

TNR

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES N



RESERVE SAILOR OF THE YEAR



SAN DIEGO (June 7, 2023) A California sea lion with the U.S. Marine Mammal Program performs a demonstration as part of Navy Employer Recognition Event (NERE). NERE is a professional recognition event for outstanding civilian employers of Navy Reserve Sailors that have demonstrated exceptional support for their citizen-Sailor employees above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. NERE also provides selected civilian employers of Navy Reserve Sailors with a first-hand look at the capabilities, roles, and missions of the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Cover photo by MCC Elisandro Diaz

TNR STAFF

Cmdr. Robert Myers
Force Public Affairs Officer
Editor in Chief

Lt. Chelsea D. Cannaday
Deputy Force Public Affairs Officer
Senior Editor

MCC Scott M. Wichmann
Managing Editor
Art Director

MC1 Jacob D. Bergh
Associate Art Director / Editor
Layout and Design

MC1 Raymond E. Maddocks
Contributing Staff

MC2 Tyra M. Campbell
Contributing Staff

LEADERSHIP

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin
Chief of Navy Reserve
Commander, Navy Reserve Force

Rear Adm. Mike Steffen
Deputy Commander, Navy Reserve Force
Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command

Rear Adm. Bradley Dunham
Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve
Deputy Commander, Naval Air Forces

Rear Adm. Greg Emery
Commander, Naval Information Force Reserve
Deputy Commander, Naval Information Forces



TNR

THE NAVY RESERVIST VOLUME 2023 | ISSUE 3



TNR tells the story of the U.S. Navy Reserve through articles, news and photos showcasing the contributions of Navy Reserve Sailors delivering real-world capabilities and expertise in support of the Navy mission. Find more news and information at www.navyreserve.navy.mil



8 RSOY 2022

By: CNRFC Public Affairs

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, announced Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class (IW/EXW) Lewis McClintock as the 2022 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY).



12 BALTOPS 2023

By: LT Swain

Navy Reserve Sailors from across the nation supported U.S. Sixth Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO during exercise Baltic Operations in Estonia, Germany, Poland and the Baltic Sea.



18 NERE 2023

By: CNRFC Public Affairs

68 civilian employers and guests representing 35 companies from across the nation were recognized for their exceptional support of Navy Reserve Sailors during the Navy Reserve's annual NERE 2023.



21 Seabee Can-Do

By: MCC Okula

Reserve Seabees partnered with the Southwest Indian Foundation (SWIF), employing various construction disciplines during the construction of new homes for training and community outreach.



28 First Female GCMC

By: MCI Mullinax

Reserve Master Chief Gunner's Mate Jessica Harrison became the first woman to achieve the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer in the Gunner's Mate rating at a ceremony in Washington D.C.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 FROM THE TOP
- 4 BLUF: NP2, NSIPS & A2WP
- 6 AROUND THE FORCE
- 14 PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

This is an authorized quarterly Department of Defense publication for members of the DoD. Contents of "The Navy Reservist" (TNR) are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the U.S. Navy. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command public affairs office. Provide all feedback and questions to our new email, CNRF_PAO@us.navy.mil.

SUBMISSIONS: TNR is always looking for submissions that display the work Navy Reserve Sailors are doing around the force. To submit a photo or story, email us at our new address CNRF_PAO@us.navy.mil. Instructions and submission criteria will be provided to help guide your entry.

ARCHIVE AND NEWS: Current and past issues of TNR are available at: www.navyreserve.navy.mil. Follow the Navy Reserve on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram. Additional Navy Reserve news can be found on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CNRF>.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TNR: Selected Reserve and Training and Administration of the Reserve Sailors can opt-in/opt-out of receiving TNR by entering requests at: <https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/locker/TNRSubscription> (CAC required). For the general public and those who do not have CAC enabled access, annual subscriptions are available. Send your name and address to our new email CNRF_PAO@us.navy.mil (NOTE: subscriptions for current non-DOD members will require an annual renewal; they do not automatically update).

TNR Magazine, COMNAVRESFORCOM (NOOP)
1915 Forrestal Drive, Norfolk, VA 23551-4615
(757) 445-8500

SHIPMATES,

On the morning of 19, April 1775, American Colonists assembled on Lexington Green in Massachusetts to face soldiers of the British Empire in the first conflict of what would become the Revolutionary War. On that date, we took our first step in becoming an independent nation. But that battle also marked the beginning of what would ultimately become an enduring concept in our American culture: the Citizen Soldier.

This concept, that of an ordinary citizen who also serves as a professional Soldier, would naturally extend to those who serve at sea and, eventually, in the air. 140 years after that battle in Lexington, the Navy would fully embrace this ideal and establish the Navy Reserve prior to our nation's entry into World War 1 in 1915. We have proudly served in every conflict since.

In the last century, we have witnessed incredible advances in our ships, our weapons systems, and our tactics. Through these advancements, one thing has remain steadfast – the character of our service, service that is bound by our enduring ideals of Honor, Courage and Commitment. The American Sailor, the Citizen Sailor, is a living embodiment of our legacy... and our future.

You, our Citizen Sailors, are what makes us who we are. I have often said that you are the beating heart of the Reserve Force, and each of you give the Navy our asymmetric advantage over our adversaries. This was true in the Revolutionary war and it remains so to this day.

Together, we are making a generational transformation of the Navy Reserve as we redesign our Force to be more lethal and agile – ready to respond to the demands of a rapidly changing, complex world. Force Hunt and I understand this challenge and we are, at every echelon, redesigning the way we work to be more responsive to your needs.

Specifically, we are improving how we empower and reward performance and advancement by providing opportunities to Sailors who are below zone, by launching the TAR In-Service procurement program, and employing the Advancement to Warfighting Position (A2WP) program, which was just implemented a few weeks ago.

We are making tough decisions and divesting from lower-priority capabilities to underwrite new, more future-relevant capabilities. Specifically, we have divested non-warfighting capabilities to support growth in 2,205 new billets while re-aligning an additional 3,128 billets within the force to improve alignment to CNO's strategic guidance and Fleet Commander's priorities.

We are persistently seeking new and better ways to help you achieve that delicate balance between your family, work, and the Navy. Much of this is by leveraging and better utilizing technology and pushing through a digital transformation, streamlining your connection to your unit, networks and warfighting communities. This will provide you greater flexibility to lock on and stay engaged with your Reserve responsibilities in ways that are tailored to your individual situation. A perfect example of this is the deployment of the Nautilus Virtual Desktop, which is a game-changing capability allowing you to log in to your Navy Reserve workstation, virtually and without a CAC. We have been asking for this for a long time – and now we have it!

AMERICAN SAILOR, CITIZEN SAILOR, LEGACY OF SERVICE.



"[RESERVE SAILORS] DO MORE THAN THE ACTIVE NAVY REALIZES. THEY DO MORE THAN CONGRESS APPRECIATES. THEY DO A LOT. BUT THE NAVY RESERVE HAS THE CAPACITY TO DO MORE."

As you dive into this issue of TNR, I'll leave you with a parting thought from Vice Admiral Robert F. Dunn, who not only served as the Chief of the Navy Reserve, but was also the Chief of Navy Personnel, commanded a carrier air wing, and flew 255 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam when he said this in 1984:

"They (Reserve Sailors) do more than the active Navy realizes. They do more than Congress appreciates. They do a lot. But the Navy Reserve has the capacity to do more. The typical reservist is a patriot. Many are prior service veterans who have elected to pursue a [different] career pattern than their active duty contemporaries, yet are no less dedicated, no less skillful, and no less than other Sailors. The vast majority are true volunteers. They give up their weekends and, very often, much more time in order to drill. They often forego vacations to perform annual training. They face the displeasure of their full-time employers for spending so much time on Navy business. They are Navy through and through. Reservists are an experienced resource anxious and willing to put in the hard work in preparing the Navy to be ready to fight and win at sea".

I AGREE. NOW, LET'S GET BUSY.



[Signature]
Vice Adm. John B. Mustin
 Chief of Navy Reserve
 Commander, Navy Reserve Force

NFRI ENABLES SUSTAINABLE WORK-LIFE BALANCES.



