



On Watch

April 2004 - Spring

Still on Call: 58 Reservists Forward Deployed

by JO1(SW/AW) Steven Bansbach,
Deputy PAO REDCOM NE

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) — Of the 2,052 Northeast Reservists mobilized since January 2001, currently only 58 personnel remain on active duty. Even though these 58 people represent a small portion of the service members that were activated, they are still doing very big things in the far reaches of the world.

Most of the personnel are performing security duties like Boatswain's Mate Senior Chief (NAC) Kevin O'Brien from Providence Rhode Island. He is attached to Inshore Boat Unit 21, which is doing patrols in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (UAE). O'Brien got there at the end of January and believes that he could be there for a couple of more months. "We wouldn't be here if somebody didn't think we needed to be," O'Brien remarked. "We are maintaining force protection for ships with our gunboats, standing Entry Control Point watch and searching trucks and vehicles on the pier. The threat hasn't gone away."

O'Brien further noted that some of his crew are on their second mobilization and that the pace of things hasn't slowed down. "Out here it's the real deal. I got

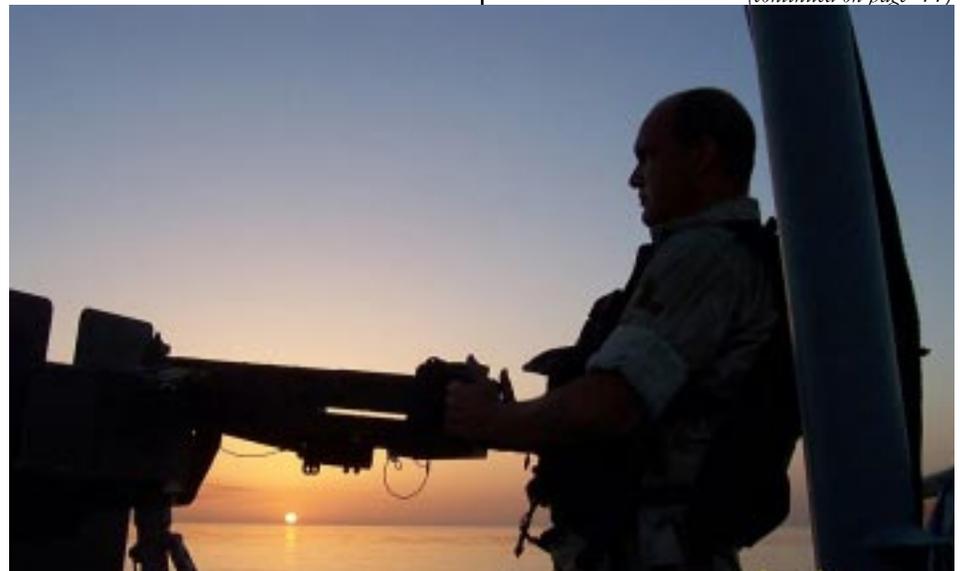
my guys wearing weapons, pointing weapons, looking for bombs, mines, explosives, it's demanding."

At Kuwait Naval Base members of the Atlantic Ordnance Command (AOC) are working with Marines to fight the global war on terrorism. On Valentine's Day their deployment started and the operational tempo of handling 627 pallets of ammunition didn't let up for the first three weeks. "It was high tempo right when we got here," Gunner's Mate First Class Gregory Pee said. "It seemed like the days started at 0500 and we ran for the next 36 hours."

Once AOC personnel received

the pallets, they packaged them up and trucked them to the Kuwaiti International Airport for the Marines to ship out to forward deployed ships. Everyone was working 18 to 20 hour days putting a lot of stress on the working condition, but Lt Nicholas Constantino, tried to keep the Sailors upbeat by working a flex schedule. "If we were ahead of the schedule, which was usually the case after the first week, we tried to split the workload," Constantino explained. "By splitting the workload it allowed personnel to do laundry, or use the internet café so they could email people. I also allowed sailors

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In the early morning hours, ET1 Stephen Santos, attached to Inshore Boat Unit (IBU) 21, stands watch underway by the USNS Pillilau. Santos and other members of IBU 21 are some of the 58 personnel still answering the call for Reservists.

Are the Reserves Possibly a Thing of the Past?

By YN2 Darius Radzius, Naval Reserve
Naval Media Center

WASHINGTON — This year may be the last birthday for the Naval Reserve as it is known today. That's the message heard by Naval Reservists, their families and friends as they converged on the U.S. Navy Memorial March 6 to celebrate 89 years of service.

While remembering past accomplishments, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Mullen and Chief of Naval Reserve Vice Adm. John Cotton focused on the future, as the Naval Reserve undergoes a massive realignment toward integration with their active-duty counterparts to eventually become one Navy force.

The cultures between the active and the Reserve components grew apart in the 1980s, establishing clear differences between the two components. The differences between the two components, however, never solidified from theory into policy. "There's always been one Navy," Cotton reminded the audience. "Maybe we've forgotten and lost our way."

Recent conflicts have forced the Navy to change the diverging course of the two components. "(Operation) Desert Storm changed all of that, because it got a little busier for us with a little less stuff in the '90s, and Sept. 11 was a wake-up call for everyone," Cotton said.

Change can be a challenge for any organization, but active and Reserve Sailors are excited about their future together. Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Eric Zelaya always recognized one Navy during his eight years of service. "I've always looked at it as one service," Zelaya said. "I'm not a Naval Reservist. I am part of the United States Navy."

