



FEBRUARY 2016

# TNR

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◀ Yeoman 2nd Class Corsha R. Moore, attached to Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), at ECRC headquarters. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jacob D. Galito)

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# TNR

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Commander, Navy Reserve Force

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TNR is always looking for action photos of Navy Reserve Sailors (minimum 300 dpi) that tell a story of Reserve Sailor 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 VISION ID. Information about VISION IDs is available online at [www.navy.mil/photo\\_submit.asp](http://www.navy.mil/photo_submit.asp). Submissions should be received eight weeks prior to publication month (i.e. Sept. 1st for the Nov. issue).

NEWS ONLINE: TNR current and past issues, and Navy Reserve news and social media sites, can be accessed online at [www.navyreserve.navy.mil](http://www.navyreserve.navy.mil). Navy Reserve News Stand, a website featuring Navy Reserve news and photos, plus links to Navy fleet pages, can be viewed at: [www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Selected Reserve and Full-Time Support Sailors must submit address changes through NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) via their Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) personnel office. If you are not a Reserve Sailor, but would like to be added to the TNR mailing list, please forward your name and address to [cnrfc1@gmail.com](mailto:cnrfc1@gmail.com).

TNR Magazine, COMNAVRESFORCOM (N00P)  
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## Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun

Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun  
visits Sailors attached to Navy Operational  
Support Center Columbia, South Carolina.  
(U.S. Navy photo)



**"Either define the moment or the moment will define you." - Walt Whitman**

### Shipmates,

With spring around the corner, it's exciting to consider the opportunities that the coming months will bring. Whether through civilian careers or our responsibilities as Reserve Sailors, the chance to pursue the goals we have set for this year is exciting. This is also true for the Navy Reserve, as 2016 has ushered in a host of opportunities to excel and define our "moment".

Recently, I went to Ft. Jackson, S.C., to meet with the staff and students at NIACT - Navy Individual Augmentee Combat Training. Led by CAPT Murray Fink and Senior Enlisted Leaders GMCM (AW) Mark Seifert and his relief, YNCM Michael Woods, the NIACT team includes Sailors, Soldiers, and civilian personnel who are absolutely committed to providing outstanding training and support to deploying Sailors. The 17-day course includes weapons familiarization and qualification, MRAP familiarization and convoy operations, land navigation, first aid, communications, and gear issue/fitting. We observed training for Class 16-004, a diverse group of 40 RC and 31 AC Sailors from across the country.

The NIACT course is continually updated and revised to teach the most relevant skills to deploying service members, and the instructors are dedicated to ensuring each Sailor is competent and confident in their skills training. Last year 1,234 students graduated from NIACT and the course continues to get outstanding reviews. Thanks to the entire NIACT team!

We also visited NR NIOC Georgia where CAPT Greg Emery, and his very impressive team briefed us on the direct support their Sailors are providing to the warfighter. We also met with CDR John Hudson to learn about the critical support being provided to CENTCOM by Information Warfare Community Sailors who are mobilized at NSA Georgia. Our travels also took us to NOSC Columbia, NOSC Augusta, and NOSC Charleston where we met with inspirational leadership teams and dozens of dedicated and talented Sailors. The highlight of these visits was the opportunity to present awards, recognize excellence, and help promote many deserving Sailors.

Our last stop was at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Support Center-Atlantic, where we received a fascinating tour of the Common Submarine Radio Room (CSRR) Lab. CAPT Randy Gallagher and his SPAWAR 407 Sailors showed us how they are supporting readiness availabilities for deploying submarines. The entire SPAWAR Reserve Program (SRP) includes 360 Sailors in 18 units across the country. Their missions include cyber training and readiness, unmanned systems, deployment workups, Battle Group exercise support, STEM education, and space missions/national programs. Led by CAPT Craig Schorr, they're an impressive team!

Congratulations also go out to NOSC North Island for winning the Department of Defense 2015 Family Readiness Award for the Navy Reserve. NOSC CMDCM Dwight Ayles and their dynamic ombudsman, CAPT (Ret.) Elaine Allen recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the award in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. BZ to NOSC North Island!

Finally, thanks to all our NOSC, Squadron, and Battalion staff, as well as the Ombudsmen across the nation, who work so hard to support our SELRES Sailors. Without a doubt, their dedication and commitment to assisting with orders, pay, training, medical, supply, and readiness are critical to our success. As you go to drill this month, please take the time to thank them. Your dedication - and theirs - makes our Force stronger, more agile, and ready to serve!

Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun,  
Chief of Navy Reserve



## Force Master Chief (AW/SW) CJ Mitchell

Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve Clarence "C.J." Mitchell, with Navy Operational Support Center North Island, San Diego, as they receive the 2015 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award. (U.S. Navy photo)



### Shipmates,

Greetings from D.C., shipmates! First of all I want to say good luck to all of you who are taking your advancement exam this month. I sincerely hope that all your preparation and study pay off. But here is the thing: to get advanced it takes a commitment to excellence of mastering your rating all year long, not just before the next advancement exam. Engage with your Chief Petty Officer – be creative, unconventional, and innovative to seek training opportunities and hone your skills, raise your level of professionalism and proudly demonstrate that you truly are ALWAYS READY to be advanced.

This month is also African American/Black History Month. I am proud to say that we in the Navy Reserve, celebrate and leverage our diversity every day. Diversity is a part of our DNA: diversity of thought, diversity of locations, diversity of skills and diversity of background. Diversity is the tie that binds all of us together for we serve a common mission and we serve together. All of our diversity makes us an organization inclusive of ideas from others that is adaptive and flexible to do many things. And while we spend some time recognizing how far we have come, I am encouraged and excited about our future as Navy Reserve shipmates.

I had some AWESOME recent travels to NOSC Columbus, Georgia, and Corpus Christie, Texas. The leadership engagement of the NOSC staffs, skippers LCDR Riley, CDR Ehret and Command Chiefs PSC Cadien and PSC English was outstanding. I had the pleasure of meeting PS3 Brittany Jones at the NOSC in Corpus. She is taking me up on my offer and is aggressively pursuing a commission via the STA-21 program – Good Luck PS3!! The contributions and activity at the NOSCs is very high – I am so proud of your contributions. Both NOSCs have several personnel taking advantage of the RC to AC opportunities and already 155 personnel in the Navy Reserve have changed rating toward undermanned ratings this fiscal year. Please continue to evaluate ALL of your opportunities for career progression.

In this issue of TNR you will read about the pursuit of excellence as we announce an exciting new blended retirement system. First of all, the retirement you have now is your retirement, but the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provided our military force with a modernized retirement plan specifically designed to improve retirement savings manageability. It gives more choices allowing flexible options for retirement. Please pay close attention as details come out over the next few months.

This is an exciting time of year. Sailors are taking the advancement exam; we have new selections for Command Master Chief and Command Senior Chief; First Classes are preparing CPO board packages; results are pending for Senior Chief and Master Chief; and the Sailor of the Year competition is well underway. Our work is not done, and we should always be focused on readiness as we prepare for a busy season of exercises, annual training and other training opportunities this summer. I look forward to seeing you around the Reserve Force. #AreYouReady?

Force 15

FORCM CJ Mitchell

FOCUS ON THE FORCE



## Brown Water Reserve Sailors

By Master Chief Information Systems Technician James L. Leuci, Naval History and Heritage Command



▲ IUW circa 1971

In the aftermath of the attack on USS Cole, the need for additional security measures for fleet assets worldwide became urgent. However, since the end of the Vietnam War, nearly all port security and shallow water surveillance capabilities now resided solely in the Navy Reserve. That's when the active component Navy turned to the Navy Reserve for support.

Naval Coastal Warfare Groups (NCWG) on the east and west coasts immediately began to implement plans to mobilize NCW units. Thus began one of the first overt responses by the Navy in the Global War on Terrorism – nearly a year before the 9/11 attacks. By the end of 2000, Inshore Boat Units (IBUs) were recalled to active duty and deployed to the Persian Gulf. A year later, after the attacks on 9/11, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Units (MIUWUs) were activated and joined the IBUs in the fight.

The Global War on Terrorism wasn't the first time the active Navy had relied on the Navy Reserve for coastal warfare support. NCW history goes back to the mid-1960s during the Vietnam War when NCWG was known as Inshore Undersea Warfare Group (IUWG). During the Vietnam War, IUW units were manned by a mix of active and Reserve Sailors. The Reserve Sailors were generally enlisted and officers who were obligated to initially serve on active duty for two years before being released to inactive duty. IUWG units operated river patrol boats (PBR) and other riverine craft. They also manned and operated electronic surveillance centers in the field near rivers and along the coastline.

By the mid-1970s, after the U.S. involvement in Vietnam ended, all IUW capability became a Navy Reserve mission. For the next 20 years Naval Inshore Undersea Warfare Groups (NAVIUWGRU) on the east and west coasts oversaw nearly 2,500 Reserve Sailors in 24 MIUW units. MIUWUs were 90% manned by Reserve Sailors. Full-Time Support and active component Sailors, along with occasional U. S. Coast Guard Reserve personnel, made up the remaining 10 percent. MIUWUs were commissioned, stand-alone units, providing a unique capability only available in the Navy Reserve.