"THE WELFARE OF EACH SAILOR IS IMPORTANT TO VICE ADM. MUSTIN AND ME. THOSE OF US WEARING THE NATION'S CLOTH OPERATE IN A DYNAMIC AND CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT."

I want to start by recognizing and congratulating our Reserve Sailor of the Year and the finalists for Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year for 2022:

- CTR1 (IW/EXW) Lewis McClintock, Reserve Sailor of the Year
- BM1 (EXW) Scott Graham
- RP1 (SCW) Michael Pornovets
- MA1 Jose Rivera
- HM1 (FMF) Daniel Vetan

Another rock star in our Force who I wish to recognize is YN1 (SW/DV) Camron Phillips, Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command, Norfolk. As a TAR Sailor, he was selected for the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year.

I also want to recognize the respective families, civilian employers, and command leadership who supported their Sailor achieving this important and unique milestone. Each one of these Sailors and indeed all of our Sailors serve the nation because of the support they have back home.



[Signature]
Master Chief Petty Officer Tracy Hunt
 Navy Reserve 17th Force Master Chief

As these Sailors underscore, striving for excellence is a habit, a conscientious effort to do one's best in whatever task we undertake. It is accomplishing a series of small objectives that add up to big goals, all in alignment with our North Star of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

As our finalists demonstrate through their diligent goal-setting and accomplishments, there are many opportunities in the Navy Reserve in education, training and professional development. As each of us has learned since joining the Force, each Sailor is a leader and a big part of leadership is continuous personal growth and development, not unlike how RSOY Sailors have performed throughout their careers. There are many resources available to us in the Reserve Force to help you continually develop your intellectual and leadership capabilities. Your chain of command, command career counselors, and others are ready and prepared to support you. Take advantage of these opportunities.

Speaking of excellence, I want to congratulate those Sailors selected for chief petty officer. You embody the sustained effort to get to this important milestone in the life of a Navy enlisted Sailor, unique in the Armed Forces. You understand what it took to get here and now, more is expected of you. Lead well, Shipmates.

When it comes to opportunities, let's look at areas that have a big impact on your advancement capability: Evaluation completion and continuity – no gaps – and completing the Professional Military Knowledge Eligibility Exam (PMK-EE). Maintain your career and your career maintains you. It's a good idea to review your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and goals with a knowledgeable mentor as we finish out the fiscal year.

As always, the welfare of each Sailor is important to Vice Adm. Mustin and me. Those of us wearing the nation's cloth operate in a dynamic and challenging environment. As we have discussed before but merits repeating, are the initiatives and programs under the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions fourth line of effort, Develop the Force, that address quality of life issues, available now to Sailors and their families. Let's make sure that we develop a sustainable work-life balance. Take care of yourselves and look out for one another.

In summary, I hope you enjoyed some well-deserved time with family and friends during the warm summer days. Each one of you is cherished and important to your families, your employers, the nation and to the Navy Reserve Force. Maintain a safety mindset and come back refreshed and ready to finish out the fiscal year strong.

Thank you and your families for your dedication to the nation, and, as always,

KEEP PUSHING FORWARD SHIPMATES!

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

NP2 & NSIPS

Effective April 30, 2023, the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) and Navy Personnel and Pay (NP2) URLs have changed. Ensure you bookmark the new addresses.

<https://www.nsips.cloud.navy.mil>

<https://np2.cloud.navy.mil>



BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

A2WP

ADVANCE TO WARFIGHTING POSITIONS

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR E-4 and E-5 NAVY RESERVE SAILORS. NAVADMIN 160/23 announces the rollout of the Advancement to Warfighting Positions (A2WP) Program.

Advancement eligible E-4 and E-5 SELRES Sailors who volunteer for critical mobilization requirements, and are selected, will be advanced to the higher pay grade upon reporting to their ultimate duty station in accordance with their mobilization orders.

For details, refer to the full text of NAVADMIN 160/23



AROUND THE FORCE

CNR VISITS U.S. FOURTH FLEET

LOCATION: MAYPORT, FLA.

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, visits with Active, TAR and SELRES Sailors from U.S. Fourth Fleet during his senior leadership engagement visit April 21, 2023. U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/ U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command's joint and combined military operations by employing maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.



THE GLOBAL REACH OF VR-59

LOCATION: FORT WORTH, TX

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 59, or "The Lone Star Express" (CFLSW), who are headquartered at NAS JRB Fort Worth are one of eleven CFLSW logistics squadrons across the United States comprised of both full-time TAR and SELRES Sailors. CFLSW and the Navy Air Logistics Office (NALO), are responsible for logistics planning for the CFLSW squadrons and remain the Navy's only source of dedicated air logistics, providing critical support around the globe with the K/C-130T Hercules and C-40A Clipper.



HSC-85 FIREHAWKS CHANGE OF COMMAND

LOCATION: CORONADO, CA

Cmdr. Kyle Johnson was relieved by Cmdr. Nick Ryan as commanding officer (CO) of the "Firehawks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85 in a ceremony in the squadron's hangar on Naval Base Coronado, California, May 12. HSC-85 supports special operations forces training and readiness as well as operational needs throughout the world.



AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE

FIRST DEPLOYED C-40A CLIPPER RECONFIG.

LOCATION: ATSUGI, JAPAN

Sailors assigned to the "Conquistadors" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 57 achieved a major logistics milestone, completing the first-ever deployed C-40A Clipper reconfiguration while on a forward-deployed detachment at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi, Japan with assistance from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), May 17. VR-57 provides responsive, flexible, and rapidly deployable C-40 Clipper aircraft to the fleet and combatant commanders worldwide.



AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE

...OUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE

AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE

AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE AROUND THE FORCE

AROUND THE

AROUND THE FORCE



Story: USNR Public Affairs
Photos: MCC Elisadro Diaz

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, announced Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class (IW/EXW) Lewis McClintock as the 2022 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY), May 19, 2023. McClintock, from San Diego, is assigned to Navy Reserve, Commander, Tenth Fleet, NIOCHI NIC (Commander, Naval Information Forces Reserve) was selected from five finalists as the fiscal year 2022's top Reserve enlisted Sailor during a ceremony inside the National Museum of the United States Navy located at the Navy Yard, Washington, DC.

As a result of his selection, McClintock will be recommended to the Chief of Naval Personnel for meritorious advancement to the rank of chief petty officer per OPNAVINST 1700.10P, Navy Sailor of the Year Program.

The announcement was the culmination of the 2022 RSOY week held in Washington, D.C., from May 15 to 19, 2023.

The additional 2022 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year finalists were:

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (EXW) Scott Graham
Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Eight,
from Seekonk, Mass.

Religious Specialist 1st Class (SCW) Michael Pornovets
Commander, Naval Surface Force,
from Biloxi, Miss.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Jose Rivera
Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center,
from West Palm Beach, Fla.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Daniel Vetan
4th Medical Battalion,
from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



Ceremony hosts Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force and Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Tracy L. Hunt (SW/EXW/AW) were joined by mistress of ceremony and 2021 RSOY, Chief Yeoman Jasmyn Phinizy and Chief Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Kody Sims, 2020 RSOY. During his remarks, Mustin recognized Phinizy and Sims for their accomplishments and example of leadership and thanked staff and partners of the event.

Leading up to the ceremony, a team of senior enlisted leaders chaired by Hunt conducted a rigorous selection process and ultimately made the recommendation for the finalist to Mustin.

According to Hunt, the choice was no easy task and a precursor to additional leadership responsibilities for the finalists.

“There was zero, zero daylight between these Shipmates. It was a very tough decision and each one of them is anchor-ready, and will be a welcome addition to the Chief Petty Officers Mess,” said Hunt. “They are ready to lead from the front, ready to provide the guidance and leadership our Sailors need to face the challenges ahead. Each one of them should be proud of their service to our nation and dedication to our Navy. Each one should be proud of what you have accomplished and what you represent. You represent the thousands of Sailors who are standing the watch right now protecting our country, you represent the civilian employers, your communities, your commands and your families.”

Hunt also recognized the first TAR Sailor selected Shore Sailor of the Year, Yeoman 1st Class (ESW/ND) Camron Phillips, who was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Vice Adm. Mustin during the event.