Cotton called on Naval Reservists to be ready to integrate with the naval force of the future. "You're going to be called. You're going to be used," he said. Cotton made a call to the active-duty component, as well. "Take charge of our Reservists, find out what they can do, figure out what their civilian skills are, especially, and then leverage them," he said.

On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast

RADM Frank F. Rennie, USNR
*Commander, REDCOM
Northeast*

CDR Randy Britton, USNR
PAO, REDCOM Northeast

JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach,
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Admiral's Corner



RADM Frank F. Rennie IV

As we leave the snow of Winter behind us here in New England, we can see that although there are bright skies ahead for us, we still have a few showers to get through. That old saw is relevant to our situation now in the Naval Reserve. Everywhere around us is change, there are some unavoidable gray days, but as we suffer through those days, we know that better days are ahead. The transformation we are making is difficult, and will continue to challenge us, but the end result will be a better, more fully integrated Naval Reserve that will serve to make our entire Navy stronger.

It's unavoidable that we all know that the country is still at war, and we see the news of our fellow Reservists from the other branches in Iraq every day. Many of you

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Northeast Reserve Leaders Discuss Integration

By JO2 Edward Flynn & JO1 Dave Kaylor, NIB 101 New England Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) — Senior regional Reserve leaders from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard met for an unprecedented summit at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., March 6. The gathering of northeast regional Reserve commanders was the first of its kind in the nation. Their goal: to explore joint regional opportunities to meet mutual goals of training and readiness for the 50,000 Reserve service members under their command.

“The Navy, and indeed, all the service branches, must size and shape their Reserve components to better meet the demands of the 21st century,” said summit host, Rear Adm. Frank Rennie, Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast. “We are looking at areas where we can collaborate to seamlessly operate as part of the joint forces in our training, just as we do in our operations in the field.”

Attendees included Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall and seven general and flag officers representing every branch of the Armed Forces Guard and Reserve from around the Northeast. Vice Adm. John C. Cotton, Commander, Naval Reserve Force addressed attendees via teleconference.

The summit introduced the Guard and Reserve leaders to each

regional component’s resources and training methods, providing insight for further exploration of shared joint regional training opportunities, resources, knowledge and programs, to better prepare Guard and Reserve personnel for the joint operations they face when mobilized. “The ongoing global war on terrorism will continue to place heavy demands on our nation’s armed forces, particularly the Reserves and National Guard,” said Rennie. “We need to establish inter-service relationships at this level to identify opportunities for training and joint support of our national and regional objectives.”

The summit resulted in each service learning best practices and methods from the other services, and materially improved the knowledge each service had of the others, according to Capt. Rob Wray, deputy for mission effectiveness at Naval Reserve Readiness Command

Northeast. “We achieved one of our primary goals of establishing personal relationships between the regional commanders, as well as fostering cooperation and understanding between the different branches on a local level,” said Wray.

“We also agreed to establish the summit as an annual gathering, and established an O-6 level working group with representatives from each of the services,” he said. “We’ll have some unique opportunities to study initiatives, like overlap between our facilities and infrastructure across the region, and look at joint training opportunities, such as creating a regional joint mobile training team.” The total activated Reserve force currently exceeds 180,000 personnel. A large portion of that force was mobilized from Reserve and Guard units training and serving in the Northeast region.



The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Thomas F. Hall addresses leaders of Reserve components about the future of Reservists. Leaders have agreed to meet in the upcoming months to discuss future goals (Photo by JO1 Dave Kaylor)

SECNAV Pays a Visit to Bronx Reserve Center

By NRC Bronx Public Affairs

BRONX, N.Y. (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England (SECNAV) visited over 200 New-York area Sailors and Marines during a March 3 visit to one of the nation's largest Reserve Centers — Naval Reserve Center (NRC), Bronx, N.Y.

England, the 73rd Secretary of the Navy, thanked the Sailors and Marines for their service and that they will continue to fight and triumph in the war on terrorism. He said that he had been through three "isms" in his lifetime, "The first was fascism in World War Two. Then our country faced the spread of communism in the Cold War. Now we are dealing with terrorism. The President is determined we will prevail through perseverance and

determination."

England's visit also coincided with the Naval Reserve's 89th anniversary of its conception on March 3, 1915, in response to the development of World War I in Europe when 300,000 citizen-Sailors answered the call to arms. Since then, the Reserve Force has changed with the times. Reserve transformation initiatives are currently underway that are designed to create a more responsive and integrated Naval Reserve Force by defining the 21st century Reserve Force structure. This includes determining active/reserve component force structure and mix that supports the Fleet Response Plan (FRP), flexible deployment concept and global Concept of Operations

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Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England meets with the Command Staff of Reserve Center Bronx. England's visit also coincided with the Naval Reserve's 89th anniversary of its inception on March 3, 1915, in response to the development of World War I in Europe when 300,000 citizen-Sailors answered the call to arms.

CMC's Corner



CDMCMC(AW/NAC) Pat Flavin

Team,

I would like to start out by saying that our region has been very busy in the last couple of months. We have taken fleet integration to the next level and have proven our worth, time and time again. With that said, we still need to keep up the fight and ensure we are coming up with new innovative ways of supporting our gaining commands ensuring we are trained and ready when the time comes to do our part in this war on terrorism. I know everyone of you are ready and willing, so let's work as a team and make sure we represent this country and the Naval Reserve the best way we can.

On another subject, I had a chance to sit on the last E-8/9 selection board and found some things that were very interesting. I

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Reservists Gear-Up to Integrate with Security

by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, Deputy PAO REDCOM NE

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) —

Ready to serve and fully integrated, the vision of the Naval Reserve, was put into practice at Naval Station Newport from March 8-19th. Naval Station Newport Security Force held Auxiliary Security Force (ASF) training for several personnel to prepare them for integration as security personnel if the need arose.

