



On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast

October 2003 - Fall

Northeast gets New Admiral

by REDCOM NE Public Affairs

FALL RIVER, MA - As clouds scudded across threatening skies over the battleship USS Massachusetts here on Saturday, October 4th, Naval Reservists in the Northeast welcomed a new commander, Rear Admiral Frank F. Rennie IV and bid a fond farewell to Rear Admiral Roger T. Nolan. The ceremony capped off two years of unprecedented activity and mobilizations for Naval Reservists in the Northeast, who, with RADM Nolan at the helm, have played key roles in the post-Sept. 11th conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

RADM Nolan took command of the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast's 6,000 drilling Reservists and 20 Reserve Centers in October 2001 in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. During his change of command, Admiral Nolan talked of how proud he was of the job that the Northeast Reservists have done. "Reservists are patriots serving our country and are committed and dedicated to our nations defense. We bring the best of our military and civilian experience to the Navy/Marine corps team and we are role models in our communities."



RDML Frank Rennie addresses his new staff, REDCOM Northeast, during the change of command ceremony. Admiral Rennie relieved RADM Roger T. Nolan on board the battleship USS Massachusetts. (Photo by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach)

RADM Nolan oversaw the mobilization and deployment of over 2,000 Naval Reservists in the Northeast Region in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Naval Reservists under his purview were ready when called, and deployed as far away as Kandahar, Afghanistan, Baghdad, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay Cuba, completing tasks as diverse as building runways for Marines in Kandahar, providing medical support to front-line units in

Baghdad, and constructing and guarding Camp X-Ray in Cuba. Of the 2,001 Naval Reserve personnel mobilized from the Northeast, approximately 400 personnel remain activated.

"This is a struggle that is far from over, and will require a steady strain from our Navy and Naval reserve forces for a long time to come. While we continue to demobilize our naval reserve sailors, you can count on their

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Big Possibilities for New MA's

By JOSN John Hastings McIver, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — It is a time of transformation for the Naval Reserve Force. The creation of Reserve Naval Security Force (NSF) units has been initialized, and with it comes the concept of thousands of new Reserve Master-at-Arms (MA). At present, NSF manning requirements greatly outweigh the actual Reserve MA population. In an effort to build the

go into a rating that gives them wonderful advancement opportunity, plus the Navy will train them in a very marketable skill for civilian work. And then, of course, the third part is that we're providing a very necessary part of the Navy's overall force protection mission." Capt. Mark E. Donahue, commander, Fleet Forces Command, Reserve liaison officer, said the Navy had not previously been equipped for such large security



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Jerry Fisher is a 24-month activated reservist providing security aboard Naval Station Ingleside, Texas. In the future, Reservists are going to have a more important role in the security at base installations. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Chris Desmond.)

MA's inventory of Sailors, Reserve Forces Command (RESFORCOM) is taking steps to make the conversion process particularly appealing.

"I would think the Reservists are going to win a couple of different ways here," said Capt. Lisa N. Meunier, RESFORCOM Manpower and Personnel Deputy Chief of Staff. "One, is that they're going to

requirements.

Donahue also spoke highly of the Reserve Forces ability to handle the situation. "It's become a major function and a major mission, and it's one the Reserves very logically fit into, to fill this requirement," said Donahue. The plan, as outlined by Donahue, is to pull the

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Admiral's Corner



RDML Frank F. Rennie IV

Sailors of REDCOM Northeast, I am as thrilled as I am proud to be named the new commander of the finest Sailors in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet you all personally in the weeks and months ahead.

In my other role as Deputy Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, I have seen the power of the Naval Reservist to serve not only as a force-multiplier, but also as an integral part of how the Fleet does its business. I have personally witnessed Naval Reservists doing amazing things in difficult circumstances, blending in with our active-duty counterparts so that I couldn't tell who was a reservist and who was active without specifically asking. One of my primary goals as your new commander is to meet you and see you in the places where you

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REDCOM Makes the Switch to NMCI

by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach
REDCOM NE Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I.- Of the many Navy traditions, uniformity is one of the oldest. And in today's world, security is one of the most important. So what do uniformity and security have in common? One acronym explains it, and it's an acronym everybody has heard. Most people cringe when they hear NMCI, but the Navy Marine Corps Intranet is here, and the change of the guard is in place at Naval Reserve Readiness Command (REDCOM) Northeast.

REDCOM is the last Readiness Command in the nation to switch over to NMCI, but the first

command at Naval Station, Newport. Sleeker machines that look like Stealth Bombers are ready to maximize your efficiency. All desktops have a Command Access Card reader on the keyboard, all the newest approved software at your fingertips, and tech support a phone call away.

