems should consult a doctor before hitting the road. Before you start a regimen, invest in a running shoe that fits your foot and routine.

Start back slow. Walk briskly or run lightly for 10 minutes; then build up to running 20 to 30 minutes, three days a week at an intensity level of 50 to 85 percent of maximum effort; end with a 10-minute cool down.

It's better to start off slowly and build momentum. Doing too much too soon increases your risk of injury and can burn you out. For running tips and free information on healthy, active living, visit www.acefitness.org/getfit.

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM | SPOTLIGHT

FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Returning Warrior Workshops



Written by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class(SW/AW) Maddelin Angebrand Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command Public Affairs

For a Navy Reservist, maintaining a balanced life while contributing to the Reserve warfighting effectiveness can be a challenge. This is where the Navy Reserve's commitment to the Sailor's continuum of service comes into play. Through "Best in Class" programs, policies, compensation and comprehensive continuum of care this balance is better achieved.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a DoD-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

Through Yellow Ribbon events, service members and loved ones connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. Reintegration during post-deployment is a critical time for members of the Reserve, as they often live far from military installations and members of their units. Navy Reserve leaders play a critical role in assuring Reserve service members and their families attend Yellow Ribbon events where they can access information on health care, education/training opportunities, financial and legal benefits.

The Returning Warrior Workshop (RWW) is an example among many programs available to Reservists which helps balance a civilian career and a commitment to the Navy Reserve. RWWs are funded by the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and aim to help Reservists adjust to everyday life after returning from mobilizations around the world.

RWWs are held multiple times per year and are organized by Reserve Regional Reserve Component Commands. Held at a hotel away from military bases and every day distractions, RWWs foster a relaxing environment for returning warriors and their family members. Civilian casual business attire is worn and each "warrior" brings a guest usually a spouse or close family member. The program's goal is to give loved ones a chance to reconnect after enduring a long separation. All lodging, meals, conference fees, and miscellaneous expenses are covered. Warriors are reimbursed for privately owned vehicle travel expenses up to 350 miles from home of record so that one guest may accompany.

Topics during the event include warrior transitions, telling your story, spiritual and emotional well-being, reconnecting couples, and discussing why a warrior would want to go back.

Another topic called "Women Warriors" has been added to accommodate specific challenges faced by female service members. To address those challenges, the Navy Reserve initiated separate sessions to address women-specific issues and concerns. These sessions are facilitated by women veterans and supported by counselors from the Navy Psychological Health Outreach Program, Veterans Affairs, and Vet Centers. The sessions are held in a comfortable environment where women can openly discuss their concerns and issues that typically are not addressed in other sessions. Facilitators encourage participants to drive the discussion and offer techniques to cope with common stressors of deployment.

The Navy Reserve also hosts sessions for family and loved ones of deploying female service members. These sessions provide a venue to share concerns, learn about resources, and build a support network while their service member is deployed.

Attendees are given information about resources to assist with their transition back from deployment. Private and confidential sessions with counselors are available.

PROFILE IN PROFESSIONALISM

We have many talented people in our Navy Reserve. Each month we highlight our stellar Sailors and some of the unique

careers, skills and services they provide to the fleet. To nominate a Sailor, email the editor, james.vorndran@navy.mil, for a submission form. Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) 5"x 7" digital photo of the candidate.



Kenneth Scheuerman LOGISTICS SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS

Hometown: Toledo, Ohio

NOSC: Toledo

Unit: Operational Health Support Unit Grea

Unit: Operational Health Support Unit Great Lakes Det. U

Brief description of your Navy job: I am currently working in the S-4 (Supply) office for Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Farah. I order and receive supplies and

stock inventories. I am also a part of the PRT's mission squad as a driver, a 240B gunner and I stand watch at the entry control point.

Brief description of your civilian job: I am a police officer for Deshler, Ohio, which is a small town of 1,900 people.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? My biggest achievement is being able to serve on my second deployment in a joint operation—Army, Navy, Air Force—and being given multiple opportunities to serve my country.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy? My biggest influence is retired Master Chief Petty Officer Edward Musielewicz. It seems he has been in the Navy since wooden ships. He still comes to visit the Navy Operational Support Center to help where he can. Musielewicz teaches the CPR class and is just a man full of knowledge.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy? I enjoy all the different things we can do. In the Navy it seems like we can do anything. My current assignment for example; I am deployed with the U.S. Army. I'm still doing supply, but for the Army it is worlds different.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: Lithuania is the most interesting place. The culture there is so different. I was there right after the fall of the Soviet Union and because it was my first time overseas it was all very interesting to me.

Current hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my family. I love being involved with their activities.



Joseph Loanzon
MACHINERY REPAIRMAN 1ST CLASS

Hometown: Union City, Calif.

NOSC: Alameda, Calif.
Unit: Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Three
Brief description of your Navy job: I am
the Battalion Training Department LPO,
advanced skills management coordinator
and ammunition coordinator. I maintain,
coordinate, disseminate and assist in
administering the training programs for

the 10 companies.

Brief description of your civilian job: I am a mechanical engineer for a small sub-sea submersible company. I design, manufacture and integrate the mechanical and buoyancy systems of submersibles and sub-sea equipment.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? When you ask somebody what their greatest achievement in life is, majority will say that it is some trophy or personal award that they have accomplished. However for me, the word achievement has a whole different meaning; because my greatest achievement is not receiving an award, but rather,

something that I've learned. Mistakes are something we all make every day; but it is learning from them which really makes all the difference. That is what I have done all my life, "making the difference" in the world's greatest Navy!

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy? My biggest influences since joining the Navy are the incredible chiefs and officers who mentored me throughout the course of my Navy career. I learned about teamwork, determination, deep commitment and choosing the right path to succeed.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy? The discipline, structure, opportunity, training and the best of all is the greatest privilege and honor to serve my country.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy: Japan is the most interesting place I have visited since joining the Navy. Japan's cultural treasures, food, gracious hospitality, ancient temples, Zen philosophers and traditions, make it special!

Current hobbies: I enjoy reading a good book, hiking in the woods and spending time with close friends and family.

An EA-6B Prowler, assigned to Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209, lands aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Brent Thacker.

The Star Warriors of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209 returned to Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility (NAF) Washington recently following an 85-day deployment in Afghanistan.

Flying the twin-engine Northrop Grumman EA-6B Prowler, VAQ-209 is the Navy Reserve's only electronic attack squadron, and one of four expeditionary electronic attack squadrons in the Navy. VAQ 209 is capable of both expeditionary and carrier deployment . They were deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of U.S. and Coalition ground troops during Operation Enduring Freedom.

VAQ-209 mirrors the electronic attack capabilities of active component (AC) squadrons. They perform the same missions, fly the same aircraft, and possess the same qualifications as their AC counterparts, often training side-by-side at the same exercise.