The Naval Reserve Force is creating a new Naval Security Force (NSF) unit, to be manned by thousands of new Reserve Masters-at-Arms. With permanent NSF responsibilities being added to list of Reserve missions, the Force now can offer tremendous advancement opportunities to those who would join the ranks of the Security Force, specifically the Master-at-Arms (MA) community.

Currently, tenant commands at Naval Station Newport provide ASF personnel when the threat level changes. In the past, if personnel were on ASF for extended periods it would put a strain on their parent command because of manning shortages, but in the future, if the threat level changes to Charlie or Delta and remains there for an extended period of time, the tenant command ASF will be dissolved and members from the NSF units will be mobilized.

Being part of the NSF members will allow personnel to receive annual training to keep them current on policies and procedures. "This training keeps me informed



Machinist Mate First Class(SW) Robert Schultz practices how to use a metal baton to protect himself against an attacker. During the two-week Auxiliary Security Force training, students learn how to search a car or room, the safe and proper way to handle guns, the use of aerosol spray, handcuffing techniques, policy and procedures for Naval Station Newport, as well as verbal judo. (Photo by JO1(SW/AW) Steven Bansbach)

of what is expected of me," Machinist Mate First Class(SW) Robert Schultz said. "The training will keep me up to speed on things that I don't know. As a Machinist Mate, this is definitely out of my realm of expertise, and this will give me a good foundation that I can use as a building block to build upon. This will help me become comfortable with the equipment and the proper procedures, so when I'm standing watch I do it right.

To be part of the NSF billets, personnel may have to meet one of the four prerequisites. First, current MA's will be assigned to the NSF units because of the skills they already possess, but if there are not enough MA's to fill the billets

personnel with the security Navy Enlisted Classification will be selected. Third, if personnel previously served in a security capacity they can volunteer to attend an ASF academy, and finally Naval Reserve recruiters will target security professionals and law enforcement officers offering them the opportunity to join the Force.

Seaman Shallah Shabazz has only been in the Navy for a year and a half, and the only training she received was at boot camp. "This training will make me more confident. The reason that we are here is to provide safety. After this training I'll know what to do in the field to protect myself and others."

Crowded Ratings May Cause Sailors to Jump Ship

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

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) — Reservists that are having trouble making rate may now be able to choose an alternate avenue to advance in their career—transferring to a different rating, according to Chief Navy Counselor (AW) Annette Jennings of Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Northeast. Instead of studying flash cards trying to be the one out of 100 people that advances in their current rating, Sailors might want to consider that transferring to a different rating may be the best option, she said. “It’s a personal choice,” Jennings explained. “What drives the individual is what really matters.”

Jennings noted that ratings that were once crowded may have shortages now due to several reasons, like retirements. She emphasized that the best way to ensure that a Reservist is not going from bad to worse is to research the Enlisted Career Management Objective (ECMO). ECMO is a list of each rating and the manning status of the rating. The list is broken down into two categories, assigning a letter and number value for each rating. If a rating gets a letter value of “A” it is undermanned, “B” is at desired manning and “C” is overmanned. The numbers that are assigned to each rating evaluate the likelihood of advancing; “1” is excellent, “2” is good, “3” is limited and “4” is minimal.

Whether cross-rating is the

answer or not is a choice the service member should consider carefully. “Just because you don’t advance as quickly as you want is not a reason to change ratings,” Jennings said. “Maybe that person doesn’t do well on tests, maybe they should try and study with someone that is in the same rating.”

Normally, to change ratings, personnel have to be an E-6 or below with less than 12 years of service, but there are exceptions. Another way to make a transfer smoother is to look at the requirements for the rating. Personnel need to make sure they meet all the requirements, and they can see if there is a school they can attend. “For some people, when they joined, they didn’t know what they would be doing,” Jennings said. “Now that they know what they are responsible for, they may not be interested in that rating. If that’s the case, then maybe there is a need to

convert to another rating designation.”

Jennings also pointed out that a civilian job might already qualify a person for a lateral conversion. “I knew an Aviation Mechanic 1st Class with 18 years who was able to cross-rate to an IT1 (Information Systems Technician) because of what he did in his civilian life,” said Jennings. Also, if ratings are similar, personnel can qualify for a lateral conversion. Once personnel convert to a different rating, they will have to remain in that rating for at least 24 months before they can transfer to another rating. And while cross-rating may be viewed as a retention tool, Jennings sees it as an individual goal. “I would recommend that an E-4 with 10 years in—that is not advancing—to maybe look into converting,” she said. “Choosing to change your rating could be looked at as a

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Sailors take the E-6 rating advancement exam at the Capodichino Ciao Hall early in the morning. Because of crowded rates, Reserve personnel are cross-rating to open rates in hopes of better advancement results. (Photo by PH2 Lenny Francioni)

Family Preparation Eases Mobilization Transition

By JO2 Joseph R. Holstead, NR
NAVINFO East 102

BRONX, N.Y. (NNS) — “It is a rare honor to be in New York with individuals who answered the call after September 11, and New Yorkers know better than anyone the need for Reservists. Today we honor them and those back home who supported them,” said Rear Adm. Frank F. Rennie, Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast, at a recognition event on January 24, 2003, for Reservists mobilized from Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Bronx.