"When you travel from command to command you frequently encounter different software applications to meet various needs. NMCI will eliminate disparate applications and help to streamline the number and types of programs recognized for use," Automated Information Systems Director, Capt

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Kevin Tagami, a Deployment Technician for Navy/Marine Corps Internet, installs a printer for a computer workstation in the Naval Media Center, Fleet Support Detachment (NMC FSD) Pearl Harbor. Recently the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast converted to the NMCI network becoming the last Readiness Command in the nation to switch. (Photo by PH2 Benjamin F. Story)

REDCOM Welcomes New CMC



CDMCMC(AW/NAC) Pat Flavin

Hello Northeast Region, My name is Master Chief Flavin and I have just recently checked into the REDCOM. I have taken Master Chief Wolstencroft's place; I know I have some big shoes to fill, so just give me a little time and I will try to do as well as he did. I have spent the majority of my career on ships and squadrons so this "staff stuff" is new to me. I am learning more everyday about the surface reserve force and what we do. I have had a chance to visit all of the centers and have been very impressed with the staffs and facilities, but if you have issues that need to be addressed let me know; I can't fix it if I don't know it's broke. With that

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Active/Reserve mix may Change, says Hall

By K.L. Vantran, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The days of the “weekend warrior” are gone according to Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs. Guardsmen and Reservists are giving much more than a weekend a month and two weeks of annual training a year, Hall said. Many serve 60 to 120 days a year.

Although only about 2 percent of the 1.2 million Guardsmen and Reservists have been called up in eight mobilizations in the past 13 years, Hall said it’s the same kinds of specialties – civil affairs, air traffic control, mortuary affairs and force protection – that always are needed. “It’s a new world and we need to transition,” he said. This includes a plan to rebalance the force – active and Reserve components. The plan includes looking at specialties that reside primarily, if not 100 percent, in the Guard and Reserve, and perhaps moving them to the active side. Hiring contractors for some specialties is also part of the plan. “Are there certain things done by troops today that are not necessarily core competencies that contractors can do?” Hall asked.

A key to rebalancing the force is developing a rotation plan for troops, he continued, a process set into motion by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. “Secretary Rumsfeld has asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in conjunction with combatant and unified and specified

commanders, and (Office of the Secretary of Defense) staff, to develop a rotational policy that says in the next six years, we will need these kinds of units – active, Guard and Reserve – to meet the worldwide deployments,” said Hall. “Once we accomplish that, we’ll be able to tell you as a guardsman or

particularly true in small business and for self-employed people,” Hall said. If the same Guardsmen and Reservists are called up repeatedly, Hall said it could affect recruitment and retention. “This is one reason it’s so important to do rebalancing. We’re finding that we’re taking the same people away (in deployments),



Naval Reservists assigned to “The Liberty Bells” of Patrol Squadron Sixty Six (VP-66) man stations in a P-3C Orion during Keflavik Tactical Exchange 2003 (KEFTACEX 03), an anti-submarine warfare exercise held at NAS Keflavik, Iceland each year. A new plan may take effect to rebalance the force – active and Reserve components. The plan includes looking at specialties that reside primarily, if not 100 percent, in the Guard and Reserve, and perhaps moving them to the active side. (Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Mark O’Donald.)

Reservist, for example, that three years from now, you need to do six months of duty in the Sinai.” With a rotation policy comes predictability – something Reservists, Guardsmen, families and employers want.”

In his travels throughout the country, Hall said, employers tell him one of the most difficult things they deal with is multiple mobilizations of the same people. “This is

and we’ve got to spread the opportunity to more people.”

Hall said he believes rebalancing is an appropriate change. “I think it’s transformational,” he added, “and I think it will make our forces more agile, more responsive, more integrated and have the ability to meet the demands of the nation in both peace and war.” In addition

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NYPD Cops on Patrol in Rota

By Lt.j.g. Christina Skacan, Naval Station Rota Public Affairs

ROTA, Spain – New York City police officer John Mason mobilized to serve and protect the fleet within a month of the attacks of September 11, 2001. “It was devastating. I realized I might be going to war. I might never see my family again. And, I had a city in disarray,” said Mason. Master at Arms 2nd Class John Mason, of Massapequa, Long Island and Naval Reserve Center

“We are responsible for the security, safety and well being of the American side of the base,” said Mason. Integrated with active duty security officers, Reservists stand posts, man roving patrol cars, respond to calls and meet any other security needs. Mason served as Training Petty Officer for the Waterfront Security Unit. “Communication is key in police work regardless of where you do it,” said Mason, who noted the transition

threat in the wake of the Global War on Terrorism. Just as importantly, they offered key skills honed from civilian experience to enhance the overall security performance. “Truthfully, I don’t know how we would have done it without them,” said Damage Control Chief (SW) Jeff Lane, Consequence Management Division Officer. Lane, who supervises the Security Department’s training, weapons, gun range and disaster preparedness, worked extensively with Reservists and characterized their transition as seamless. “These guys came from the field. Lieutenants from homicide, other types of officers — these people are an asset. We put their experience to use here,” said Lane.

Aviation Boatswains Mate Handler 1st Class James Vaiciulis, of Chicago, Ill. and Naval Reserve Center Great Lakes, volunteered to join NAVSTA Rota’s security forces. Originally recalled as an Air Operations Duty Officer, Vaiciulis completed his first year of recall working in security, demobilized and was recalled for a second year at NAVSTA Rota. “Everybody plays cops and robbers when they’re kids,” said Vaiciulis. “I love this job. It’s a childhood dream.” In civilian life, Vaiciulis works for a chemical manufacturing company that has been very supportive of his deployment.

