

# The NAVY RESERVIST

Vol. 30, No. 8  
August 2004

*reservists* on the  
front line



# HCS-5

Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadron Five's Command Coin rests among the Navy's Air Medals. The "Firehawks" were awarded more than 50 Air medals for their part in support of Special Forces operating in Iraq in support of Operation *Iraqi Freedom*.



# features

The August issue focuses on our Navy Reservists currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



## IBU-25

Navy Reserve security forces patrol the waters off the coast of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, guarding the strategic port from terrorist attack.

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## SEABEES

Seabees work with Marines in construction efforts to rebuild the infrastructure of the fledgling democracy.

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## IRAQ

From off the Iraqi coast on oil platforms to deep in the desert, Navy Reservists are working daily to assure the people of Iraq stay free.

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## On the Cover



STG1 John Waters, 528th U.S. Navy Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Supply Company, reinforces the "berm" surrounding a 50,000-gallon fuel bladder at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. The Reservists of the 528th have been supplying fuel to the troops since February.

Photo by JO3 J.Hastings/Mclver

## TheNAVY RESERVIST

SUPPORT TO THE FLEET...READY AND FULLY INTEGRATED

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The Navy Reservist seeks action photos of Navy Reservists (minimum 300 dpi digital slides or negatives) that tell a story of Reserve training or support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph to include their respective rate, rank and command. Photos should also include a visual information record identification number or VIRIN. Information about VIRINs is available online at [www.mediacen.navy.mil/vi/virin.htm](http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/vi/virin.htm). Submissions should be received three weeks prior to publication month (i.e. June 10 for the July issue). Material will not be returned.

### NEWS ONLINE

The Navy Reservist and the Navy Reserve News Service [electronic wire service] current and past issues can be accessed online at <http://navalreserve.navy.mil>. Navy Reserve NewsStand, a Web site 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 Reservists with address changes need to provide updates to their database diary entry (via their unit commanding officer) to Full Time Support personnel at local Naval Reserve Activities. Individuals who are not Selected Reservists and need to change their address should mail their request, along with a copy of their mailing label, to The Navy Reservist.

## commander's view



VADM John G. Cotton

It has been a very busy summer for the Navy, in both its active and reserve components! *Summer Pulse '04* has eight Carrier Strike Groups deployed around the world, demonstrating our surge capability in support of the Fleet Response Plan (FRP) and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

Our Sailors continue to perform superbly; about 27 percent of the Navy Reserve Force (over 23,000 SELRES and FTS) are on some type of operational support orders every week. Active Reserve

Integration (ARI) is proving to be effective in every Navy community, capability and at every base or station. We continue to get numerous calls praising our "can do" enthusiasm and attitude. You're making a difference, and they're requesting even more Reserve support. Thanks for leaning forward and supporting the fleet...they're really noticing our efforts. Communication with the supported commands will be critical to the success of ARI, and we know that it will only improve as active component takes charge of reserve component...including requirements, manpower and readiness.

The National Apply Board results were released in mid-July. Congratulations to the many selectees that will lead our Force in the next two years. The competition for billets was once again very tough. We are indeed lucky to have such high-caliber Citizen Sailors dedicating their lives to service. Most Reservists are committing to much more than one weekend a month/two weeks per year, in support of the greatest Navy ever.

We were in Jacksonville, Fla., recently for a town hall meeting. After giving the Navy Reserve Vision brief to several hundred Reservists, the junior Sailor in the audience was asked to come forward and tell us why he serves. ADAN John Muchetti from MMFC at NAS Jacksonville looked sharp, was confident and articulate; he explained he was a Non-Prior Service accession and just wanted to serve his country and help win the war. We asked all the Sailors in the audience (everyone, officer and enlisted...we are all Sailors and have been for 228 years, sailing overseas to win our nation's wars) to stand and recite the "Sailor's Creed." The projector was supposed to show the words on a slide but had unfortunately been shut down during the question and answer session. As I scrambled to find a copy for this non-prior-service Seaman to read, he told all the Sailors that he didn't need a copy, he had it memorized and would recite it from heart. Wow! You could have heard a pin drop with the surprise of everyone. He did a great job and made everyone proud....setting an example for even the most senior Captains in the audience. Do you know it by heart? Excellent words to live by, 24/7/365.

We found out later from CMDM(SW) Jeff Rexford that ADAN Muchetti was the number one grad in NPS Boot Camp and had received the RADM Keith award. Our future is very bright with Sailors like him supporting the fleet and showing us what dedication and spirit is all about! For those in attendance that day, this is yet another great Navy memory that will not soon be forgotten.

In a very moving ceremony, that same day, we were privileged to award 16 Purple Heart medals to the heroes of NMCB-14 at NAS Jacksonville. With several hundred friends, family and military supporters in attendance, RADMj Ray Alexander, Deputy Commander,

First Naval Construction Division, told their deployment story, which demonstrates what Seabee "can do" is all about. Their unit continues to make a difference in Iraq, and these injured and healing heroes have much to be proud of. Thanks to all of their families and the entire Navy Region Southeast Team, active, Reserve, civilian and especially the Ombudsmen, for their continued support.

During a normal workday at Navy Reserve Center Detroit, SK2 Kent Price was surprised to get a phone call from the Pentagon, but he certainly wasn't shy about his joy at coming back to the Navy after 13 years. He is on a four-year recall as an Full Time Support. He's married and has five busy children. Price's mentor is HMC Peter Cornel, and his goal is to make Master Chief someday. FTS PNSA Amanda Tisdale serves at NAR Whidbey Island, Wa.; this is her first tour. She is from Australia and wants to complete college. Tisdale's mentor is PN1 Daniel Texidor. Her favorite Navy memory is of how proud her Dad was at her boot camp graduation. At NRC Honolulu, FTS SKSN Daniel High told us that he followed his family's tradition of serving in the Navy. His father just retired as a YN1 after serving our nation for 20 years. High has served for 2 years. His wife is in the Navy and is a PN2. He says meeting her is his favorite memory...what a family! High wants to work on his college degree and credits much of his success to date to his mentor, SK1 Angel Harrison.