One hundred eighty-four Sailors from NRC Bronx have been mobilized, answering the call to duty, since the events of September 11, 2001, in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, according to Cmdr. Mike Merwin, commanding officer of NRC Bronx.

Amid the cooing of newborn babies in a room swelled with honor, Rennie went on to thank the families and friends who supported their mobilized Reservists. “And I know I speak for every man and woman associated with our military...when I say the support of those here at home makes all the difference.”

At an earlier NRC Bronx mobilization recognition event on January 10, 2003, Captain Ted Fessel, Deputy Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast, reminded the Sailors and their families that, “there are 1.3 million men and women who serve



Rear Adm. Frank F. Rennie, Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast presents the Reserve Northeast Sailor of the Year (SOY), Master at Arms 1st Class Tracy Dianne Wolak, MSCO NPERSGULF 102 of Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Bronx, NY, a SOY commemorative plaque during a mobilization recognition event at NRC Bronx, January 24, 2004. Wolak was mobilized shortly after September 11, 2001. (Photo BY PH3 John Radovanovich Jr., NR NAVINFO East 102 NY)

in Reserve components just like you and make up nearly one half of the U.S. armed forces, and you all form an integral part of our nation’s military.” One of those citizen Sailors is CM2 Daniel Johnson of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 21 detachment 1121. Johnson, who lives in Ozone Park, NY, was mobilized for six months last year in Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. “We do our job, and our families have to carry on in our absence, which is not always easy, but they understand. And we are very grateful for their support,”

Johnson said.

Johnson and other NMCB 21 detachment 1121 members checked out of NRC Bronx on February 1, 2003; trained at Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi; went to Kuwait at the end of February; and were in Iraq shortly after the war began in late March 2003. “DET 1121 Seabees were the first Seabees over the boarder [into Iraq from Kuwait] as we set out for Umm Qasar,” Johnson said proudly. Fellow Seabees CM2 Matthew Eifler noted, “As we left last year I said ‘I

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Planning for Your Family's Future is Key

By Lt. Sarah Self-Kyler, Chief of Naval Personnel Women's Policy Branch

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Prior planning for family care is essential to combat readiness, by ensuring Sailors and their families are prepared for deployments, and ready to execute their military and professional duties. To provide Sailors clear guidance for developing reliable family care plans and to assist commands in creating effective family care programs, the Navy recently revised the Family Care Policy instruction (OPNAVINST 1740.4B).

“The new revision simplified and clarified many of the requirements of the policy,” explained Capt. Carol Schmidt, Branch Head of Women's Policy in Washington. “We included a simple checklist to guide Sailors through the development of a plan.”

Several topics included in the checklist are:

- Financial preparations, such as establishing allotments, fund transfers, and/or automatic bill pay.
- Logistical concerns, such as family contacts, school arrangements, use of government services, etc.
- Medical/Dental information, such as location of records, names of providers, medication requirements.
- Legal provisions, such as wills, powers of attorney, ID Cards, social security numbers and insurance policies.

The instruction requires Sailors to arrange for support of their family members during deployment, normal and extended working hours, TAD [temporary assigned duty] assignments and weekend duty, regardless of whether the Sailor is on shore or sea duty.

“Advanced planning benefits both the Navy and the Sailor by ensuring care for family members is provided, easing stress on the Sailor and his or her command,” wrote Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing in a recent NAVADMIN. The Navy Family Care policy applies to all Navy personnel, active and reserve, who are single parents or part of a dual military couple with custodial responsibility for family members. It also applies to Sailors who are the sole caregiver of another person.

NAVADMIN 037/04 has more details. It is available online at www.bupers.navy.mil/navadmin/nav04/nav04037.txt.

For more information on the Navy's Family Care Policy, please visit the Office of Women's Policy Web site at www.bupers.navy.mil/pers2/N134/.

Select Units May be Due Extra Pay and Benefits

From Chief of Naval Personnel PAO
WASHINGTON (NNS) —

Navy personnel who deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea in the opening weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom are now entitled to Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) and Combat Zone Tax Relief (CZTR) benefits.

Through special legislation, the Department of Defense retroactively authorized IDP and CZTR benefits from March 19 through Aug. 1, 2003. “We are absolutely delighted to be able to get this pay into the hands of all those hard-

working Sailors who were there during the opening phase of the war,” said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. “They were among the first to sail in harm's way, and they certainly deserve this.”

The original authorization for IDP and CZTR began April 11, 2003, and did not cover Sailors who deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March. This change in authorization date affects nearly 18,000 Sailors, most of whom were attached to USS

Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) carrier strike groups, as well as Commander, Task Force (CTF) 61 units.

Sailors deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, east of 30 degrees east longitude, in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom between March 19 and April 11, 2003, and not already entitled to IDP and CZTR benefits for March and/or April, should contact their local disbursing office for more information or see NAVADMIN 036/04.

Amityville Reservists Prevent Recruiting Horrors

By JOC John Harrington, NRD New York Public Affairs

AMITYVILLE, N.Y. - In the small, Long Island city that inspired one of Hollywood's well-known horror films, Sailors of Naval Reserve Recruiting Support Unit 0428 (RSU-0428) Amityville stand ready to make sure active-duty recruiters' "nightmares" never come true.

The art of recruiting for today's Navy can be time consuming and doesn't always afford active-duty recruiters as much time as they would like to spend with those who have already decided to join. A keeping new recruit, or "DEPPERS," motivated about joining, especially when they must wait for months at a time before departing for basic training, is a leadership challenge. This is where the tireless efforts of dedicated Reservists shine brightest, assisting recruiters of Navy Recruiting District, New York (NRD NY) in their Delayed Entry Program (DEP) management.