Following his remarks, Hunt introduced Mustin, who started by recognizing the members of the selection board.

“Through their due diligence, they pared down this amazing group of candidates from 12,000 Sailors to five...to determine with a high degree of confidence using quantitative, objective, defensible, analytical, rigor to ensure that we have selected the absolute best of the very best. Now onto our spectacular finalists. This is certainly a momentous day for the five of you. A proud day certainly. You have worked hard. You have overcome many obstacles. Your careers to-date are all eye-watering exemplary. The fact that you are here today to celebrate this moment is a notable achievement in itself, and regardless of the results we are going to announce in a moment, you're all winners,” said Mustin.

“ YOU REPRESENT THE THOUSANDS OF SAILORS WHO ARE STANDING THE WATCH RIGHT NOW AND PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY. ”

“ IT WAS A VERY TOUGH DECISION AND EACH ONE OF THEM IS ANCHOR-READY AND WILL BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS' MESS. ”



“We have over 12,000 First Class Petty Officers in the Navy Reserve Force. A very rigorous process that I just mentioned narrowed that field down to five and today, ultimately, to one. And although there’s going to be a single selection announced this morning, all of you have distinguished yourselves from thousands of other Reserve Sailors, each of whom are doing great work...in every theater around the globe...24/7...365 days a year. Your achievements exemplify the best our Reserve Force has to offer...and exactly what our fleet commanders demand from us: talented, capable, dedicated, warfighting-ready Sailors with a clear-eyed resolve to compete, deter, and win today. Regardless of today’s results, all of our finalists are going to continue to do great things for our Force and for our Navy. I take great comfort in knowing that these aggressive Sailors are going to be part of the leadership of the Navy Reserve in the critical decade that lies ahead. Whether they’re wearing khakis immediately next year or the year after, they are going to continue to thrive, they are going to dedicate and contribute to the urgent generational transformation that’s driving the Force right now. I take great pride personally in serving alongside every one of you,” said Mustin.

After the announcement, McClintock talked about his gratitude to family, to God and to “congratulate this extraordinarily talented group of finalists. It’s my pleasure to meet you...and to my backbone, my fiancée who I have the pleasure of marrying this Sunday. I can’t wait to get back home to share this with you.”

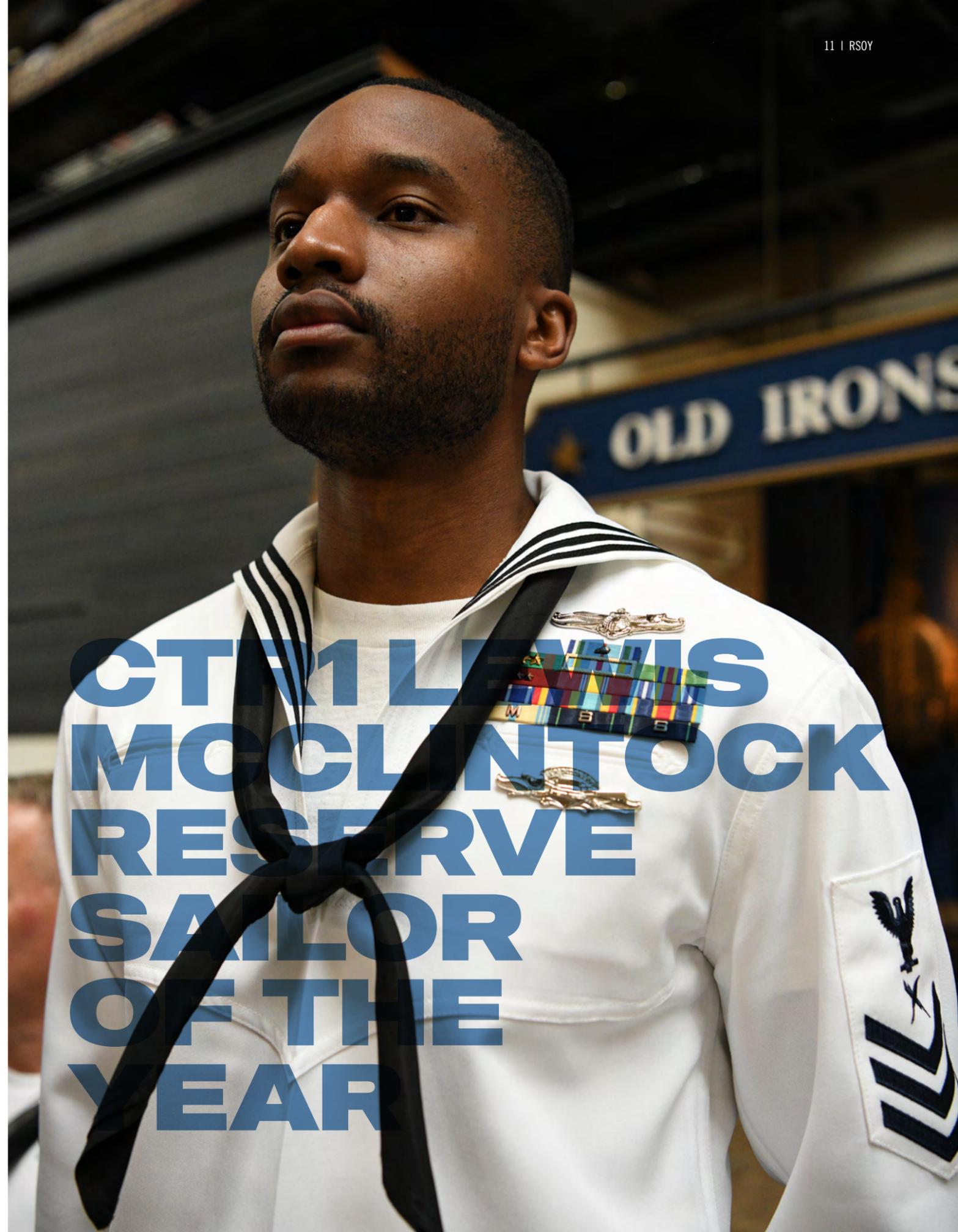
”

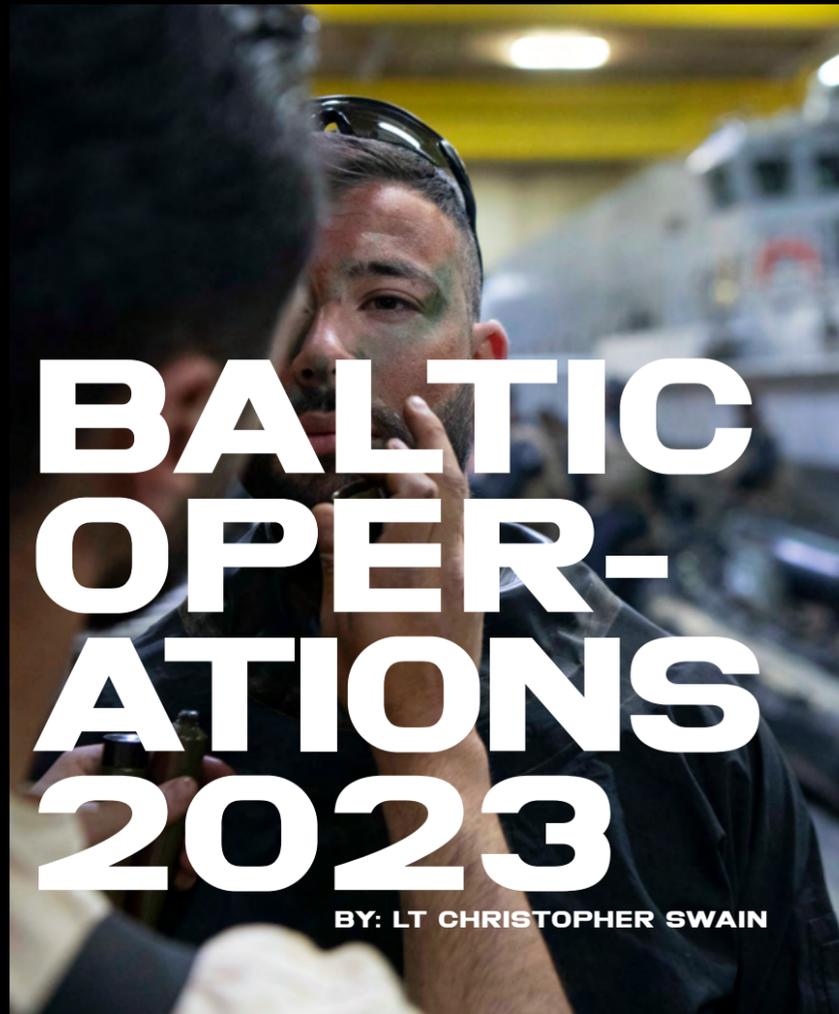
I TAKE GREAT PRIDE PERSONALLY IN SERVING ALONGSIDE EVERY ONE OF YOU.