The Star Warriors provide a ready and trained pool of people, and fulfill the strategic depth charter of the Navy Reserve Force: increasing the capacity of the fleet and providing the operational flexibility that is essential to meet the needs of our nation.

This unique electronic warfare (EW) capability is mission-critical, providing expert means and competencies to the National Command

Authority that is vital to fighting and winning wars, all the while ensuring that U.S. assets can safely operate in areas where access may be denied by hostile forces.

EW assets can be deployed nearly anywhere globally and enables continuity of presence from the sea. Navy electronic warfare platforms continue to operate disrupting every potential enemy threat ranging from sophisticated anti-aircraft weapon systems to improvised explosive attacks.

According to Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, III, former commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, electronic warfare is a core competency for the Navy and a capability that every combatant commander needs in his arsenal.

"Electronic warfare plays an increasingly crucial role in our military operations around the world," Locklear said. "Naval air platforms have been integral to delivering this core capability for our own troops, partners, and allies."

During their most recent deployment, the Star Warriors flew 193 combat sorties with a mission completion rate of nearly 100 percent. They delivered 769 hours of electronic combat suppression against the enemy while the VAQ-209 maintenance department accomplished a combat sortie completion rate of 99.51 percent. The Star Warriors also serviced more than 226 joint tactical air support requests.

VAQ-209 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Dana Perkins was pleased with the Star Warriors' performance on deployment.

"Our people did awesome. It was a very successful deployment and I'm very happy with what we accomplished. I couldn't ask for a better group of people, or better execution," Perkins said. "They produced every single day, doing 24-hour-a-day ops, for 60-plus days. Every day, my maintainers worked port and starboard shifts - 12 hours on, 12 hours off."

Cmdr. Mike Esper is an electronic countermeasures officer with the Star Warriors. He was on active duty for nine years before becoming a Selected Reservist and joining VAQ-209 in 1996. Since then, he has been on six deployments with VAQ-209 to Japan, Iraq, and repeat deployments to Afghanistan.

Esper has accumulated more than 2,200 flight hours, with 235 carrier landings, and is currently a first officer with Frontier Airlines, flying the Airbus A320.

He was greeted at Andrews by his wife Suzie and sons Jack, 9, and Harrison. 5.

"I was really excited to see Suzie and the boys once again," Esper said. "The deployments are never easy, and the anticipation of seeing

my family again helps to lessen some of the rough spots. Seeing my family at the fly-in this time truly did not disappoint. I was so happy they were there"

For Suzie Esper and the boys, the homecoming was equally gratifying. "I was proud, felt very blessed and excited to see Mike," Suzie Esper said. "I was very thankful that he had returned home safely once again. The boys were really proud of their dad, excited to see him, and thought he looked really cool (in his flight gear)."

For Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Joseph Dahl, from Queens, N.Y., this was his first deployment.

"It was tough during the first week we were gone," said Dahl. "But it was a good experience and I'm glad to finally be home and see my family."

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Wilfredo Morales was the first Star Warrior off the C-40A Clipper transport aircraft as it pulled up on the tarmac.

Morales became a father during the deployment. His wife Jessica gave birth to their son Able while Morales was in Afghanistan, and it is Navy tradition for new fathers to be the first to disembark.

NEADY NOW. ANYTIME, ANYWHERE. I 09



"I am so excited to see my son and be able to hold him," said Morales. "It's not the same seeing him in pictures or over the web camera."

"I'm really happy and excited to have him home," said Morales' wife Jessica. "When I saw him come down the steps of the plane, all I wanted to do was hug him and kiss him and let him meet his new baby."

VAQ-209's mission is to project power through suppression of enemy air defenses in support of strike aircraft and ground troops by providing unrestricted electronic attack as needed throughout the world.

During the past decade, VAQ-209 has deployed seven times in support of five major combat operations that spanned the globe. They have significantly helped to reduce the operational tempo strain on active duty squadrons that has resulted from a decade of war.

Besides four consecutive years of combat deployments to Afghanistan, the squadron has flown out of Aviano Air Base in Italy in support of Operation Allied Force; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, for Operation Southern Watch; to Aalborg Air Base, Demark, for Exercise Clean Hunter; Marine Corps

▼Left: Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class William Thompson receives a kiss from his wife during the homecoming celebration. Center: Cmdr. Michael Esper kisses his wife during the homecoming celebration. Right: Lt. Chris Rancourt leaves the flight line with his wife and children. Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Clifford L.H. Davis.







Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, as a Forward Deployed Naval Force and Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

All these deployments have been voluntary. No Star Warrior has been involuntarily recalled for any of the squadron's deployments, yet they continue to meet demanding operational commitments.

Airborne electronic attack (AEA) platforms are low density, high demand assets. Due to the high demand for AEA capabilities the Reserve squadron has a high operational tempo. VAQ-209 has acted as a vital force multiplier, and is now an integral component of the global force management allocation plan that sources these critical combatant commander requirements.

"The Star Warriors of VAQ-209 have been, and will continue to be, an invaluable asset to our Navy, our combatant commanders and our Nation's defense," Rear Adm. John Sadler, commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve said.

Having flown the venerable Prowler for more than thirty years, the squadron will soon transition to the EA-18G Growler, the Navy's newest electronic attack platform, to remain a fully-integrated link in the airborne electronic attack community.

The continued transition from the EA-6B Prowler to the EA-18G Growler provides a leap in capabilities and technological advances, enhancing the nation's ability to disrupt and destroy enemy threats and activities. Indeed, these are exciting times for the "Star Warriors" of VAQ-209.

BY THE NUMBERS

Expeditionary electronic attack squadrons in the Navy:

Length of VAQ 209's deployment (in days):

Combat sorties flown: 193

Electronic combat suppression delivered (in hours): 769

Joint tactical air support requests serviced: 226

Deployments for VAQ 209 during the last decade:

Major combat operations supported:

Eyes in the Sky

Story written by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ron Kuzlik

Photos provided by VAW-77 Public Affairs.

The Nightwolves of Carrier Airborne Warning Squadron (VAW) 77 deployed twice last year to a Colombian air base near Barranquilla, an industrial city near the Caribbean Sea, in support of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) counter-illicit trafficking operations.



On the most recent mission, more than 100 full-time support (FTS), active component (AC) and Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors deployed to South America for 60 days. SELRES used a variety of funding sources including annual training, active duty for travel, and inactive duty training travel.

Based at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans, VAW-77 is the Navy's only fully-dedicated counter-transnational organized crime (C-TOC) squadron. The squadron stood up in 1995 when the U.S. Congress created the Reserve squadron as an additional resource in the "War on Drugs."

The United States government advocated utilization of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the military in these efforts as early as 1982.

"While the Department of Defense is not the lead agency responsible for combating TOC networks, its unique capabilities can be leveraged to support other U.S. government and partner nation efforts," a U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) spokesman said.

"SOUTHCOM is aligned with and supports lead agencies, such as the Departments of Justice and State, as well as partner nations in the C-TOC fight."

