



On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast

January 2004 - Winter

Cotton Embraces Change for Reserve Force

By JOC Cleve Hardman,
COMNAVRESFOR Public Affairs Staff
NEW ORLEANS (NNS) — Vice
Adm. John G. Cotton became the
11th Commander, Naval Reserve
Force in ceremonies conducted Oct.
18, at Naval Air Station Joint
Reserve Base New Orleans. Cotton
succeeds Vice Adm. John B.
Totushek, who is retiring after five
years as leader of the 88,000-
member force.

Cotton takes the helm of the
Naval Reserve Force with an eye on
the future. "I see even more fleet
support," Cotton said. "I see us
even more integrated. I see us
taking even better care of our
Naval Reservists."

Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Vern Clark envisions a period
of change for the Naval Reserves
that will continue to build a strong
total force. "You will lead this
force in a period of phenomenal
change," Clark said. "Never has
change been more intense or at a
faster pace than it is today." "We
know that the challenges ahead will
be difficult," Clark said. "Making an
institution better is challenging and
requires change. Change is hard, but
change to make us better is com-
pletely necessary."

Today's Naval Reserve Force
is and has been engaged around the
world, around the clock. In Opera-



Naval Reservist Lt. j.g. Christian Brumm photographs a landing site at Camp Lejeune, N.C., during a drill with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. Cotton envisions more fleet support, integration and taking care of Naval Reservists. (Photo by JOC Kevin Elliott)

tions Noble Eagle, Enduring Free-
dom and Iraqi Freedom, more than
22,000 Naval Reservists have been
mobilized, and many more provided
support through their drill periods,
Annual Training, Active-Duty
Training and Active Duty for
Special Work. "The Naval Reserve
has been and is performing su-
perbly," Clark said. "The demands
placed upon you have changed, and
Reserves believe so strongly in our
way of life, our principles and
values the nation holds dearly.
When the nation calls, you agree to
go serve."

Totushek led the Naval Re-

serve Force through mobilizations
in support of the global war on
terrorism. "The opportunity to
serve in the greatest Navy is truly
an honor and a privilege," Totushek
said. "We have been blessed by the
willingness of people to give up
their security to go over and stand
in harm's way. Their performance
has been spectacular. I couldn't be
more proud of the things that our
Naval Reserve Force has accom-
plished."



HM's & DT's Get Paid While Going to School



Dental Technician 3rd Class Joann Quinones, from Killeen, Texas, sterilizes dental instruments in the cold sterile aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). Dental Technician and Hospital Corpsmen can now receive drill pay while attending school. (Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Joshua Word)

By Cmdr. Karen Kreutzberg, Medical Reserve Recruiting Program BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — A new program is now offered to Hospital Corpsman (HM) and Dental Technician (DT) drilling Reservists who are interested in pursuing a Baccalaureate in Nursing Degree (BSN). This new drilling option allows a drilling HM or DT to earn drill pay and credit for attending school.

Interested Selected Reservists (SELRES) must be U.S. citizens and have a letter of acceptance or be enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate-nursing program (verified by www.nlnac.org or www.aacn.nche.edu) and be enrolled for a minimum of six credits/semester or session.

This program is offered to Program 32 (Military Treatment Facility) and Program 46 (Fleet

Hospital) units. Participation is limited to a maximum of three years. To apply, SELRES will need to have a letter of endorsement for approval from their unit commanding officer. While in the program, the student must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better. If at any time the SELRES stops taking courses, they must muster and drill with their unit in the traditional manner.

While in school, the SELRES must drill with their unit twice annually (four drills) in order to complete all required Reserve unit and Naval Reserve Activity (NRA) or Reserve center administrative requirements. This includes the twice-annual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) test. While in this program, the HM or DT is eligible for mobilization, but may request a deferment from BUPERS

[Bureau of Personnel].

After earning a BSN degree and passing a state board of nursing licensure exam (NCLEX), the member may apply for a Nurse Corps commission. There will be no additional Reserve obligation if the member is not selected for Nurse Corps. This program is designed to assist Reservists attain a commission as a Nurse Corps Officer by allowing the Reservist time to pursue school while continuing their naval career.

For more information on this program, contact Cmdr. Karen Kreutzberg, director for medical Reserve recruiting programs, at (202) 762-3824 or by e-mail at kmkreutzberg@us.med.navy.mil.



By The Numbers

Mobilized = 2005
Demobilized = 1907
Still Active = 99

9/11/01 to 12/31/03

MyPay Look-Alike Sites Can Confuse Customers

By Bryan Hubbard, Finance and Accounting Service Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) —

The 2 million military and civilian users of myPay are being cautioned to use only the official myPay site (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) when seeking to access pay account information.

“Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded,” said Claudia L. Bogard, director of Corporate Communications for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. “Don’t provide your personal information to any Web site unless you know it can be trusted.”

Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense. DFAS’ myPay is a secure, DFAS-operated Web site that lets active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants take charge of their pay accounts online. The DFAS myPay Web site is found at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

Tax Relief Act Aids Sailors

By K.L. Vantran, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 contains important relief measures for Reservists. The 2003 act includes above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses of military Reservists and National Guardsmen who have to travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings.

“The act allows for an above-the-line, which means you don’t have to itemize your taxes to take advantage of this deduction,” said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, director, Armed Forces Tax Council. She added that service members will “be able to deduct un-reim-

bursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs.” This part of the act is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003.

Legislation signed by President Bush on Veterans Day has a number of important measures. One component of the legislation increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free. That portion of the act is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for service members who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror, Fenton said. “If you are killed on active duty, regardless of

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Admiral’s Corner



RDML Frank F. Rennie IV

Since taking over as REDCOM NE Commander, Admiral Rennie talked about his goals and expectations, and where he expects the Navy’s Reserve to go in the future.

Q. Do you feel with mobilizations decreasing that Reserve Centers will become the “Sleepy Hollows” they once were?

A. I hope not. I hope with VADM Cotton and the CNO’s initiatives, the transformation of RESCENS throughout the country will be a conduit for Reservists to do their active duty mission and support the Navy as a whole. One of my goals is to make sure the full-time support staff is working as hard as they can with the active Navy to enable drilling Reservists to do that work - with a focus on accomplishing the mission of the Fleet as a whole.

Q. What is the primary message that you would like to convey to the region as its new commander? *(continued on page 13)*

Wreath Laying Ceremony Honors Second President

By JOSN Geraldine A. Hawkins, NR NAVINFO East 102

QUINCY, Mass. (NNS) — Oct. 30, the 268th birthday of John Adams was marked by Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Quincy, Mass., by laying a wreath on his tomb at Church of the Presidents in a ceremony that included remarks by Lt. Gov. of Massachusetts Kerry Healy, former REDCOM NE Commander, Rear Adm. Roger T. Nolan, and Cdr. Lewin Wright, commanding officer of USS Constitution.

“If Adams were here today to see the Navy, he would see a powerful force,” Wright told those assembled. He quoted Adams, who warned that while Americans were a peace-loving people, they should never be naive enough to overlook the need for military preparedness. “Our pacific policy,” Wright quoted Adams as saying, should never blind Americans “to the violence and injustice of others.”

Nolan stressed the way in which John Adams personified the Navy Core Values. “Honor, Courage, and Commitment in 1776 created a new country: The United States of America,” he said. “We are here today because of these ideals, and we continue to enjoy the freedom and prosperity of the United States of America because of the sacrifices generations of veterans have made for these ideals. The Honor, Courage and Commit-

ment of American Sailors – my American Sailors – fills me with pride and humbles me as I stand here with the Father of our Navy laid out before me,” Nolan said.

“Your Navy has never been more ready than it is right now. Our performance in Iraq and Afghanistan has shown this. The United States Navy remains the greatest navy ever to set sail, keeping America a lighthouse of hope and a beacon of freedom.”

“The threats to our homeland and people are possibly greater than ever in our history,” Nolan continued, “and the Navy rises to meet them. President John Adams continues to inspire those who serve and make possible the security of the nation that he made possible,” Nolan concluded.

A wreath has been laid on the crypt of John Adams on his birthday since the Lyndon Johnson administration, when Johnson decreed that every president should be so honored by the military. The Navy is the branch of service chosen for Adams because he was the earliest and most ardent advocate for what he called “wooden walls,” and for his son John Quincy Adams, who recommended the establishment of the U.S. Naval Academy.

CMC's Scuttlebutt



CMDMC(AW/NAC) Pat Flavin

Here we are and the holiday season is at an end. I hope everyone had a great time and is looking forward to a great year with the Navy's Reserve. I know that I am, and with the holiday season behind us it is time we get back in the work mode.

We continue to be at war as the heightened threat of terrorism remains ever present. Times are changing and we must be ready to change with them. The entire Navy's Reserve structure is in flux with the ongoing alignment process with the regular Navy and joint operations. The Reserve and regular Navy are definitely different today. With that said, there are a couple of things you must keep in mind; what you are doing for your gaining command and what your gaining command expects from you. Those two things must always be in the front of your *(continued on page 13)*

Remembering NYPD Reservists Who Serve



Part of the ceremony included the oldest Sailor, Det. Thomas Scotto, and youngest Sailor, Irving Contreras, probationary Police Officer, representing the present and the future of the Reserves.