During Desert Storm in 1991, MIUWUs from the east and west coasts mobilized and deployed to the Persian Gulf. Later, in 1994, MIUWU 203 from New York City was recalled and sent to Haiti during "Operation Uphold Democracy." In the late 1990s, IUW units were designated as Naval Coastal Warfare (NCW) units. Inshore Boat Units (IBUs) and Harbor Defense Commands were consolidated with MIUWUs forming NCW Squadrons. After 9/11, COMNCWGRUs ONE and TWO were mobilized for two years. Over the following years, NCW units were mobilized, many more than once, to provide port security around the world including the Persian Gulf, Mediterranean Sea, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in ports within the continental United States.

In 2003, the Navy began to establish active duty NCW units as part of the Maritime Expeditionary Security Group (MESG). Today, NCW and MESG units have become Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) assets. Navy Reserve Sailors still provide more than half the capability, carrying on a fifty year tradition of supporting the Navy and our country as Citizen-Sailors. The Navy Reserve men and women who served in IUW/NCW/MESG/NECC units can take pride in knowing they were trained and ready when called for active service after 9/11. They held the line for the first three years of the war on terrorism, not because they were "the only game in town," but because they were professionals and just what the Navy needed.



▲ MIUWU 806 Panama



**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.



**Information Systems Technician 1st Class  
Vanessa Phipps**

**Hometown:** Westminster, Massachusetts  
**Command:** Reserve Component Command Jacksonville

**Brief description of your Navy job:**

I am the LPO of Information Technology at RCC Jacksonville. I manage assets, user accounts, and proper N6 procedures for 35 Information Assurance officers, 5 squadrons, 19 NOSCs, and the Reserve units attached to them. I am also the region point of contact for the CFL program.

**What has been your greatest Navy achievement?**

Making E6 as an IT FTS shortly after cross-rating from AE while in the active component. Learning my trade quickly and effectively while also continuing to be a well-rounded Sailor with education, volunteer work, and collateral duties.

**Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy?**

AEC Novakowski, she taught me to blossom no matter where I was planted and I have carried that with me throughout my career. Chief Novakowski taught me above all to care about the job and its output, and everything else will fall into place.

**What do you enjoy most about the Navy?**

The opportunities the Navy provides for me and my family give me a sense of pride and accomplishment while serving next to individuals who help me grow in ways I could never have imagined both professionally and personally.

**Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy:**

My first duty station was Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. I met my husband in Hawaii and gave birth to both of our daughters there. Hawaii quickly became home in our hearts and I am very grateful to have had the pleasure to serve there.

**Current hobbies:**

Volunteering as a substance abuse counselor at a county jail, weight-lifting, bike riding with my daughters, water painting, and homework (a not so fun hobby).



**Master-at-Arms 3rd Class  
Carlo Palacpac**

**Hometown:** National City, California  
**Command:** Navy Reserve Security Force Coronado

**Brief description of your Navy job:**

I am a Master-at-Arms in the Navy Reserve. As Reserve Sailors we provide operational support to the active component, and in doing so we maintain our physical and mental readiness in order to accomplish our missions.

**What has been your greatest Navy achievement?**

My greatest achievement in my Navy career was becoming a 3rd class petty officer. As an MA I'd like to achieve going through kennel school and becoming a canine handler.

**Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy?**

My biggest influence is PS1 Alvin Balahadia. He's always been a great mentor and has always looked out for me since I joined the Navy.

**What do you enjoy most about the Navy?**

What I enjoy the most about the Navy is the privilege to wear the uniform. We Sailors earned the right to be who we are in the Navy and for me it's truly an honor to serve my country.

**Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy:**

So far, the most interesting place I visited was Mayport, Florida. It was my first time on the east coast and I liked the different experience. My next stop is my mobilization in Bahrain where I'll be stationed for over a year.

**Current hobbies:**

Photography, food, fitness, and working on cars.

**To nominate a Sailor, send an email to [cnrfc1@gmail.com](mailto:cnrfc1@gmail.com) for a submission form. Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) 5" x 7" digital photo of the candidate.**







# High Year Tenure & Career Waypoint Conversion

## High Year Tenure (HYT) Policy & Waiver/Exception to Policy Requests

By Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command N15 Force Retention

The November 5, 2014, update to MILPERSMAN 1160-120 brought Selected Reserve (SELRES) HYT policy to Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Sailors, to include both Voluntary Training Unit (VTU) and Active Status Pool (ASP). Included in the policy change was elimination of the authority for a SELRES Sailor to reenlist or extend through an HYT Length of Service (LOS) gate.

A reenlistment contract or extension executed prior to November 5, 2014 is "grandfathered" under the previous policy, and although the Sailor must transfer from the Selected Reserve by the end of the month that he or she reaches HYT, the Sailor may serve beyond the HYT LOS gate in either the VTU or the ASP without an HYT waiver.

The October 5, 2015, update provided clarity to Navy Reserve HYT policy and gave PERS-913 the authority to approve HYT waivers for E-5 and E-6 Sailors to serve in the VTU beyond their HYT LOS gate and 20 total years of qualifying service (TYQS), not to exceed (NTE) 30 years LOS.

The adjudication authority for an HYT waiver or exception to policy (ETP) request depends on where the Sailor is requesting to serve when beyond an HYT LOS gate. **Engage your unit career counselor and NOSC or NRA command career counselor to explore your options:**

### ★ SELRES: BUPERS-32

- E-1 to E-4: Waiver not authorized
- E-5 & E-6: Waiver NTE 20 TYQS
- E-7 to E-9: Waiver NTE 30 TYQS

### ★ VTU: PERS-913

- E-1 to E-3: Waiver not authorized
- E-4: Waiver NTE 20 TYQS
- E-5 & E-6: Waiver NTE 30 TYQS
- E-7 to E-9: Automatic to 30 years LOS
- E-7 to E-9: Waiver NTE 30 TYQS

### ★ Exceptions to Policy (ETP): OPNAV N13

- Requests beyond the authority of BUPERS-32 or PERS-913 are adjudicated by OPNAV N13 as exceptions to policy.

**Policy prohibits HYT personnel of any paygrade from being assigned to the ASP.**

The Career Waypoint - Conversion module allows Sailors to review ratings that are open for a change of rating and provides a screening mechanism for individual qualifications and basic eligibility. The Reserve Enlisted Community Manager (ECM) performs monthly updates to the convert-in and convert-out status of each rating, providing numerous opportunities for qualified Sailors.

For a Sailor serving in an over-manned rating and facing a challenging advancement environment, a change of rating may provide an opportunity for continued career progression through advancement and a correspondingly higher HYT LOS gate. Engage your unit career counselor and NOSC or NRA command career counselor to explore available opportunities and to begin another phase of your Navy career.

## UNITED STATES NAVY Reserve (SELRES, IRR, VTU and ASP), and USNR-S1

PAYGRADE	HYT GATE	REMARKS
E1/E2	6	Not eligible for an HYT waiver
E3	10	Not eligible for an HYT waiver
E4	12	PERS-913 HYT waiver required to serve in the VTU or USNR-S1, NTE 20 TYQS Every year served under an HYT waiver must be a qualifying year for retirement
E5	20	BUPERS-32 HYT waiver required to serve in the SELRES, NTE 20 TYQS PERS-913 HYT waiver required to serve in the VTU or USNR-S1, NTE 20 TYQS
E6	22	PERS-913 HYT waiver required to serve in the VTU or USNR-S1 beyond 20 TYQS, NTE 30 years LOS
E7	24	BUPERS-32 HYT waiver required to serve in the SELRES beyond HYT LOS gate
E8	26	BUPERS-32 HYT waiver required to serve in SELRES beyond 30 years LOS, NTE 30 TYQS
E9	30	Automatically waived to serve in the VTU, NTE 30 years LOS PERS-913 HYT waiver required to serve in the VTU or USNR-S1 beyond 30 years LOS, NTE 30 TYQS
CMDCM CMC CSEL	32	CMDCM (9580/9578) or CMC/CSEL selected for a Flag or General Officer assignment to complete a 3-year tour Eligible for a waiver to serve in SELRES or VTU NTE 32 TYQS or their tour of duty, whichever occurs first

- HYT waiver remarks are applicable only if member exceeds the HYT LOS gate for their paygrade

- OPNAV N132 holds Exception to Policy (ETP) adjudication authority for HYT requests beyond the scope of BUPERS-32 and PERS-913





# The U.S. Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System

## At a Glance

### Saving with the New Blended Retirement System

The Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act provides our military force with a modernized retirement plan built for retirement savings. Beginning in 2018, our service members can get **automatic and matching Thrift Savings Plan contributions** as well as mid-career **compensation incentives** in addition to monthly **annuities for life**. All service members under the current system are grandfathered into today's retirement system.

#### Today's Retirement System:



**2.5% x Years Served x Retired Pay Base**  
after completing 20 years of service

#### 1 Automatic and Matching Contributions

Automatic contributions are seen immediately



You Contribute	DoD Auto Contribution	DoD Matches	Total
0%	1%	0%	1%
1%	1%	1%	3%
2%	1%	2%	5%
3%	1%	3%	7%
4%	1%	3.5%	8.5%
5%	1%	4%	10%

The DoD automatically contributes **1%** of your basic pay to your **Thrift Savings Plan** after **60 days of service**.

You'll see matching contributions at the start of 3 through the completion of 26 years of service, and...

**You're fully vested—it's yours to keep—as of the beginning of 3 years of service and goes with you when you leave.**

#### 2 Continuation Pay

Received at the mid-career point



You may receive a **cash payment** in exchange for additional service.