FTS AE1 Jim Bellow from Naval Air Reserve Jacksonville has served since 1988 in several squadrons and at many bases. He fondly remembers flying around Norway in a P-3C "Orion." Married with two children, he says ATC Michael Large mentors him, providing excellent advice and counseling. His goal is to continue his education and get a college degree.

At REDCOM North East, FTS HN Tommy Sanger also followed his family tradition and joined the Navy to see the world. He is leaving the Navy in the fall with hopes of becoming a chiropractor in Seattle. When asked about his mentor, he claims that everyone helps him out, but especially HMC Kimberly Guessner. Also at REDCOM North East, YN1 Stephen Graham, drove us to and from the airport while telling us about his career, family and fun tours aboard USS America and USS Enterprise. During his four years in Millington at the Naval Personnel Command he was selected as the Junior Sailor of the Year. His mentor continues to be retired GMCM Harry Kantrovich. Graham looks forward to following in his mentors footsteps and becoming a Master Chief.

Customer Service - We issued a customer service survey this past Spring to capture force-wide metrics on how our Reservists feel they are being supported by the Navy Reserve. The results have been collated and evaluated, and they will be posted shortly on our Web site. Visit the password protected page <https://reserves.navy.mil/Private/Staff/Centers/Forces+Command/WhatsNew/CustomerService/default.htm> to access results.

Stay busy and focused on support to the fleet, and most of all, travel safely during your summer vacation. We continue to lose too many Sailors to unfortunate accidents that could have been prevented. Plan your trips and fun, and practice the same operational risk management at home that you do at your unit. Communicate with your family members about safety, especially the young drivers. And most of all, remember that alcohol is a major contributor in many vehicular accidents.

**John G. Cotton**  
Chief of Navy Reserve



## sailors matter



**FORMC(AW/NAC)**  
**Thomas W. Mobley**

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.” The last line of the “Sailor’s Creed” helps define our role as Sailors. With all the current changes in the Navy we must be vigilant about our commitment to excellence. Excellence and fair treatment are qualities of good leadership and remains paramount. Leadership, good or bad impacts each Sailor and the treatment we receive from others greatly influences our leadership style. Good leaders teach our core values in positive ways and encourage proper growth.

Commitment to excellence and leadership includes the use of respect at all levels of the chain of command. Professional and personal respect is both important to our Sailors, especially during this time of change.

As the Navy continues its alignment of active and reserve components, we need to ensure we don’t lose sight of the importance of leadership. While we must be concerned with how change will impact each of us personally, we must also continue to mentor those around us to take advantage of the positive energy of change. Our leaders are critical in maintaining every aspect of readiness and the successful accomplishment of our Navy’s mission. Remain committed

to excellence.

Respecting your Sailors includes ensuring that each has the opportunity to learn from your guidance. Listen to your subordinates and treat them each fairly. Leaders must ask the difficult questions in order to counsel our Sailors effectively. In our current high-tempo environment, our Sailors are facing additional challenges, and we have seen an increase in concerns from our Sailors. Take a proactive approach with your Sailors vice a reactive approach. Find creative ways to prepare your Sailors and head off future difficulties. In my travels, Sailors have expressed a variety of concerns arising from demobilization. With a proactive approach, our Sailors will get the assistance they need before the issue becomes too large for them to handle alone.

Many tools are available for each of us to learn how to be better leaders and mentors. As we move into the future, the five Vector Model (5VM) will list specific resources for mentors and leaders. NKO offers some great guides for leadership and mentoring. Each of us has the responsibility to continue to gain more skills to help our Sailors; talk with your own mentors, your supervisors, and other Sailors to learn their personal “best practices” in leadership and mentoring. Your growth and experiences will reflect your commitment to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

**Thomas W. Mobley**  
**Navy Reserve Force Master Chief**

## what’s new

### **NSIPS provides Sailors round-the-clock record access**

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – The Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) is now the single repository for personnel and pay data for all active-duty and Reserve Sailors in the Navy.

Currently being deployed in a Web-enabled version, NSIPS offers Sailors around-the-clock access to their personnel information.

In testing for more than five years, NSIPS has been used by thousands of Navy Reservists to update key personnel information, and by four Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) sites to update pay and personnel information for customers.

The system allows access for shore-based Sailors using an NMCI computer, or any Web-enabled personal computer with a DoD Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificate. For ships that don’t maintain a secure Internet connection, NSIPS provides the ability to send and receive work items, updates and records to and from the main server. NSIPS ensures Sailors’ privacy by using the latest in Secure Socket Layer (SSL) encryption technology.

NSIPS also offers promising future capabilities. In the first quarter of fiscal year ’05, Sailors will be able to use NSIPS self-service functions to verify their personal information in their Electronic Service Record (ESR). Sailors will be able to update their own record for functions, such as mailing address, phone, emergency contact information, race and religion.

NSIPS brings tangible benefits to the Navy, replacing four legacy pay and personnel input systems. Also, as NSIPS is a Web-based system, local personnel sites no longer have to maintain hardware or software for legacy systems. Application updates are completed on

one Web server, eliminating the need to send software updates to the individual personnel processing locations around the world. All PSDs and customer service desks are scheduled to be fully functional on NSIPS by the end of 2004.

Sailors can sign up for self-service access and view their information online in minutes. To request access to NSIPS for the first time, visit <https://npsips.nmci.navy.mil> and complete a System Access Authorization Request (SARR), then click on Existing Users (Self Service).

—LTJG Mike Morley, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

### **Online tool for managing traffic-safety risks now available to Sailors**

NORFOLK – Navy supervisors looking for innovative ways to discuss the risks of driving have access to a new source at the Army Safety Management System (ASMIS), which has just been made available to Navy personnel.

ASMIS is an online, interactive program that guides users through a risk-analysis of a trip they plan to take on the highway. ASMIS is run by the Army Safety Center.

After registering at the ASMIS site, users fill in the details of their planned trip, such as starting point, destination and driving habits. Then they get a tailor-made risk analysis, along with specific guidance about steps to take to lower the risks.