By LCDR Christopher Scholl,
NAVINFO East 102

NEW YORK, NY— New York's Finest, as they are affectionately known, recently opened the doors to their home at One Police Plaza for the annual NYPD/US Navy Association Remembrance Ceremony. The event, dedicated to the victims of the USS COLE, World Trade Center, and the Pentagon celebrated the Navy's 228th birthday and recognized Navy veterans and Reservists who serve in the NYPD.

Police Commissioner, Raymond Kelly, a Vietnam veteran, and retired USMC Reserve Colonel welcomed the crowd, filled with Navy and Police Department uniforms, to Police Headquarters. "I salute the Reserves and support their efforts on the war on terrorism. A job well done. You are a vital part of this country's national security mission. Many a fine Police

Officer comes from the Navy ranks, an example of that is Stephen Driscoll." Kelly exclaimed.

Stephen Driscoll, a Sea Bee Navy veteran and Police Officer, died on 9/11 in the World Trade Center. In his honor, a memorial award was given to First Deputy Police Commissioner George Grasso, in recognition of his many years of distinguished service to the New York Police Department. "It's an honor he would have loved," said Ann Driscoll, Stephens's wife. His father Patrick noted, "Stephen wore two uniforms, first the Navy and second, the NYPD, and he loved them both.

The guest speaker, Vice Admiral John R. Ryan, who was the 56th superintendent of the United States Naval Academy and now serves as the President of the State University of New York Maritime

College, told of the navy's beginnings in 1775 with two ships and 10 cannons. "Anytime America is in crisis it turns to the men and women in uniform," said Admiral Ryan. He later remarked that, "Men and women serving in uniform showing character in peace and display courage in a times of crisis."

At the ceremony, the Silver Dolphins, from Sub-Base, New London, CT, displayed their sharp, crisp drill skills, which lead into the cake-cutting ceremony attended by the oldest and youngest NYPD member with Navy experience. The oldest, Detective Thomas Scotto, President of the Detective Endowment Association was a Signalman 2nd Class before his 38 year NYPD career. The youngest is a probationary Police Officer AA2 Irving Contreras, assigned to the NAS Keflavik, Willow Grove, NJ.

The Association, which started just six year ago with 100 members has almost 400 Navy/NYPD members today. LCDR Daniel Blackburn, commander of the Amityville Reserve Center, has worked arduously deploying 90 of his Reservists in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Twenty-five of these reservists come from the NYPD alone.

Navy Senior Chief and NY Police Officer Nicholas Tarulli from Naval Reserve Center, Bronx spoke of the benefits of the Association and related them to Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R.

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Reservist Links Service through History

By **JO1(SW/AW) Steven Bansbach,**
REDCOM Northeast Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. - History tells us of the past, the victories, defeats, inventions, where we hope to be in the future. And while the Navy's history runs deep, family histories run deeper. Some of the things that are part of your family's make-up may be traditions, values or characteristics. One Naval Reservist is helping people connect with their past by visiting churches, courthouses, library archives even cemeteries. Storekeeper 2nd Class Russell Dutcher started doing genealogy as a hobby but now, it has grown into a side-business.

For Dutcher to become a certified genealogist, he had to complete 120 hours of genealogy study and have a complete family tree reviewed by a board. Dutcher's has traced his family tree to the 1300's on his mother's side and the 1400's on his father's side. "The only reason why I was interested is my grandmother told me stories about the family here in New Jersey and I just picked up on it and decided to investigate," Dutcher said. "One of the best thing about lineage is you're always adding new discoveries to the tree."

And Dutcher's family tree is littered with Navy and Marine Corps veterans. "One of my grandfathers, eight times removed, was part of the Royal Dutch Navy from Holland. He fought against the British and Spanish Navy," Dutcher said. Dutcher also had three descendants that fought in the

Revolutionary War, two that were part of the Union force during the Civil War, two uncles that were in the Navy and his father was a tank commander during the Korean Conflict.

Dutcher advises anyone interested in investigating your family history to start at home. He says to talk to your aunts, uncles, fathers, mother, grandparents, anyone that has a link to your families past. He also says that if you have naturalization papers, birth records, marriage certificates, it all will be helpful. And while genealogy is the fastest growing hobby in America, Dutcher is more of a consultant than a researcher. "I'll tell you where you can find more information whether it's at courthouses or libraries archives. I've even gone to cemeteries to do some research," Dutcher said.

Dutcher has taught some beginner and intermediate classes to help people learn how to do their own research and talked about how rewarding it is to help people. "For me it's very fulfilling to see their faces. When you show them the information and see their smiles on their faces," Dutcher said. "When people say that they now have all the information that ties the family together it's worth more than any money."