SOUTHCOM, Joint Interagency Task Force-South, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Agency, Colombian Navy, Colombian Air Force and U.S. Military Group (MILGROUP) were all working together on the mission. MILGROUP in Nicaragua executes security assistance programs in support of DoD and the Department of State goals and objectives.

VAW-77 flew three E-2C Hawkeye Group II aircraft from NAS JRB New Orleans. Aircraft maintainers and support personnel were flown to and from Colombia aboard Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing C-40 Clipper aircraft.

During the deployments, Nightwolves' crews conducted patrol and reconnaissance missions.







According to VAW-77 Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Mike Sandridge, the Nightwolves flew 104 sorties and compiled more than 400 support flight hours.

"A typical day deployed consisted of two or three C-TOC mission sorties and as many as 14 ½ flight hours," Sandridge said. "Operating from Colombia gives VAW-77 the substantial benefit of working closely with Colombian Air Force and Navy aircrews and intelligence personnel.

"This joint operations mind-set greatly enhanced the Nightwolves' effectiveness and results in theatre."

While on patrol, VAW-77 crews detected and interdicted a self-propelled semi-submersible (SPSS) that was carrying narcotics, a go-fast (GF) boat, and a logistics support vessel.

The SPSS crew recognized they were detected by law enforcement and immediately boarded the GF and attempted to flee the scene by heading for the coast. They left the SPSS abandoned at sea.

The Hawkeye from VAW-77 requested support and the Colombian Air Force launched a Cessna C-560 twin-jet maritime patrol aircraft (MPA), while the Colombian Navy dispatched an MPA, and three Colombian Coast Guard interceptor boats.

During the ensuing chase, an additional GF logistics support vessel was detected.

Colombian interceptor boats intercepted the fleeing GF and took control of it and the abandoned SPSS.

Intelligence gathered from this operation revealed a location for narcotics vessel construction in the jungles surrounding the Colombian coastline. At that location Colombian special operations forces found and secured 1.5 metric tons of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$260 million.

Four days later, another E-2C Hawkeye on patrol detected a second go-fast (GF) boat covered in a blue tarp approximately 120 nautical miles southeast of San Andres, Colombia, in the Western Caribbean.

Overlapping radar coverage from two E-2C aircraft and expert command and control from the aircrews provided constant covert monitoring by positive radar contact and facilitated interdiction by vectoring the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) to intercept the GF boat.

Oak Hill launched two tactical, over-the-horizon (OTH) interceptor boats. As the OTHs came alongside the tarp-laden GF boat, the crew of the boat attempted to sink the vessel. The GF took on water and eventually sank. However, 80 floating bails of cocaine were recovered along with four people aboard the GF.

This time, an estimated two metric tons of cocaine was seized with an estimated street value of more than \$350 million and four narcoterrorists were under arrest.

The VAW-77 patrols resulted in six narco-terrorist arrests and the seizure of 3.5 metric tons of illegal drugs with an estimated value of \$610 million.

In addition, on another patrol, an E-2C Hawkeye operating using the call sign WOLF01 detected a capsized fishing vessel approximately 110 nautical miles northeast of Barranquilla in the Western Caribbean. Four persons were identified clinging to the overturned boat.

WOLF02, another Hawkeye on patrol, remained on station as the scene commander, while WOLF01 coordinated rescue efforts with a nearby merchant vessel, MV Green Cove.

"The four survivors were standing on the keel of the vessel, waiving yellow towels at us to indicate they were in distress and needed assistance," explained SELRES pilot and mission commander Cmdr. Russ Herrell. "Our counter-drug mission quickly changed to a rescue-at-sea mission."

The Colombian Air Force sent in a C-560 aircraft, and the Colombian Navy dispatched one of their vessels to the scene.

So, after nine days of floating adrift, the four mariners were taken aboard the MV Green Cove and later taken to a Barranquilla hospital for medical attention and observation.

Nightwolves Commanding Officer Cmdr. Todd Heyne said that the successes of the missions were due to a variety of factors.

"The accomplishments of this deployment can be directly attributed to the strong working relationship between FTS, AC, SELRES and Northrop Grumman civilian contractors," Heyne said. "Each group brought a unique combination of skills, talents, and capabilities that enabled the entire team to succeed."

Commander Naval Air Forces Reserve Rear Adm. Chris Sadler summed up his satisfaction with the VAW-77 deployments.

"The Nightwolves extremely successful deployment to Colombia was noteworthy in many ways," Sadler said. "First, in support of the National Security Strategy, VAW-77 disrupted transnational criminal organizations. Second, in support of Theater Security Cooperation, the Nightwolves worked closely with host nation naval and air force units.

"The squadron's SPSS bust garnered a written thank-you from Colombian Naval Rear Adm. Narvaez. The detection/rescue of four Colombian citizens whose boat had capsized received national [media] coverage and demonstrated to their people that the military cooperation between our two countries benefited them directly.

"Indeed, trust cannot be surged. In short, VAW-77 provides a critical joint/coalition capability that adheres to the CNO's tenets of 'War fighting first,' 'Operate forward' and 'Be ready' as well as the Chief of Navy Reserve's charge to be 'Ready now. Anytime, Anywhere' to 'provide valued capabilities' from a 'ready and accessible force' while enabling 'the continuum of service.'"







Flight Deck Jersey Color Code Flight Deck Jer

The flight deck of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier is an extremely busy place. As flight operations commence, an array of Sailors work the entire flight deck, resembling a well-choreographed ballet. Many Sailors wear colored shirts differing from the traditional Navy uniform. These colors represent clearly-defined roles performed during flight deck evolutions. In this month's Back to Basics, we'll look at the color spectrum of these uniforms and the job each Sailor executes.

Sailors assigned to the Air Department aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) nstall slot seals on a catapult track after completing no-load tests after a sandstorm swept across the flight deck. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James R. Evans.

Green Shirts:

Catapult and Arresting gear crews Air wing maintenance personnel Air wing quality control personnel Cargo-handling personnel Ground support equipment troubleshooters Hook runners Mass Communication Specialists Helicopter landing signal enlisted personnel

Aviation ordnancemen move ordnance on the flight deck of the Nimitzclass aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Zachary S. Welch.

Red Shirts Ordnancemen Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Tia Squirres performs preflight checks on the wing of an E-2C Hawkeye from the Golden Hawks of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 112 on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).Photo by Mass **Communication Specialist 3rd Class** Kenneth Abbate.

White Shirts:

Air wing quality control personnel Squadron plane inspectors Landing Signal Officer Liquid oxygen crews Safety observers Medical personnel

Aviation Structural Mechanic (Equipment) Airman Andres Molina-Valencia, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, signals to another plane captain while preparing to chock and chain aircraft as they recover on the flight deck aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James R. Evans.

Brown Shirts

Air wing plane captains Air wing line leading petty officers

Sailors refuel an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter on the flight deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) during a deck landing qualification. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason Behnke.