“

And he recognized the impact of others helping him be successful. “I am only a man who is a reflection of all these people. I couldn’t have done this without any of you as each of you have instilled tools in me that allow me to seemingly make the impossible, possible,” said McClintock.

Late Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jack Whittet initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The program was later expanded to honor the top Shore and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.





Navy Reserve Sailors from across the nation supported U.S. Sixth Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO) during exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 23) in Estonia, Germany, Poland and the Baltic Sea, June 4-16. Approximately 20 reservists provided operational, administrative and instrumental support to surface and expeditionary Navy units as they worked alongside 19 NATO Allies and one partner nation throughout the exercise.

BALTOPS, which began in 1972, is an annual exercise visibly demonstrating NATO's commitment to preserving regional peace and security by exercising a team of international forces that can rapidly respond in a time of crisis.

The premier maritime-focused annual exercise in the Baltic Region, BALTOPS provides a unique training opportunity to strengthen the combined response capability critical to preserving the freedom of navigation and security in the Baltic Sea.

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Fink, a reservist from Dayton, Ohio, assigned to Navy Reserve Public Affairs Support Element (NRNPASE) West, came to BALTOPS 23 with the mission of highlighting the strategic partnership and interoperability between NATO Allies in the mine countermeasures community through photo, video and graphic products. He said BALTOPS 23 was his first annual training exercise, and working with the fleet again helped to reinvigorate his motivation to serve.



“Being a part of a clearly defined mission, working with fellow reserve MCs and being able to see a new part of the world has been very special to me,” said Fink, a civilian public affairs specialist for the Air Force. “This is the most connected I have felt in the Navy since transitioning from active component a year ago.”

Reservists often help one another by providing feedback and after-action reports for whoever will fill their shoes for the mission or exercise in the coming years. Yeoman 2nd Class Mary Alheim, a reservist from Oak Park, Illinois, assigned to NRC Great Lakes, spent BALTOPS 23 supporting the administrative staff at STRIKFORNATO by mustering the ships at sea and checking reports for accuracy. The special education teacher said she has used this experience to think of ways to improve Navy reservists’ imprint in BALTOPS 24.

“For exercises like BALTOPS, since NATO is involved, knowing the mission is especially important,” said Alheim. “If I could do it again, I would do more research on what the mission was to have the language to communicate with active component more effectively.” Nineteen NATO nations, one NATO partner nation, 50 ships, more than 45 aircraft, and 6,000 personnel participated in BALTOPS 23.

Though Finland has long participated in BALTOPS as a critical

partner, BALTOPS 23 marked the first incorporation of Finland as a NATO Ally. BALTOPS remains an alliance proving ground, and is vital for honing the leading edge of combined interoperability in mine countermeasures, unmanned surface vehicle operations, and integrated maritime and air operations.

While the exercise is led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet, it is command-and-controlled by Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, headquartered in Oeiras, Portugal.

For over 80 years, NAVEUR-NAVAF forged strategic relationships with our Allies and Partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. SIXTHFLT is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.

STRIKFORNATO, headquartered in Oeiras, Portugal, is Supreme Allied Commander Europe’s (SACEUR) premier, rapidly deployable and flexible, maritime power projection Headquarters, capable of planning and executing full spectrum joint maritime operations.

VANESSA ORDONEZ



RANK	MA1
LOCATION	NEW MEXICO
COMMAND	NRC EL PASO
CIVILIAN CAREER	CHIEF OF POLICE

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Vanessa Ordoñez is the type of person who always has a plan and an unwavering commitment to public service. She has successfully integrated her military service with her civilian profession to enhance both.

Ordoñez is a Navy Reserve Center (NRC) El Paso Sailor, who also serves as Chief of Police for the Anthony Police Department (APD) in Anthony, New Mexico.

She joined the Navy in 2001 after graduating from Onate high school in her hometown, Las Cruces, New Mexico, where she participated in the Navy JROTC program.

She served the first six years of her Navy career on active duty.

“I started off as an undesignated airman and I was a plane captain for my squadron,” Ordoñez explained.

As a plane captain, Ordoñez was responsible for servicing aircraft and assisting pilots in maneuvering the aircraft on the ground, using hand or light signals.

In 2004, Ordoñez struck into the personnel specialist (PS) rating. Her job was to maintain Sailors’ electronic service records, manage their career information, and assist with personnel transfers, separations and retirements.

She completed her initial enlistment in 2007 at the rank of petty officer 3rd class (E-4). At that time, Ordoñez decided to get out of the Navy because she wanted to apply the degree she’d earned to a civilian profession.

“IT'S A VERY DEMANDING JOB, BUT I LOVE IT.”

Once discharged, Ordoñez attended and graduated from the police academy in New Mexico.

“The great thing about it is not only was I able to apply the academic knowledge I had gained in the Navy to my profession as a police officer, but many of the skills, operational experiences and discipline I learned were extremely valuable as well,” said Ordoñez.

She worked her way up through the police force ranks, and also continued her education. In 2010, Ordoñez earned a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice, and in 2019, the mayor of Anthony, New Mexico appointed Ordoñez as the APD chief of police.

“It’s a very demanding job but I love it because I really do enjoy helping people,” said Ordoñez. “I’m responsible for leading the police officers of the APD. I make sure all of our training requirements are met. I oversee our operations and the management of our budget, and I ensure our staff has the necessary tools they need to succeed”

Ordoñez explained that she takes great pride in the fact during her tenure as police chief, the city of Anthony has been ranked one of the top 10 safest cities in all of New Mexico.

“To me, that says we are doing something right in the realm of public safety and protecting the well-being of our citizens,” said Ordoñez.

Ordoñez is now back in New Mexico leading the police officers of the APD in keeping the city of Anthony safe.

When asked, how she is able to balance her careers as chief of police and a Navy Reserve Sailor, Ordoñez replied, “I want people to know they can accomplish whatever they want. All you have to do is apply yourself and manage your time wisely. I’m very proud to be a part of two organizations committed to the greater good, and I hope I am setting a positive example for my daughter and others around me.”

BRENDA SOLANO



RANK	PS3
LOCATION	VIRGINIA
COMMAND	CNRFC
CIVILIAN CAREER	N/A

If you were to see Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Brenda Solano operate in her role as a pay and personnel specialist at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command you may mistake her for someone much more senior. During her time at CNRFC, she performed at a level much higher than her paygrade which paid off in March 2023 when she was meritoriously advanced to petty officer 3rd class.

“When I got promoted I was shocked, I finally felt like I was being rewarded for everything I’ve learned, it felt good,” said Solano.

According to Solano, one of the reasons for her success is the nature of her work at CNRFC.

“Between the active and reserve servicemembers here I feel like I’ve had a lot of experience with different parts of the job,” said Solano. “I think between my workload and being able to observe other people in my department work I’ve been exposed to a lot of different pay and personnel processes.”

Solano also attributed her success to great mentors.

“I’ve had a couple great mentors during my time here, but Chief Williams [LCPO], especially, guided and mentored me while he was here,” said Solano. “He would call me over to his desk all the time when he was working and show me how to do different processes I hadn’t done before.”

Another thing that allows Solano to thrive is her desire to help the Sailors that come to her with administrative issues.

“COLLEGE ISN'T CHEAP, SO I DECIDED TO ENLIST FIRST AND USE TA TO GET MY DEGREE.”