"While we can get tied up with trying to get people in the Navy, [the Reservists] can be our 'second eyes,' ensuring that our DEPPERS are being managed correctly," said Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW/SS) Celso Pena, a recruiter from Navy Recruiting Station Melrose, Bronx, N.Y. "[The Reservists] call DEPPERS, make sure they're keeping up with qualifications for physical training, conduct training like today and ensure that letters are being written [to the



GM2(SW) Anthony Wuria, USNR, RSU 0428, instructs future Sailors on the Chain-of-Command at a recent DEP training event in support of Navy Recruiting District New York. (Photo by JOC John Harrington)

recruit] after the recruit goes to basic training. If the DEPPER needs any help, the Reservists are there for them. That way, it gives us, the recruiters, a heads up on any things that need to be taken care of."

Part of taking care of those in the DEP program is training like that found in the DEP Personnel Qualifications Standards (PQS) book. The material includes rank recognition, the 11 general orders, pay and chain-of-command information along with other basic military requirements. PQS is gone over by recruiters during monthly DEP meetings, but it's the Reserve unit's ability to use its Sailors' drill time to teach DEPPERS that really helps the training sink in.

"Sometimes when you're in a

DEP meeting, and even when you're talking about the ranks with pictures, sometimes it's still unclear," said Julie Arias, a DEPPER slated to go to air traffic controller school. "But, here you see things through examples and get to ask more questions because the whole day is in the classroom. I've been able to learn a lot from this 'hands-on' kind of training, and I think it'll give me a heads up in basic training over those people who didn't have it."

DEPPERS who successfully complete PQS prior to going to basic training are automatically promoted to the rank of E-2 after Recruit Training Command (RTC) graduation. Advancement opportunities like this are only part of what

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New Petty Officers Get Frocked

JO3 Michelle Carter, USNR, Fleet Hospital, Detachment 14, Fort Dix FORT DIX N.J. - Right before Christmas break, newly frocked Petty Officers at Naval Reserve Center, Fleet Hospital, Fort Dix, New Jersey attended the Petty Officer Third Class Indoctrination Course marking their passage into a new association.

The words “you are hereby authorized to assume the title and wear the uniform of a third class Petty Officer...” mark a significant change in a Sailor. Some Sailors become Petty Officers-in-Charge of workspaces or of working parties. As a Petty Officer there are important things to remember such as being held to a higher standard and how you are expected to take care of your people. “The indoctrination course is a snapshot of what your responsibilities are going to be,” Command Master Chief(AW/NAC) Earl Galloway explained. “It teaches you fundamental stages of

leadership and communication in the military organization. It prepares you and is a basic overview of where you are expected to go and what is expected of you.”

During the indoctrination course, Sailors covered the ten topics from Navedtra 38200-A. During these classes there is a mind-meld as the Sailors are able to use examples from everyday encounters as case studies. “My interest was in stressing the ways to be a good leader and discussing the types of leadership,” Information Technician Third Class Christopher Hill remarked. “The course offered skills that you can build upon to improve the basic skills you already have.”

Leadership is also an important topic for the instructors. “The most important thing I want to stress is leadership, because being a good leader carries greater responsibility toward developing leaders of

tomorrow,” “Yeoman Third Class Joseph Darin, an instructor, said. “Learning how to command respect vice demanding respect is crucial to getting the job done right. Commanding respect is leading by example and going the extra mile.”

In the end the class is not going to teach you everything you need to know about how to be a Petty Officer, but help you get ready to make that next step. Galloway had this to say, “As a new petty officer, I feel it is crucial to be a follower and a leader. It is important to acknowledge each person and share information. Sometimes it is the person that doesn’t say much that has a great idea. If we work as a team, this is half the battle. I borrow this statement; “The Naval heritage is a legacy that is passed to us by those who served before us. This legacy comes with an obligation to study it and pass it down, untarnished.”

Ombudsman Awarded Navy’s Highest Award

By JO2 Leif Herrgesell, NMCRC Rochester Public Affairs ROCHESTER, N.Y. (NNS) — During a Jan. 17 ceremony, Commander, Naval Reserve Force (CNRF) Vice Adm. John G. Cotton presented Ombudsman Robin Reininger the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award, the top honor for civilians.

As the ombudsman for Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center (NMCRC) Rochester, N.Y.,

Reininger served as the direct liaison between the Naval Sea Systems Command Det. 925 commanding officer and the families of mobilized Sailors. As the direct representative of the commanding officer, she was able to help families that were new to the Navy and even some seasoned veterans.

Reininger said that the ones who actually deserved the award were the families of the mobilized

Sailors. “They’re the real heroes,” she said. “Our Reservists fight for family and home, as was evidenced by Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom,” remarked Capt. Drew Peake, former commanding officer of the unit. “During these conflicts, Mrs. Reininger provided tireless and exceptional service to our Navy families, and she deserves the recognition the award represents.”

58 Reservists *(cont. from pg 1)*

to make a morale call back to the states. We also had a movie tent and a lot of personnel brought their own DVD's that we could watch on a computer."

While Sailors are working hard to satisfy the mission's needs, families at home take on an extra workload, as both the mother and father. Electronics Technician First Class Stephen Santos knows that all to well. Since November of 2001 he has been mobilized four times. "We have to remember that while there are 58 personnel that are mobilized there are 58 families that are affected," Santos mentioned. I had to miss my son's graduation and then his graduation from boot camp. It affects the families more than anything."