Vaiciulis, nick-named “Chili”, maintains his most exciting Rota

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Journalist 2nd Class David Hamilton questions a driver during a random car inspection at Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella’s front gate as Aviation Boatswain Mate Airman Chris Grado uses a mirror to look for hidden objects under a vehicle. Reservists Have been used at a variety of Naval Bases around the world to supplement the Security force. (Photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Damon J. Moritz.)

Bronx, served as one of 26 Reservists supplementing security forces at Naval Station Rota, Spain (NAVSTA Rota). For two years he used his civilian skills, including “eight years of street knowledge” as a big city cop, to keep ships, Sailors and their families safe.

from civilian to military law enforcement provided both rewards and challenges. “I’m a city cop, so when I got here I had to learn how to be a military cop.”

Reservists enabled NAVSTA Rota Security to fully man duty stations facing a greater perceived

Deployed Troops Get Break on School Loans

By K.L. Vantran, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Military personnel who have been deployed or mobilized are not required to make student loan payments during their absences. Federal regulations require lenders to postpone the student loan program payments of active-duty military personnel. This applies to members of the National Guard and Ready Reserves who have been called to active duty, as well as to active-duty personnel whose duty station has been changed as a result of a military mobilization.

“Many of the brave men and women serving our nation right now have put their personal lives on hold to answer the nation’s call to

duty,” said U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige in a news release earlier this year. “As they defend the freedoms we cherish, our Soldiers should not have to worry about their student loan obligations and resuming their studies.” He encouraged the higher education and lending communities to be flexible and provide assistance to service members, so they can “easily resume their studies and financial obligations after they complete their tours of duty.”

The regulations apply to student loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loan programs. The law also requires that active-duty military people who

have not begun the repayment period on their loans continue to receive a grace period (generally six months) before repaying their loans. Students who were in school at the time of mobilization must also be given a reasonable period to resume school before lenders request payments.

Colleges will not be required to collect financial aid funds that now-active duty students were given to pay for books and living expenses. Education Department officials also encourage colleges and universities to either fully refund tuition and other institutional charges, or give comparable credit against future charges to students forced to withdraw from school to fulfill their military obligations.

Microfiche Records Now a Thing of the Past

By JO1 Teresa J. Frith, Naval Personnel Command Strategic Communications
MILLINGTON, Tenn. —

Beginning mid-September, all active-duty and Reserve servicemembers will be able to get a copy of their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) in the Electronic Military Personnel Records System (EMPRS) on Compact Disk (CD) instead of microfiche.

Ordering procedures for requesting your CD are the same as requesting your microfiche. The CD can be requested via mail, FAX, or if you are visiting NPC, record review room in Wood Hall, Bldg # 769, and on BUPERS Access, where your CD will be sent to your

official command address. Go to www.bupers.navy.mil, click on the BUPERS Access link, login and under programs you will find a link to order your records. If you would like to have your CD sent to other than your command address, mail your written request to: Navy Personnel Command, PERS-313C REC, 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington TN 38055-3130 or fax it to: (901) 874-2664 or DSN: 882-2664.

CDs may be requested for individual servicemembers. Additionally, multi-member requests may be made when deployed/disconnected commands desire the records for Sailors within their command.

The records may be placed on unique CDs by member or multiple members on a single CD, depending on intended use. When a Sailor requests their record, the entire record is available for viewing on the CD. When a command authority makes a request for multiple member records, record documents will be provided in accordance with current policy (for example, fitness reports will be excluded from an officer’s record).

The documents on the CD are secured by an “Official Record Copy” watermark and may be printed if desired. The CD will also contain links to frequently asked

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Maine Naval Reservists Support Annual VA Games

NRC Bangor, Maine PAO

ORONO, Maine - Recently, the Veteran's Administration (VA) sponsored the 17th Annual Golden Age Games, a 6-day program filled with various competitive events and exciting evening festivities. Over 500 participants from around the country flew to Maine to participate in the games, which were held on the University of Maine campus. Seven Selected Reservists from NR NCTAMS LANT DET C and 2 members of the NRC Bangor, Maine Full Time Support staff volunteered to assist with the games.

After several days of preparation, the University of Maine campus was ready to welcome the veteran athletes, many of whom have participated in past VA Games, most recently held in Los Angeles, CA. VA personnel assigned the Reservists to a wide range of duties including the registration tent where a photographic record of each individual participant was created prior to participation in the competitive events. Other duties included logistical support with luggage and room check-in, and event positions such as referees, scorekeepers and judges.