#### 3 Full Retired Pay Annuity

Received after completing 20 years of service



Calculate your **retired pay base** by **averaging the highest 36 months of basic pay**. You'll gain this monthly annuity for life after completing 20 years of service.

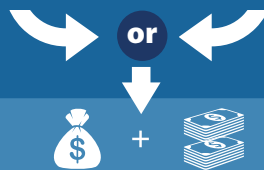
### Options for Collecting Your Retired Pay

#### Active Component

Full retired pay annuity

#### Reserve Component

Full retired pay annuity beginning at age 60\*



#### Lump sum with reduced retired pay

50% or 25% of monthly retired pay annuity bumps back up to 100% at full retirement age (67 in most cases).

\*Could be earlier based on credited active service



### Effective Date of the New System

#### Your Retirement System

*If you joined the service...*

#### ► After December 31, 2017

You'll be automatically enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.

#### ► After December 31, 2005 but before January 1, 2018

You'll have the choice to enroll in the Blended Retirement System or remain in today's current retirement system.

#### ► Before January 1, 2006

You'll be grandfathered and remain in today's current retirement system.

**Additional information coming soon.**

Sources: Sections 631, 632, 633, 634, and 635 of the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Created:12/2015



By Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

**N**avy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) marked the 10-year anniversary of its establishment of providing expeditionary combat support on Jan 13.

Pete Frothingham, who retired from active-duty at the rank of captain, continues to serve as NECC's first N8 director and discussed the importance of aligning expeditionary combat forces totaling more than 19,000 active and Reserve component forces under one Type Commander (TYCOM).

"NECC allowed for the proper man, train, equip of a large number of expeditionary and pre-existing forces," said Frothingham who added that the stand-up of NECC provided "better understanding of the critical capabilities of our expeditionary forces and how to best provide our combatant commanders with an effective and well-trained fighting force."

Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) Chief of Staff, Mark Sakowski, was also affiliated with NECC before its inception, actually since its conceptualization. Sakowski first reported to NAVELSG in 2003 as their deputy commander and later retired from active duty in 2008.

"It is unheralded how quickly NECC came on line to become an effective and proven advocate for the expeditionary forces," said Sakowski. "Our manning is better, our training is better, our facilities are better, our equipment is better, and our Sailors are better. This never could have happened, and especially so quickly, without a dedicated and focused TYCOM that has worked deliberately and exhaustingly to truly represent our capabilities and build the Navy an effective and lethal expeditionary force."

Since its establishment in 2006, NECC has folded the expeditionary combat force under one umbrella of capabilities that includes explosive ordnance, navy diving, coastal riverine, construction force, expeditionary logistics support, cargo handling, expeditionary warfare development, individual augmentee training, expeditionary combat camera support, and expeditionary intelligence capabilities.

Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center's Command Master Chief Randy Watson, who was one of the establishing plank owners explains the synergy behind the stand-up of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.





▲ **Coastal Riverine Squadron (CRS) 10**, forward deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa, conducts a personnel transfer off the Gulf of Aden. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Drae Parker)

“To see that vision grow into reality over the years has been a special opportunity. One of the TYCOM benefits for our communities is recognizing the synergies across various communities and leveraging those to build a stronger, more effective and efficient force, as well as building the adaptive force packages to meet many unique missions,” said Watson.

Watson has served at four different commands within NECC and discussed its formation.

“By forming NECC, the Navy brought many overlapping or similarly supported capabilities under one umbrella - capabilities that are unique in nature, and if not formalized, would otherwise have to be accomplished by pulling Sailors from the fleet in a temporary duty or ad hoc manner,” said Watson.

NECC delivers its core capabilities through rapidly deployable expeditionary forces made up of both active and Reserve force components. NECC continues to serve as a role model for Active-Reserve Integration with approximately 50 percent of its forces comprised of Reserve Sailors.

Nearly 9,000 Selected Reserve Sailors are assigned to NECC

and serve across the United States in commissioned, hardware-equipped units that train and deploy to meet operational requirements around the globe.

“These are not your average ‘one weekend per month and two weeks per year’ drilling Navy Reservists,” said Rear Adm. Darren Hanson, NECC deputy commander. “They are a highly dedicated, elite group of men and women who are proud to support real missions in real places alongside, or in lieu of, their active component counterparts.”

Lillian Jenkins, manpower analyst, reported to NECC on Jan. 5, 2005, serving as their first Chief Yeoman.

“It was exciting to be a part of an organization from the very beginning and witness its growth escalation over the past decade,” said Jenkins of Kenbridge, Virginia, who retired from active duty after serving 20 years. She has also served on the NECC staff for the past decade as a Navy civilian.

“It has been rewarding to be a part of a bigger organization that has global reach,” said Jenkins, whose job affects military and civilians across the NECC enterprise. “As part of standing up our

# NAVY EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT COMMAND | NECC

force I established or reorganized each command within NECC and maintained force structure and military manpower.”

On any given day approximately one third of NECC forces are deployed worldwide on missions from theater security partnerships to partnership building to infrastructure protection. Due to the operational capabilities represented and where they operate, NECC units act as a force multiplier in the areas where they deploy and operate.

## Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Units

### Coastal Riverine Force (CRF)



CRF operates in harbors, rivers, bays, across the littorals and ashore. The primary mission of CRF is to conduct maritime security operations across all phases of military operations by defending high value assets, critical maritime infrastructure, ports and harbors both inland and on coastal waterways against enemies, and when commanded, conduct offensive combat operations.

### Naval Construction (Seabees)



Seabees provide a wide range of construction in support of operating forces, including roads, bridges, bunkers, airfields and logistics bases; provide responsive support disaster recovery operations; perform civic action projects to improve relations with other nations; and provide anti-terrorism and force protection for personnel and construction projects. There are seven Naval Construction

Regiments (NCR) that exercise command and control over the 21 battalions and other specialized units, including two Underwater Construction Teams (UCT). “We Build, We Fight.”

### Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG)



NAVELSG delivers worldwide expeditionary logistics with active and Reserve personnel to conduct port and air cargo handling missions, customs inspections, contingency contracting capabilities, fuels distribution, freight terminal and warehouse operations, postal services and ordnance reporting and handling. They respond to humanitarian relief efforts and builds allies through those efforts among host nations.



### Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)



EOD conducts counter - IED operations, renders safe explosive hazards and disarms underwater explosives such as mines. EOD specialists can handle chemical, biological and radiological threats and is the only military EOD force that can both parachute to reach distant targets or dive to disarm weapons.

EOD's mobile diving and salvage units clear harbors of navigation hazards, engage in underwater search and recovery operations, and perform limited underwater repairs on ships.

### Expeditionary Intelligence



Delivers flexible, capable and ready maritime expeditionary intelligence forces that respond rapidly to evolving irregular warfare area intelligence requirements. Intelligence teams supply expeditionary warfighters with timely relevant intelligence to deny the enemy sanctuary, freedom of movement and use of waterborne lines of communication while

supported forces find, fix and destroy the enemy and enemy assets within the operational environment.





(above and below) Reserve Sailors attached to Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group perform crane operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Edward Kessler)

### Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command (ECRC)



ECRC coordinates and oversees all administrative processing, equipping, training, deployment and re-deployment of Sailors assigned IA, In-Lieu of forces and to provisional units committed to Joint and Maritime Operations. ECRC coordinates with the Army to ensure they get the proper stateside

training. Training includes instruction in individual combat skills and specialized mission areas to help IAs succeed in their mission and keep them as safe while deployed.

### Navy Expeditionary Warfighting Development Center (EXWDC)



EXWDC trains Navy Expeditionary Forces in advanced Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) across expeditionary combat mission areas at the individual, unit, and integrated levels ensuring alignment of the training continuum. They develop, validate, standardize, publish, and revise advanced TTPs and provide

operational and subject matter expertise support to Strike Group Commanders, Naval Component Commanders, Numbered Fleet Commanders, and Combatant Commanders.



# BATTLE“E”

*NECC Reserve Sailors perform with honors*



▲ Navy Cargo Handling Battalion ONE (NCHB 1) Chief Petty Officers gather for a group photo shortly after arriving at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, in support of the National Science Foundation annual resupply mission in support of Operation Deep Freeze 2016. (U.S. Navy Photo by Electricians Mate 1st Class Jeremy Bivens)

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Edward Kessler, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Public Affairs

It had been a busy, yet banner, year for the Navy's cargo handlers in 2015. Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) Reserve component battalions, Navy Cargo Handling Battalion (NCHB) 10 won the Battle "E" and NCHB 5 was also recognized as the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) Military Unit of the Year. Additionally, battalions 8 & 10 traveled to Antarctica to provide support for Operation Deep Freeze 2016.

NCHB 10 outperformed all other cargo handling battalions in several key mission areas and set records along the way as they were named the 2015 Battle Efficiency "E" winner. The battalion's mission readiness score increased from 53 percent to 90 percent, the largest readiness increase for a 12-month period by any Reserve cargo handling battalion on record.

"NCHB 10 is the best cargo handling battalion in the Navy for one reason – its Sailors. In early 2014, we trailed all other battalions in virtually every performance metric," said Cmdr. David Bailey, commanding officer NCHB 10.

Additionally, the unit manning level grew 49 percent to 95 percent – worst to first, and NCHB 10 became the only Reserve battalion to ever earn a higher readiness level than their active counterparts. The battalion bested all others in Sailor promotions and its chief petty officer community grew by more than 300 percent.