Even though Santos is in Fujairah, his thoughts are of back home, he reminds himself and his personnel not to let their guard down otherwise terrorist could strike. "I remind them that we are here to protect assets that come in and out. We can't become complacent. We have to show a positive posture, a show of force. If we do that terrorist will look elsewhere. We can't be a soft target, we have to be a strong security force."

Another responsibility of the Inshore Boat Unit is to Visit, Board, Search, Seize (VBSS), which can be difficult in several aspect. "When you access a ship it can be dark, loud or hot," O'Brien concluded. "Imagine having to search an engine room in 110 degree heat and you have to keep focused on what you are looking for. It can

definitely put some gray hairs on your head."

These Reservist and others hope to be coming home in the near future, and others may be leaving. Engineman Second Class Delisa Williams noted, "people are still serving, doing what they have to do. We are still out here maintaining." No matter how many Sailors are mobilized, they are still providing presence with a purpose.

SECNAV visits the Bronx *(cont. from pg 4)*
(CONOPs) and new Navy missions such as Anti Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP).

The Naval Reserve is slated for a redesign to establish common training and readiness standards for regular and reserve forces, improve reserve access to current equipment and tactics and to optimize command and headquarters relationships between regular and reserve forces. The Secretary concluded his address by once again thanking the Sailors and Marines and witnessing the reenlistment of HM2(FMF) Richard G. Heine of the Fourth Force Service Support Group (4th FSSG), with NRC Bronx commanding officer, Cmdr. Michael Merwin.

Naval Reserve Center, Bronx is the largest Naval Reserve Center in the Northeast, with more than 900 drilling Reservists. It is responsible for providing mission capable units and individuals for mobilization to the Navy and Marine Corps teams throughout the full range of operations from peace to war.

Mobilization Transition *(cont. from pg 7)*
am going with the best.' And these guys are! Everyone pulled it together; there was nothing that we could not accomplish." Johnson, Eifler and their fellow Seabees rebuilt schools for Iraqi children and constructed field showers for U.S. and coalition forces while in Iraq, among a myriad of other projects.

EO2 1st Class Daniel Quinn, unloaded ships and drove in many convoys from Kuwait to Iraq while mobilized, and had this advice for those who may get the call: "Be prepared—you train all these years, and when you have go, you'll know that you will get the job done."

Echoing that sentiment was Lt. Cmdr. Lya Theodoratos, part of NMCB 21 DET 1121's environmental engineering team. Theodoratos was mobilized to Kuwait earlier in January 2003 to be part of the Central Command Joint Task Force, "Consequence Management"—the team that would have responded to CBR (chemical, biological and radiological) attacks on other countries in the region. "Once mobilized, you acclimate quickly and would be surprised how much of the CBR training sticks with you. And you will be thankful for it," she said.

Capturing the sentiment of the event, Rear Adm. Rennie told the NRC Bronx audience, "our Reserve forces train and prepare for readiness to serve. And when I look at each one of you here today, I understand what readiness really means."

Amityville Recruiters *(cont. from pg 9)*

Reservists contribute to DEP management; it's their unique, and often diverse, life experiences that go a long way toward bringing the DEPPERS into the Navy way of life.

"We think of ourselves as role models," says Master-at-Arms 1st Class Sonny Tannenbaum, a drilling Reservist with RSU-0428. "We can shed some light onto what serving in the Navy means by referencing our own experiences. We do whatever we can to give them some direction and I think it helps to give them that knowledge before they go to basic training."

Being role models comes second nature to these Reservists as nearly all of them are involved in law enforcement in their civilian lives, not only enforcing laws, but also providing assistance to their communities. Cmdr. Clinton Morano, RSU-0428 commanding officer, serves as a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While this high-profile job takes a great deal of time, Morano feels it's important to continue to give to his country as a Reservist.

"I think my duty here, in the grand scheme of things, is probably not as significant as the Reservists who are actually out there right now fighting the war," said Cmdr. Morano. "But, these DEPPERS are our future Sailors who are going to go out and fight the war on terrorism, so anything we can do to help this command successfully complete it's mission is important."

This sense of purpose and dedication is a common bond of

these Reservists, a quality especially important as the Navy continues to integrate its active-duty and Reserve components. Through whatever changes and challenges may come their way, Sailors of RSU-0428 look forward to making their contribution.

"I love the Reserves," says Yeoman 1st Class Guy Palumbo, an RSU-0428 Reservist with more than 19 years of service. "I get to travel, I get an extra paycheck, and, most importantly, I get to serve my country. What more can you ask?"

**Reservists Cross-rating** *(cont. from pg 6)*

personal fulfillment tool." Jennings also recommends that personnel read the MILPERSMAN 1440 for additional information.

Admiral's Corner *(cont. from pg 2)*

have served overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and have come home after making incredible contributions – but it's important to remember, as our front page story reminds us in this issue of On Watch, we still have Naval Reservists out on the front lines of the war on terrorism. This is a trend that will continue, and we must continue to be ready.

You are all hearing about ASAP (Alignment, Synchronization, Assessment, Programming) and the "Four C's" (Communication, Culture, Continuing Education, Commitment), but they all boil down to one key thing for us: Readiness. The language may not be what you'd hear in everyday conversation, but it's important to embrace the change that's coming, and make every effort to understand the new programs and initiatives that are underway to transform the Naval Reserve. The programs aren't going away, and they are going to be fundamentally affecting you and your life in the Naval Reserve – and we must be ready for them.