At the opening ceremony, the torch was lit signifying it was time for the games to begin. The first event was the pentathlon, which consisted of a target shoot, discus, basketball, shot put and softball hit. Over the following days, the veterans also competed in bowling, 9-ball, golf, horseshoes, dominos,



PN2 Aaron Fowler (right) takes time out to pose with program organizer, Dave Archibald, and his wife during the Golden Age Games. During this six-day event Veterans participated in a variety of games such as dominos, checkers etc.

checkers, shuffleboard, swimming, ping pong, and croquet. For PNC Joe Mollo, an NRC Bangor ME Selected Reservist, helping with the games in his Navy uniform was a continuation of his civilian work as Director of Campus Activities at the University of Maine. "Seeing these veterans compete despite their physical handicaps left a lasting impression - no obstacle is insurmountable," recalled Chief Mollo.

NRC Bangor, Maine Commanding Officer, LCDR Joey Dodgen and Command Chief Dan Perez greeted the VA athletes in the registration tent on opening day. "It didn't take much effort to mingle and hear stories. The veterans eagerly introduced themselves and recounted their military experiences, leaving you with a great sense of

patriotism and respect for their service," commented MSC(SW) Perez. Of particular interest to the Naval Reservists were great sea stories from Navy veterans. Interior Communications Chief Select Jeffrey Rollins said, "Meeting an old diesel boat Senior Chief was a lot of fun and when he found out I was a 'sewer pipe' sailor AND a CPO selectee, it became even more interesting."

As the week came to a close, a slide show depicting the entire week left the crowd happy that they were here but sad that the 17th Annual VA Games had to come to an end. Many of the reservists at NRC Bangor, ME were invited to help with next year's VA Games.

SubScol Sailors Lend Jerry's Kids a Helping Hand

by PH1 Patrick Henri, USNR

The Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) received a record \$60.5 million in nationwide pledges this holiday weekend. And telethon viewers following the action in Connecticut, on WTIC FOX-61, saw another demonstration of reaching out to the community by the US Navy and Submarine Sailors.

Members of Naval Submarine School's reserve unit teamed up with Submarine School students to man phones and take pledges throughout the weekend in a makeshift studio at the Mohegan Sun Casino. Among this year's volunteers (of 33 active duty and Reserve sailors) was SN Siomara Mistivar from SubScol's Reserve unit who traveled an hour and a half to work a six-hour pledge hour shift. "Having a cousin with Muscular Dystrophy, I was happy to be able to help," Mistivar said.

SubScol Sailors maintained a prominent presence throughout the day but by mid-afternoon, their presence became the focal point. Feeling the phone calls had become too few and far in-between, SubScol students challenged the at-home viewers with an offer to do twenty pushups for every \$100 pledge made. MDA officials gave the idea an enthusiastic thumbs up and after the program's producers sliced the number of pushups to ten, the challenge was announced and the phones started lighting up. Sailors were quickly summoned front and



William Young, Executive Vice President of the National Association of Letter Carriers, hands NALC pledge of \$1.6 million to Jerry Lewis during nationally televised MDA Telethon on Labor Day to help fight neuromuscular diseases. Sailors helped out this year by manning phones and taking pledges throughout the weekend.

center (stage) to fulfill their end of the bargain.

As the afternoon went on, the challenge was repeated. Sailors, in rapid succession, and sometimes 2 or 3 at a time, for larger pledges, hit the deck again and again for a good cause. Al Reichin, MDA's volunteer coordinator, enthused, "we couldn't have done it without them. Their spirit is the same as the kids we're helping: they're happy, they smile and they don't quit".

The Sailors were as upbeat as the organizers. SN James Young offered, "I had a blast". SN Britton Purdee added, "It's a good time for a great cause. And the location (Mohegan Sun) was really something—we don't have things like this at home."

During their "off air" breaks, SubScol Sailors could watch the

national broadcast of the telethon, hosted by Jerry Lewis, on monitors just out of camera view, or retreat to a nearby banquet room to help themselves to the buffet line. With the help of Naval Submarine School Sailors, local volunteers recorded over \$1,220,000 in pledged donations, exceeding the local goal. And plans have already started for next year's telethon.

Microfiche *(continued from page 6)*

questions and other resources. For example, if a service member identifies an issue with their record, the procedures for correction are outlined. A request management system will assist NPC throughout the fulfillment process to ensure requests are fulfilled in a timely manner. For more information, call 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Readiness Command Northeast Hits the Books

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

NEWPORT, R.I. — Most job opportunities read something like: “Looking for an outgoing person to work full time. This person must possess good organizational skills, be able to work well with others and under pressure. Applicants must have a degree.” Personnel at Naval Reserve Readiness Command (REDCOM) Northeast are looking to meet the challenge of every job application by enrolling in classes to get their degrees.

The Navy offers its Sailors a lot of opportunities to attend classes with the help of Tuition Assistance or the Montgomery GI Bill. Even universities are making it easier by offering degrees online. Of the 31 full time staff stationed at REDCOM Northeast, more than half of the personnel (17) are enrolled or have received their degrees. “There are two big reasons that I’m working on my Master’s Degree, one for personal growth and two, for employment opportunities,” Lt. Cmdr. Tim St. Laurent said. St. Laurent said he didn’t have the time to go to school when he was a telecommunications manager. “The commute would have taken too much time away from my family, but being stationed here, I can still attend college, and it doesn’t cut into my quality of life. Plus, this command has been very supportive of me attending classes.”