Purple Shirts: Aviation fuel handling

An aviation boatswain's mate guides an F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Kestrels of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137 into launch position on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Zachary S. Welch.

Yellow Shirts: Aircraft handling officers Catapult officers Arresting gear officers



viation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Mitch Bogrett moves a jet nto a spot on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Randy J. Savarese.

Blue Shirts:

Plane handlers Aircraft elevator operators **Tractor Drivers** Messengers & phone talkers

First of His Kind

Written by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Elisandro T. Diaz NR Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Chandler became the first Reserve Mass Communication Specialist ever to receive the Purple Heart.

Vice Chief of Information Rear Adm. Victor M. Beck presented the Purple Heart to Chandler at the Navy Operational Support Center North Island in January. A standing room crowd of family, friends and shipmates were on hand.

Chandler was wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, last summer. At the time, he was documenting combat operations while deployed with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, 2nd Marine Division (Forward).

"He's quite an incredible human being, very humble, a true hero in what he did. I was honored to be a part of the ceremony," said Beck after the award ceremony. Citing Chandler's actions as representative of all who serve in the United States armed forces, Beck added, "He's a good man, he's honest. He is humble and giving."

Chandler prefers to keep the events of that fateful day in August to himself. He humbly says he was just doing his job as a combat photographer. "I take a lot of pride in doing my part to record history," he said. "The fact is, 10 to 15 years from today those photos and video are going to be seen somewhere. You have to record history for there to be history."

Cmdr. Jerry Rostad is the director of Chandler's Reserve unit, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific. He says Chandler's actions that day go to the very heart of what it means to be a Navy Reservist. "He was committed to the mission, unmistakably courageous, and acted with honor in a frightening and dangerous situation."

Rostad underscored that Chandler's intensive training as a combat camera photographer made a difference. "Our photographers go through a lot of intensive training. Because when we deploy, we need to be prepared for all situations," Rostad said.



According to his sister Candice, Chandler comes from a line of family members who have served in the military and in public service, dating back to the 14th U.S. President Zachary Taylor. Chandler's father—a retired Navy diver—was on hand for the ceremony. Both of Chandler's grandfathers served – one in the Navy and other in the Army. "It's in our bloodline...we just like to serve I suppose. It's hard to explain. We just want to serve our country, to try to make it a better place," Chandler explains.

Chandler acknowledges the challenges he continues to face as a result of that single, life-changing event. But as this citizen-soldier returns to normalcy in the civilian world, he is committed to put the mental images of that day in proper perspective.

Navy Ethos Personified

In 2007, then Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead directed the development of a Navy Ethos. According to Roughead, these principles would soon become "an underpinning to mission success Navy-wide."

Written by Jim Vorndran Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command Public Affairs

A few months later, then Director of the Navy Staff, Vice Adm.

John Harvey wrote, "The purpose of the Navy Ethos statement is to communicate and emphasize the fundamental principles and values we would expect to be shared by all who serve within the Navy team, military and civilian alike, no matter what community, command, specialty, or position each of us are associated with."

At that time, the United States had been at war for seven years.

Now, more than three years after the Navy Ethos was released, Sailors continue to deploy on ships and on the ground to support overseas contingency operations. Sailors continue to go into harm's way with pride in the Navy ethos. It states, "We are professional Sailors and Civilians - a diverse and agile force exemplifying the highest standards of service to our Nation, at home and abroad, at sea and ashore."

Since 9/11, members of the Armed Forces have made many sacrifices for their country. Among those are 129 Navy Reserve Sailors who have been injured during combat and earned the Purple Heart. These 129 Reservists are committed to what is written in the Navy Ethos as they "prevail in the face of adversity."

These individuals have gone through so much, but they are not alone. One Navy Reservist—Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Adam Kinney, who received a Purple Heart for his actions in combat on Aug. 5, 2010—talks about the importance of teamwork in his unit.

"From the pre-deployment work up, being in country and even coming home; everything that needs to be done, cannot be accomplished alone," Kinney said. The ultimate goal is to get in, get the job done and come home alive."

Kinney's actions during his service to the Nation have Navy Ethos written all over them. He is one man who looks toward the team—his comrades, his mentors and his family.

"The Purple Heart may be an individual award, but it is not individualistic. To be in that place in time, to make it through, requires the help of many," Kinney said. "I have had the privilege of serving with so many accomplished chiefs in every phase of my time in

the Navy. I could not have made it through without their help and leadership. During the deployment, it was the Sailors and Marines who took me in and treated me as a true teammate."

Kinney found more members of his team when he arrived home from his deployment.

"And coming home, it was the support staff and medical professionals who took me in and made me feel "at home." But most of all, for me, the Purple Heart is about family. It means as much or more to my wife, Lea Ann, and my sons, Jackson and Trevor. It is a true recognition of their service and sacrifice. And for me, that may mean the most about being a Purple Heart recipient."

Another Navy Reserve Purple Heart recipient, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Robert Riley was serving with "his" Marines when their unit was attacked by mortars Nov. 23, 2009. As a corpsman his instincts and timing took over as he reacted quickly to help a wounded teammate. On his way to help,t Riley was himself hit by a mortar. Now with injuries to a marine and the team's corpsman it was time for everyone to help each other.

"Teamwork is quite possibly the most important aspect of Naval and military medicine," Riley said. "Without a development of good, strong teamwork, the process of quality medical care might not carry over into a combat setting such as Afghanistan. Teamwork builds trust and confidence toward the people you work with every day."

Both Kinney and Riley put their lives on the line, and still they continue to live by the Navy Ethos. They are two examples of the meaning found in the final line of the Navy Ethos. "We defend our Nation and prevail in the face of adversity with strength, determination, and dignity."

▼ Navy Operational Support Center Louisville Command Chief, Chief Engineman (SW) John Zeiders and Commanding Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Tom Willard pose with Purple Heart recipient Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Adam Kinney (center).



For Wounds Received in Action

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed. Specific examples of services which warrant the Purple Heart include any action against an enemy of the United States; any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged; while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an

armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; as a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces; or as the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.

TNR would like to recognize the service of the Navy Reservists listed below who have received the Purple Heart since September 11, 2001. You are heroes and patriots who embody the spirit of the Navy Ethos.