“My favorite part about this job is the people,” said Solano. “When a member comes to me with an issue and they’re like ‘Oh my gosh I’m so stressed, I need help getting this fixed’ and I’m able to help them it’s a great feeling. Having pay or personnel issues can be really stressful, and being part of alleviating that stress is very fulfilling.”

While Solano is looking forward to growing and advancing in her rate, she also has her eye on achieving her main goal: becoming a Navy nurse.

“I wanted to be a Navy nurse even before I joined,” said Solano. “But college isn’t cheap, so I decided to enlist first and use TA [tuition assistance] to get my degree.”

Her motivation to become a nurse is very personal.

“When I was 14 my grandma died of cancer, and I felt like I couldn’t do anything to help her,” said Solano. “That made me want to learn how to make people feel better. With nursing you are there to help people, but you also get to be there more as a friend, more than a doctor would, and I want to be there for people in that way.”

She has been working toward this goal ever since high school when she had the opportunity to take classes on medical terminology, pharmacology, and even had the opportunity to qualify as a patient care technician.

In fact, she was so motivated to get started that she began her post-secondary educational journey this year, despite not qualifying for TA.

“You have to be in for three years to use TA, but I didn’t want to wait so I decided to use financial aid and scholarships to get started until I get to three years,” said Solano. “But once I qualify for TA I’ll start using it.”

Whether she is helping Sailors solve pay and personnel issues or working towards achieving her goal of being able to help people when they’re feeling their worst, PS3 Solano will continue to excel in any role.

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

Story: MC1 RAYMOND MADDOCKS

BRYAN NEELY



RANK	LT
LOCATION	NASHVILLE
COMMAND	SEAL TEAM 17
CIVILIAN CAREER	RISE IT UP FOUNDER/CEO

During Lt. Bryan Neely's transition from the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) to commissioned naval officer, he knew he wanted to be a part of the special warfare community.

Unfortunately, he learned his red-green color vision deficiency medically disqualified him from going into that field, so when the time came to choose another community, he decided on the supply corps. In his spare time, he channeled his passion for fitness and his trauma from previous life experiences into obstacle course racing, where he competes at the highest level in the world.

"I wasn't really initially excited about being a SUPPO [Supply Officer]; then I found out what SUPPOs do," said Neely. "Knowing what I know now, Supply, to me, is one of the best communities."

Neely's first tour aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) was full of challenges, all of which he met head on.

When Neely reported, he found out he would be the ship's only supply officer. Normally, a destroyer would have a first-tour ensign as the assistant supply officer, and a more seasoned lieutenant as the department head.

"There was a time when I first got to the ship where I was the only SUPPO there," said Neely. "I remember being a 22-year-old kid, fresh out of college feeling a little overwhelmed, but I thought to myself, 'I have 46 people looking up to me; there's no time for excuses.'"

"I HAVE 46 PEOPLE LOOKING UP TO ME; NO TIME FOR EXCUSES."

At that time, the ship was in the middle of training and certifying for deployment, as well as completing a ship-wide material condition inspection known as Mid-Cycle Inspection (MCI). Halsey then completed a 7-month deployment as part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, with missions spanning the South China Sea and the Arabian Gulf. Neely used this time to earn his Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer (SWSCO) qualification.

During his first tour, Neely said that, although it was challenging, he became a better supply officer and leader.

"I learned a lot of lessons during my time on the Halsey," said Neely. "Things like the importance of following up with people, and how and when to properly delegate. I also gained a lot of experience in my field."

Now, Neely is ready to bring that experience to the Reserve side of the Navy. He is currently transitioning to his first Navy Reserve unit, a special warfare command.

"I'm really looking forward to working with the special operations community," said Neely. "I am the kind of person to just get the job done, and I don't make excuses. I'm excited for the chance to work with other Sailors like that. They're the best warfighters in the world."

Neely stated, not only has the Navy Reserve given him a unique opportunity to finally work with and support the special warfare community, but it has also allowed him to explore more opportunities in the civilian world.

"I have a lot of goals I want to achieve on the civilian side, and by transitioning to the Navy Reserve, I have a lot more opportunity to work toward achieving them," said Neely.

In the Spartan Race circuit, he competes in the 25-29 age group, with fellow peers who he terms "weekend warriors" - in other words, people who have a similar passion for fitness, but make it a hobby and priority in their free time, rather than a career.

GIORANAH ABELLARD



RANK	GM2
LOCATION	DJIBOUTI
COMMAND	MSRON 8W
CIVILIAN CAREER	FULL-TIME STUDENT

After Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010, Gioranah Abellard watched Sailors help her hometown, and in that moment, she was inspired to join the Navy.

"I wanted to be a part of that legacy," said Abellard, who immigrated to the U.S. from Haiti in 2002.

In 2016, when Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Abellard first arrived to Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island, she had two goals in mind - to step outside of her comfort zone and advance her professional career.

She is currently assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron EIGHT, and deployed for her first time, in support of Operation Spartan Shield to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

Upon arriving to CLDJ, Abellard hit the ground running developing various programs for the weapons department and provided support to MSRON 8 convoys and maritime elements.

"Her initiative was paramount in making our explosive safety program and deployment a success," said Gunner's Mate Chief Phil Mertine, weapons department head.

"WITHOUT SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE MGIB-SR, I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRULY AFFORD IT."

While deployed, Abellard assisted in multiple international events to include a trilateral training with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and the Djiboutian Navy on vessel boarding search and seizure and English language discussions with Djiboutian Navy Cadets.

"This deployment afforded me the opportunity to not only work within my rate, but gives me a glimpse into how international relationships tie into the overall mission," said Abellard.

Abellard, who is always looking to advance her civilian professional career, attained a Bachelor's of Science in Biology in 2020.

"I am the first person in my immediate family to receive my Bachelor's degree, so you can imagine how stoked I was when I was accepted into my Master's program," said Abellard.

As a full-time student, she successfully finished her Master's degree while deployed.

"I am a part of the first cohort to graduate with my Master of Science in Community Medicine with a focus on underrepresented and underserved communities," said Abellard. "Also, without the scholarships and Montgomery G.I Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), I don't think I would have been able to truly afford it."

While Abellard met the goals she initially set when she first started in the Navy Reserve, she now has a new goal: medical school.

"I want to be a doctor and commission as a U.S. Naval Officer," said Abellard.

Abellard will one day be able to help others in crisis, similar to those Sailors, who provided aid and medical services in Haiti, which first inspired her journey.

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

Story: LT BRITTANY OFORI

NERE²⁰₂₃

NAVY EMPLOYER RECOGNITION EVENT



Rear Adm. W. Grant Mager, Reserve Deputy, Operations, Plans and Strategy, recognized 68 civilian employers and guests representing 35 companies from across the nation for their exceptional support of Navy Reserve Sailors during the Navy Reserve's annual Navy Employer Recognition Event (NERE) June 7, 2023.



The annual event recognizes employers who provide outstanding support to Navy Reserve Sailors who work for their organizations in a civilian capacity. The all-day event included **a tour of USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), static displays of aircraft and facilities, and a dinner reception and award ceremony aboard USS Midway Museum with Mager, as well as other flag officers and representatives from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).**



"Since the Navy Reserve's establishment 108 years ago in 1915, just prior to our entry into the First World War, citizen Sailors from across the country have answered the call to service," said Mager, addressing the assembly of employers and participants during the event's opening ceremony. "And today, Navy Reserve Sailors — your employees — are still front and center, central to protecting against challenges to international norms and defending our American ideals and way of life."



Visiting executives from various employer organizations had the opportunity to experience **a live demonstration from the Navy Marine Mammal Program**, view an aircraft static display from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR-57), take tours of Navy patrol craft, **and observe a demonstration with the military working dogs from Naval Base San Diego Security Department**. Employers and participants also met with Navy special warfare operators from SEAL Team 17, toured the USS Midway Museum, and enjoyed lunch at Island Club, provided by the ESGR.



“The program was great and we gained a greater appreciation of the Navy, its capabilities, and the importance of the Reserve Force to the mission,” said Robert Weatherwax, President and Chief Executive Officer of AllCom Global Services. He continued, “AllCom is happy to support our reservists and veterans and to contribute in a small way to important missions and role played by the U.S. Navy in our national defense and the protection of our global interests.”