Dutcher has done a lot of genealogy projects. He did the genealogy of the Union County sheriffs and constables of the Somerset and Essex's counties in New Jersey. He also researched the

Militia from Revolutionary War and War of 1812 for Middlesex County. "You literally have to be a detective about a family and their past," Dutcher said.

According to Dutcher, just because you're not interested in your family history, maybe the next generation will be. "To me, there is a saying you don't know where you're going unless you know where you've been," he said. "We're a young successful nation because of our past. We need to keep that in mind so we can continue to be successful."

On Watch

News for the Naval Reservists in the Northeast

RADM Frank T. Rennie, USNR
Commander, REDCOM
Northeast

LCDR Randy Britton, USNR
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JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach,
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Do you have an idea for a story for On Watch? Email your suggestions to JO1 Bansbach at steven.bansbach@navy.mil

“Big Apple” Seabees Awarded in Times Square

By JOC John Harrington, NRD, New York Public Affairs

MANHATTAN, N.Y. (NNS) — Chief Construction Mechanic Patrick Sabatini and Equipment Operator 1st Class Daniel Quinn were among five U.S. Navy Seabee Reservists who received commendations from Rear Adm. Charles R. Kubic, commander First Naval Construction Division and commander First Marine Expeditionary

called up for service with the New York State Militia after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Sabatini, a supervisor of mechanics for the New York Department of Sanitation and a Staten Island native, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his service as platoon commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sabatini and his unit initially deployed to Al Jaber Air

Iraqi people and coalition forces. The mobilization was a far cry from Sabatini's normal job, but one he values tremendously. “You have to give back to your country, that's why I'm a Reservist,” said Sabatini. “It's the greatest country on the planet. It only became this way because of the people who sacrificed to go and do the things that needed to be done.”

Thanks to the sacrifices of Sabatini and the rest of NMCB 21, the “Can Do” Seabees effected repairs to five Iraqi schools, three police stations, a railway pump station and a leach field. Two Iraqi bridges were also repaired. Sharing in the service to country, Quinn also received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his service as movement commander for NMCB 21's Air Detachment. “Working out in the towns and helping the people was great,” says Quinn. “It was wonderful to see how welcomed we were. They wanted our help, and now it's up to them to take care of their country and get it on track.”

Quinn, a bus driver for the New York Department of Transportation, felt an even greater appreciation for his job well done as he received his award in the heart of Manhattan. “I'm a native New Yorker so I think it's great to be able to do it here. In fact, I drive my bus past here every day,” says Quinn. “Serving in Iraq was something I'm very proud of, especially after 9/11. That was the worst day

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Rear Admiral Charles R. Kubic, Commander First Naval Construction Division, presents Commander Charles R. Sherer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21's Officer in Charge, with the Meritorious Service Medal and Combat Action Ribbon for his services in Operation Iraqi Freedom in a ceremony in Times Square, NY. (Photo by YNCM(SW/AW)(ret.) Bruce Howard, NRD New York PAO)

(MEF) Engineer Group in a recent ceremony in Times Squares, Manhattan.

All of the Reservists recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom after serving with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21, a Reserve unit based in Lakehurst, N.J. The unit was

Base in Kuwait, carrying out quality of life improvements at the installation. From Kuwait, the unit crossed into Iraq, setting up camp at the Iraqi port of Um Qasr. There, NMCB 21 upgraded living conditions for U.S. Marines and British forces, as well as conducting major civil infrastructure repairs for the

Reservists Pay their Respects in a Personal Way

By JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) — With the wet ground dampening their feet, and mist from their breath hanging in the chill air, the final gun salute volley rang out in the background as the American flag was folded for the last time, and the funeral detail rendered their final salute. Rear Adm. Donald Corrigan was laid to rest at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Fall River, Mass.

While there are deaths every day in America, military honors are offered to veterans and retirees by law. "Funeral honors are an entitlement to anybody who served in the military unless they have a bad conduct discharge," said Patty Mook, Funeral Honors Program manager for the Northeast. In the Northeast alone there have been more than 5,600 funerals held for military veterans, with Reservists staffing 75 percent of the honors detail.

When a veteran dies and desires a military funeral, a request form has to be filled out and faxed to the program manager for the region. The date, time and location need to be included along with a Social Security Number and DD Form 214. If the family can't provide the discharge papers then they have to provide some sort of documentation showing the individual was in the military.

"We are there to give honors to the family, not just the servicemember," explained Mess

Specialist 1st Class Bernard Cooper, the Northeast Region Sub-Area coordinator for eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "We want to thank the family for the sacrifices they made while their loved one served the country, and I'm embarrassed if something doesn't go right."