Name	Date of Award	Name	Date of Award
ISSN Sarah Cole	December 11, 2001	CE1 Marvin Craig	June 2, 2004
Cmdr. Robert Greenberg	December 11, 2001	EO2 Michael Vorburger	June 2, 2004
DM1 Paul Gaston	April 23, 2002	EO2 Frederick Frank	June 2, 2004
HM1 Leo Montiel	May 29, 2003	EO2 Todd Brannon	June 2, 2004
HM2 Michael Contreras	September 17, 2003	EO2 Henry Delvalle	June 2, 2004
Capt. Charles Briant	October 9, 2003	BU2 William Rightsell	June 2, 2004
BU2 Gregory Risner	April 30, 2004	CM2 David Vernaza	June 2, 2004
EOC Phillip Winslett	April 30, 2004	Lt. j.g. Victor Lin	November 15, 2004
HM2 Hernal Beaumont	May 2, 2004	Lt. Cmdr. Gaby Salib	December 22, 2004
SW3 Jeffrey Blackmon	May 2, 2004	EA1 Cliff David	January 15, 2005
CM3 Robert Strickland	May 2, 2004	Lt. Jo <mark>n ladonisi</mark>	February 23, 2005
HMC Anthony Muller	May 2, 2004	Lt. Kenneth Richter	March 25, 2005
EO2 James Nappier	May 2, 2004	HM2 Jody Carpenter	March 28, 2005
BU3 Peter Herrick	May 14, 2004	BUCS Robert Westover	March 30, 2005
Lt. Cmdr. John Capra	May 16, 2004	Lt. Scott Wallace	March 30, 2005
EO1 Douglas Alvarez	June 2, 2004	HM2 Theodore Warren	April 28, 2005
Lt. Kyle Croce	June 2, 2004	Lt. j.g. Stephen Huber	June 17, 2005
GM2 Thomas Johnson	June 2, 2004	EO3 Matthew Terrick	June 30, 2005
EO1 Aaron Felthousen	June 2, 2004	HM2 Erich Frank	June 30, 2005
GM1 Michael Douberly	June 2, 2004	CM2 Thomas Lyons	July 12, 2005
SW3 Michael Rambo	June 2, 2004	CR William Briscoe	July 12, 2005
CM2 George Edwards	June 2, 2004	HM2 Mark Moriarty	July 13, 2005
UTC Randall McGhee	June 2, 2004	HN Alvin Ocampo	July 13, 2005
CM1 Mark Steffener	June 2, 2004	ET1 James Alunni	August 1, 2005
BU3 George Parsons	June 2, 2004	CM2 Brian Hunt	September 1, 2005
EO1 Bryan Williams	June 2, 2004	CM1 Randolph Woodward	September 15
CE3 Cristopher Ritchie	June 2, 2004	HM2 George Cleveland	September 16, 2005
CM3 Odis Reyes	June 2, 2004	HN Leonard McLean	September 30, 2005
EO1 Ronald Philpot	June 2, 2004	HN Nathanial Leoncio	October 11, 2005

Name	Date of Award
HN Joshua Edmaiston	November 21, 2005
EO2 William Snodgrass	December 2, 2005
EO3 Kenneth Reynolds	December 2, 2005
Capt. John Williams	December 6, 2005
HMC Robert White	December 16, 2005
HM2 James Sabo	December 16, 2005
EAC Cody Cannon	January 9, 2006
HM3 Miles Edes	March 1, 2006
HN Daniel Jacobs	March 1, 2006
HN Justin Jones	March 14, 2006
HN Aaron Nevels	April 5, 2006
Lt. j.g. William Whiteman	April 9, 2006
Lt. Mark Donald	April 26, 2006
HN Clifton Locke	May 10, 2006
HN Randall Bozung	June 7, 2006
HMCS Matthew Downing	June 21, 2006
HM3 William Cooper	August 23, 2006
HA Isaac Velis	August 23, 2006
Cmdr. James Muir	September 17, 2006
HA Tyrone Ray	September 20, 2006
HM3 Kevin Ivory	September 20, 2006
HM1 Marcus Gashy	October 11, 2006
HM1 Glenn Minney	November 1, 2006
HN Michael Ryals	November 1, 2006
HM2 Eric Baggs	November 8, 2006
EN1 Troy Devault	November 14, 2006
BU1 Dean Berlin	November 14, 2006
HM3 Raymond Casas	November 28, 2006
HN Evan Wilson	December 28, 2006
EO2 Kevin Lund	January 29, 2007
CM2 Michael Christensen	January 29, 2007
CE2 Casey Graham	January 29, 2007
SK3 Claudia Lozano	February 17, 2007
HA Brandon Crumpton	February 28, 2007
HN Brandon Smith	February 28, 2007
HN Joel Hernandez	February 28, 2007
EO2 John Goodwin	March 2, 2007
HM2 Tom Chase	March 7, 2007
HN Nicholas Heintz	March 7, 2007
Lt. Adrian Miclea	March 28, 2007
Lt. Syed Hussain	April 4, 2007
HN Jonathan Kight	April 11, 2007
HM2 Anthony Zumeno	April 11, 2007
CE3 Jason Harrison	May 21, 2007
SO1 Chad Stodden	May 14, 2007
HN Nicholas Tubbs	July 11, 2007

Name	Date of Award
HM2 Todd Cousins	July 18, 2007
HN Nicholas Place	August 9, 2007
Capt. Mark Dowd	September 17, 2007
DC1 Leondris McGrue	October 7, 2007
MA1 Eric Logsdon	November 8, 2007
Lt. John Gildea	November 18, 2007
Cmdr. Steven Frost	November 30, 2007
Lt. Cmdr. Eric Greitens	March 5, 2008
PS1 William Hamb	March 16, 2008
Lt. j.g. James Moran	March 26, 2008
IM2 Christopher Ingermann	August 20, 2008
HM3 Ryan Miller	October 23, 2008
SWCN Aaron Thompson	December 20, 2009
HM1 Robert Riley	December 20, 2009
CS2 Jarod Newlove	July 28, 2010
HM1 Adam Kinney	August 5, 2010
UT2 Ronald Marquart	October 20, 2010
ET1 Justin Smith	October 28, 2010
ISC Ricky Phillips	January 17, 2011
LSCS Asouma Kamagate	February 2, 2011
HM2 Rodney Lewallen	August 8, 2011
Lt. Raul Cantu	August 8, 2011
MC2 Jonathan Chandler	September 8, 2011
MM2 Nicholas Martinez	September 11, 2011
MM1 Vernon Cochran	September 12, 2011



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Forward from the Sea

Written by Lt. John R. Guardiano, U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs



Reservists have been an integral part of the deployed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. So it's not surprising they also figure prominently in the military's largest amphibious exercise in more than a decade, Bold Alligator 12.

"We couldn't have supported this exercise without the Reservists that we have supporting us," said Cmdr. Aaron Traver, an active-duty logistical plans officer for Fleet Forces Command.

▼ Seaman Jacqueline Brown inspects float coats and life jackets in the hangar bay of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) in preparation for a replenishment at sea. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Stuart Phillips.

Reservists, he said, are helping to supply the manpower necessary to support the exercise. They also are providing expertise not always resident or fully developed in the active-duty force.

Capt. Deborah Haven, for instance, was one of the logistical planning leads for Combined Task Force 48 in Haiti. "She led that effort," Traver said. "That task force experience is essential to standing up an N4 logistics staff."