The system also provides a wealth of helpful safety information, covering such topics as fatigue, night driving and road rage. Another screen gives brief narratives of actual mishaps that happened during similar trips.

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## family focus



**Yonna Diggs**  
Force Ombudsman

Meeting the ever-changing needs of the Reserve families can often times be challenging for the Reserve Ombudsman. Support groups are a great resource in building coalitions between the community and the military. People helping people has always been the American way.

Support groups can be in the form of spouses helping spouses or good samaritans in the community that have a desire to help. Have you ever thought about how you can help? Here are some ideas on how to get started:

1. Contact your local Ombudsman to get information on how you can work to assist him/her in supporting the families. Let them know what talents and resources that you have readily available and you would like to share.
2. Talk with others in your community about the needs of military members and their families. Engage your church, private party, retired military community, or civic organization.

Many people are looking for ways they can serve our country and everyone can impact the Department of Defense's mission, by donating their time and talents to help those that risk their lives everyday for our freedom. You could establish:

1. Local Food or Clothing Closets - These types of services help tremendously, during times of crisis. Families could be invited to come in and pick out the items that they need.
2. Alliance of Local Tradesman - Tradesman partnerships could provide help in home or car maintenance and repairs at no cost or discount rates to families of deployed Sailors.
3. Partnership of Businesses - Discuss with the local businesses about how they can assist families with donations of items that would benefit the families

You may have other ideas on how you can help. There are many groups that already exist, so do your homework and do not try to re-invent the wheel.

Fighting the War on Terror is a commitment that must be made by all Americans. By utilizing all our resources as a team, it makes the fight, just a little bit easier.

## families of reservists

Each month "The Navy Reservist" provides a resource guide for the families of our Reservists. In association with the "Family Focus" column by Yonna Diggs, Navy Reserve Force Ombudsman, a listing of Web sites with specific resources for families is offered. Here are three resources to keep handy in supporting our families:

Keeping up to date on the benefits available to mobilized Reservists and their families is a challenge. However, one Web site has combined a variety of resources to enable Reservists and their families to have one location to link to all available benefits. Benefits Information for National Guard and Reserve Personnel is available online at [www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/res\\_guard.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/res_guard.htm) and combines dozens of Web sites with benefits information. There is also an e-mail address provided to address specific questions regarding benefits.

The Department of Defense has a great Web site offering information for military members and their families in preparation for a deployment. Deployment Connections at [www.deploymentconnections.org](http://www.deploymentconnections.org) provides pre-mobilization and pre-deployment checklists for service members and their families as well as links to a wide assortment of support agencies.

Reservists are among those eligible for extensive discounts for vacation rentals through the Armed Forces Vacation Club. Through a partnership with Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the Armed Forces Vacation Club makes timeshare accommodations from around the world available to military members on a space available basis at greatly reduced prices. To review available accommodations and review the rules regarding use of these facilities, go to [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com).

If you know of specific Web sites that are useful for Navy Reserve families, e-mail them to "The Navy Reservist" at [nvresfor\\_tnr@navy.mil](mailto:nvresfor_tnr@navy.mil).



Photo by PH2 Chad J. McNeeley

An Aviation Boatswain's Mate prepares to rig an arresting gear wire in preparation for early morning flight quarters aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The aircraft carrier with embarked Carrier Air Wing One (CVW-11) is underway in the South Atlantic Ocean circumnavigating South America on her way to her new homeport of San Diego, Calif.

## Naval Reserve Response to Civilian Employment Information Survey Gaining Momentum

WASHINGTON D.C.—Almost 20 percent of the Naval Reserve Force has responded to the mandatory Reserve component Civilian Employer Information (CEI) survey.

According to LCDR Melanie Kreckovsky, chief of Navy Reserve's assistant for manpower policy, as of July 1 2004, 11,314 Navy Reservists provided their data to the Department of Defense-wide system designed to capture and understand who employs the 1.2 million members of the seven Reserve components.

CEI requires Guard and Reserve members to register information about their civilian employer and job skills in order for the Department of Defense (DoD) to meet three different requirements defined in law.

The DoD is required to give consideration to civilian employment necessary to maintain national health, safety and interest when considering members for recall, ensure members with critical civilian skills are not retained in numbers beyond those needed for those skills and inform employers about the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA).

"Participation in the CEI program is mandatory for all Naval Reservists," said Kreckovsky. "A member of the Ready Reserve who knowingly fails or refuses to provide required employer-related information may be subject to administrative action."

**SELRES** - Navy Selected Reservists will enter their employer data at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil>.

**IRR** - Navy Individual Ready Reserve can begin entering their employer data on a new Defense Manpower Data Center Web site, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>

## a look back



40 years ago

**1964** - This was the year the Aviation Reserve Officer Candidate program was established, offering naval aviator training to college students, provided they were at least 17 years of age.



20 years ago

**1984** - Fourteen Seabees from Naval Reserve Mobile Construction Battalions 16 and 17 participated in a special 17-day training exercise in Peru. They worked with the Peruvian navy to clear and repair storm damage at a base in Callao.



10 years ago

**1994** - To provide Reserve air crews with the best possible training, VFA-305 hosted Lobo Flag '94, a Naval Air Reserve Carrier Air Wing 30 exercise designed to create realistic air combat scenarios.

## what's new

A key feature is that the system sends a copy of the risk analysis to the user's supervisor, so that both people can discuss risks and plans, and figure out ways to reduce the risks.

Users can get to ASMS via the Army Safety Center's home page at <https://safety.army.mil>. Clicking on the banner near the top center of the page that says "Register and log in today ARAS RMIS ASMS-1" and "Click here to sign-in to our Web-based tools" presents an option of two buttons. The button on the right is for users who aren't Army and who don't have an Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account.

—Derek Nelson, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

### "USA Cares" helps military families in financial need

WASHINGTON – Deployments can put unexpected financial hardships on military families – sky-high telephone bills, unanticipated travel costs, loss of income for Guardsmen and Reservists called to active duty for extended periods are among them.