Reservists at the 20 Reserve centers in the Northeast have more than 750 personnel available to offer honors. Equipment Operator 2nd Class Sean Corriveau has been part of the burial detail for a lot of Reserve Center Manchester New Hampshire's funerals. "I like volunteering for the funerals. A lot of times I've had several widows say to me that I remind them so much of their husband when he was my age. I think it brings back a lot

of memories, but the most important thing is that it's a honor to be part of this," said Corriveau.

When the request comes in, the burial honors are broken down into two categories: veterans and retirees. Veterans will have at least a flag folder and a bugler, while a retiree will have the same staffing, plus a 21-gun salute, and each funeral has equal importance to Cooper and Mook.

"When I got here, I asked for this job. Both my parents were in the service and both received funeral honors. We provide funeral honors to show the family how grateful we are, whether they served 2 years or 20 years," Cooper said.

"My grandfather 11-times removed is Simeon Sampson, the

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A U.S. Navy-Marine Corps firing detail provides a gun salute on the flight deck aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). Funeral honors can include a gun salute, bugler and a flag folding. (Photo by PH3 Jose E. Ponce)



A new act introduced into legislation on Veteran's Day offers Reservists numerous advantages, including a death gratuity increase, home sale benefits and tax provisions. (Photo by PH1 Class Ted Banks)

Tax Relief *(continued from page 3)*

whether you're in theater, or in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed," she added. "And that's a big change. In addition, any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax free."

The death gratuity has been \$6,000 since 1991, with half of it being taxed, said the director. "It just didn't seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their service member to get hit with a tax bill," she said.

Capital gain exclusion for home sales is one of the most common areas people were looking for tax relief in, said Fenton. "This act will allow members to suspend the period of time which they have to sell their home and take the tax exclusion, so they won't have to pay

that capital gains," said Fenton. "It's retroactive to 1997 so military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11, 2003, to request a refund for any tax they did pay."

Since 1997, when the law was previously changed, if service members who owned a home got reassigned more than 50 miles from that home or was ordered to move on post, they were no longer able to roll over the gain from that sale to the next home they purchased. Also, since 1997, individuals could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in the home for two of the five years preceding the sale. Under this act military and Foreign Service personnel can suspend (for up to 10 years) the time transferred away from

home on official extended duty for purposes of applying the five-year portion of the two-out-of-five-year rule.

When the tax code changed in 1986, it said any military benefit existing in September 1986 would remain tax-free, said Fenton. However, it was always unclear whether military child care was included in that, she added. "This act merely makes it clear that those provisions of child care were intended to be tax-free to military members."

The tax act also provides for extra tax-filing time for troops serving in contingency operations. The internal revenue code allows service members who are serving in combat zones or hazardous duty areas to have an extension of time - usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone - to file taxes. "A lot of military operations don't rise to the level of being declared by the President as 'combat,'" said Fenton. "But there are several contingency operations where service members are outside the continental United States."

The act also includes modifying eligibility criteria of tax-exempt veterans organizations; tax-free treatment of homeowners' assistance program payments; suspension of tax-exempt status for designated terrorist organizations; and extension of victims' tax relief to astronauts who die on space missions. For more information go to www.irs.gov and search for the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003.

New Commissary Policies Invite Reservists

The DOD recently announced that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, effective immediately, the following members and their dependents will be permitted unlimited access to commissary stores:

* Members of the Ready Reserve (which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

* Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian ID Card.

* Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges adminis-

tered by the Uniformed Services.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until today when the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve

members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "The Congress included unlimited commissary benefits in the National Defense Authorization Act thus making full time shopping possible for the men and women who serve their nation in the National Guard and Reserve."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted decisively and immediately in providing interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.



Ready to Serve

Naval Reserve Cmdr. Phil Landrigan examines a Ghanaian child during the West African Training Cruise Medical Outreach Program 2003 (WATC MOP 03). WATC MOP is an annual medical exercise designed to provide humanitarian aid and foster the spirit of cooperation between the United States and the people of West Africa. (Photo by PH2 Marie Harmon)

Veterans Head Back to Class Better Prepared

By JO1(SW/AW) Steven Bansbach,
REDCOM Northeast Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. - Every day in the Navy, training takes place. No matter what type of training, it's a common occurrence, but don't think that training stops once you leave the military. A program is in place to provide veterans the training to acquire the skills and motivation necessary for the pursuit of post-secondary education. It's called the Veterans Upward Bound Pre-Collegiate and Educational Support Program.

To be eligible for this free program, a veteran must have served at least 180 days of active duty, other than training purposes, a service discharge that is other than dishonorable, and be a low income and/or first generation college student. "This is the best program I've seen since the Navy started recruiting people," Marybeth O'Sullivan, an Outreach advisor, said.