▼ An aviation boatswain's mate directs the landing of an AV-8B Harrier from Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 542 on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tommy Lamkin.



Operational experience in a deployed environment is essential because, Traver said, Bold Alligator is a logistically challenging exercise. Indeed, more than 14,000 people from nine countries—Australia, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated.

Dedicated U.S. military units include: Fleet Forces Command, Marine Forces Command, Expeditionary Strike Group 2, the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, U.S. Coast Guard, and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

To support Bold Alligator, the Fleet Forces Logistics Support unit, which Haven leads, augmented the Maritime Operations Center (MOC) and Logistics Readiness Center (LRC). LRC Sailors and Marines develop logistical readiness briefs for operational commanders and coordinate the vast array of ship, supply and troop movements across and throughout a battlespace.

"Our job is to ensure the logistics are established for sea-based support, and then to sustain the forces that are supporting Bold Alligator," Haven said.

When "looking for specific skill sets or competencies," Traver explained, "often we find those available in the Reserve forces— especially now, with a lot of the Reservists having done IAs or GSAs or mobilizations in support of the war efforts recently. Sometimes, in your Reservists, you'll find a better skill set and more experience than what you might find even among the active duty."

"The Combined Air Operations Center—there are quite a few Reservists over there," said Marine Capt. Patrick Scott, an active-duty ground logistics officer for Marine Forces Command (MARFORCOM).

The Combined Air Operations Center "sets the battle rhythm of the entire exercise," said Reserve Rear Adm. Robert Wright, deputy for fleet and joint operations at Fleet Forces Command. "And they're all Navy Reservists."

"There are Reservists in and around this entire exercise," added Marine Col. Mike Valore, a Reserve logistics officer with MARFORCOM.

This is no accident either. "We cannot do our mission without the surge capacity that we have in our Reserve forces," Wright said.

In fact, Reservists are so integral to Navy and Marine Corps planning and operational efforts that, according to Wright, "all of the numbered fleets—3rd Fleet, 4th Fleet, 5th Fleet—have a Reserve deputy, every one of them. And we work very closely with those Reserve deputies," he said

Fleet Forces has 950 Reserve billets. That's 255 fewer Reserve billets than the command had last year. However, Reserve integration with the command has increased dramatically. And this, said Wright, has more than made up for the loss of people.

Bold Alligator focused on today's fight, with today's forces—and in today's world, that fully includes Reservists.

"We've never had this many Reservists engaged during the [work] week here at Fleet Forces," Wright said. He estimates that more than 250 Navy and Marine Corps Reservists are supporting Bold Alligator. "We're moving toward a fully integrated, total force model that combines active duty and Reserve forces."

According to Traver, this is important because "we don't have enough active-duty personnel to cover our everyday operations while also providing a response cell that is robust enough to support the exercise."

▼ Sailors and Marines work together to secure a catwalk for the use of amphibious assault vehicles during the amphibious assault phase of Bold Alligator 2012. Photo by Mass



NAME: Lt. Kristy Bell

HOMETOWN: Petersburg, Pa.

CIVILIAN JOB: State Training Coordinator for the Virginia

Department of Emergency Management

NOSC: Norfolk, Va.

UNIT/BILLET: Deputy Operations Officer, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Operations Center Headquarters

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Watch Officer for the Fleet Forces

Command Crisis Action Team. Our team monitored the exercise from the MOC watch floor in Norfolk, maintaining situational awareness on Fleet Forces unit statuses, accomplishment of exercise objectives and distinguished visitor movements.

COMMENTS: The biggest accomplishment I saw was the teamwork displayed by the Navy and Marine Corps team, joint partners and exercise support personnel. Our ability to put together an operation of this magnitude and overcome the challenges associated with so many moving parts speaks highly of the quality of our organizations and the working relationships among them.

NAME: Capt. Mike "Tattoo" Mahan HOMETOWN: Arlington, Texas

CIVILIAN JOB: Boeing 777 First Officer, Delta Air Lines

NOSC: Greensboro, N.C.

UNIT/BILLET: Commanding Officer, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Operations Center (MOC) Greensboro

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Crisis Action Team Chief, MOC, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk. Assured seamless integration of Reserve support to the exercise's battle rhythm. Maintained situational awareness of all aspects of the exercise to provide updates to the commander. Kept track of all the moving parts. COMMENTS: This was a huge exercise with many, many, real world elements, aspects, and training objectives woven into a fictitious scenario. It was good to see the Navy and Marine Corps team back together in such a huge event, doing what we do best...power projection from the sea. (OOO-rah!)

NAME: Cmdr. Jeff McAtee
HOMETOWN: Alexandria, Va

CIVILIAN JOB: Communications Director for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency office of Criminal Enforcement

NOSC: Norfolk, Va.

UNIT/BILLET: Reserve Deputy Director of U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs unit

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Director of the Sub-Joint Information Bureau/Joint Visitors Bureau at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, N.C. I supervised six Navy Reservists and an active-duty Marine.

COMMENTS: I've never been involved in an exercise of this size, scope and complexity. It made our job as public affairs officers a lot more challenging because we really had to flex to keep up with the constantly changing flow of events.



With the active-duty military being cut, said Scott "you'll probably see a lot more Reservists support exercises and events like these."

That also will be true in a real-world crisis, said Navy Capt. Mike Mahan, Bold Alligator's Crisis Action Team (CAT) chief and commanding officer of the Greensboro, North Carolina detachment of U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Operations Center.

Consider, for instance, a humanitarian aid or disaster relief mission. Mahan said the command's CAT would respond to such a contingency. Initial support would come from the active-duty forces, but within days, the CAT's Reserve team would be activated.

The CAT Reservists augment the active-duty staff to ensure adequate manpower to support the crisis or contingency, as well as regular, daily command operations.

"Ideally, we will begin backfilling the active component by roughly day three or four of any no-notice crisis, and provide relief to the staff as long as the crisis persists," Mahan said.

However, he added, "a seamless, fully integrated, total force model can only work if the active and Reserve components have developed a relationship based on mutual trust and professional

performance." And so, it is important that Reservists participate in exercises like Bold Alligator.

"Participation in exercises and supporting the MOC during regular operations allows that partnership to develop and strengthen," Mahan said.

"It's all about training," Haven explained. "It's all about ensuring our Sailors and Marines are prepared and have what they need for the mission."

The Navy, Marine Corps and DoD, Wright said, are all examining the cost savings that accrue from using Reservists, and considering what, then, is the right mix of active-duty and Reserve forces and missions.

Bold Alligator was a Navy and Marine Corps exercise that represented the revitalization of the naval services' culture of conducting combined operations from the sea. The intent was to hone tactics, techniques and procedures used in amphibious operations.