And like St. Laurent, many people are taking advantage of being in the Northeast where



Information Technician 3rd Class Mark Olsen takes advantage of the good weather while studying for an Italian II course he is taking through University of Maryland, Europe. REDCOM NE currently has 17 personnel enrolled in college classes or have received their degrees. (Photo by PH3 Heather Warick.)

schooling opportunities abound. “I’m a product of being stationed in the Northeast and getting my degree,” Capt. Ted Fessel said. “I got my Master’s from the University of Rhode Island while stationed at the Officer Candidate School. It’s foolish not to get your degree. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the schools that are here.”

Storekeeper 2nd Class Kim Kingsbury, who just received her Bachelor’s in Industrial Technology, is now enrolled in classes to get her MBA. Kingsbury says the command has been behind her the whole time while she was getting her degree, and says that she would encourage anyone that came to REDCOM to enroll. “I would show them how to get their SMART transcript and then take them over to the Navy College so they could get started. I’ve had nothing but good experiences with them; they have helped

me out a lot.”

While a degree will help you on the outside, it’s also needed in the military. “Getting a degree is absolutely paramount in the military,” Command Master Chief Rick Wolstencroft said. “Under Task force Excel, you’re going to need a degree to make chief. It’s completely ludicrous not to get your degree while you’re in the military,” added Wolstencroft. “The sad fact is some personnel are ill prepared when it comes to getting a degree. They either don’t think about it until it’s too late or they do their full 20 and get out with nothing.”

Fessel remarked, “If they [Sailors] improve themselves professionally, then they are better, and as a result, they make the Navy better.” If that is the case, the REDCOM staff is making a difference in the Navy.

Fate Leads the Way for Capt's 37 Years

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

NEWPORT, R.I.- Choose your rate, choose your fate; a phrase that is thrown around in the Navy usually to quell an argument that exist, but one person was happy with the rate he choose and dealt with the fate that was given to him.

Recently Capt. Glenn Fletcher retired after 37-plus years in the Navy that started in 1965. When he joined that Navy he enlisted as a QMSA and was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy from his first ship, but fate kept him from putting on the officer's uniform. When he was given the physical, he was

medically dropped due to torn cartilage in his left knee. "When I transferred to my next command, Lt. Woodman taught me to PT often and run as much as possible," Fletcher revealed. "Through exercise I repaired the injury."

But just because his injury was repaired, he didn't try to become an officer yet. He had found his love as a Quarter Master. "When I went to my next ship, my chief was RMC Billy Placket, who later became the MCPON in the mid 80's. I told the chief that I wanted to be an officer and he told me that I was in the best rate to make that happen, and I

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Capt Glenn Fletcher receives a Meritorious Service Medal from RADM Roger Nolan, Readiness Commander. Looking on (l-r) are his daughter Kari, son, Tristan and his wife Tina. (Photo by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach)

REDCOM NMCI *(continued from page 3)*

Glenn Zitka explained. "Using NMCI will help ensure uniformity everywhere." Another big upgrade to NMCI is the security that it provides. Command Access Cards will now be used to work at any NMCI workstation. "There is a lot of vital information that needs to be protected, and NMCI provides that security," Zitka said.

And while uniformity and security are the biggest reasons for the implementation there are two other rewards. "The biggest change is that users will get the best quality PC's on the market," said Automated Information Services Assistant Director, Lt. Cmdr. Tim St. Laurent. "Personnel will receive new machines every three years," Chris Luebcke, Electronic Data Systems representative, said. "Plus all the software is updated by the Network Operations Center (NOC) in Virginia. You will not be able to download patches or executable files, the NOC will take of all that plus upgrades."

Another great asset for the NMCI upgrade is that there is a help desk 24-hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. According to James Solano, Dell representative, "If you need a part you can get it in less than 24 hours as well as a technician to help you with the replacement. If it's mission critical you can get the part, or a complete replacement system, in four hours. Most of the problems that occur are resolved remotely by the NOC." For more information on the NMCI upgrade, log onto www.nmci-isf.com.

A Career Comes Full Circle - to Kings Point Again

By ENS Aaron J. Bedy, NAVINFO East 102

Kings Point, N.Y.- On Sept. 14th Captain Frances Yates retired from the Navy Reserve at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, the same place her Naval career began 25 years ago.

In 1978, after graduating from the Academy as one of 15 women in the first co-ed class to ever enter

Following the change of command, Cmdr. Rodgers broke from typical Navy tradition when he delivered a short speech about his experiences as Capt. Yates' husband rather than accept flowers for his role as a supporting Navy spouse. Commenting lightheartedly that he had often been known as the "Duty Driver" or "Mr. Francis Yates" by members of his wife's command,

reminisce about her career, as well as thank her family, friends, colleagues and God for support. "I'd like to thank God for granting me the good physical health and courage to lead this dynamic group of individuals," said Capt. Yates. "He answered my prayers when our unit members deployed to the Persian Gulf, and returned safe and sound." When asked about the most rewarding part of her career, Capt. Yates said that mentoring young civilians with no knowledge of the Navy and turning them into sailors provided the most satisfaction. "Seeing them develop because of the interest they have in learning is very rewarding," she said. "They want to be there and want patriotic duty to be a dimension of their lives."