The Upward Bound program is designed to prepare veterans partici-

pating in the project for careers in which persons from disadvantaged backgrounds are particularly underrepresented. "Some students tell me they have been out of school for five years, while others tell me they have been out of school for 40 years," O'Sullivan explained. "It doesn't matter in this program. All of the students share the same fear. After completing this course, they will have confidence they need to go back to school and not fail." Students will receive academic instruction in mathematics, English, foreign language, literature and composition, laboratory science and other subjects as necessary for success in education beyond high school.

Retired Master Chief Yeoman David Trzeciak recently completed the program and says these classes have been beneficial for him. "I was in the Navy for 32 years and this is the best educational program that I have seen, and I've attended a lot of Navy schools." There are also other advantages for students.

They'll receive academic advice and assistance, tutorial assistance, all school supplies and textbooks for the program and more.

The Upward Bound program has been around for about 30 years. "It was originally set up for Vietnam veterans, and it is still around today, but there are only about 40 national programs," O'Sullivan said. "I honestly don't know why there aren't more Upward Bound classes provided, but I hope to see more established in the future." Trzeciak couldn't agree more. "People that haven't been to school and are looking to take continuing education classes should really think about taking these preparation classes. I would recommend to anyone that is thinking about going back to school." Classes run in 14-week cycles and three cycles are available per year. Applications are accepted throughout the year. If you'd like to learn more about the Upward Bound program visit their Web site at www.veterans-upwardbound.org.

Worcester Answers Their Own Ship's Bell

The USS Worcester was commissioned in 1948, where it operated in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Seas. The ship was paid for by the citizens of Worcester. USS Worcester was called into action during the Korean War during which the ship received two battle stars for its service.

Over the years the bell became tarnished. Two Navy Sailors, QM2

Bennett and HM3 Thompson spent the last two months restoring this symbol of pride. On October 29th, QM2 Bennett and HM3 Thompson were honored by the Mayor of Worcester, Tim Murray, as he presented them the keys to the city. The beautiful bell now is all that remains of the ship and sits in Worcester's City Hall for all to see.



USS Worcester (CL-144) off the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Pennsylvania, 24 June 1948, two days before she was commissioned. *Official U.S. Navy Photograph*

Bangor Sailors Rally during Toys for Tots

By NRC Bangor PAO

BANGOR - Looking to brighten a child's day on Christmas, 24 Naval Reservists from NRC Bangor, Maine assisted University of Maine NROTC midshipmen and the Maine Maritime Academy with their Toys for Tots campaign. GSGT Brad Merrill (Maine Maritime Academy) and PNC Joe Mollo (NRC Bangor) developed and set the plan into action. Their goal was to raise as many toys as possible over 4 weekends, beating the amount brought in last year by these two groups. Opening day included a live broadcast on WBZN FM with radio personalities Corey and John of the morning show joining in the festivities and drawing attention to the program.

Over the past 3 weeks, these service men and women received numerous thanks and words of



Naval Reservists from NRC Bangor collected over \$5000 worth of new toys during the 2003 Toys for Tots campaign, exceeding their 2002 efforts. Pictured are (left to right): MS2 Tammy Webb, PNC Joe Mollo, LT Brian Sprague and ET2(SS) Peter Fandel.

encouragement for serving their country and for taking the time to collect toys for less fortunate members of the community. After 3 of 4 collection weekends the group had surpassed last year's \$5000 new toy value. All of the collected toys are earmarked for the

Bangor, ME regional area with distribution points selected by the USMCR. Because of the positive support and the camaraderie developed, plans have already begun to make this event bigger and better next year.

Horseheads Headlines "Coats for Kids" Drive

By JO1 (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast HORSEHEADS, N.Y. (NNS) —

In an effort to beat "Old Man Winter," personnel from Naval Reserve Center Horseheads, teamed up with the Salvation Army Oct. 24 - 25 for the "Coats for Kids" drive. More than 800 coats were given away during the two-day drive, ensuring that kids in the area will be warm this winter. "People were grabbing coats out of our hands before we could even hang them

up," Yeoman 1st Class Gary Waterman said. "I was glad to help them out to keep them warm from the winter cold."

The community was encouraged to drop coats off at a dry cleaner that was offering to clean the coats for free. The day before the drive kicked off, personnel from the center delivered the coats to a store in the local mall. "We were more than happy to help out. We don't have a big Navy presence

here, so we always want to help charities in the area to showcase the Navy's volunteer work," Chief Engineman (SW) Lawrence Basar said.

When the Salvation Army called for help, everyone at the Reserve Center offered to pitch in. Because of this drive, the Reserve Center is sponsoring a coat drive their own. Once the collection is complete, they will be cleaned and donated to a local church.