USA Cares, a nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers, is committed to helping families who've run into financial troubles while their family member serves the country.

Farrah Overman, one of the group's volunteers, said the help provided runs the gamut, from advice about where to go for assistance to outright payments for housing, food, vehicle repairs or other necessities.

For a military wife whose husband was wounded in Iraq, USA Cares paid for a round-trip plane fare so she could be by his side

during surgery in Germany – something the military couldn't do because his injuries weren't life threatening. The group paid for another military wife's hotel room while her husband was being treated for inoperable cancer diagnosed while he was on a National Guard deployment. Before USA Cares stepped in to help, the wife had spent three nights sleeping in her car in the hospital parking lot.

And for another National Guard soldier, a truck driver in civilian life, USA Cares helped stop foreclosure on his truck after his unit was deployed in support of the war on terror.

USA Cares helps direct families to military and other charitable organizations or corporate sponsors looking for ways to support American troops, Overman said. Sometimes the group acts as an intermediary, getting landlords or bill collectors to agree to reduce payments during the deployment or helping the family get a loan to cover expenses. USA Cares has 10 outstanding requests from needy military families that it hopes to support as funding becomes available, she said.

For more information, call (800) 773-0387 or visit the organization's Web site at [www.usacares.us](http://www.usacares.us).

—Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service



JO2 Jason Trevett

Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

**F**UJAIRAH, United Arab Emirates – Inshore Boat Unit 25 (IBU-25), a mobilized Navy Reserve unit based in Annapolis, Md., maintains a constant vigil against terrorism.

The command, comprised of more than 70 Sailors, patrols the waters in 27-foot patrol craft to prevent attacks from small boats, sub-surface threats and swimmers, and provides seaward force protection to high-value assets, according to LCDR Charles J. Shivery, the unit's commanding officer.

Crews attached to IBU-25 often perform 12-hour watches out at sea and inside of the Port of Fujairah, guarding U.S. Navy ships, Military Sealift Command supply ships, U.S.-flagged cargo ships and coalition warships as they enter and exit this strategic Middle Eastern port.

Mobilized Jan. 20 of this year SBU-25 and took over the operational

currently deployed.

"We have a job to do here, and most of us are seasoned personnel," said senior enlisted advisor ENC(SW) David Wheeler from Baltimore, Md. "In the Naval Reserve, you have to be ready for any kind of mission and expect change, no matter what kind of unit you're attached to."

IBU-25 has three boat detachments, each with five crews, a patrol leader and watch officer. The watch officer operates much like the officer of the deck on a ship and is the direct representative of the commanding officer on the water.

"Every patrol has a patrol leader, and he gives directions to each of the coxswains in terms of tactical placement of the boats based on the threat axis," said watch officer BMC Drew Thomas from Glen Burnie, Md. "I sometimes board the vessel at sea as they come into port, as the command and control officer. I come aboard and welcome the ship's captain to Fujairah, and find out his intentions for the port visit. Then I jot down any logistics questions the captain may have, and inform him

## Navy Reserve security forces defend Middle East port

about the liberty and security policies here."

Each boat operates with a minimum three-person crew: one coxswain and two gunners, with one of the gunners also acting as an engineer. The coxswain is overall in charge of the craft and the safety of the crew.

"I like being a boat captain. It's what I have always wanted to do in the Navy," said BM2 Timothy J. Shepke Jr. from Pasadena, Md. "Sometimes, we really take a beating out here when the seas are high. It takes a lot of commitment to be out here and stay focused on your job. For the most part, there's not a whole lot to worry about, but not paying

attention for only a split second or two could mean the difference between life and death."

One of the biggest challenges for the crew is keeping all six of its boats operational.

"The knowledge levels of the Sailors here is really high," said maintenance chief, ENC Michael Hontz from New Tripoli, Pa. "We rely on the supply personnel a lot to find some of the parts that are not readily available to us."

The command uses 27-foot patrol boats and two 32-foot Kingston patrol boats outfitted with Mark 19 50 cal., and M-60 machine gun mounts.

"Running operations all the time at sea is not kind to the boats," said IBU-25 support officer LCDR James McCartney from Washington, D.C. "Our staff is amazing with the maintenance and repair of the boats and making it all work. The people here make it all so much easier."

Since its four-month stay in Fujairah, IBU-25 has completed more than 120 successful missions protecting U.S. and coalition assets. ♦



Photo by JO2 Jason Trevett

Crew members assigned to Inshore Boat Unit 25 (IBU-25) patrol the waters off of Fujairah UAE. The crew is assigned to Inshore Boat Unit 25 (IBU-25), home ported in Annapolis, Md. The unit mobilized with more than 70 Navy Reservists to provide anti-terrorism and force protection to Military Sealift Command ships and coalition warships operating in the region.

mission as U.S. Naval Security Force Fujairah from Naval Security Force Bahrain Feb. 13.

"We are the largest naval presence in Fujairah, and we are in a unique position here," said LT Robert C. Millington from Bristow, Va., IBU-25's executive officer.

The port of Fujairah, with its large bunkering capacity and strategic location along the southern approaches to the Strait of Hormuz, is a vital transit point for ships. What makes the IBU-25 mission in Fujairah unique, according to Shivery, is that it is a commissioned reserve unit and the only reserve element of Naval Coastal Warfare Group Two



Photo by PH2 Eric Powell

U.S. Navy Seabee, Tactical Movement Team (TMT) member, BUCN Christopher Roberts, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 (NMCB-74), keeps a watchful eye on traffic around one of construction project sites in Central Iraq.

## Seabees work as an integrated team

JOC Siegfried Bruner

First Marine Expeditionary Force Engineer Group Public Affairs

**C**AMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Navy Seabees have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Currently, more than 450 Reserve Seabees are mobilized for these operations – about 40 percent of the Seabees deployed in this area of operations. Naval Construction Forces rely heavily upon Reserve personnel because they are a force multiplier; they support the operational tempo for their active-duty counterparts, bringing additional traits and experience to the deployed environment.