NCHB 5 won the Navy's active duty and Reserve categories of the 2015 National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) Military Units of the Year awards.

According to the NDTA, in 1966 they launched an awards program that honors outstanding military units that have accomplished unusual and outstanding service in the field of

transportation and logistics.

"We offer awards to outstanding units on an annual basis to active duty, Reserve and national guard components," said retired U.S. Army Col. Jim Veditz, senior vice president of operations, National Defense Transportation Association.

In addition to the military unit awards, NDTA also awards the best Reserve officer training command and instructor of the year for each branch of the services. Veditz reflected on what impressed NDTA leadership when reviewing the awards packages for NCHB 5.

"What impressed us about the Navy components, specifically for the two cargo handling battalions, were their contributions for real-world contingency operations and rapid response capabilities over the past year," said Veditz.

Cmdr. Dennis Collins, commanding officer, NCHB 5, leads nearly 350 Reserve Sailors across 11 companies from the Pacific Northwest, to California and Nevada.

"The missions of NCHB 1 and 5 are similar, however we train for those requirements on a part-time basis," said Collins. "Our Sailors might work in an office environment during the week, and on the weekend they may be assigned to drive a tractor trailer or operate a heavy shipboard crane which increases the degree of difficulty to get qualified, and to perform at the level necessary to be recognized for an award like this."

Collins reflected on the caliber of Sailors assigned to NCHB 5 and their valued contributions to accomplish the mission.

"Our Sailors regularly contribute far more time than the typical one weekend a month, two weeks a year so it's tremendous to see them recognized with this prestigious unit level award," said Collins.



NCHB 5 excels in providing outstanding service when conducting unusual tasking across the realm of the transportation spectrum to include air and surface cargo handling, fuels, and ammunition.

Sailors assigned to NCHB 5, according to Collins, come from a variety of rating backgrounds to include boatswain's mates, Seabees, and other seagoing ratings that provide expeditionary logistics capabilities to perform unique missions worldwide.

One of those unique missions is in Antarctica. The Navy cargo handlers are the only Navy units that continue to support Operation Deep Freeze and have done so since 1955 when they officially stood up McMurdo Station.

Fifty Sailors from NAVELSG active duty battalion NCHB 1 and two Reserve component Sailors from NCHB 8 and NCHB 10, supported the National Science Foundation Operation Deep Freeze 2016 (ODF 16).

The Sailors deploy to Antarctica as part of ODF 16, the military logistical-support component of the Antarctic Program.

ODF is unlike any other U.S. military operation. It is one of the military's most difficult peacetime missions due to the harsh Antarctic environment, but the U.S. military is uniquely equipped and trained to operate in such extreme climates.

NCHB 1, the only Navy detachment supporting the National Science Foundation research in Antarctica, arrived at Ross Island and made port at NSF's McMurdo Station, the southern-most navigable harbor in the world.

Once there, Navy cargo handlers met the Military Sealift Command chartered ship MV Ocean Giant, to offload approximately 20 million pounds of fresh supplies to support the scientists and researchers living year-round in the brutal environment. Cargo handlers worked around the clock for over 10 days in the continuous sunlight of the Antarctic summer.

"The conditions that we are working in are extremely dangerous, and people are not used to working in the cold so it is

important to have someone with experience and that understands the unique factors to watch out for everyone's safety while still tackling the mission," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Cliff Brown. "It is an honor to be able to go down there with a bunch of Sailors who have never experienced this type of mission before."

Despite working 12-hour shifts in the harshest conditions, Sailors compete for the chance to go.

"It seemed interesting, an opportunity. I don't know too many people that can say they have been to Antarctica," said Equipment Operator 3rd Class Robert Newton, a Reserve Sailor with NCHB 10.

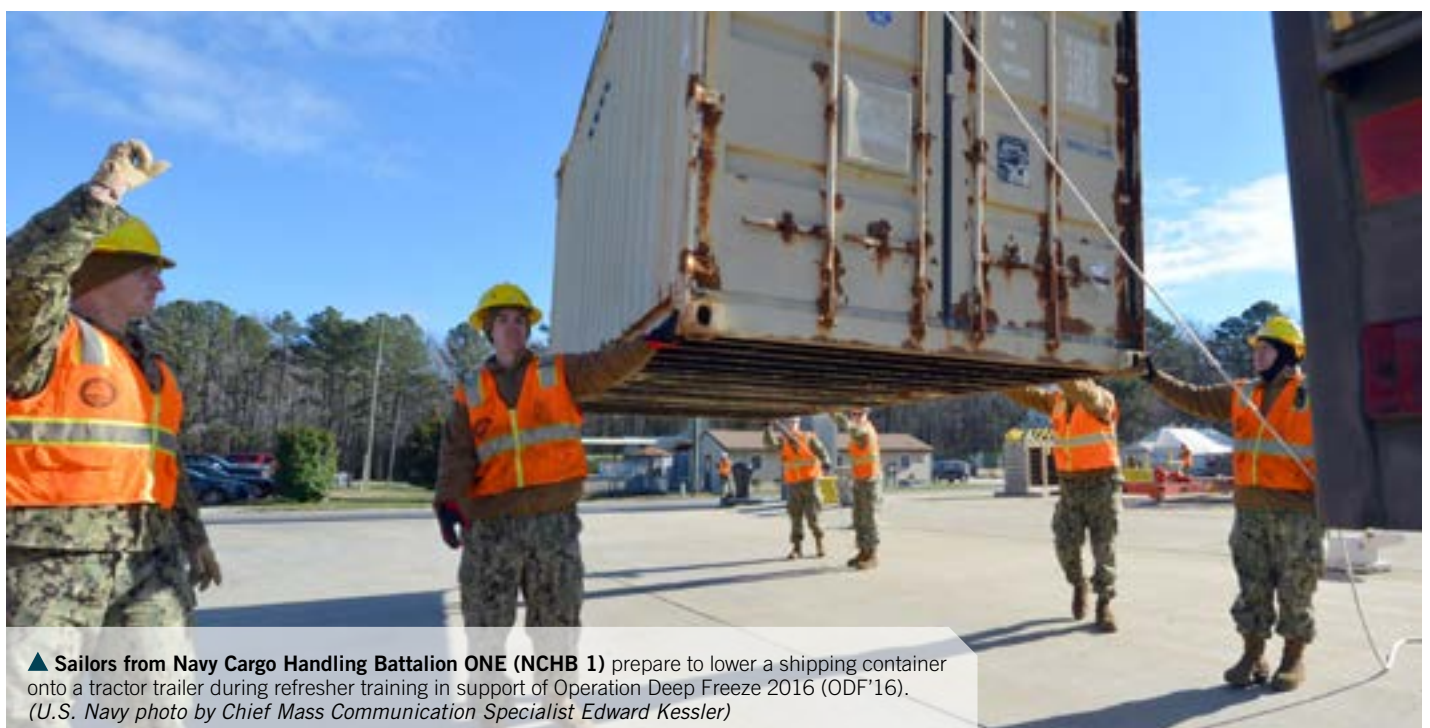
The Navy has supported expeditions to Antarctica for more than a half century. Their specialized training and equipment continue to make them well-suited for the job.

"We are good stewards of their cargo because we know that many of these scientists have spent their lives working on their projects and hopefully their research will make our overall lives better," said Brown.

Once the fresh supplies were offloaded, the previous year's trash was hauled aboard the ships. By international agreement, researchers must save and export all waste to preserve the pristine polar environment.

The return shipment included ice core samples that provide scientists studying global climate change with information about the composition of the atmosphere hundreds of thousands of years ago.