Admiral Rennie Interview (continued from page 3)

A. My main theme for this year is to work with the active duty Navy to allow Reservists to perform their mission of support in the best and most meaningful way possible. As I go around the region, that will be message for everyone I meet. If people are not working with our active duty partners, then we need to find a way to get them engaged - otherwise we don't really have a mission as Reserve force.

Q. What do you see in the upcoming year that may affect everyone in the region?

A. We've got some projects underway on our facilities that will help our Sailors, but apart from that we will be talking to the commander of Navy Region Northeast about how we can better support the active duty commands here with us in the Northeast. The aim is to become more fully engaged and aligned in our work throughout the region.

Q. What do you see happening with the Reserve Force in the next couple of years?

A. I think over the next two years we will see a major transformation in not only the Naval Reserve, but throughout the entire military. That transformation is already underway. The CNO and SECDEF are pushing the limits on how we do business, seeking to change things and make them more efficient in positive ways. As far as the Naval Reserve is concerned, we will likewise have to change as the active duty changes and their mission becomes more focused on sea basing.

Q. What are your expectations for everyone in this region?

A. I think the Naval Reserve program in the Northeast over last few years has been stellar. I look forward to that performance continuing. We have given the active component a great deal of support through recall and annual training, and through other means. I want to see that amount of support continue. In addition to that, I want everyone in this region to be looking at ways to better serve our active duty counterparts - that is my theme for this region and the entire Naval Reserve force- to be ready and fully integrated with the active component. Over the next two years that I'm here, that is going to be the big push.

Q. Any other comments?

A. I recognize that our Reservists have been doing a great deal

of work for the Navy. In the past two years, over a third of our people have come on active duty. I'm sensitive to amount of work they've done, and the service they have given to the Navy and our country. I applaud that, and I'm very respectful of how it has affected family and work. We are a nation at war, however, and we can expect those demands of Reservists will probably increase rather than decrease. I can fully expect the Navy to ask Reservists for extra demands on their time - duty and additional recalls - until we get the situation with terrorists under control. I think that is going to be long term instead of short term. I'm tremendously proud of the outstanding work our troops have done in making the world a safer place, and their dedication and commitment to the cause. It's the hard work of Northeast Sailors that have set the standard for the rest of the Naval Reserve to follow.

CMC's Scuttlebutt(continued from page 4)

mind; they are the region's priorities. We must support the gaining command and keep operational commitments our first concern.

If you are not already attached to a gaining command, then you must find one. Don't get caught in an In-Assignment Processing (IAP) status; you would not be doing the Navy or yourself any good. The Northeast region has many empty billets in both the force protection units and coastal warfare. Those personnel in an IAP status may want to take a hard look at one of those units. For those personnel in over-manned ratings, you may want to consider the Master-at-Arms (MAA) rating. It has a bright future, is growing quickly, and the advancement opportunity is great. Force protection units have several hard-fill billets and are at the tip of the spear. With the change in the security climate in the world today, force protection and coastal defense will continually be in high demand.

If you are assigned to a gaining command, endeavor to cross the bridge between reserve and regular Navy barriers. Show your gaining command what the reserve has to offer; express the high level of maturity and experience that we bring to the table. In today's Navy there must not be an "us and them" mentality, rather an "all one Navy" mentality. We must be fully trained and integrated and ready to deploy with our gaining command when the time comes. With all that said, times are different and exciting in the reserve today. Have a great year and be ready.

Bravo Zulu

Defense Superior Service Medal

CAPT Earl Kishida (NR COMICEDEFOR)

Legion of Merit

CAPT Robert Wray (NR SPAWAR 201)

Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Jeffrey Tall (Manchester)

HM2 Lowe (NR NNMC Bethesda Det B)

Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

SK3 Verge (CART E-301)

HM2 Lowe (NR NNMC Beth Det B)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

CAPT Karen Baetzel (VTU 0109)

LCDR Robert Ralph (VTU)

CAPT Linda Otis (NDCL Bethesda 104)

CAPT William Brennan (NAVICP Phil)

CDR Christopher Maddocks (NAVICP Phil)

CDR Chrales Motley (NAVICP Phil)

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

EMC(SW) Stanley Emerick (Manchester)

SK1(SW) Tam Dinh (Manchester)

PN1 Kristin Merrick (Manchester)

EM1(SW) Curtis Brandt (Manchester)

GM2(SW) Jeffrey Eberling (Manchester)

SK2 Debbie Gembach (Manchester)

LT Ramesh Durvasla (NR NDCL Det 401)

LCDR Peter Pitman (NR PHIB CB 2 Det 101)

SK1 Ann Ward (Ft. Dix)

SKC Virgillio Paredes (NAVICP Phil)

IT1 Robert Murphy (NAVICP Phil)