In the Al Anbar province of Iraq, major elements of two battalions, one active duty and one Reserve, work in conjunction with a command element, the First Marine Expeditionary Force Engineer Group (I MEG). Both of these battalions, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 (NMCB-74) and NMCB-14, operate in different areas but the scope and type of work they perform are similar. "The only difference in the nature of the work performed by these two battalions is dictated by the location of their work sites and specific project requirements," said CAPT Mark Kistner, I MEG chief of staff.

CDR Lewis Hurst, I MEG operations officer, said Reservists are doing the exact same jobs as their active-duty counterparts.

"If I have work to be done, it is going to the unit at that location, no questions," Hurst said. "As the operations officer, I can't afford to treat anyone different – it's all about mission accomplishment, and they get the same great jobs the active [duty] personnel get."

There are some differences between the active-duty and Reserve personnel, though, Kistner and Hurst agree. Procedural issues, such as which forms to fill out and what instructions to refer to, tend to be a little more elusive for Reservists. However, Reservists also tend to have more experience in a trade because of their related civilian work experience. "Individuals can be more capable.

Many are journeymen in their trades; they've been doing this [kind of work] for 10 to 20 years. They are older, and there's a maturity factor," said Kistner.

Reservists also possess skills that might be unrelated to their rating or military function, Hurst added. "One of the first things I do when I know that we are getting assigned Reservists is to ask for a listing of their civilian occupations. You can't imagine how often (Seabees) get asked to do special projects that require skills that we don't even have in our battalions. They come to the Seabees because we are a 'Can Do!' organization and they understand that we are going to find a way to

current operations creates an opportunity to include Reservists. "If you're going to have a Reserve element to rely on, you have to use them," Kistner said. "If you only use them for the worst-case scenario, are you truly preparing them? Are you missing out on using an effective resource?"

In fact, at I MEG, Reservists are integral to the command element here, performing in various positions and at various levels. "I would say you would be hard pressed to come into our organization and determine who is a Reservist or active (duty)," Hurst said. "From our command master chief and our communications officer to our petty officer of

**“As the operations officer, I can't afford to treat anyone different – it's all about mission accomplishment and they get the same great jobs the active [duty] personnel get”**

make it happen. I often utilize the reservists to make that 'Seabee Magic,' whether it is finding someone who knows how to evaluate a specialized piece of equipment or develop a computer program. It's likely that someone will have the knowledge," he said.

One downside to mobilizing large numbers of Reservists for an operation, Hurst explained, is the need to allow adequate time for Reservists to prepare their families and employers for the change, and to prepare for a fast-paced operational environment. Additionally, necessary training for an operation is included in the mobilization.

"We also have specific training for the Tactics/Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) specific to the area [to which] they are deploying. We generally do this and all the other mobilization requirements over a one to two month period," said Hurst.

Seabees are ideally organized and employed to incorporate Reservists. Kistner explained the ground-campaign nature of

the watch, all Reservists."

Seabees are currently involved in OIF in a variety of ways in support of the I MEF. They provide force protection construction and civil-military operations, which include the clearing of rubble and rebuilding of infrastructure. The MEG's officer in charge of construction has managed and/or awarded more than \$100 million in contracts for rebuilding and improving water treatment plants, city infrastructure, roads and various other structures (soccer stadiums, schools, hospitals, etc.) to improve stability and quality of life for the Iraqi people. These contracts, in turn, provide employment for hundreds of Iraqis.

Seabees are also providing training to young Iraqis, through an innovative program called Iraqi Construction Apprentice Program (ICAP), which teaches them construction skills that they can bring back to their communities to foster self-sufficiency and a more prosperous future. ♦



A photograph of a long line of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters parked on a dirt airstrip. The helicopters are in a row, receding into the distance. The foreground is a dusty, brown ground. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text 'reservists on the front line' is overlaid on the top half of the image. 'reservists' is in orange, 'on the' is in small white text, and 'front line' is in large white text.

# reservists on the front line

UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters line an airstrip at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. The Blackhawk is a highly versatile craft, capable of hauling cargo and passengers or flying combat missions.







duty station: **IRAQ****oil platform****Reservists Stand Guard Over Iraqi Oil Terminal****JO3 J. Hastings McIver***Commander, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs*

**K**HAWR AL AMAYA OIL TERMINAL, Northern Persian Gulf – Deep in the waters of the Persian Gulf, the future of the Iraqi economy stands lonely upon concrete pillars.

It is the Khawr al Amaya oil terminal (KAAOT), the site of a terrorist attack that took the lives of two Sailors and one Coast Guardsman assigned to USS Firebolt (PC-10).

Navy Reservists mobilized from Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 104 (MIUW-104) stand guard over the terminal, alongside a contingent of Marines from the Interim Marine Corps Security Force Company, Bahrain.

These Sailors and Marines work side by side with a group of Iraqi oil workers and security forces, into whose care the platform will eventually be turned over.

These forces are sentries ensuring nothing like the Firebolt attack of Apr. 24 happens again. They guard not only the lives of their fellow service members, but also the means by which the Iraqi people will rebuild their economy in the months and years to come.

Located about 100 miles north of Umm Qasr, Iraq's main port,

Sailors live and work on an attached floating barge, which is also quite run down. But they make it work.

"The first few days we were very, very conscious of every hazard around here," said Walters. "Now, we know where the bumps are; we know what things not to step on. It just becomes second nature."

AT2 Michael De los Reyes is a Reservist from San Jose, Calif. He volunteered to take part in the liberation of Iraq and arrived on the platform just days after the Firebolt attack. He has been working with the Iraqis onboard the platform to make the situation more livable.

"It's been kind of fun and exciting out here. We've been able to think outside the box and make things work to accomplish the mission," said De los Reyes.

For months after they arrived at KAAOT, they had no showers and no toilets, and did their laundry by hand and hung it on clotheslines.

"The berthing areas we were assigned to were in poor shape," said De los Reyes. "We put a lot of elbow grease and time in to fix them up. We've actually worked well and coordinated some things with the platform manager."

According to De los Reyes, the Iraqi crew has installed air conditioning

**"Things are changing, and hopefully becoming better"**

KAAOT represents billions of dollars in future oil revenues for the young democracy. The terminal was shut down briefly after the April assault.