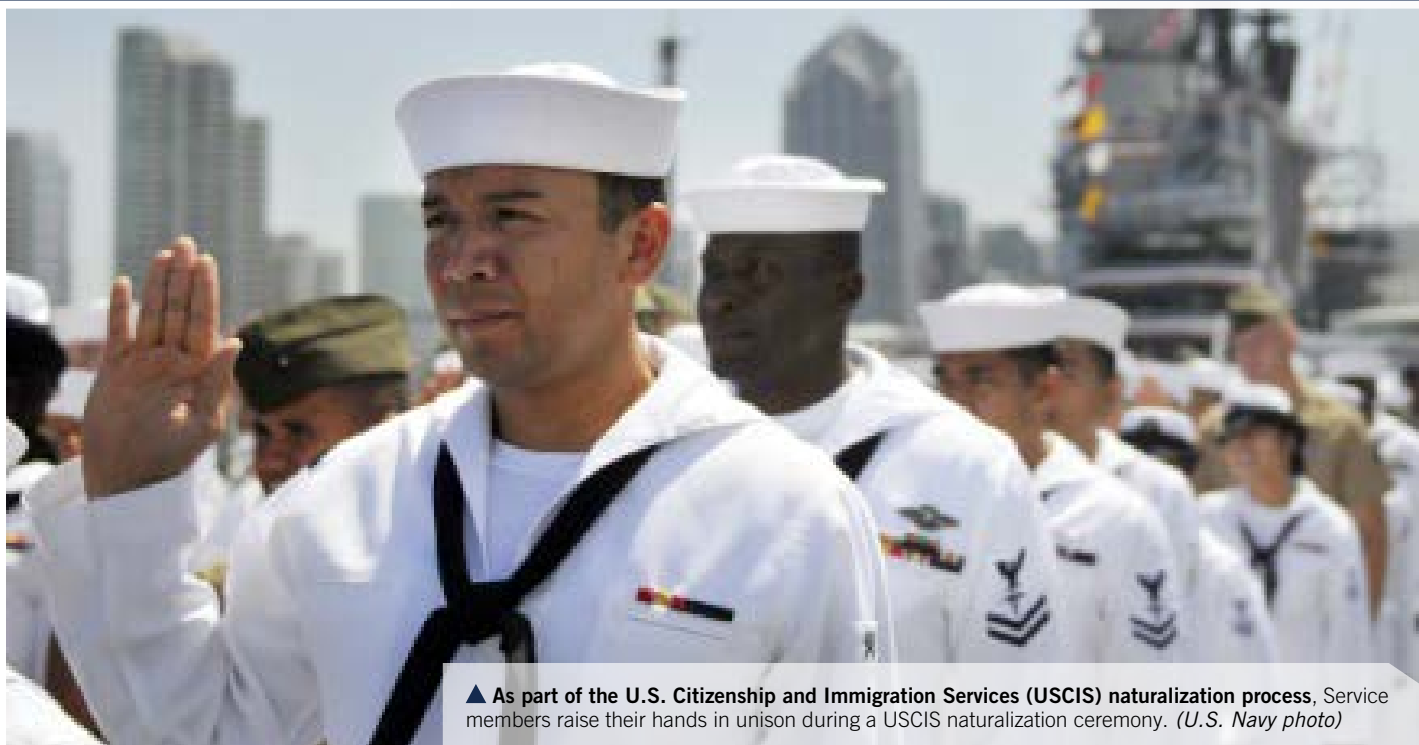
NCHB 1, 5, 8 and 10 supports the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, a component of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, which delivers expeditionary logistics capabilities with mobilization-ready Navy Reserve forces and active duty Sailors. They provide a wide range of supply and transportation functions critical for peacekeeping, crisis response, humanitarian assistance, and combat service support missions. ○



▲ Sailors from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion ONE (NCHB 1) prepare to lower a shipping container onto a tractor trailer during refresher training in support of Operation Deep Freeze 2016 (ODF 16). (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Edward Kessler)

# CITIZENSHIP THROUGH

## Navy Reserve Service Provides Pathway to Citizenship



▲ As part of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization process, Service members raise their hands in unison during a USCIS naturalization ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo)

By Mrs. Arwen Consaul, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Department of Homeland Security Public Affairs

It comes as no surprise that immigrants to the United States have chosen to serve in the Armed Forces before becoming U.S. Citizens. Every year U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalizes thousands of immigrants who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Since Oct. 1, 2001, USCIS has naturalized 109,321 members of the military, with 11,069 of those service members becoming citizens during USCIS naturalization ceremonies in 34 foreign countries.

USCIS has partnered with the Defense Department to ensure the military community has accurate information about immigration services and benefits. USCIS not only provides training to military lawyers, but USCIS regularly conducts educational seminars and other classes on military installations around the country, answering questions about naturalization and other immigration services and benefits.

In addition to educational seminars, USCIS employees regularly conduct adjustment and naturalization interviews and oath ceremonies for military members and their family members on military installations within the USCIS offices' jurisdictions.

USCIS brings immigration services to the troops wherever they serve, naturalizing more than 7,700 members of the military in nine countries overseas this past fiscal year. USCIS seeks to ensure that the military naturalization process is convenient, expedited and secure, so that service members receive the honor of citizenship on behalf of a grateful nation.

### BACKGROUND

Special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorize U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to expedite the naturalization process for current members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserves and veterans.

In general, only citizens and lawful permanent residents (green-card holders) of the United States may enlist in the U.S. armed forces. Only U.S. citizens may become officers.

Under special provisions in Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the President signed an executive order on July 3, 2002, authorizing all noncitizens who have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to immediately file for citizenship. This order also covers veterans of certain designated past wars and conflicts. The authorization will remain in effect until a date designated by a future presidential executive order.

### DESIGNATED PAST WARS AND CONFLICTS

- ★ World War II – Sept 1, 1939 – Dec 31, 1946
- ★ Korean War – June 25, 1950 – July 1, 1955
- ★ Vietnam War – Feb 28, 1961 – Oct 15, 1978



# SERVICE

## QUALIFICATIONS

A member of the U.S. Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserves must meet the requirements and qualifications to become a citizen of the United States. He or she must demonstrate:

- ★ **Good moral character,**
- ★ **Knowledge of the English language,**
- ★ **Knowledge of U.S. government and history (civics), and**
- ★ **Attachment to the United States by taking an Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. Constitution.**

All Reserve Sailors going through basic training, or technical school, fall under Title 10 and are considered active duty personnel for the naturalization process. In addition, military orders greater than 30 days also qualify as support to Title 10 and qualify for the expedited naturalization process. Proof of service through a DD-214 is required for expedited service.

Qualified members of the U.S. Navy Reserves are exempt from other naturalization requirements, including residence and physical presence in the United States. These exceptions are listed in Sections 328 and 329 of the INA.

A person who obtains U.S. citizenship through his or her military service and separates from the military under “other than honorable conditions” before completing five years of honorable service may have his or her citizenship revoked.

## HOW TO APPLY

Every military installation has a designated point-of-contact, generally in the personnel division or the Judge Advocate General’s Office, to assist members of the military prepare and file their naturalization application packet that includes an application for Naturalization, USCIS Form N-400 (Members of the military are not charged a fee to file the Form N-400) and a request for Certification of Military or Naval Service, USCIS Form N-426 (The military must certify this form before sending it to USCIS. Individuals separated from the military may submit an uncertified Form N-426 with their DD Form 214.)

In addition, USCIS and the DOD have partnered to conduct the naturalization process, including the capture of biometrics, the naturalization interview and administration of the Oath of Allegiance, on the military installation during Basic Training.

Participating installations include Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and Fort Sill in Oklahoma (Army); Naval Station Great Lakes, Great Lakes, Illinois; Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas; and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego. ○

## Military Service

### Naturalization benefits include:

- ★ **Waiver of lawful permanent residence requirements:** In general, an applicant who files on the basis of military service during designated periods of hostilities is not required to be a Legal Permanent Resident if he or she was physically present at the time of induction, enlistment, re-enlistment or extension of service in the U.S. armed forces.
- ★ **Exemption from residency and physical presence requirements for naturalization:** An applicant who files on the basis of military service during hostilities is exempt from the general naturalization requirements of continuous residence and physical presence.
- ★ **Peacetime Exemption:** Military members who file on the basis of one year of military service while still serving in the U.S. armed forces, or within six months of an honorable discharge, are exempt from the residence and physical presence requirements for naturalization.
- ★ **Expedited application process:** Average application processing time for military members is approximately four months. In urgent situations such as prior to short-notice deployments, the naturalization process can take as little as 48 hours for qualified military members.
- ★ **Application and biometrics fees waived for military members**
- ★ **Naturalization at Basic Training:** Noncitizen enlistees of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines may be eligible to complete the entire naturalization process – application, biometrics, interview, exam and oath – at basic training.
- ★ **Processing and ceremonies overseas:** Military members, their spouses and children may be able to complete the entire naturalization process abroad.
- ★ **Specialized customer service:** A team of USCIS specialists serves military families through dedicated phone and e-mail channels: 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645), [militaryinfo.nsc@dhs.gov](mailto:militaryinfo.nsc@dhs.gov).
- ★ **Posthumous citizenship:** Citizenship may be granted posthumously to service members who served honorably and died as a direct result of a combat-related injury or disease incurred or aggravated by that service. With a grant of posthumous citizenship to a deceased service member, certain immediate family members may be eligible to apply for LPR status or naturalization.

### Helpful Websites:

- ★ USCIS: <https://www.uscis.gov/military>
- ★ Application for Service Members: <http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12-PartI-Chapter5.html>
- ★ Military Help Line: <https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line>

# THE INSIDE WIRE

## TIPS FOR GETTING THE JOB DONE AFTER THE DRILL WEEKEND

As a Reservist, getting work done on drill weekends is easy. The challenge occurs between drill weekends. You don't have access to NMCI computers but still need to share information and documents containing PII.





# TIPS FOR PROTECTING & SECURING

## CONDUCT

business in person



REMOVE attachments  
containing PII



## ENCRYPTION



on all  
email

## GUARD

PII on social media



## QUESTION

suspicious  
PII requests



EMAIL using NMCI  
on Outlook Web  
Access



SHARE files containing PII documents by  
using sharepoint on Navy Reserve Homeport  
or AMRDEC <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/SAFE>



We understand the **challenges** Reservists face in working with PII in a **safe and secure** manner. Knowing the **guidelines**, we are doing everything we can to set that standard in a way that **works best** for our Reservists. Here at NOSC Pearl Harbor that means sharing **safe resources**, reminding everyone about the importance of **encryption** and talking to our Reservists more on the **phone** when dealing with PII.

