

NAVY RESERVE CARGO HANDLERS PREPARE TO DEPLOY FOR OIF

CDR Tom Gresback

Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force Public Affairs

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. – More than 500 Naval Reserve Expeditionary Logistics Support personnel have been mobilized to active duty and are preparing to deploy overseas to support Operation *Iraqi Freedom* (OIF).

The Reservists will depart from Norfolk in February to assist in what is being called the largest rotation of troops since World War II.

The Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF) assets are being deployed to meet joint military requirements as part of the Department of Defense's scheduled force rotation.

The operational order to mobilize Naval Reservists to fulfill the cargo handling capability in the Area of Responsibility (AOR) came from Central Command (CENTCOM) through the Chief of Naval Operations in early December.

"The reason we have been able to put a quality group together on relatively short notice is because this force is made up of battalions who are trained and ready to deploy," said Commander, NAVELSF, RADM Robert Percy III, during a recent address to his Sailors.

While in the CENTCOM AOR, NAVELSF Sailors will work side-by-side with Army forces in the joint environment. The Army is currently fulfilling the joint logistics mission and providing the equipment used in theater. As part of the planned force rotation, the Navy will relieve the Army and assume this mission during OIF.

"The Sailors we have in this force are fully trained and ready to answer their call to duty," said CMDCM(SS/SW) Tom Cramer. "Each day I am in the field with them during their training, I am more and more impressed with their enthusiasm, sense of pride and professionalism. They have stepped up to the plate to accept this arduous mission and the personal sacrifices it calls upon them to make. Over these past few weeks, I have witnessed a transformation from 500 individuals into a cohesive team who are primed to support Operation *Iraqi Freedom*."

The battalions and units being mobilized are:

- Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 9, Columbus, Ohio, with companies in Columbus; Cincinnati; Youngstown, Ohio; and Huntington, W.V.
- Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 11, Jacksonville, Fla., with companies in Jacksonville; St Petersburg, Fla.; and Tampa, Fla.
- Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 14, Port Hueneme, Calif., with companies in Port Hueneme; Las Vegas, Nev.; and Los Angeles.

- Navy Supply Support Battalion 1, Phoenix, Ariz., with companies in Phoenix; Encino, Calif.; Fort Worth, Texas; Lubbock, Texas; San Diego; Tucson, Ariz.; and Sacramento, Calif.

Navy Cargo Handling Battalions load and unload all classes of cargo except bulk petroleum. Battalions are capable of worldwide deployment in their entirety or in specialized detachments. NCHBs are organized, trained and equipped to load and offload Navy and Marine Corps cargo carried in maritime prepositioning ships, container ships, or aircraft in all environments, and operate in associated temporary ocean or air cargo terminals.

Navy Supply Support Battalions provide warehouse and freight terminal support, personnel support and services (admin, barbershop, laundry, and ship's store), mobile mail support and supply logistics information support. ♦



DART/DAHT Reservists deploy to Kuwait

JO1 Mike Miller

Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force Public Affairs

YORKTOWN, Va. – For the second time since 9/11, Atlantic Ordnance Command (AOC) has mobilized members of its new ordnance teams to transport and track all Navy and Marine Corps ordnance used in the Central Command Area of Operations.

Thirty personnel from the AOC Expeditionary Force have been mobilized and deployed to Kuwait.

AOC completely revolutionized Navy/Marine Corps ordnance handling to address issues that arose during and after Operation *Desert Storm*. Deployable Ammunition Reporting Teams (DARTs) and Deployable Ammunition Handling Teams (DAHTs) now take charge of Navy and Marine Corps ordnance “from the cradle to the crater.”

DART/DAHT personnel are charged with the handling, reporting, and stowage of palletized and containerized ordnance and ammunition for Navy and Marine Corps use. During drill weekends, annual training, and periodic AOC ordnance exercises, Reservists train in performing these operations efficiently and in accordance with Federal, Department of Defense, and Navy Explosive Safety Regulations. While DART personnel handle inventory control, ordnance receiving, and issuing, DAHT personnel get the ordnance from where it is stowed, prepare it for transport using blocking and bracing procedures, get it to where it is being used, and secure it from transport for use in theater.

“The members involved in this mobilization are from ten units out of our total of eleven,” said LCDR Allan Cook, AOC Reserve programs manager. “They are from Naval Reserve Centers Avoca, Pa.; Pittsburgh; Bronx, N.Y.; Earle, N.J.; Richmond, Va.; Little Creek, Va.; and Baltimore. This encompasses the headquarters unit, DAHTs 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10, and DARTs 3, 5, 8 and 9, along with four active duty personnel who will accompany them. Their mission will include handling and reporting Marine aviation ordnance coming off ships to help support Marine Air/Ground Task Force slated to relieve Army units in Iraq.”

Some of the members going this time were there last time.

“We had a group of 100 Reservists at Kuwait Naval Base last year. The last one came home in August 2003. They brought back approximately 10,000 forklift loads of ordnance to stowage facilities in the United States and elsewhere.

“Pre-deployment training includes a refresher course of ordnance handling qualifications and certifications, as well as teamwork orientation, and retail ordnance logistics management system, which keeps track of movement and stowage. The Reservists also receive extensive force protection/anti-terrorism, chemical, biological, radiological defense gear and small arms training and qualification,” Cook said.



Photo by PH1 Jimmy Lee

SK3 Edna Negron of Naval Cargo Handling Battalion Eleven, Company D located in St. Petersburg, Fl., confirms her bearings in the land navigation portion of the combat readiness skills training at Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg, Va. The combat skills training was led by Seabees from the 20th Readiness Group, 22nd Regiment, Gulfport, Miss.



Photo by IT1ISSI Howard Waxman

NAVELSF Forward Alpha deploys to relieve Army personnel in support of Operations *Iraqi Freedom* and *Enduring Freedom*. Forward Alpha is comprised of more than 500 personnel from four Cargo Handling Battalions headquartered in Columbus, Ohio; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Port Hueneme, Calif., and one Supply Support Battalion headquartered in Phoenix. The Battalions have companies in Ohio, Florida, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas with personnel from many other states.