OS1 Mike Walters, from Phoenix, Ariz., is a Reservist living and working aboard KAAOT. He said the Firebolt attack brought the reality of the situation into focus.

"From a Navy standpoint, and to me personally, it really helped us to understand that this is real," said Walters. "When you're further away from it, you hear the stories about what's going on in Baghdad and Fallujah and other places, but you don't really get to feel it. The Firebolt attack brought it home."

Walters said he understands the sacrifice the fallen Sailors made for their country.

"Those guys did what they were trained to do, and unfortunately they lost their lives, and some others were injured, and you never want to see that happen, but they saved the platform. At the end of the day, that's what we're all here for," said Walters.

The oil platform is 45 years old, and in a terrible state of disrepair. It was attacked heavily during the Iran/Iraq war of the 1980s and during Operation Desert Storm.

units in most of the crew spaces. De los Reyes has worked tirelessly with the Iraqi electrician in order to improve living conditions.

"Now the berthing areas here are actually pretty nice," said De los Reyes. "They look almost like a stateroom you'd find back on a ship."

From the Combat Information Center (CIC), the Reservists operate a radar system, camera systems and standard bridge-to-bridge communications. The CIC consists of a single 10-by-10 room in a four-story building aboard the barge serving as their barracks. They keep a close eye on all boat traffic in the area, while the Coast Guard patrols aggressively about the waters.

In recent months, coalition forces have instituted new policies regarding boat traffic in the waters surrounding Iraqi oil platforms. Only vessels with proper authorization may enter the 2000-meter "exclusion zone," and any vessel that enters that two-kilometer radius without contacting coalition maritime forces may be either destroyed or disabled.

Iraqi citizens realize their livelihood depends on the safety of the Gulf. To insure this, they sometimes report information about suspicious or dangerous crafts.

"We receive a lot of reports from the local fishermen that there are



Photo by JO3 J. Hastings Mciver

AT2 Michael Del Los Reyes, Navy Reservist and member of Naval Coastal Warfare Group ONE, stands high atop the berthing spaces of the Khawr al Amaya oil terminal, an Iraqi oil platform. He and four other Reservists live and work on the platform alongside both Marines and Iraqi contractors, and are charged with surveillance of the surrounding waters and the protection of the platform from enemy attack. Repairs to the platform, the main structure of which was built in 1961, are still underway, so luxuries such as laundry and shower facilities are not yet available.

**“It’s hard for people back home to believe, but it’s true. There are pirates out here. And not only that, but we’ve also seen other crafts in the area coming close by and taking surveillance of the platform. So we know that there are bad guys out there, and we just don’t take anything for granted.”**

smugglers and pirates in the area,” said De los Reyes. “It’s hard for people back home to believe, but it’s true. There are pirates out here. And not only that, but we’ve also seen other crafts in the area coming close by and taking surveillance of the platform. So we know that there are bad guys out there, and we just don’t take anything for granted.”

Reservists have integrated themselves seamlessly into a dangerous and difficult situation, working alongside both Marines and Iraqi security forces to safeguard the future of the Iraqi people. They’ve even begun to see the difference their efforts are making.

“A few of the terminal workers are actually ex-soldiers who fought in Saddam’s army,” said De los Reyes. “Speaking to these guys and understanding the type of lifestyle they had to live due to the rule they lived under, and then seeing them now that life is improving for them, makes this all seem pretty important. We can see how the Iraqi economy is very key right now. As long as it becomes successful, life will get better for these people in general. The gratitude is there, and understandably so.”

Walters has also noticed the impact he and his fellow Reservists have made. “Things are changing, and hopefully becoming better. These oil platforms are going to drive the economy in the future, and ultimately the success of protecting these platforms, I think, makes the entire war effort a success,” said Walters. “In my 13 years in the Navy this is hands-down the most unique and exciting mission I’ve ever been involved in. No doubt about it.” ❖







“  
These oil platforms  
are going to drive the  
economy in the future  
”

EN2 Robert Looney and EN2 Joe Pearson stand watch on the North end of Al Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT). The Petty Officers arrived with Navy Mobile Security Force Detachment 21, June 5 to relieve Interim Marine Corps Security Force Bahrain. The Marines had been aboard ABOT and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) since an attempted insurgent attack on the terminals, April 24. Coalition forces captured both terminals during the first phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year. Since ABOT reopened in July 2003, and KAAOT in February of this year, they have pumped more than 450 million barrels of oil to more than 280 tankers, resulting in more than 11 billion dollars in revenue for the Iraqi people.



duty station: **IRAQ**



Photo by JO3 J. Hastings /McIver

An empty fuel bladder, or "bag," shimmers in the midday sun. The bag has a 50,000-gallon capacity and is surrounded by 5-foot walls, which will contain the fuel if the bag is ruptured.

## fuel farm

### Keeping the Troops Moving



Photo by JO3 J. Hastings /McIver

EO2 Jamie Ruman "dresses up the wall" surrounding a fuel "bag." The walls, or "berms," surrounding the 50,000-gallon bags are built up to a height of about five feet. If the bag ruptures, the wall will contain 110 percent of the bag's contents, allowing for any "wave action" that may accompany the rupture.

#### JO3 J. Hastings McIver

Commander, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs

**C**AMP ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq - Without fuel, convoys could not travel. Convoys are the life's blood of the effort in the Middle East - the means by which personnel enter the battlefield and return from it.

The 528th U.S. Navy Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants Supply Company (528th USN POL) at Camp Anaconda is making sure convoys move.

Eighty Reservists from the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF) make up the 528th USN POL, and they tend the 50,000-gallon fuel bladders at what has been dubbed the "Bag Farm." It's their job to ensure the bags are properly maintained, the fuel berms (dirt walls surrounding the bags) are solid, and the up-to-100 vehicles needing fuel daily are filled.

They also repair and replace bags and berms when the fuel farm takes mortar or rocket fire.

"We do anything and everything necessary to keep the flow of fuel going to the Coalition Forces," said STG1 John Waters.