- CDR Dante Terronez, CO, NOSC Pearl Harbor



▲ An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Dusty Dogs of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7 delivers cargo to the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) during a replenishment at sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jameson E. Lynch)

# Haze, Gray & Underway

Underway training and support onboard  
USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Kearns, Navy Operational Support Center Akron Operational Support Unit 1302

**“Haze gray and underway!” – a common refrain heard around the fleet from seasoned Sailors. And yet, many Reserve Sailors have never seen a ship. In an attempt to help correct this, Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Akron, Ohio, has introduced an innovative program to place Reserve Sailors in an In Assignment Processing (IAP) status with Operational Support Units (OSU) aboard ships for their annual training.**

Developed and implemented by Aerographer’s Mate Master Chief Bruce Kitts, senior enlisted advisor, NOSC Akron OSU 1302, this IAP program is designed to provide real-world training for Sailors in shipboard rates.

“Placing our young Sailors aboard operational platforms is vitally important to becoming a well-rounded Sailor,” Kitts said. “Additionally, there is no better rate training than working with their active duty counterparts.”

On July 30, 2015, the first group of nine IAP Reserve Sailors, from OSU 1302 in a variety of rates, reported aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), the “Ike”, in Norfolk, Virginia, for their annual training. For all but two, it was the first time they had seen a U.S. Navy vessel in person.

“When the van pulled onto the pier to drop us off, our jaws dropped. The sheer size of the ship was overwhelming and honestly, very intimidating,” said Boatswain’s Mate Seaman Patricia Kubek.

Collaboration between NOSC Akron and leadership onboard the Ike was seamless. According to Kitts, “They were happy to have our Reservists onboard, and frankly were pleasantly surprised that we would ask.”

Eisenhower’s Command Master Chief Sheila Langejans spearheaded plans to receive these Reserve Sailors and coordinated with the various departments involved to make the appropriate arrangements.

“Reserve Sailors bring a wide variety of life skills to the table. The opportunity to work side-by-side with shipboard Sailors is enormously rewarding for both parties,” Langejans said. “We are excited about creating a symbiotic relationship between our active duty Sailors and their Reserve counterparts.”

From the very first day, the Ike’s crew made the Reserve Sailors feel welcome. Although, one member of the group, Master-at-Arms Seaman Zachary Tokar was a little apprehensive.

“Going into the annual training, most of us didn’t know what to





▲ Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Mary Pountney, assigned to Navy Operational Support Center Akron, conducts weapons maintenance with her active duty counterpart on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Kearns)

expect. We had heard stories about the food, getting lost and the small racks,” said Tokar. “But mostly, we were worried about the treatment of Reserve Sailors by active duty crew members,” he said.

But it turns out the ship’s company quickly put their Reserve counterparts at ease.

“As soon as we arrived, we were assigned our quarters, got fed and the next morning we met with our departmental LPOs,” said Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Princess Garrett. “We all felt like real Sailors,” Garrett added.

For someone really new to a carrier, the flight deck can be a daunting place. Working almost six stories up is intimidating for a first-time crew member. For two young boatswain’s mates not long out of “A” School – or job training – the experience can be exhilarating.

Kubek and fellow Boatswain’s Mate Seaman Daniel Davis had the chance to work side-by-side with very seasoned deck department personnel.

“The only opportunity we have had to work in our rate was in “A” School. We are both excited to experience daily life and work aboard a carrier,” said Davis.

Over in the Master-at-Arms department, the group’s three MA Sailors participated in an especially wide range of work, taking part in live shooter exercises, standing watch and conducting crowd control drills.

“Right from the start the MA department had a plan for us; they wanted us to succeed,” Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Quierra Brooks said while conducting vehicle inspections.

Commenting on the professionalism of the Eisenhower’s Master-at-Arms department, Tokar said, “Our trainers were poised, confident and very precise.”

Master-at-Arms Seaman Kyle Woods, among others, also trained ashore in nearby Yorktown with small arms live fire qualifications.

Ensuring no Reserve Sailor lost out on the best rate training possible at the time, the ship’s air department assisted in making special arrangements for Naval Aircrewman Mechanical 3rd Class Joel Monts.

Since CVN 69 was pierside during the evolution, none of the squadrons were on board. So, Monts trained with Fleet Logistical Support Squadron 40 in Norfolk, Virginia. In addition to everyday operations, he conducted actual preflight and flight operations

aboard a C-2A Greyhound.

Rounding out the rest of the nine Akron Reserve Sailors, Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Mary Pountney conducted weapons maintenance training, and honed other skills; and this writer, a mass communication specialist who served with the Ike's media department, captured the story and photos for this unique AT opportunity.

In an ideal scenario, many of today's Reserve Sailors annual

training would have the opportunity that Pountney and her fellow IAP/OSU Reserve Sailors had to experience shipboard life, but manpower limitations and available billets make it more challenging. "Active platforms are constantly faced with gaps, so having a Reservist trained and ready to fill in where needed serves the Navy well. Therefore, operational support units represent an enormous pool of untapped resources ready to be utilized," Kitts said.

▼ **Gunner's Mate 1st Class John Brown**, assigned to aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), supervises Master-at-Arms Seaman Kyle Woods, Navy Operational Support Center Akron, as Woods performs a reload behind a barricade while firing at a target during small arms live fire qualifications. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Kearns)






“By all accounts, the time on the Ike was a success,” said Lt. Cmdr. Rick Wiley, officer-in-charge of OSU 1302. “We are going to continue to put our Sailors on active platforms every chance we get.”

More chances appear to lie ahead. According to Kitts, after OSU 1302 developed the IAP program, it caught the attention of Rear Adm. Eric Coy Young, commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) in Norfolk, Virginia.

“We are the litmus test. We developed the program, and the admiral took notice,” Kitts said, adding that he’s already spoken with a CNRFC office about future annual tour opportunities.

Plans are currently underway to put a group on board USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) in fiscal year 2016, and perhaps this time, “Haze gray and underway” is what IAP and OSU Sailors may actually utter as they head out to sea. ○



**“We are going to continue to put our Sailors on active platforms every chance we get.”**

# Purple Heart Ceremony Honoring Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith



▲ Commander, Navy Region South East Reserve Component Command, Capt. Matt Berta (far left) with Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun as she presents a Purple Heart shadow box to Angie Smith, wife of fallen Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith with their three daughters by her side. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class America A. Henry)

By Mass Communications Specialist Seaman Apprentice Magan Strickland, Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga

**J**uly 16, 2015 was a Thursday as any other at Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Chattanooga. Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith reported to work just as any other work day. At approximately 10:00 a.m., the day took a turn when an active shooter rammed a vehicle through the security gate and opened fired, killing four Marines, wounding another, and seriously wounding Smith. He was hit with three bullets which pierced his stomach, colon, liver, and arm. On July 18, after a two-day fight for his life, 26-year old Smith became the fifth fatality in the shooting incident.

After extensive investigations, the July attack was deemed as having been inspired by a foreign terrorist organization, which made Smith, along with five others, eligible to receive the Purple Heart Award which Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said, “he hoped would comfort the families in some way.”

The Purple Heart Ceremony for Smith was held Thursday,

January 14, 2016. Speakers at the ceremony included Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun, Commander, Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component Command, Capt. Matt Berta, Commanding Officer, Navy Operational Support Center Chattanooga, Lt. Cmdr. Timothy White and most importantly Angie Smith, beloved wife of Randall Smith.

January 14, 2016 is a day Angie Smith will remember forever. Not only because it was the day her husband was posthumously awarded the nation’s oldest and one of the most honored military medals, but it was also their wedding anniversary and the day that Randall graduated from Navy boot camp.

Angie, standing tall and strong as always, made a poignant speech during the ceremony bringing tears to all, but at the same time remembering the light-hearted side of Randall. At one point during her speech, Angie commented on a conversation between them where Randall said, “I will always remember January 14.”





▲ A Purple Heart Medal sits on a table before being presented. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class America A. Henry)



▲ Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun hugs Angie Smith, wife of fallen Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Randall Smith, as she approaches the podium to speak to guests in honor of Smith's husband during a ceremony at Fort Oglethorpe City Hall. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class America A. Henry)

**“Although the Purple Heart can never possibly replace this brave Sailor and these brave Marines, it is my hope that as their families and the entire Department of the Navy team continue to mourn their loss, these awards provide some small measure of solace.”**

Angie excitedly asked, “Why, because you married me?”

“No, you big dummy,” he replied. “Because I graduated boot camp.” This is the side of Randall she wants all to remember.

“Although the Purple Heart can never possibly replace this brave Sailor and these brave Marines, it is my hope that as their families and the entire Department of the Navy team continue to mourn their loss, these awards provide some small measure of solace,” Mabus said. “Their heroism and service to our nation will be remembered always.”

Braun said in a statement: “The entire Navy Reserve Force was deeply saddened at the passing of LS2 Randall S. Smith. He was a dedicated Sailor who cared deeply about his family, his community, and his country. His service and, indeed, his life will remain an inspiration for his Shipmates and all who were fortunate enough to have known him.”

The Purple Heart was presented to the Smith’s eldest daughter,

Lyla, with ceremonial medals being presented to all of the Smith girls.

Smith was born April 16, 1989, in Paulding, Ohio. He joined the U.S. Navy in 2010. After graduating boot camp at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, he attended logistics specialist “A” school aboard Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi. Smith then served three years aboard the amphibious assault ship USS WASP (LHD-1) before transferring to NOSC Chattanooga in August 2014 where he was responsible for supporting supply management and operations.

Smith was active in the First Baptist Church of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and enjoyed watching sports and volunteering his time. He was also attending college at Ashford University, where he was working toward a degree in hospital administration.