After moving through a handful of military sealift commands in various roles, Capt. Yates became the commanding officer of the Military Sealift Command Northern Persian Gulf 102 in October 2000. To the sailors that had called her Captain for the last three years, she took a minute to talk about her first day as a commanding officer.

"There was a fair weather formation in the morning, and I emerged from the building to a sea of 800 reservists in front of me and I couldn't quite make out which was my new unit," said Capt. Yates. "I started walking towards the assembled crowd, praying that I would find a familiar face. Thankfully I did find that familiar face, took my place in front of the unit and that's how it

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LCDR Philip Gerard, Operations Division Officer, presents Capt. Yates with a certificate. (Photo by NCC(AW) Duncan Graham)

a federal service academy, Capt. Yates was commissioned as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. During her retirement ceremony, which her husband, Cmdr. Kevin Rodgers, Sr., helped organize and acted as the master-of-ceremonies, Capt. Yates received numerous honors from members of her unit and colleagues from her Navy career. The ceremony began with Capt. Yates turning over command of her unit to Capt. Select John Cochrane.

Cmdr. Rodgers recounted a conversation with a member of Capt. Yates unit who needed to pass along a message to his wife. "Are you going to see your wife later," the member said. Cmdr. Rodgers gave a simple reply, "You mean the Captain?" which led to another question from the member. "Isn't she your wife?" With no place else to go, Cmdr. Rodgers said, "She's always the Captain."

Following Cmdr. Rodgers' speech, Capt. Yates took time to

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work when you are on duty – be that ashore during an exercise in Norfolk, or forward-deployed at sea in the Atlantic Ocean. My aim is to further encourage that integration between Reserve and the Active component, and to make that integration as seamless as possible. I pledge to do my part to support you in enhancing fleet readiness.

We're living in an interesting time for the Reserves, not just in terms of our mobilization, but also in terms of transformation of what it means to be a Reservist in general. The past two years have shown that we were crucial to the success of the campaigns against terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. These conflicts have taught us lessons in how to best employ the expertise and experience of the Naval Reserves, and these lessons are going to result in some significant changes to the way the Reserve Force is structured and how it conducts business.

These changes will be among the most sweeping that have ever occurred in the Naval Reserve, and will require three things from all of you: PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE, and PROFESSIONALISM. With these three "P's", we will weather the challenges that change will present, and professionally overcome them – whether it's dealing with the rollout of NMCI or focusing on major changes in our force structure. Each of you should take responsibility to be POSITIVE AGENTS FOR CHANGE as we move forward to serve in the Naval Reserve of the 21st Century. As I

said, I'm thrilled to be your new commander – together, let's STAY READY!!

MA Possibilities (*continued from page 2*)
MAs from four areas. Current MAs will be assigned to NSF units in order to capitalize on the skills they already have. In the event that MAs are not available, the second plan of action is to use Reservists with the 9545 (Security) Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) to fill the billets.

Additionally, Donahue said that many Reservists have been mobilized in the past couple of years to carry out security functions, but many of them did not obtain the 9545 NEC. These Reservists can be trained on almost any installation that has a "security academy" where auxiliary security forces are trained, and earn the 9545 NEC. Finally, Naval Reserve recruiters will be targeting security professionals and law enforcement officers, and offering them the opportunity to come into the Force as Master-at-Arms Seamen and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Petty Officers, based upon their civilian experience.

RESFORCOM is currently trying to establish units to support each installation. "Ideally," said Donahue, "we would have each Reserve unit collocated with the installation that it supports, so that they can do every one of their drills at that installation and be a true extension of the installation security force." Given the demographics of the Naval Reserve Force, that was not possible at all locations, but where it could be done, it was.

Where it is not possible, Inactive Duty Training Travel funds will be set aside to ensure they can drill together on a regular basis at the gaining command.

The need for new Reserve MAs to fill the NSF manning requirements reaches into the thousands. While that number may seem daunting, Meunier seems positive about the opportunities being offered to those Sailors willing to convert. "We have a number of Sailors in ratings that are very overmanned, and we can offer them a conversion into the Master-at-Arms rating that will literally give them wide-open advancement opportunity, and that's exciting," said Meunier.

Donahue had similar comments about the prospects for new NSF members. "It's a great opportunity for any Reservist," said Donahue. We're going to be growing the Master-at-Arms rating. If you're looking for upward mobility, the promotion opportunities in the MA rating are going to be very high. We've got billets in these units from E-3 all the way up through chief, and it's a great opportunity to slide into it and get in on the ground floor of what's sure to be a key mission area for the Naval Reserve for years to come."

The mission area is one that, for the Reserve Force, will be a high-profile way to show how resilient they can be in a time of need for the Navy and for the nation.