Navy and Marine Corps officials said Bold Alligator is important because sea-based operations will be a cornerstone of U.S. military strategy in the next decade and beyond—and not only for combat operations, but also for crisis response, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

NAME: Cmdr. Tom "Pickle" Vlasic HOMETOWN: Bettendorf. Iowa

CIVILIAN JOB: Boeing Project Manager with Sedona
Technologies for Dell Perot Government Systems in support
of the U.S. Army at Rock Island, Ill. I am also a Planning

NOSC: Chicago, III.

UNIT/BILLET: J5 Staff Officer, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Operations Center Chicago

Specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Combined Forces Maritime Component Commander Battle Watch Commander (CFMCC BWC)—one of the watchstanders (night watch 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) as the admiral's representative for the entire operation. I observed the interaction of all of the pieces of a combined maritime force with large Commander Amphibious Task Force and Commander Landing Force components.

COMMENTS: I was originally scheduled to be the CFMCC Maritime Anchor (night) but moved to days after the first couple days and then moved into the assistant CFMCC BWC (night) and eventually the BWC position for most of the exercise. All of these moves were done to better support active-duty members who were needed for other jobs. I was a flexible piece of the puzzle.

NAME: Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Laura Bartlett

HOMETOWN: Bloomfield, Ind.

CIVILIAN JOB: Stay-at-home mother

NOSC: Norfolk, Va.

UNIT/BILLET: Command Career Counselor, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Air Operations Headquarters

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Responsible for adding, deleting, or changing operational airspace requested by the training audience in the Airspace cell for the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC). I compiled the airspace control order to identify the airspace used in each day of the exercise.

COMMENTS: The biggest challenge in the airspace cell is everything is simulated (fake airspace) vs. live-fly that everyone used. The aircraft still had to schedule use of warning areas they were flying into and also check-in with the local controlling authorities.

NAME: Cmdr. Brian Heym **HOMETOWN:** Pensacola, Fla.

CIVILIAN JOB: Pilot, Omega Air Refueling Services

NOSC: Atlanta, Ga.

UNIT/BILLET: Commanding Officer, Navy Reserve U.S. Fleet

Forces Maritime Air Operations Atlanta

BOLD ALLIGATOR ROLE: Chief of Combat Plans Division for the CAOC. I was responsible for the daily development of the Master Air Attack Plan, the Air Tasking Order and the Airspace Control Order.

COMMENTS: This exercise was such a success because it tested and validated the core capabilities of our Navy and Marine Corps forces.





▲ Naval Aircrewman 3rd Class Anastasia Reuwer of Helicopter Mine Countermeasure Squadron (HM) 14 signals the cockpit crew of a squadron MH-53E helicopter during a functional flight check (FCF) following maintenance procedures.

The detachment from the Naval Station
Norfolk-based squadron deployed four MH-53E
Sea Dragon helicopters and more than 100
personnel, including pilots, maintenance crews,
and administrative and support staff for the mine
countermeasures (MCM) portion of the exercise.

The Vanguard worked together with two Canadian Armed Forces coastal defense ships, HMCS Moncton (MM 708) and HMCS Summerside (MM 711) in finding and classifying assorted mines located in shipping lanes used by U.S. ships and vessels of partner nations during the exercise. Additionally, Canadian and U.S. Navy divers conducted mine clearing operations in support of the Canadian ships and HM-14 helicopters.

They were augmented by mine warfare forces in the exercise that included Mine Countermeasures Squadron (MCMRON) 3, Mine Countermeasures Division (MCMDIV) 31, Mine Warfare platoons from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Units (EODMU) 1, 6, 12; as well as Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center's Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) Platoon and the Naval Oceanographic Office's Data Fusion Cell.

Rear Admiral Kevin D. Scott is commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 2. He is also a former commanding officer of HM-14.

"Bold Alligator 2012 was truly a collaborative effort. Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Soldiers from 11 countries participated in this historic exercise bringing skills, ideas, and talent from a myriad of backgrounds and specialties," Scott said.

"What most people don't realize is the impressive contributions of the Reserve Force. They came prepared to make a positive impact and were essential to completion of the exercise. They were talented, motivated and informed. Our Reservists seamlessly integrated into every decision making level of the Blue/Green team to support the successful execution of this exercise and its objectives."

Vanguard Commanding Officer Cmdr. Nick Garcia, has been in command of HM-14 since May 2011.

'Here at Bold Alligator, while providing the airborne mine countermeasures capabilities, we continue to support the MCM triad along with the surface forces and EOD on this exercise," Garcia said.

During the exercise, Vanguard aircraft and crews flew 44 sorties, logging 155 hours of flight time in support of mine countermeasures operations.

The MH-53E Sea Dragon is capable of towing a variety of mine hunting and sweeping countermeasures systems, including the Mk 105 magnetic minesweeping sled, the AN/AQS-24A Airborne Minehunting System and the Mk 103 mechanical minesweeping system.

HM-14 Tactics Officer, Lt. Wes Van Dorn, is a veteran of four of these types of exercises.

"Mine fields were laid out about a week prior to the exercise.

"We take our tasking from the Mine Countermeasures Commander (MCMC). Our responsibility is to clear a route for the ships from deep water into the shallow water for the amphibious landing zone on the beach. We have to detect and find these mines in order to protect the ships and the lives of the Sailors and Marines who transit those shipping lanes," Van Dorn said.

To completely search the 30-mile long and one thousand yard-wide shipping lane, HM-14 tacticians had to plan their evolutions with precision.

"We do this by using mathematical theorems to lay out a series of towtracks, or zones where we use sonar to pass over and scan the bottom for any possible mines. The towtracks are designed to make sure that we see all of the bottom and clear it of any possible dangers," Van Dorn said.

He explained that there are a variety of mines. Many of them are very small, sitting on the bottom, making them more difficult to find. They come in various shapes and sizes, with a variety of metallic coverings. Typically, the smaller they are, the tougher they are to find, and that is the challenge of this exercise.

"Exercises like this are pertinent because they help us to encounter and experience scenarios that are as life-like as possible. As they say, 'You practice what you play,'" he said.

Mineman 3rd Class Elizabeth Jones of Lexington, S.C., is one of four tacticians that deployed with the squadron.

Previously she built mines for three years while stationed in Guam, and has been a tactician for the past year.

"We do tactical planning for the MH-53s, mission planning, and post-mission analysis (PMA). We review the data that is brought back after the mission to determine if the contacts are actual mines or not," Jones said. "I like my

job because it's interesting to use the gear and it's always a challenge do what we do knowing that we are an essential link in the safe passage of shipping, cargo and personnel."

Skipper Garcia talked about the successes of his squadron.

"We have a great mix of Active Duty, Full Time Support, and Reserve Component Sailors. In addition, we also conduct Fleet Reserve training for Fleet Reserve pilots and Fleet Reserve air crews before they go to their active duty squadrons."

Pilot Cmdr. Chris Gronbech left active duty in 2000 and has been a Reservist with HM-14 for the past 11 years. A Naval Academy graduate with more than 2,100 flight hours, he has also been an MH-53E simulator instructor with a government contractor in Norfolk, for the past nine years.