Smith is survived by his wife, Angie; daughters Lyla, Eila and Kyla; father Tracy Smith and several other family members. ○



▲ Sailors attached to Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic (SURFLANT) Reserve units, as part of their annual training, prepare USS Ramage (DDG 61) for inspection and deployment. (U.S. Navy photo)

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class  
Brian McNeal, NPASE East



**E**ach month Sailors from Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic (SURFLANT) Reserve units perform their weekend drills and annual training aboard SURFLANT ships preparing for inspection and deployment.

In June, nearly 30 Reserve Sailors along with the ship's crew aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61), worked to refurbish and inspect engineering components, weapons systems, and spaces to assist the ship in preparing for its upcoming Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) evaluation.

INSURV is a required inspection conducted on ships approximately every 30 months to ensure the ship is fit to conduct sustained combat operations at sea.

"It's been great integrating the Reserve Sailors aboard the ship," said Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Francis Borg, a native of Scales Mound, Illinois. "I am responsible for the maintenance of all the small arms weapon systems on board and having them here to assist is a big help. It helps a lot more because they really





# *Active-Reserve Integration*

## **SURFLANT Citizen-Sailors' Expertise Prepare Ships for Operations**

know what they are doing. Today alone, they saved me four man-hours in preventative maintenance on 9 mm pistols.”

“We really value the skills the Sailors have both in their civilian jobs and their previous military experience,” said Cmdr. David Ostwind, SURFLANT Detachment commanding officer. “From the time we step aboard a ship, we are prepared to provide operational support. Prior to arrival, we send a list of all the Sailors we are bringing and their skillsets so that the ships’ leadership knows who is coming, and where they can put them to work.”

Many SURFLANT Sailors are known throughout the waterfront for their expertise on a particular system or a piece of machinery, and that great reputation often precedes their arrival.


“One of the Detachment B Sailors is a lathe specialist and he has gotten lathes throughout the waterfront up and running,” said Ostwind. “We have Sailors who work at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren as civilians, and when they come to the ships on drill weekends, that’s free knowledge for the Aegis guys aboard

the ship.”

For Cmdr. Nate Brown, Ramage’s executive officer, the Reserve Sailors are more than just another set of hands.

“People who don’t understand the Reserves need to,” said Brown. “Reservists provide depth and broad ranges of experience and in many cases are serving in some of the hardest jobs in the Navy.”

“Today, for example, we are fortunate to have close to 30 Reserve Sailors aboard Ramage, the day before Father’s Day, serving their country by lending their time, effort, and skillsets to their active duty shipmates in preparation for a major inspection. This experience has allowed Ramage Sailors to witness first hand the patriotism and dedication of our Reserve Force.”

Reserve Sailors interested in serving aboard SURFLANT vessels, and improving their in-rate skills during their two weeks of annual training, are encouraged to contact the SURFLANT Reserve Manpower Coordinator, Senior Chief Boatswain’s Mate Taylor Lane at [taylor.lane@navy.mil](mailto:taylor.lane@navy.mil). 



# Hurricane Rescue

## DODGING MOTHER NATURE

By Lt. Andrew Hryniw, VR-53 Public Affairs

**T**here was a gray mist over Washington, District of Columbia, as the Navy C-130T Hercules lifted its massive wings into the air and started heading south toward Hurricane Joaquin. As the plane climbed in altitude and turned south, the clouds and rain intensified. Dodging the dark clouds and intense rain cells, the crew pressed on toward the Bahamas.

The men and women of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 53, Joint Base Andrews, pride themselves on their ability to work as a team, under intense conditions, and with very little notice. So when word came down that they would be part of a Hurricane Evacuation Mission in the Bahamas with only a 12-hour notice, it was business as usual.

The crew, made up of Selected Reserve and Full-Time Support Sailors, made their way to Fresh Creek, Andros Airfield to evacuate Helicopter Maritime Strike Weapons Detachment and HSC-7 due to an imminent Category 4 hurricane.

The flight to the Bahamas challenged the crew in several ways. The entire east coast was under a massive Nor'easter weather system causing record rain and flooding across the southeast. The airplane had enough fuel to divert around the worst of the Nor'easter, make it to Andros, and divert back to Naval Air Station (NAS) Mayport if necessary. The plan was to get over Florida, then either press on to Andros if the weather was clear enough, or divert into Mayport and wait for a break in the weather. The crew flew through over two hours of instrument meteorological

conditions, rain, turbulence, and icing until they were over northern Florida. Over Jacksonville, the crew requested weather updates for both Andros and Northern Florida, and decided to give Andros a shot.

Fresh Creek Airfield is a "daytime visual meteorological conditions only" airport and has no instrument approaches. The runway is only 4,000 feet long and if there was standing water, the C-130 Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization would prohibit a takeoff due to increased critical field length. Luckily the field was dry enough and the crew pressed with the mission.

"We were able to pick our way through the clouds and outer bands of the Hurricane, get below the clouds at 1,500 feet, then cancel instrument flight rules and find the field," said Lt. Cmdr Derek DeBoer, currently serving as the VR-53 administrative department head. "We overflew the field, and then entered a left downwind. Some water was noted, but no standing water. Winds were 90 degrees off runway heading at 25 knots."

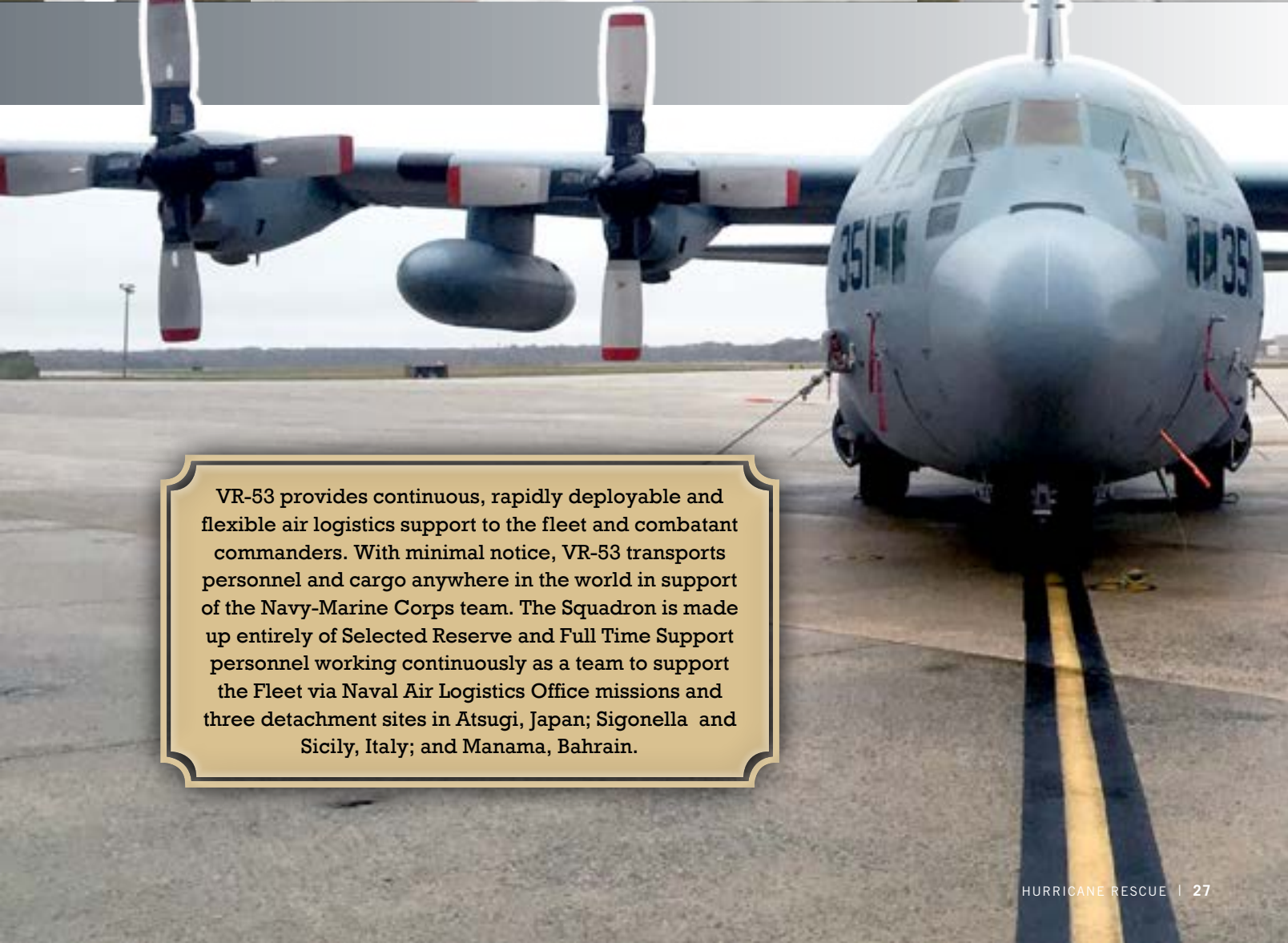
The crew made a safe landing and started loading the plane.