LCDR Michael Perry (NAVICP Phil)

LT Blackwell (COMUSKOREA Det 102)

LCDR Melendez-Bodardo (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

LCDR Burnt (SUBSCOL Det 101)

LCDR Arnold (COMUSKOREA Det 102)

PN2 Corena Crouch (Worcester)

Retirements

CAPT Thomas F. Turisco

Sailor of the Year

YN1 Joseph Augustine Ft. Dix

PC1 Ovidio Duran (SSB2 Mobmail)

IT2 Charles Bragg (NR SSB HQ 101)

PN1 Cheryl Fitzpatrick (Quincy)

Sailor of the Quarter

SK1(SW) Tam Dinh (Manchester)

HM2 Karen Chambers (NH Bethesda Det F)

YN3 Jospheh Darin (Ft. Dix)

YN1 Nina Parker (NAVICP Phil Team 1)

IT2 Steven Moores (NR Battle Group Staff 2)

HM2 Nicholas Trosclair (Quincy)

IT3 Denise Carrasquillo (MSC Southern Persian Gulf)

HN Brian Kuzemcak (Quincy)

HM1 Pepe (NR NNMC Bethesda Det B)

EO1 Scott Fenton (NMCB 133)

SK2 Natalie Higby (Watertown)

SK3 Michael Falton (CNR MIDLANT)

HM1 Pepe (NNMC Beth Det B)

Letter of Commendation

HM2 Claude Billingslea (Manchester)

PN2 Jason Weekes (Manchester)

Reenlistments

BM2 Joe Cruz (CHB8)

SK1 Ken Tillotson (CHB8)

BM1 Roy Price (CHB8)

BM2 Andrew Boyer (CHB8)

BM2 Robert Brady (NCHB 8)

CM2 Charles Boyle (NCHB 8)

SK1 Evan Lewis (NCHB 8)



Advancement/Promotions

LT Armando Marchado (SSB2 Mobmail)
HM1 Kevin Booughman (CHB8)
IT David Most (FH Det 14)
PC3 Luis Rojas (SSB 2 Mobmail)
BM2 Ranger (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
SK2 McIntosh (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
BM2 Stanwood (NR NSWC Det H)
BU2 Hayes (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO2 Jarvis (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO2 Smith (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO1 Dixon (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO3 Chambers (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
CAPT Karen Gruber (Ft. Dix)
CDR Ricahrd Nash (NR NAVICP Phil)
LCDR Onofrio Margioni (NMCB 21 Det 0121)
PCC Ovidio Duran (SSB2 Mobmail)
CMC James Puglia (NCHB 8 Maintenance Co)
PCC Mary Zullo (SSB2 Mobmail)
BM1 Matuza (CART E-301)
EN1 Bessette (CART E-301)
SK1 Steele
HM1(FMF) Linacre (4th MARDIV)
YN2 Martinez (Worcester)
HM2 Brunelle (NMC Portsmouth Det C)
SH3 Le (CART E-301)
BM2 Ranger (NCTAMS Lant Det C)
SK2 McIntosh (NCTAMS Lant Det C)
BM2 Stanwood (NR NSWC Det H)
BU2 Hayes (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO2 Jarvis (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO2 Smith (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO1 Dixon (NMCB 27 Det 0827)
EO3 Chambers (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

NYPD Reservist Remembered *(continued from page 5)*

England's 15 Principles of Leadership. What makes this organization important to him is cherished time spent with shipmates, non-stop learning, and being surrounded with great people.

Seabees Rewarded in Times Square *(continued from page 7)*

since Pearl Harbor. I was proud to go, and I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

The dedication and resiliency shown by these two Sailors is at the heart of what makes a Seabee a Seabee, and a testament to all the Reservists who have left the familiarity of their normal jobs and home life to serve for their country. Other NMCB 21 Reservists commended for their actions in Iraq in the ceremony were NMCB 21 Officer-in-Charge, Cmdr. Charles Shere of Pennsylvania; Builder 1st Class, Ronald Cozza of New Jersey; and Utilitiesman 1st Class, Daniel Hazley of Pennsylvania.

**Paying Their Respects** *(continued from page 8)*

first naval commissioned captain in the Navy, and my grandfather 13-times removed is Miles Standish so you can imagine how important this is to me," Mook explained. "You have to follow through and believe in providing these honors. We make sure honors are given to these veterans or retirees."

And while Mook's family tree has ties to the military, that's not the main reason funeral honors are so important to her. "Think about who we are burying now. They are World War II veterans," said Mook. "If they had not fought in World War II, and won, we could all be under a fascist's command. They went into combat with guns and bayonets, fighting against basically two groups who wanted to annihilate people who weren't like them. They are the epitome of patriots."