NERE provides an opportunity for employers to get better acquainted with the military commitments of their employees who are members of the Navy Reserve, providing a deeper understanding of the importance of employer support to Navy warfighting readiness.

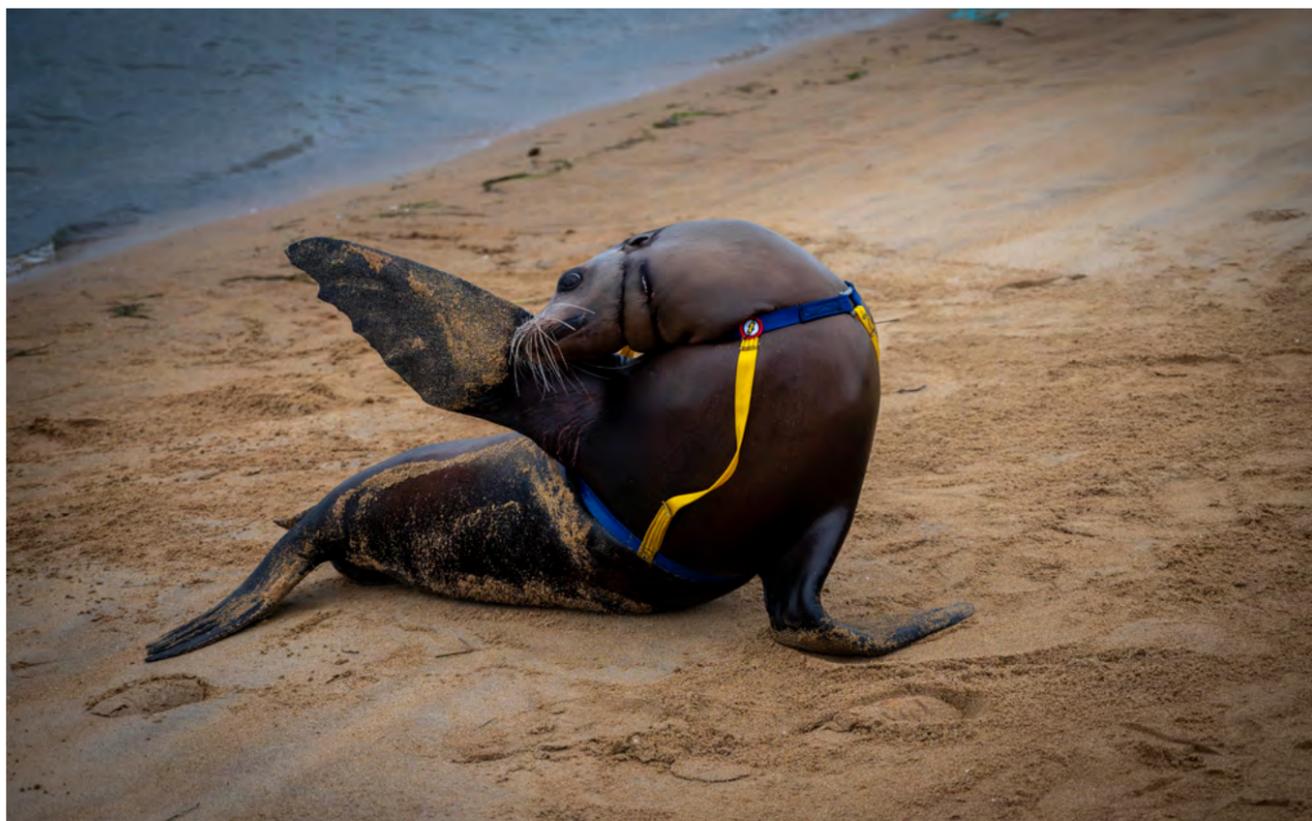
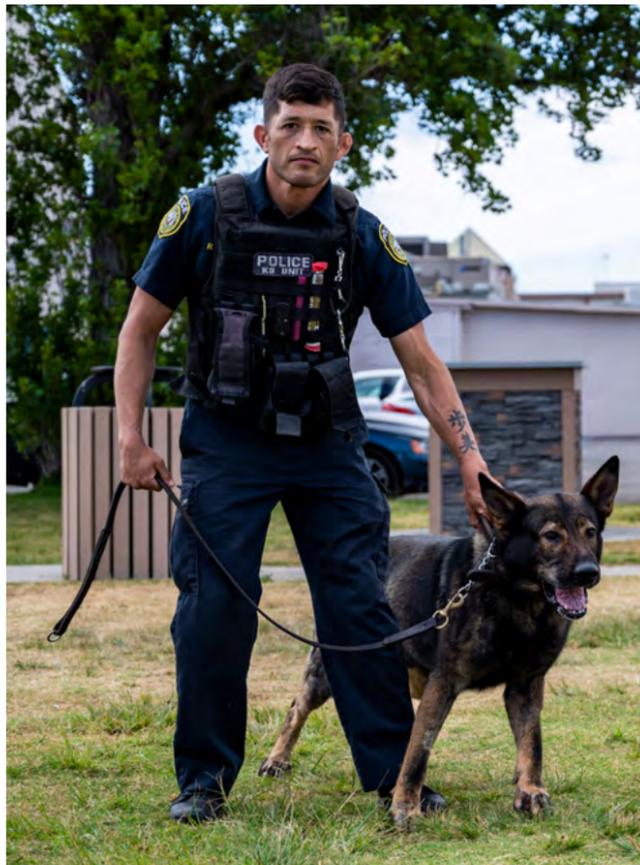
“The quality of the people is what makes bringing Navy Reserve Sailors into our team so valuable,” said Greg McCoun, President of Austin Industrial, Inc. in Houston, Texas. “When we bring them on, they can hit the ground running; they have the experience and the leadership.”

The event also provides Navy Reserve Sailors an opportunity to thank their employers for supporting them and their families before, during and after mobilizations or deployments and throughout their routine drill and training schedules.

“Our greatest take-away, though, is what can we do next to continue our support of military/veterans in the future,” said Jeff Entner, an employee and guest representing NBC Universal San Diego. “I actually have a conference call today with [our business team] to discuss these very topics!”



NAVY RESERVE SAILORS - YOUR EMPLOYEES - ARE STILL FRONT AND CENTER, CENTRAL TO PROTECTING AGAINST CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND DEFENDING OUR AMERICAN IDEALS AND WAY OF LIFE. "



NERE²⁰₂₄

NAVY EMPLOYER RECOGNITION EVENT



The nomination window for NERE 2024 will take place this winter; look for a ForceConnect with the details, and consider nominating your employer for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

For more information on how Navy Selected Reserve Sailors can recognize their civilian employers, visit the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) webpage. ESGR is a DoD program that develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities.

Navy Selected Reserve Sailors can also nominate their civilian employers for a Patriot award at: <https://www.esgr.mil/>

The U.S. Navy Reserve provides ready, relevant forces required by Fleet Commanders and the Joint Force to deter our adversaries and deliver lethality in time of conflict. It consists of more than 45,000 Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors, more than 10,000 Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR) Sailors, more than 48,000 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members, and roughly 400 civilians.

"THE PROGRAM WAS GREAT AND WE GAINED A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE NAVY, ITS CAPABILITIES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESERVE FORCE TO THE MISSION."

**-ROBERT WEATHERWAX
CEO, ALLCOM GLOBAL SERVICES**

CAN DO

Navy Reserve Seabees Build Home for Native Americans in Need
 BY: Chief Petty Officer Christopher Okula

The paint is still drying on a brand new house completed by a group of Reserve component Seabees, who put the finishing touches today on a dwelling built for a family in need as part of a partnership with the Southwest Indian Foundation (SWIF), headquartered here in Gallup, NM.

The project was the latest success in an ongoing effort dubbed Operation Footprint by the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, one of 12 ongoing construction-related IRT projects across the globe.

Various construction disciplines were exercised, from concrete to framing to plumbing and electrical – all skills with which military construction teams need real-world experience to succeed in their brand of warfighting, said Cmdr. Leia Guccione, commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18, whose troops provided the bulk of the muscle needed to realize this latest accomplishment.