Loaded with 75 passengers and 800 pounds of cargo, the C-130 took off and headed to NAS Mayport. Upon landing at Mayport the crew was notified that Andros Field was closed due to severe weather and a second flight would not be possible. In the days that followed, the crew made two more flights and transported the remaining 14 personnel and 17,545 pounds of cargo off the island. ○





▲ Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Michael Eirls, Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Shawn Lawson, Cmdr. Chris Nash, Lt. Cmdr. Derek DeBoer, and Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Jacob Gouldner. (U.S. Navy photo)



VR-53 provides continuous, rapidly deployable and flexible air logistics support to the fleet and combatant commanders. With minimal notice, VR-53 transports personnel and cargo anywhere in the world in support of the Navy-Marine Corps team. The Squadron is made up entirely of Selected Reserve and Full Time Support personnel working continuously as a team to support the Fleet via Naval Air Logistics Office missions and three detachment sites in Atsugi, Japan; Sigonella and Sicily, Italy; and Manama, Bahrain.



# PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION STANDARD (PQS) FOR NOSC STAFF: WHAT WE ALL NEED TO KNOW

## 1. The PQS standardizes training for Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Staff, improving customer service for Reserve Sailors.

Previously, there had been no training pipeline to prepare new NOSC staff members for jobs and tasks, which often fall outside their military rate. "The lack of knowledge can be seen in the time needed to handle basic functions and also the frustration felt by those trying to complete a task or those looking for help from a NOSC staff member," said Capt. Scott Laedlein, Commander, Reserve Component Command (RCC) – Great Lakes. The NOSC Staff PQS was identified through the CNRF's Strategic Initiative to address these gaps and standardize NOSC operations. "[Selected Reservists] supported by NOSC staff will be the biggest winner as this PQS training will make every NOSC staffer the 'go-to-Sailor,'" said Capt. Shawn Duane, Deputy, Navy Region Southeast, RCC – Jacksonville, Florida.

## 2. All officer and enlisted personnel serving at a NOSC must complete this PQS.

Military staff will receive their assigned watchstations from their supervisors, but will not need to qualify for all watchstations listed in the PQS. Civilians at the NOSC are not required to complete the PQS. However, all are permitted to complete PQS workstations if interested. Even PQS sections that aren't assigned provide good knowledge of how a NOSC operates.

## 3. Individual NOSC Commanding Officers will provide final guidance on how and when to complete the PQS.

Staff members will work with their supervisors to determine which watchstations they must complete and in what order. Estimated timelines for completion of each watchstation are listed in the PQS, however, the final timeline for completion will be set by each NOSC Commanding Officer. Additionally, the PQS can be tailored to better meet the needs of individual NOSC staff.

## 4. To qualify for a watchstation, staff members must demonstrate an understanding of required knowledge and equipment, as well as the ability to complete all tasks.

The NOSC mission "requires our traditional warfighters to exercise greater proficiency in personnel service vice proficiency in combat weapons systems. For those Sailors coming from the Fleet and deployable units, this is really a change in mindset and a change in culture," said Lt. Cmdr. James Griffin, Commanding Officer, NOSC Springfield. This PQS prepares and tests staff members on the basic knowledge and principles needed to support the NOSC mission, and ultimately, the warfighter. Once these building blocks have been adequately demonstrated, staff must apply the skills and perform the duties of the assigned watchstation for final qualification.

## 5. The PQS for NOSC Staff is only one tool to help standardize NOSC operations and improve support to the field.

"This is only a starting point for success. Those Sailors that successfully complete the PQS will have a core understanding of the programs they manage and tasks expected of them," said Cmdr. Aaron Asimakopoulos, Commanding Officer, NOSC Plainville. "It will be a Sailor's individual initiative that sets them apart as providing world class customer service."

### A VARIETY OF RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST STAFF IN COMPLETING THE PQS FOR NOSC STAFF.

- Access the PQS for NOSC Staff and Instruction: Navy Reserve Homeport > Commands > CNRFC N7 > NOSC PQS
- Review the PQS for NOSC Staff QuickGuide for step-by-step instructions on completing the PQS
- Answer common questions through PQS for NOSC Staff training materials
- Review the PQS Unit Coordinators Guide (NAVEDTRA 43100-1K)



# Quikstart Guide:

## COMPLETING THE PQS FOR NOSC STAFF



### 1. Determine requirements for new watchstander role

- Confirm completion requirements with supervisor
- Review prerequisites for your watchstation by turning to the 300 section

### 2. Complete Section 100, Fundamentals

- Identify requirements for Fundamentals
- Complete requirements for Fundamentals in PQS Section 100
  - Know the answers to questions associated with each required fundamental
  - Contact your Qualifier when you master one or more fundamental

### 3. Complete Section 200, Systems

- Identify requirements for Systems
- Complete requirements for Systems in PQS Section 200
  - Contact your Qualifier when you master one or more system
  - Your Qualifier will give you an oral and/or written examination for each section

### 4. Complete Section 300, Watchstations

- Obtain prerequisite signatures
- Demonstrate proficiency
- Perform watchstation tasks for final qualification

### 5. Obtain appropriate signatures for final qualification

- Retain a copy of the PQS Final Qualification page in your training jacket

### 6. Upon transfer to a new NOSC, coordinate with the gaining NOSC CO to determine if the PQS will transfer.



"The PQS helps a Sailor learn the job, and ideally it will help individuals become experts in their field. It will also allow Sailors to easily return to NOSC staff in future tours."

Cmdr. Aaron Asimakopoulos,  
Commanding Officer,  
NOSC Plainville



## **Margaret Miller**

**Reserve Component Command  
Jacksonville**  
*Comptroller*

Margaret Miller has been a dedicated federal servant for 33 of the last 37 years. She began her career in London, England, in 1979. She began working at RCC Jacksonville in 1984, where she worked her way up the ranks to become the comptroller for the Navy Reserve Southeast Region. As the comptroller she is responsible for a budget of over \$350 million, providing resources for mission-essential operations.

When she's not confronting the challenges of managing funds, she spends her free time continuing her service to others. She works for the Contemporary Services Corporation and volunteers at her church and with the Special Olympics.

Margaret is a positive influence for RCC Jacksonville and everyone she encounters. She finds joy every day in interacting with different individuals, helping them to achieve their goals.

A portrait of Margaret Miller, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black and white patterned top with pink accents. The background is a blurred American flag.

**“I love being able to help people by just providing a little bit of encouragement and seeing the joy in their faces when they find out that they can accomplish more than they ever thought was possible.”**



# ***Faces of the Force***



## **Reserve Component Command San Diego**

**Personnel Specialist Chief Petty Officer Dion E. Rayman.** PSC Rayman serves as the manpower LCPO at Reserve Component Command San Diego where he and his team oversee the inspection of manpower programs for 19 NOSCs, affecting 12,000 Selected Reserve members in the Southwest region. He recently reported to RCC San Diego from Commander, U.S. Navy Central Command in Manama, Bahrain, where he was awarded his 3rd Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and his 20 year Naval Reserve Service Medal.



## **Reserve Component Command San Diego**

**Personnel Specialist 1st Class Jumall Priester.** PS1 Priester led his staff of seven in the processing of 60 gains and losses, more than 500 billet transfers, and 21,000 pay transactions totaling more than three million dollars. He led six temporary staff personnel in the review and verification of 1,600 IDT records across 69 units. His professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as Reserve pay and manpower department LPO at NOSC San Diego from January 2015 to December 2015, led to his selection as NOSC San Diego's Sailor of the Year, Fiscal Year 2015.



## **Navy Expeditionary Combat Command**

**Equipment Operator 1st Class Steven Butterhof.** EO1 Butterhof was named the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's Reserve Sailor of the Year, and was among a group of Sailors recognized for various honors during a luncheon at the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command on February 10. EO1 is responsible for more than \$100K for budgets and more than \$1M of equipment. He demonstrated leadership for more than 70 personnel and a client base of more than 100 dispersed across multiple concurrent projects. He also initiated organizational development and establishment of operational procedures for new programs.



## **Reserve Component Command Fort Worth**

**Yeoman 1st Class Brandon W. Herrick.** YN1 Herrick's professional achievement, exemplary leadership and managerial skills resulted in his selection as Sailor of the Year, FY15. As training department LPO, RCC Fort Worth from October 2014 to September 2015, Herrick carried out the region-wide completion of 582 officer leadership courses, 174 motorcycle rider courses, 1,655 new ESAMS account enrollments and 36,814 safety courses.



## **Reserve Component Command Fort Worth**

**Yeoman 2nd Class Jose E. Trevino.** YN2 Trevino's professional achievement, exemplary leadership and managerial skills resulted in his selection as RCC Fort Worth Junior Sailor of the Year, FY15. As command services assistant LPO, RCC Fort Worth, from October 2014 to September 2015, he managed all administrative department programs, processed over 580 action items, revising more than 20 command directives and processing 26 personal awards.



## **Reserve Component Command Jacksonville**

**Culinary Specialist 1st Class Cecil Demdam.** CS1 Demdam was selected as NOSC San Diego's Sailor of the Quarter, Third Quarter, FY15. He is currently serving as training department LPO at NOSC San Diego where he led 69 face-to-face trainings for more than 200 Reserve Sailors, including 46 new Reserve affiliates. His initiative and dedication led to the success of NOSC San Diego's Bystander Intervention to the Fleet training.

# Navy Reserve Force Phone Directory



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(703) 693-5757

## COMMANDER, NAVY RESERVE FORCES COMMAND

(757) 445-8500

## COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE RESERVE

(619) 767-7379

## COMMANDER, INFORMATION DOMINANCE CORPS RESERVE COMMAND

(800) 544-9962

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*MCPON Robert Walker*  
1929-2016



*MCPON Bill Plackett*  
1937-2016