Vice Admiral John Cotton conducts the Oath of Office to Admiral Roger T. Nolan, outgoing Naval Reserve Readiness Commander. Admiral Nolan was promoted from Rear Admiral Lower Half to Rear Admiral Upper Half during his change of command ceremony. (Photo by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach)

New Admiral (continued from Page 1) talents being tapped again as our battle continues and we'll be there ready to serve, it's our sole purpose, to be ready." Nolan remarked.

Under his command, the Readiness Command maintained one of the highest retention rates in the U.S. Navy, and was awarded the Golden Helm Award for this achievement.

RADM Rennie is reporting to the Readiness Command after serving as Deputy Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia.

Realignment (continued from page 4) to a rebalanced force, Hall said he believes the future holds a more flexible drilling schedule for guardsmen and Reservists. Instead of the traditional weekend drill, there could be two two-week training periods, he added. Reservists or Guardsmen might only go to the drill center once a year for administrative duty. Some might do all their training at the same time. Virtual drilling may also be a possibility, Hall noted. "If it best fits the needs of the service and best fits the needs of the individual, we think a new way of drilling is what we'll see in the future."



37 Years (continued from page 10) believed him," Fletcher said.

After earning his diving pin and jump wings Fletcher picked up first class. He then made a decision to apply for both Warrant and LDO commissions. Once again fate had a role in his Navy journey; Fletcher was already past the maximum age requirement. "I was too old for the program but I was fortunate enough to be accepted and commissioned in 1978," Fletcher commented.

Fate came into Fletcher's life again in 1985 when he volunteered for recall as an officer recruiter. In 1987, Fletcher was selected as Officer Recruiter of the Year. "As it is with anything you love and believe in, it's not a hard product to sell and I was fortunate enough to do it well. I believe that the best thing you can do for a person is to recruit them, and the next best thing is to keep them in the Navy." Fletcher remarked.

And even though Fletcher was activated numerous times to serve at home and abroad, he never forgot his love of the sea. He earned his US Merchant Marine Masters License and taught sailing while in the Navy. "Something I always pass on to people is never forget where you came from, it's important that you remember," Fletcher said. Captain Fletcher's career reminds Sailors that, while your rate and your fate may have a lot to do with how far you go in the Navy you can still make every effort to achieve your goals.

On Watch

News for the Naval
Reservists in the Northeast

RADM Frank T. Rennie, USNR

Commander, REDCOM Northeast

LCDR Randy Britton, USNR

PAO, REDCOM Northeast

JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach,

Deputy PAO REDCOM Northeast,

Editor "ON WATCH"

Bravo Zulu

Meritorious Service Medal

CAPT Stephen Rutter (NR ONR)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

LCDR Stacey Rogers (CART 301)

CDR George Whitbred (Quincy)

CDR T. Gilbride (NR NCAPS)

LCDR J. Castano (NR NCAPS)

Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

MA2 Kathy Roope (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)

EO3 Robert Jarvis (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

BM3 Barbara Stanwood (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)

EO2 Edwin Churchill (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

SK2 Aric Sidell (Bangor)

IT1 Shannon Ackley (NRNCTAMS LANT Det C)

SW2 Kevin Burnham (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

BU1 Douglas Cyr (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

BU3 Aaron Himes (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

SK3 Robert Verge (CART E-301)

GSMC Senen Marrero (ATG)

HM2 Richard Dupont (NAVHOSP Portsmouth)

EM2 Scott Boone (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)

SK1 William Frank (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)

EO2 Richard Nadeau (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

EO2 Eugene Fletcher (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

CDR Richard Kuziak (NR SPAWAR HQ 101)

HM1 Michael Gudelski (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

HM2 Jonathan Greene (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

HM2 Adam Rinko (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

AE2 David Benoff (COMSUBDEVRON 12)

Sailor of the Quarter

YN3 Joseph Darin (Ft. Dix)

YN1 Nina Parker (NAVICP PHIL TM 1)

HM1 Carol Covey (White River Jct.)

UT2 Frank Thompson (NMCB 27 Det 0927)

HM3 James Foster (NR AD Det 3)

PN2 Stephanie Cogley (Quincy)

HM1 Mauiri (NH Beth Det F)

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

UT3 Stephen Tortorelli (NMCB 27)

Sailor of the Year

YN1 Joseph Augustine (Ft. Dix)

PC1 Ovidio Duran (SSB2 Mobile Mail)

IT2 Charles Bragg (NR SSB HQ 101)

PN1 Cheryl Fitzpatrick (Quincy)

PN1 Merrick (Manchester)

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

HM3 Amy Bissel-Aubin

MS2 Michael Inzinna (Ft Dix)

DC1 Brian Hunt (Ft Dix)

LCDR Ramesh Durvasular (NR NDCL)

DT1 Shaun Frye (NR NDCL)

LCDR Scott Arasmith (NR NCAPS LANT)

MS1 Karen Topham (NR SSB MAINT)

LCDR Hoa Ho (NR ONR)

IT1 James Sparks (Quincy)

BM2 Donald Goulding (Quincy)