"What I do in my civilian job carries over directly to mission success and knowledge in the Navy in training newer pilots," Gronbech said.

"There are other subject matter experts in their respective civilian fields that carry over to HM-14 and our sister squadron HM-15 on the West Coast. We're able to be pulled 'off the bench' to bring this experience and knowledge base to prepare these pilots to be competent and ready for real-world scenarios as they arise."

Gronbech sees the team of active duty and Reserve component personnel to be the best of both worlds.

"When the training plans are put together, mission requirements arise, or deployments come up, there is no distinction between Reserve or active duty. We truly are 'One Team, One Fight'."

Garcia summed up HM-14's operations during Bold Alligator.

"I'm very satisfied with the performance of the crews, the aircraft, and the weapons systems, "Garcia said. "That's why we have these exercises, so we can put strain on the systems all at once, all these components, and see how well they work together and to improve those things that present challenges. We sprinkle that with C2 (command and control).

Garcia found the lifelike exercise provided practical training.

"Communications, whether it be verbal or written, such as message traffic or emails, make these scenarios as realistic and challenging as possible."

Bold Alligator 2012 represents the revitalization of the Navy and Marine Corps' fundamental amphibious capabilities and roles as "fighters from the sea", involving approximately 25 ships, 120 aircraft, nine bases and more than 20,000 Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Soldiers from nine Allied and partner nations.

▼ Left: Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Christopher Proudfoot and Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Vadine Chandler inspect and maintain the side scan sonar of the AN/AQS-24A Airborne Minehunting System. Center: Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Elliot Shin inspects the power plant of an MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter. Right: Lt. j.g. Candice Mears inspects the main rotor assembly of an MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter during a pre-flight check.









Navy Reservist Lt. j.g. Jeff Strong is mobilized to Forward Operating Base Airborne, in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan. He is a Human Resources officer with 25 years in the Navy, over 20 of which were spent as a gunner's mate. Assigned as a combat advisor for the 3rd Kandak (Battalion), 1st Brigade, Afghan National Civil Order police, a highly specialized police force with advanced combat training and firepower, Strong also

holds the positions of administrative and intelligence officer within Security Transition Team 6 (STT6). Strong serves on a small team composed primarily of U.S Army military police.

SALOR SIRONG CHAPTER 2: GETTING SETTLED

After arriving in Afghanistan and having a few weeks to get settled in with my new team, our primary goal was to secure the equipment and supplies needed to move from Bagram Airfield to our final destination in Wardak. That is much easier said than done.

When you assemble a team and assign them a mission, you would think that part of the process would be to assemble the necessary equipment and supplies as well. With my team being a newly formed unit, the list was long and fairly complicated. Things like mine resistant armored personnel vehicles are frequently seen in Afghanistan, but have you ever tried to find five or more that were not already in use? Not so easy. Add to that a group of U.S. Navy and Army officers who are familiar with the U.S. Army supply chain, but far from experts, and you get a situation that takes weeks to unravel.

During the time we were staying at Bagram Airfield, we had a huge list of items to acquire. Even though the list was huge, there was a basic focus: the ability to shoot, move and communicate. This meant being focused on vehicles, weapons and radios. Not just any vehicles, but ones that would protect our unit the most, allow us to move the right number of personnel and provide the greatest firepower capability possible. Our executive officer, U.S. Army Capt. Pete Cruz, was able to locate a group of vehicles that were being turned in by a unit that was leaving Afghanistan. They had all the things you'd expect, like Blue Force Trackers, radios, GPS and weapon mounts. They had also been used and were in need of a thorough once over.

Every unit seems to have one person who manages to scrounge up anything that is needed and for us, that is Cruz. His ability to find the right items, the person responsible for them, work out a deal and come out on the better end of that deal is amazing. Sometimes he reminds me of Klinger or Radar from the television show M*A*S*H because of his ability to find the things we need.

Another challenge in forming a new "blended" unit is coming to grips with some common terminology. Our unit is composed of four U.S. Navy officers, two U.S. Army officers, and a small group of U.S. Army enlisted. All of the non-Navy personnel are military police (MP), so there was at least a common core within that group. As most of you know from being a Reservist and having to blend your civilian and Navy languages, every service has unique terms and phrases. When you blend Army and Navy within a group, words don't always mean the same thing. For example, our enlisted MP's are Airborne qualified. We quickly learned this means that the term "Airborne" can be used as a positive response to anything. Salutes also come with coded phrases within the Army. Knowing the appropriate response to that code as you are saluting or being saluted brings recognition and some levels of respect.

When I wasn't navigating the supply system or learning how to speak Army, I had the opportunity to attend two briefings by flag level U.S. Navy officers and I was eager to see what these gentlemen had to share with the Navy personnel.

Each meeting went roughly the same with a short presentation or speech given and then a question and answer period. Although these meetings were limited, it was good to know that the higher levels were taking an interest in the opinions and interests of those with "boots on the ground."

What has always amazed me during this type of meeting is that people actually expect questions to be asked that are difficult or for people to voice their concerns. It is easy to ask a question in a professional manner, but when you are dealing with issues at a unit or personal level and truly need help, there is no easy way to ask that question. Communicating those issues is often seen as throwing your chain of command "under the bus."

In my civilian life, I have extensive experience in conducting exit interviews for other companies. Basically, I could see this having a huge impact on commands gaining the valuable insight that they are seeking. At a minimum, consider passing out three by five cards to people before the meeting to put questions on to be answered.

I honestly appreciate the leadership that I have here in country, especially my team leader, Lt. Cmdr. Scott Palumbo. I know he values my honesty and is willing to listen regardless of what I have to

say. Those leaders at the highest level who have come to visit us in Afghanistan provide insight and do take our concerns seriously and try to solve those issues. It is good to see leadership trying to help the "BOG" (boots on the ground) warriors. So next time you wonder "should I say something?" know that the leadership will value your opinions if you present them in an honest, professional manner.

Until next time, remember to stay positive, watch out for your shipmate, be brutally honest, and beyond all, stay safe.

READY NOW ANYTIME ANYWHERE | 31



PHOTO Due 5th

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

Due 5th of the month. High-resolution 300 dpi photos. Set camera on the highest setting (TIFF, FINE and/or HQ). Shoot photos of action supporting the story. Posed shots or "grip-n-grins" are the least desirable. If the story is about people receiving awards, show us what they do that garnered said award. Send us the original image. Do NOT tinker with it in Photoshop™ or other image-editing software. We will edit it to fit into our page layout requirements. Include cutline information identifing the subjects and what they're doing in the photo. Also credit the photographer.

STORY SUBMISSIONS

Due 5th of the month. Monthly columns: at least 500 words. More is okay, we'll edit it. Feature stories: at least 600-700 words and need supporting photos. Feature-based stories will compel the reader to read the entire story. We do not want a straight-news story written in inverted pyramid newspaper style.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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