“There’s no substitute for experience in our line of work,” said Guccione. “You can’t learn how to build a house from a PowerPoint. You can’t learn how to build a bridge or a road or pour a pad from a PowerPoint. You’ve really gotta get out here, get your hands dirty, and do it.”

The IRT program was conceived in the early nineties to deliver unique training opportunities in support of military readiness while simultaneously serving a community benefit. This three month-long construction effort did exactly that, said Guccione.

“Currently, the NMCB 18 team has 135 folks who are downrange,” Guccione said. “One of the things they shared with us is that, for several of them, having worked on the [Southwest Indian Foundation] project was some of the best training to get them ready for the mission they had ... It actually pays dividends.”

While its contemporary design wouldn't look out of place in most neighborhoods, this particular light tan single-family unit was erected on a small hill overlooking the rolling desert landscape 15 miles east of Gallup on off-reservation land held in trust for the Navajo Nation.

The four-bed, two bath, rambler-style residence, called a hogan by some locals, was built to help alleviate the housing situation that was once described by former President Kelsey Begay of the Navajo Nation as 20,000 too few.

“The hard work the Reservists do is critical to meet our goal of building homes for homeless Navajo families,” said Jeremy Boucher, Southwest Indian Foundation's director of operations. “The Reservists’ presence in Gallup had a positive effect on the whole community, and we are immensely grateful to be an IRT partner.”

The Seabees of NMCB 18 were joined during the final weeks of construction by 30 soldiers from the Nevada Army National Guard's 240th Engineering Company out of Las Vegas, Nevada, who worked arm-in-arm with the Seabees to finish the four-bedroom house while constructing an additional home for later delivery inside SWIF's Gallup Manufacturing Facility. Technicians and volunteers with the Southwest Indian Foundation provided additional assistance as needed.

“To come out here and do this project with SWIF and the Navy Seabees, it's been an outstanding operation,” said 1st Lt. Gabriel Brillanates, the 240th Engineering Company's platoon leader.

“It's been a great opportunity for us to both showcase our strengths and recognize areas for improvement,” he said.



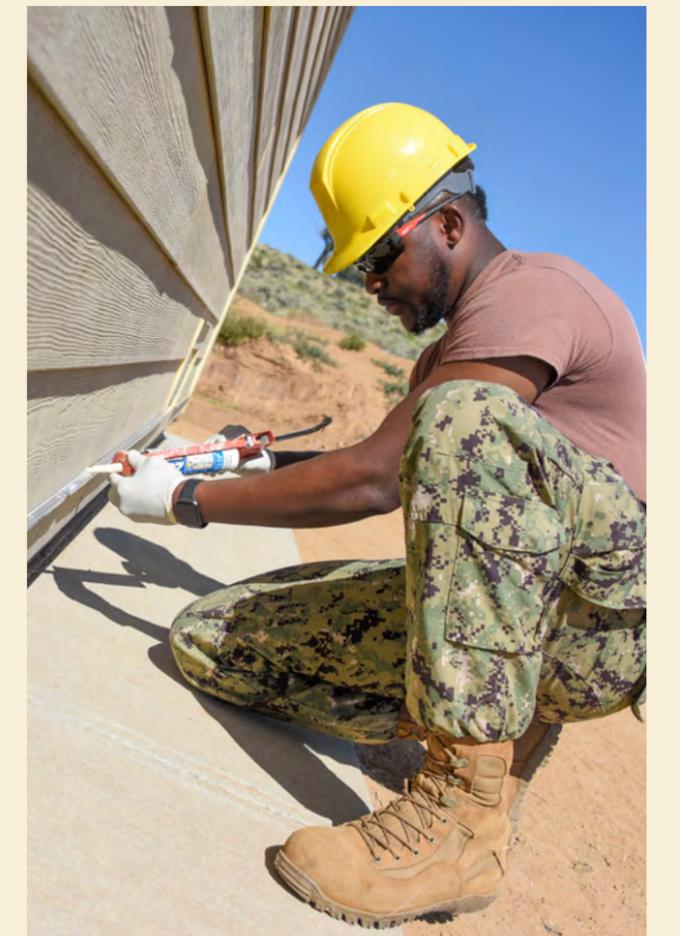
Navy Capt. Marc F. Williams, Commodore of FIRST Naval Construction Regiment based on Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California, visited the construction site on June 15 to assess the quality of training obtained and explore avenues to refine future in-field training opportunities to maximize their efficacy.

“From a real-world standpoint, you can go to every class in the world ... But until you're on a job site where you can learn how to adapt and overcome while exercising your skills in a joint environment with actual stakes on the line, no classroom can compare,” said Williams.

“For the Seabees, for the Army, and for our community partners, this is truly a win-win-win,” he said.

The inter-service IRT program is a charitable effort and training opportunity that since 1998 has helped the Southwest Indian Foundation build and deliver more than 200 homes to disadvantaged families, all in support of the Southwest Indian Foundation's efforts to improve the lives of people representing the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, Laguna, Acoma, and Apache tribes.

The Department of Defense's IRT website accepts applications from potential community partners for training opportunities in support of military training goals that align with various medical, civil engineering, cyber security, transportation, and aerial spray missions.





RWW

RETURNING WARRIOR WORKSHOP

MUSIC CITY

BY: MC1 BEVERLY TAYLOR



Over 86 Sailors and their family members participated in Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command (REDCOM) Jacksonville's 38th Returning Warrior Workshop (RWW) hosted in Nashville, Tennessee, April 21-23, 2023. Returning Warrior Workshops are a component of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) designed to honor service members and their families.

This year's RWW boasted a full agenda of speakers, tabletop exercises, breakout sessions, ceremonies, awards, and a lineup of valuable resources to help service members reconnect with their loved ones after a recent deployment.

"Sometimes, it's hard to speak to our loved ones about what we have gone through," says Mathew McDaniel, head REDCOM Jacksonville RWW coordinator and YRRP Specialist. "So, we come to these events and we listen to speakers and we listen to the facilitators and they are able to speak for us. So, then we go 'Hey, that is what I have been trying to say!'"

"Events like these create a safe environment for our attendees and get them to recognize that they might need some help," McDaniel continued. "We let them know that it is okay to say you aren't okay. This is also where we start peeling the layers back and get them to open up. Not for us, but for themselves and for their family members who came with them."

The 2023 Nashville RWW hosted a variety of impactful speakers imparting actionable advice such as how to get finances on track, how to get couples to reconnect, spiritual toughness and so much more. McDaniel, along with his team of speakers and facilitators utilized tabletop events specifically orchestrated to create a safe environment where Sailors and their service members can engage in open communication.



"Sometimes, it's hard to speak to our loved ones about what we have gone through. So, we come to these events and we listen to speakers and we listen to the facilitators and they are able to speak for us. So, then we go 'Hey, that is what I have been trying to say!'"

"I really like how it was set up and organized," said Katherine Hagan, Navy retiree and mother of attendee Lt. Natalie McIver from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 5. "I like how each table had a monitor or somebody to keep the conversation going and get everybody to talk. It wasn't just thrown together. There was a lot of thought."

Hagan accompanied her daughter to the Nashville RWW to better understand what her daughter went through during her recent deployments and to learn different strategies to help.

"They were able to get my daughter to open up about what she experienced and gave me a different point of view to look at," Hagan said. "I was surprised to learn how withdrawn she felt when she came back, but it was eye-opening to see that others felt the same way. It's not my problem to fix, but it is my job to support her and help her to find and use resources available to her to help her out."

"I think a lot of family members take it personally," said McIver. "They think it's their fault, or that they did something wrong. Being in this environment is important because it may give them more network to reach out to someone who has experienced similar things."

Sailors and their families were introduced to a plethora of resources during the RWW event. This year's lineup included representatives from the Red Cross, Military One Source, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Nashville Vet Center, Military Family Life Counselors and a personal financial counselor.

"When I go back to drill, I am telling my Sailors that they need to go to this," said McIver. "To take time for themselves and know it's important to use the resources the Navy provides for you. This event gives Sailors the knowledge of the tools they might not have known they have."



Now more than ever, it is important for Sailors and their familial support to band together to overcome the challenges of today utilizing everything in their tool belt.