EM2 Makeith Whitaker (Quincy)

EN2 David Litchko (Quincy)

HM2 Nicholas Trosclair (Quincy)

EM2 Danny Theis (Quincy)

YN2 Rodgers Cox (Quincy)

PN2 Stephanie Cogley (Quincy)

SK1 David Cyr (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)

EO1 Carroll (NR Phib CB 2)

BU2 Vidoli (NR Phib CB 2)

CDR M. Golden (NR PMS Washington)

LT S. Cregan (NR NAVINFO)

LT C. Murphy (NR NAVINFO)

LTJG M. Cody (NR NAVINFO)

EA1 D. Woodley (NR RECRUITSUPP)

MS2 T. Haynes (NR NSA Norfolk)

LTJG Sarah Bowllan (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

CDR Catherine Staunton (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

LCDR Maria Melendez-Bordado (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

LCDR Patricia McCafferty (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

HM3 Lynn Homerston (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

HM3 Jeanette Lasagna (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

HM2 Adam Rinko (NMC Portsmouth Det D)

CE1 Mare Averill (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

Letter of Appreciation

YN2 Khristina Armstrong (Worcester)
 LCDR Scott Fatcher (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
 YNC Joseph Mollo (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
 HM1 Dawn Schaller (NR NH BETHESEDA Det B)
 ET1 Melissa Quintella (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
 HTC Everett Bennett (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
 HM1 Dawn Schaller (NR NCMC Beth Det B)
 BU2 David Cook (NMCB 27 Det 0827)

Advancement/Promotions

MA1 Rick Canarr (NR NCTAMS LANT Det C)
 CDR Collen McLaughlin-Heasty (NRCC Naples 104)
 LT Donald Mathis (NCHB8)
 LCDR Scott Snively (FH Ft. Dix Det 7)
 SK2 Anthony Cervino (SSB2 Mobile Mail)
 MA1 Michael Gregory (NR FH Ft. Dix)
 BM1 Thomas Matt (CHB 8)
 SK1 Thomas Metzger (SSB2 Mobile Mail)
 BM2 Anthony Perez (NR 4MD2/25G)
 AK1 John Weber (NAVICP PHIL TM 1)
 CAPT John Kreger (NR FH Ft. Dix)
 CDR Christopher Hand (NR 4FSSG)

Reenlistments

SK2 Shane Neuhaus (Worcester)
 GMSN Henry Francis (FH Ft. Dix Det 14)
 YN1 Donna Cristea (NCHB8)
 SK2 Cathy Smith (NCHB 8 Air Cargo)
 EOC Fredrick Paddock (Watertown)
 EO2 Ernest Drake (Watertown)

CMC Scuttlebutt (*continued from page 3*) said I would also like to know what we are doing right and how we can incorporate those practices into the entire region. We have a unique opportunity in this region to change things that may have been in place for a while. The whole pyramid at REDCOM has changed; we will have a new Admiral, Deputy, COS, and myself. We have to rely on the expertise and maturity of our reserve force to guide us in the right direction. So don't be afraid to call; we are here to help and if we were not let me know that too.

Full Circle (*continued from page 13*) all began.”

In 1993, Capt. Yates became the XO of Military Sealift Command Central Facility Command North-western Europe 102 where she served until Sept. 1995. Yates was then assigned to Merchant Marine Operational Command Unit 102 where she served as Mobilization and Readiness Officer, and as Interim CO. In Oct. 1998, she assumed her second tour as XO with Military Sealift Command Eastern Mediterranean 106 in Baltimore during which time the unit earned the Leo Bilger Award.

NYPD on Patrol (*continued from page 5*) experience was being frocked by the Chief of Naval Personnel. However, his duties have included “everything and anything from domestics, to intrusions to parking violations.” Overall, NAVSTA Rota is safe and sound. “Not a whole lot happens in Rota – that’s a good thing,” said Viaciulis. However, force protection and antiterrorism measures remain paramount. Typical patrol duties include building and vehicle checks, driving the perimeters of the base and flight line looking for any stopped vehicles, suspicious individuals or breaks in the fence, as well as Random Anti-Terrorism Measures (RAMS).

Essential to NAVSTA Rota Security is how Reservists used their civilian expertise to improve training. “MA’s really don’t get to see real world police work,” explained Lane. Reserve security officers created training curricula and designed training scenarios NAVSTA Rota Security will continue to use after the Reservists demobilize. Included in the new training are: Close Quarters Battle Drills — how to enter a building with a suspect in it — High Risk Vehicle Stops, and a Bike Patrol Course.

After two years on active duty, Mason and his fellow Reservists demobilize this summer. “I’m sorry to leave,” said Mason. “This is a beautiful country.” However, despite a rewarding tour, Mason looks forward to seeing his family for the first time since February 2002. “Mobilizing was hell – the unknown, the paperwork, classes you had to take that you took before ... but I came here confident my family was going to be taken care of. I’m ecstatic about seeing my family,” added Mason. After using his accumulated 60 days of leave, Mason will eagerly return to his civilian job with NYPD.