Waters and the 528th have been in Iraq since February, and he

said his family, friends and coworkers in the States have been incredibly supportive. He added that the members of his team have made working in such a stressful environment a little easier.

ABF1 Gerard Moore is the project foreman at the fuel farm. He, too, said camaraderie takes the edge off the unfortunate reality of living and working in a war zone. According to Moore, there are some positive aspects involved with the work he and the 528th are doing.

"It's an adventure," said Moore, "getting to see and know a different culture. We see the good that we're doing here, other than what the news media reports. These people now have water and electricity."

Of course, home is a long way away, and there's always some homesickness involved with any deployment.

"It's the small things that you miss," Moore said. "The things you normally take for granted are the things you miss the most."

No matter what the odds, or how dangerous the conditions might be, the 528th is pumping vitality into the vehicles that make the liberation of Iraq possible. They play an integral role in the grand scheme, and have stepped up to that role with strength and determination. They are a prime example of this nation's proud Navy Reserve. ♦

# skunk werks

## Sailors' Ingenuity Protects Our Troops

**JO3 J. Hastings McIver**

*Commander, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs*

**C**AMP ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – In the seething heat of the Iraqi desert, convoys traverse the shimmering sands to accomplish a range of missions.

Whether it's bringing necessary supplies to troops in the field or moving personnel from one hot spot to another, enemy fire is a constant reality, and protecting the lives of service members is often a matter of sheer ingenuity.

Enter the metal smiths of Camp Anaconda's "Skunk Werks," an armory born more of necessity than of tactical planning. With the large number of troops needed in the field, these highly resourceful service members at Anaconda have devised a system of up-arming five-tons, Light-Medium Tactical Vehicles, and High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs, or "Humvees"), thereby rendering them veritable fortresses on wheels.

Hull Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Michael Summers, a member of the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force, is one of two Navy Reservists assigned to the Skunk Werks. Summers, who has gained welding experience as an HT, has put his knowledge to work in the least likely of places: Deep in the desert, at Camp Anaconda, Balad, just 50 miles northwest of Baghdad. In the open-air building that serves as their welding shop, these Sailors are working closely with Soldiers, Airmen and Iraqi nationals, building gun boxes and reinforcing vehicles, all in the interest of saving lives.

To produce armor tough enough to withstand Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), small arms fire, and landmines, the Skunk Werks uses quarter-inch steel plates, as well as a Swedish-made material called Armox, which is a high-carbon armor plate that is both lightweight and extremely difficult to penetrate. The Armox has already proven its worth on numerous occasions, especially when brought face-to-face with the blast produced by IEDs and landmines, some of the most insidious of the terrorists' weapons.

Summers described one such instance as he held a picture of a nearly destroyed Humvee in the Iraqi desert. Also in the photo were two medics, tending to a wounded Soldier. "This is one of the boxes that we did; it's a four-door Humvee with a small box," said Summers. "It hit a landmine. The crew compartment was OK because we put steel plating underneath and in the front. It blew the rear tire off and the gun box went twenty feet in the air. It pretty much totaled the Humvee, and the Sailor broke his ankle, but everybody survived.

"This was the fourth confirmed save we've had until yesterday, when that guy came in and shook my hand."

"That guy" was the Skunk Werks' fifth confirmed save. He stopped by the Skunk Werks with a small souvenir: a mashed and flattened Iraqi bullet. He wanted to thank the team for their ingenuity. "He showed me where the bullet penetrated the Armox. The angle iron we put in stopped the bullet," said Summers. "He had it in his wallet. It would have entered right about at his appendix, and it would have done some serious damage. He just wanted to shake my hand and see if we could do any other work for any of his other guys."

This is just one example of Navy Reservists doing their part to aid the effort in the Middle East, and emerging as heroes in the face of all adversity. Even in such foreboding conditions, the skills these men and women have gained through their experiences as Reservists have proved invaluable tools in the Global War on Terrorism. ♦

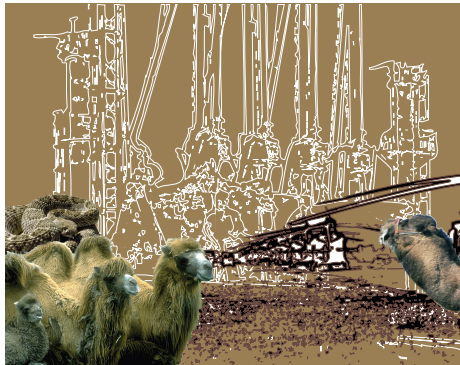


Photo by JO3 J.Hastings McIver

HT2 Summers, a member of Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force, welds the seam connecting the base of a gun box to its walls at Camp Anaconda's Skunk Werks. Welding while in the confines of a gun box can be dangerous in the raging heat of the Iraqi desert, as the compounded heat of the sun and the torch can send temperatures rocketing up to 180 degrees.



## duty station: **ī R a Q**



# **mach team 1**

## Bridging the "Last Mile"



Photo by JO3 J.Hastings McIver

**JO3 J. Hastings McIver**  
Commander, Naval Reserve Force  
Public Affairs

**KUWAIT CITY  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT, Kuwait**  
- It's the last leg of the journey that matters most. That holds especially true when the journey ends with service members on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism receiving essential supplies.

That's where the members of Mobile Air Cargo Handling Team 1 (MACH Team 1) have proven themselves

and then moved along by whomever happened to be working the airstrip. It was this process, or lack thereof, that left \$30 million worth of equipment missing after Operation Desert Storm. Though the missing equipment was, for the most part, eventually recovered, it was clear that something needed to be done.

"We saw a critical gap in supply chain management," said Coleman. "That gap has been filled by Naval Reservists."

Because of the efforts of those Reservists, the time it takes to move fundamental cargo through the "Last Mile" has gone from 12 days down to six. That's quite an improvement, to say the least.

SK2 John E. Larson is a member of MACH Team 1. He said that working with service members from other branches of the military can be difficult, but the end goal is the same, regardless. "Every branch has its own customs, but we're getting used to how each of them does things," said Larson. "We take all the cargo, and we send it all up."