Unit and regional realignments are going to be implemented in the months and years ahead that will affect the units you drill in, where they drill, and how they are organized – while these changes will affect you in many ways, they won't fundamentally affect that one key thing that binds us together as Naval Reservists – that we are ready to serve. I am proud to be serving as your commander, and am looking forward to meeting more of you as I tour the Centers.

Reservists Get New Travel Tax Deduction

Reservists who travel far away from home on Navy duty may now be able to deduct up to \$1,500 in otherwise non-reimbursed standard travel expenses on their federal taxes. On November 11, 2003, the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 was signed into law.

This 2003 Tax Act is intended to improve the fairness of the tax law for military personnel, as well as for Foreign Service officers and military academy attendees. Reservists often incur significant travel expenses for their reserve duty (for example, to attend a drill or meeting), and not all of their expenses are reimbursed.

There is a special provision in the Military Family Tax Relief Act for members of the Reserve who stay overnight while in service more than 100 miles away from home. Such taxpayers may deduct any non-reimbursed travel expenses (including meals, lodging, and transportation) from gross income. Previously such expenses were deductible only as an itemized deduction on Schedule A, subject to the 2% of adjusted gross income limitation. Although the allowable deduction is now limited to the per diem rate for such expenses, the 2003 Tax Act changes it to an above-the-line deduction.

Taxpayers will use Form 2106 or 2106-EZ to figure the deduction amount and carry it as a "write-in" to Form 1040, line 33, putting the letters "RC" and the amount on the dotted line and including this subtraction in the entry for line 33.

There are other additional benefits in the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 and some of the provisions are retroactive, so amended returns may need to be filed. For more information visit www.irs.gov and type in 2106 in the block for forms and publications.

Information compiled from the IRS website and other sources.

CMC's Corner (cont. from pg 4)

will start out by saying what everybody else says, the most important thing is "continuous sustained superior performance". I cannot state this loud enough. If you have been a great Sailor your entire career you will get advanced, if you let your performance slip for a year, don't expect to get advanced that year! You must always improve on what you are doing. We are looking for the future leaders of the Navy not the past leaders. To be advanced to one of the senior enlisted ranks you can not only be a technical expert you must be involved in the future leadership of the Navy, the CPO mess, leadership development, Sailorization, mentorship and career development, if you are not doing these kind of things you will not be promoted. In today's Navy

we are looking for a well-rounded, highly educated Sailor with great leadership skills to take us into the future. The best advice I can give is, if you want to succeed in the Navy today do everything you can, set your goals high, have a plan for success and make it happen. Ensure you preach this to your Sailors everyday and make them live by our core of values and your entire organization will succeed.

With that all said, I know we are doing great thing for the Navy and I know there is no one out there more dedicated or patriotic than a Reservist in the United States military. We make many sacrifices to ensure our freedom, we balance a civilian career with a military career sometimes performing thankless task and other times performing the most essential missions that our

Navy needs. Thanks for everything and keep up the fight and all the great work.



Bravo Zulu

Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Robert Lyon (REDCOM NE)
LCDR St. Laurent (REDCOM NE)
CAPT John McNamara (NR MSC SOPG 101)

Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

UTC Robert Crandall (NMCB 27)
BU1 Michael Blai (NMCB 27)
BU2 Leroy Hulse (NMCB 27)
EO2 Eric Wright (NMCB 27)
CM2 Brian Wright (NMCB 27)
MACS James Marshall (CNR MIDLANT)
DCC William MacIntire (CNR MIDLANT)
SK1 Michael Brouty (CNR MIDLANT)
HM2 William Devito (NMC Portsmouth)
HM2 Amy Bissell-Aubin (NMC Portsmouth)
ET1 Burns (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
EO2 Smith (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

CDR R Roushdy (NR NSA Norfolk)
CDR Daniel Leurs (NR BATGRU Staff TWO)
CDR Henry Rainone (NR SPAWAR HQ 201)
ITC Schaller (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
CDR Kenneth Ross (NAVINFOBUR 101)
CDR Susan Keithley (NMC Bethesda)
CDR Robert Palermo (NMC Bethesda)

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

HMCS J. Licato (NR MCONPERSGULF)
LT M. King (NR FH Ft. Dix Det 15)
LT Fisher (NR PHIB CB 2 Det 101)
EO2 Corriveau (NR PHIB CB 2 Det 101)
BM1(SW) Edward Levin (Quincy)
HM2 Nicholas Trosclair (Quincy)
FC1(SW) Dante Arena (NR MSC SOPG 101)
IT1 Mara Marino (NR BATGRU Staff TWO)
SK2 Frederick Lamica (CNR MIDLANT)
SK2 Michael Falton (CNR MIDLANT)
SHSN John Seeley (CNR MIDLANT)
EO3 Shawn Noel (NMCB 27)
HM2 William Devito (NMC Portsmouth)
YN1 Donnell Jackson (Watertown)

HM1 William Wainwright (Watertown)
IC1 Karen Broussard (Watertown)
PN2 Debra Mandigo (Watertown)
SK2 Natalie Higby (Watertown)
GM2(SW) Eberling (Manchester)
YN1 Diane Rovendro (MSC SOPG)
PN1 Merrick (Manchester)
ET1 Murphy (JMAST)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

SK1 Michael Brouty (CNR MIDLANT)
HM2 Amy Bissell-Aubin (NMC Portsmouth)

Good Conduct Medal

IC1 Karen Broussard (Watertown)
SK2 Natalie Higby (Watertown)

Presidential Unit Commendation Medal

HM1 Carl Blay (NR 4th MARDIV 1/25)

Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal

LCDR Kathleen Anderson (NR NNMC Bethesda)
LT Karl Mitchell (NR NNMC Bethesda)
HM3 Peter Stanley (NR NNMC Bethesda)
CAPT Susan Cuddy (NR NNMC Bethesda)
CDR Susan Keithley (NR NNMC Bethesda)
LCDR Virginia Minasian (NR NNMC Bethesda)
CDR William Wooten (NR NNMC Bethesda)
LT Mary Campbell (NR NNMC Bethesda)
LT John Dockrey (NR NNMC Bethesda)
HMC Paula O'Shea (NR NNMC Bethesda)
HM2 Francis Cowley (NR NNMC Bethesda)
LT Jian Hau Liu (NR NNMC Bethesda)
ENS Justin Davey (NR NNMC Bethesda)

Sailor of the Year

EM2 Shawn Norris (Horseheads)
SK1 Sandra Sabitus (Horseheads)
MM1 Gary Walter (White River Junction)
FC1 Dante Arena (NR MSC Southern Persian Gulf)
IT2 Charles Bragg (SSB HQ 101)
PN1 Cheryl Fitzpatrick (Quincy)
BM1 Edward Levin (Quincy)
PN1 Merrick (Manchester)
IT1 Murphy (JMAST)

Sailor of the Quarter

PN1 Tina Garvin (REDCOM NE)
YN1 April Din (NR NMC Portsmouth)
ET2 Colin Pritchard (NR SSB 2 Det C)
EO1 Scott Fenton (NMCB 133)
SK2 Natalie Higby (Watertown)
SK3 Michael Falton (CNR MIDLANT)
GSM1 Darrell Brinkley (NAVSEA Det 927)
HM3 Guy Pronesti (NR NH Beth 1206)
SK2 Jodi Norman (Quincy)
GM2(SW) Eberling (Manchester)
HM2 Chambers (Bethesda Det F)
MSSN Andino (JMAST)
SK1 Michael Brouty (CNR MIDLANT)
HM1 William Wainwright (Watertown)
IT2 Steven Moores (Battle Group Staff 2 Q-3)
HM2 Nicholas Trosclair (Quincy)
IT3 Denise Carrasquillo (MSC Southern Persian Gulf)
HN Brian Kuzemczak (Quincy)

Letter of Commendation

EO2 Corriveau (NR PHIB CB 2 Det 101)
CSSN Andino (NR JMASTLANT)
HM2 Lauren Forrest (NR NPSTRAUNIT 0196)
1st LT Lianne Courtney (10th MTN Division)
EO1 Thomas Gray (NMCB 27)
BU2 Leroy Hulse (NMCB 27)
CM2 Brian McDonald (NMCB 27)
CE2 James Cameron (NMCB 27)
EO3 Micahel Labarge (NMCB 27)
UT3 William Frank (NMCB 27)
ET3 Justin Smith (NMCB 27)
HM2 Tony Lamica (NMC Portsmouth)
HM2 Ann Adams (NMC Portsmouth)
SHC Steven Frounier (CNR MIDLANT)
YNC Virginia Emerson (CNR MIDLANT)
SK1 Michael Brouty (CNR MIDLANT)
SK1 Paul Garceau (CNR MIDLANT)
GM2 Andrew Hodgdon (CNR MIDLANT)
BM1 David Jimenez (CNR MIDLANT)
IT1 Raymond Kirk (CNR MIDLANT)
IT1 Steven Adams (CNR MIDLANT)
GM2 Peter Morrow (CNR MIDLANT)
YN1 Christine Maksymowicz (MSC SOPG)
SKSN Brian Muello (BATGRUSTAF TWO)

SKC Henry Rodriguez (COMSCEUR 101)
YN1 Diane Rovendro (MSC SOPG)
HM1 Tracy Martin (NNMC Bethesda)
YN2 Camille Gioffi (VTU 0196)
ITCM Ryan (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
SKC Alley (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
MA1 Canaar(NCTAMS LANT Det C)
GM2(SW) Eberling (Manchester)
SK1(SW) Dinh (Manchester)
IT1 Murphy (JMAST)
MSSN Andino (JMAST)
BU2 Leroy Hulse (NMCB 27)

Letter of Appreciation

LT Michael Lettiere (NMC Portsmouth)
CE1 Lawrence Benson (NMCB 133)
BU1 Michael Blair (NMCB 133)
IT1 Raymond Kirk CNR MIDLANT)
CM2 Chris Derouin (NMCB 133)
SW2 Edward Frank (NMCB 133)
EO2(SCW) Thomas Gray (NMCB 133)
CM2 Brian McDonald (NMCB 133)
GM2 Peter Morrow (CNR MIDLANT)
HM2 William Devito (NMC Portsmouth)
HM2 Tony Lamica (NMC Portsmouth)
HM3 Amy Bissell-Aubin (NMC Portsmouth)
EOCN Lauren Goode (NMCB 133)
EO2 Corriveau (NR PHIB CB 2 Det 101)
SK1 Cyr (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
ET1 Burns (NCTAMS LANT Det C)
BU1 James Bount (CNR MIDLANT)
UT2 Matthew Brouty (NMCB 27)
UT3 William Frank (NMCB 27)
CE2 Mark Sherbino (NMCB 27)
EO3 Shawn Noel (NMCB 27)
HM3 David Kreis (NMCB 27)
BU2 Leroy Hulse (NMCB 27)
BU2 Vidoli (NSF Portsmouth)
BU3 Watson (NSF Portsmouth)

Advancement/Promotions

ET1 Burns (NCTAMS LANT Det C)