"The world is becoming a more complicated and dangerous place," said Rear Admiral Andrew Shreiner, Deputy Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, a surprise guest speaker during the RWW banquet. "It's essential we take time and the opportunity to say thank you to the families who serve along us to protect our way of life. It's hard sometimes, and that's really the reason the Navy Reserve has focused on the RWW program as frequently and as long as it has. Without the support of our families, our Sailors cannot do the great things they do."

Shreiner spoke directly to the Sailors and families with a message of enduring support and gratitude.

"We need to make sure your needs are met to the best of our abilities," he said. "We're doing better, but we realize there's more to do. So to the families and the loved ones in attendance, please accept my genuine gratitude for the support and unconditional love you give to our Sailors every day, but specifically during the challenging times of pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment."

For more information about Returning Warrior Workshops and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, and to participate in upcoming events, visit the YRRP website at www.yellowribbon.mil.

"I think a lot of family members take it personally. They think it's their fault, or that they did something wrong. Being in this environment is important because it may give them more network to reach out to someone who has experienced similar things."

RE-SERVE SAILOR FIRST FEMALE GMCM

BY MC1 JEANETTE MULLINAX

History was quietly made during a ceremony inside the Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., April 28, 2023, when Reserve Master Chief Gunner's Mate Jessica Harrison became the first woman to achieve the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer in the Gunner's Mate rating.

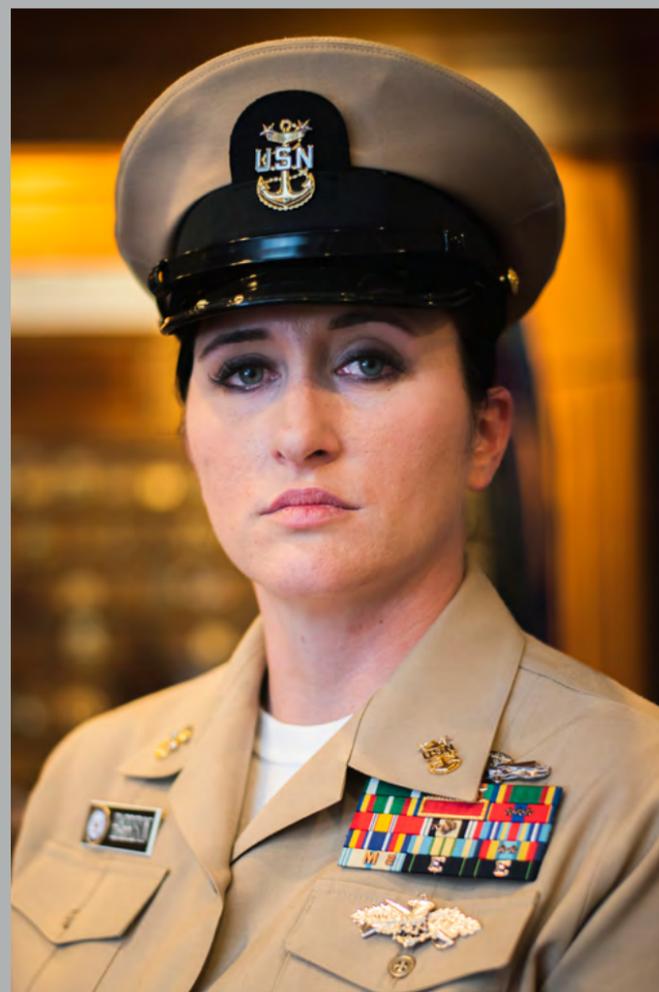
Gunner's Mate is one of the five original ratings established in The Naval Armament Act of 1794 along with Boatswain's Mate, Quartermaster, Master-at-Arms, and Yeoman.

During a brief speech, Harrison reflected on her achievement, answering a question that she commonly receives: "How did you do it?"

"The thing I always say is: not by myself," Harrison said. "It's my sailors, my mentors, my friends... It's through the connections we have with our shipmates."

While Harrison's advancement was a historical achievement for the Gunner's Mate community, her milestone also signified a triumph for all enlisted Sailors as a sign of the progress women have made in the military.

"The thing I always say is: not by myself. It's my mentors, my friends... It's through the connections that we make have with our shipmates."



Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John Mustin presided at the event to recognize Harrison's accomplishments and administer the oath of enlistment in front of her family and friends, as well as visitors of the memorial.

"This is a pretty significant accomplishment as an individual milestone, but also for the service; probably long overdue, but I couldn't be more psyched to be here to share this moment with you," Mustin said during the ceremony. "I am thrilled that every one of you has an opportunity to reflect on this moment because we're going to be able to look back on this and say that we were there the moment it happened."

By achieving the rank of E-9, Harrison joined a small fraction of leadership charged with bridging the gap between officers and enlisted personnel, while acting as supervisors and advocates for their Sailors.

In keeping with ceremonial customs, Harrison also handed down her Senior Chief insignia to a Sailor who she believes is ready to take on

"Reflect on this moment because we're going to be able to look back on this and say that we were there the moment it happened."



greater responsibility at the next rank. Chief Gunner's Mate Kali Larraga accepted them with an embrace.

As part of her speech, Harrison recognized Larraga's growth as a Sailor and leader. Elaborating more during an interview, Harrison described how Larraga's words helped her realize the weight of her achievement.

"She said, 'We're looking for someone to show us it can be done'... that was a big eye-opener for me," Harrison said. "Looking up and seeing somebody who looks like you is a powerful thing. She made me see that, and she probably doesn't understand the enormity of it, but one day she will."

Although Harrison's promotion marks a first for the service, unrestricted opportunities for women in the Navy were not always present.

Only since 1994 has the service allowed women to lawfully work in combat roles, despite the critical positions that women have held in

"And I think the only way that we continue to drive that as a Navy is to remove the barriers and remove the division."



the Navy since 1908 when the Navy Nurse Corps was first established by Congress.

Over the years, the Navy made strides toward the inclusion of women and throughout her time in service, Harrison witnessed first-hand the cultural shift regarding women in the military.

"I remember when I walked in [to my first command], I was asked if I was the new admin," Harrison said. "But I don't hear those questions anymore. I see it becoming more commonplace to have females work in weapons fields. And I think the only way we continue to drive change as a Navy is to remove the barriers and remove the division."

Committed to further removing barriers for Sailors, Harrison now works at the Chief of Naval Personnel headquarters, in Arlington, Virginia. She works in the Navy's culture and force resilience office, leading enlisted Sailors and advising a team of officers in matters to include diversity, equity, and inclusion policy updates and holistic support services for the fleet.

Previously, Harrison delivered educational training to the fleet on the Navy's Warrior Toughness program, which emphasizes developing the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of Sailors.

Harrison served in the Navy Reserve for 17 years, 14 of those years on active duty orders. During that time, she deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, completed a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Education, while also raising her young sons, Logan and Trey.

"I always wanted to show my children it could be done, and I was the first of my siblings to even graduate," Harrison said.

Harrison's accomplishments demonstrated her drive, determination and commitment to the Navy and to her family. Her story should serve as inspiration to not only past and present Sailors, but also to anyone who hopes to someday serve in the armed forces.

"One day, we're going to not be a Navy of firsts," Harrison said. "I look forward to that day."

Harrison's accomplishment was mirrored by Gunner's Mate Senior Chief Jessica Saunders, who screened for Master Chief Petty Officer by the Fiscal Year 2024 Active-Duty Navy E9 Screening Board in May.

NMCI RESET

Effective July 7, 2023, Navy Reserve Sailors are required to log into the NMCI network **every 60 days**. NMCI accounts are **disabled after 60 days of inactivity and then deleted after 180 days of inactivity**. Sailors can also request a Nautilus Virtual Desktop account, which will allow them to meet the requirement from any personal device using the reset option. SELRES Sailors can request an automatic reminder to log into NMCI via texts and emails to their personal account by sending an email to:

LoginReminder@us.navy.mil. Sign up for **Nautilus Virtual Desktop** by sending an email to **avd@us.navy.mil** from your Flank Speed email, and we will do the rest! Initial AVD setup **DOES** require one-time access to an NMCI computer or GFE.