At 33, Larson is already a father of four. He said that communication with his wife and children is limited, but available. Of course, he's not the only member of the team with family back home. MACH Team 1's membership also includes four single mothers and seven grandmothers, all of them very capable Sailors.

SK2 John E. Larson (top), Navy Reservist and member of Mobile Air Cargo Handling (MACH) Team ONE, works with Marine Corps Cpl. Hampton McMillian of the 4th Land Supply Battalion, Charlie Company, in the 100-degree-plus evening heat to prepare crates of ice cream for shipment to the 3rd Marine Air Wing in Al Asad, Iraq. MACH Team ONE is comprised of about 25 Navy Reservists from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 11 out of Omaha, Ne., and is tasked with aiding the Marine Corps in the transportation of supplies through the last leg of the journey, also known as the "Last Mile," from the U.S. to service members in Iraq.

indispensable. They spend their days on the runways of Kuwait City International Airport (KCIA) ensuring that cargo destined for troops in Iraq finds its way to its proper destination. This final distance, from touchdown in Kuwait to delivery in Iraq, has been dubbed the "Last Mile." It was, at one point, considered notoriously difficult to negotiate. That changed with the advent of the MACH Team.

MACH Team 1 is comprised of 21 Reservists from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 14 Air Cargo Company, based in Omaha, Neb., which is a division of the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF). They work in conjunction with a variety of other service members to, as they put it, "push parts and track shipments." Those shipments include such vital supplies as food, ammunition and aircraft parts.

According to Marine Corps Col. Richard Coleman, the work done by MACH Team 1 was, until recently, not assigned to any particular group. That meant that crates of cargo were being delivered to KCIA

"The best we can do for the troops right now is support them in any way we can," said SK2 Lisa Matson, expressing her pride in the team and the job they're doing. She is the single mother of two, the second youngest member of the MACH Team, and a crucial link in the war-fighting chain.

MACH Team 1 is out in the desert sun day after day, working on tarmac that can register temperatures upwards of 140 degrees in the summer. They make sure the troops have what they need, no matter what the conditions. They've even had mortar rounds land 20 yards from where they were working, and still they press on.

Coleman said the MACH Team project has come together brilliantly, with Navy Reservists serving as its backbone. "We saw a need, we submitted the request, and now I just can't say enough good things about NAVELSF," said Coleman. "None of this would have been possible without them." ♦

## redcom round-up



AT3 Cassie Gibson guides a AN/AQS-14 mine detection submersible unit back onto its cradle on the ramp of an MH-53 Sea Dragon assigned to the "Black-hawks" of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron One Five (HM-15), a Navy Reserve squadron from Corpus Christi, Texas, during mine hunting missions as part a bilateral exercise with a country in the 5th Fleet theater. The exercise tested a number of warfare areas, include mine counter measures, anti-air, surface and submarine, electronic and explosive ordinance disposal.

Photo by PH1 Bart A. Bauer



### REDCOM Southeast

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – RADM Kenneth C. Belisle recently retired ending a 37-year Naval career. Belisle most recently served as Commander, Navy Reserve Readiness Command Southeast. A 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Belisle is a commercial pilot in his civilian capacity.

- JO2 Jennifer Valdivia, REDCOM Southeast Public Affairs



### REDCOM Southwest

SAN DIEGO – USS McClusky (FFG 41), a Navy Reserve Force ship, recently returned to homeport following a six-month deployment. McClusky supported the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force in the eastern Pacific, which included counter-drug operations in the Caribbean, and Central and South America. McClusky conducted five successful drug seizures, preventing the trafficking of almost eight tons of narcotics by sea.

-Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

POINT MUGU, Calif. – AW1(AW/NAC) Robert Ziegler from Patrol Squadron 65 (VP-65) recently competed with the Navy's Southwest Regional team in the Armed Forces Triathlon. Ziegler, who is a Full Time Support Reservist, finds time to compete in triathlons as often as he can. Since his first race in 1986, he has participated in dozens of triathlons all over California.

- JO2 Auburn Hutton, NAR Point Mugu Public Affairs



### REDCOM Mid-West

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – Reservists at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center (NMCRC) Battle Creek recently honored 89-year-old Mary Jo McMorow for her service in World War II. McMorow served in the WAVES in World War II and

later with the Secret Service as a communications and intelligence petty officer during the Korean War. She has been an outspoken advocate and role model for women in the military. NMCRC Battle Creek provided a formal ceremony to present McMorow with her World War II Victory medal and her National Defense medal.

- LCDR T.R. Shaw, NMCRC Battle Creek Public Affairs Officer

DETROIT – The Navy Reserve and active duty are joining forces in a new recruiting advertising campaign. The Detroit-based advertising firm of Campbell-Ewald is taking the lead in advertising for the right individuals ready to accept the challenge of serving in the Navy and the Navy Reserve. Recently the advertising firm surveyed Reservists at Naval Reserve Center Detroit to gain an understanding about what Reservists want to get out about their service in an advertising campaign. The latest advertising weapons in the arsenal will unleash a retooled television campaign with four commercials, five radio ads and numerous print ads.

- JO2 Barrie Barber, Naval Reserve Center Detroit



### REDCOM South

FORT WORTH, Texas – NAS JRB Fort Worth honored Korean War veterans recently in a symposium sponsored by Commander Seventh Fleet Detachment 111 (C7F 111). Six Korean War veterans shared their experiences

with Reservists serving as an inspiration to those who carry on the tradition of American service on the Korean peninsula. The honored Korean War veterans reminded Seventh Fleet Reservists that the compassion and goodwill of American servicemen has won over the Korean people.

-ENS Kasey S. Pipes and ENS Michael Street, NIB 111





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#### Navy Reserve Profile of the Month

**Name:** Eleasha Gray

**Rank:** LT

**Rating:** Neonatal Nurse

"In addition to all the leadership skills that I have gained, there's also the extra training and a lot of exposure to new technologies and procedures. These are all things that I wouldn't have normally experienced if I wasn't in the Navy Reserve."