

FRONT & CENTER

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Second Quarter

February 2004

NMCRC LA Religious Specialist Kerzner Graduates 'With Honors' from CREST

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Religious Program Specialist (RP) Petty Officer Third Class David Kerzner, a Naval Reservist from Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles (NMCRC LA), graduated with 'Honors' in November 2003 after 7 weeks of intensive training at Chaplain & Religious Program Specialist Expeditionary Skills Training (CREST) in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Proudly wearing his BTUs with the insignia of the Marine Corps. and his 'tan belt', Kerzner returned to his Reserve center with stories of his experience at CREST and working with the Field Medical Service School (FMSS).

Kerzner joined the Naval Reserves through the Non-Prior Service Advanced Pay Grade Program ten months ago and was assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force Religious (MEFREL) 119 unit. MEFREL 119 is a unit which supports the Marine Chaplain Corps. at Camp Pendleton.

"The role of the RP is to provide protection and security for the Chaplains, who under the Geneva Convention and the Marine Corps. regulations, are non combatants and not entitled to bear arms," said Kerzner. "RPs are bound by confidentiality just like the Chaplain and we support all faiths. We also provide logistical support, coordinating ground and air transport and act as a go between members within the battalion."

Kerzner describes how the role of the RP fits in with deployed Marines. "There are 'blue' and 'green' Chaplains," said Kerzner. "The MEFREL at NMCRC LA are on the 'green' side. We provide religious ministry services to Marines in the Marine expeditionary forces."

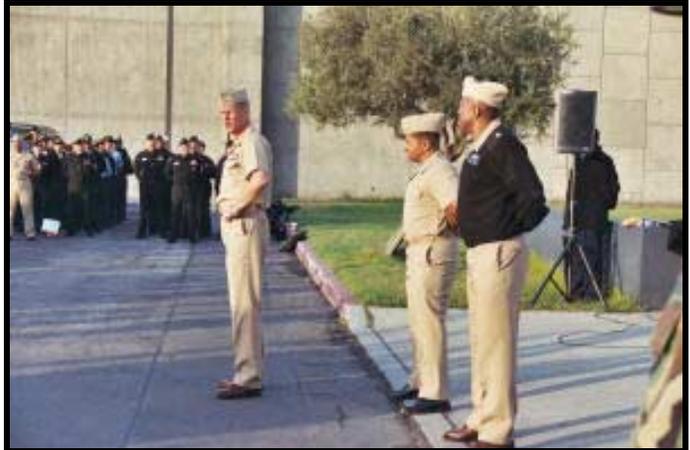
The RP rate celebrated its 25th anniversary Jan. 15. Through the years the RPs have developed a close relationship with the chaplains they protect and the servicemen and women they support.

"The religious ministry enables Marines to continue to practice their faith while in the service. It provides spiritual support and counseling," added Kerzner. "It also provides humanitarian assistance in the field, working with local organizations."

The CREST program prepares RPs to join the deployed fleet, often to dangerous situations. RPs are combat trained and followed a very vigorous physical training program.

"During CREST we trained with active-duty Corpsmen and RPs," said Kerzner. "The focus is on supporting Marines in the fleet marine force with an emphasis on combat skills and training."

"It is a Marine school and each platoon is assigned a Marine Staff sergeant and Navy Corpsmen advisor. Two advisors per platoon," said Kerzner. "Combat training included orientation to organization of the Marine forces, offensive and defensive skills in war games, in-the-field patrolling, land navigation, weapons instruction with an emphasis on the M16 rifle, nuclear biological chemical warfare defense in military operation in urban terrain, and use of deadly force. ...Continued on page 6



Pictured above: Commanding Officer John Ward addresses Sailors during NMCRC Los Angeles' mobilization exercise. Behind him are XO Brent Paschal and Command Master Chief Terry Evans.

RESERVES ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE NAVY MISSION

Reservists Receive Combat Action Ribbon

By Commander James P. Kitzmiller

Ten sailors from Naval Reserve 3d Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (NR 3ANGLICO) received the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) for service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The four Naval Gunfire Liaison Officers (NGLOs) and six Hospital Corpsmen (HMs) deployed with their gaining command, Marine Forces Reserve, 3d Air/Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (3d ANGLICO), to Kuwait and Iraq where they conducted sustained combat operations against Iraqi forces while under tactical control of 1st United Kingdom (UK) (Armored) Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced on March 20, 2003 with a massive coalition ground offensive following a limited air campaign. 3d ANGLICO, in direct support of 1st United Kingdom (UK) (Armored) Division, crossed the line of departure into Iraq, their mission to protect the right flank of the 1st Marine Division's main advance and to secure the Kuwait-Iraq border against Iraqi incursion.

Enemy resistance during the assault consisted of static strong point defense, limited armored counterattacks and indirect fire on breach points along the line of departure.

3d ANGLICO aided in the defense of the north Rumaylah bridge from March 22nd through 25th with the Parachute Regiment 3rd Battalion (3 Para).

Iraqi forces conducted several counterattacks along the bridge using dismounted infantry, armored and artillery in an

...Continued on page 9



Skipper's Corner

Commander J.D. Ward

Welcome to NMCRC Los Angeles' second quarterly edition of "Front and Center". In this edition we will examine several of the ongoing, dynamic and exciting evolutions transpiring within our Navy and it's integrally associated Reserve Forces.

As VADM John Cotton, (Chief of Naval Reserve and Echelon II Commander

Naval Reserve Force), recently stated, "We are working to make 'One Navy' a reality, and the total force what it can be".

To realize this vision and the tactical, operational, logistical and resource advantages / synergy associated with it, we must strive to employ the tenants of this strategy / operational perspective across all aspects of our professional endeavors, from the provision of "four star" customer service and support to our Reserve members, through the consistent provision of superlative mission and operational support to the gaining commands.

To facilitate understanding of our organizational direction, the following excerpt from RADM Cotton's remarks to the Admirals is provided.

In the spirit of the New Year, our Pentagon Office of the Chief of Naval Reserve staff has put together a 2003 "out" and 2004 "in" list to summarize recent changes in the Navy's Reserve Force. I thought you might like to see what we are doing to emphasize the Naval Reserve vision, "Support to the Fleet...Ready and Fully Integrated," to better support you and your warfare requirements.

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Vice Admiral. John G. Cotton, the new Commander, Naval Reserve Force.



Front & Center NMCRC Los Angeles

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To Submit Content: Send stories for publication consideration to margaret.peng@navy.mil



**Executive Officer
Commander Brent Paschal**

My tour is coming to an end this month. LCDR Rodney N. Bowman (from COMNAVAIR PAC 1094) has accepted a two-year recall to active duty and will relieve me.

This tour has been a fun, interesting and a learning experience for me, having also been a drilling SELRES prior to the tour.

There are many operations, logistics, preparation and "behind

the scenes" activity that goes into accomplishing the Navy mission, and being XO at RESCEN LA gave me an inside look.

It has been through teamwork, professionalism and commitment to our Navy's core values that you have maintained a record of success, and I have had the chance to help.

Please give a hearty welcome to LCDR Bowman, and if possible, an even greater measure of support.



**Command Master Chief
Terry Evans**

With the New Year, come new challenges. We are being challenged once again, to assist in securing the careers of our junior Sailors (E1-E6).

The term mentoring should be synonymous with directing- directing our people to make the right choices. Our responsibility as senior Sailors is to point out the advantages and disadvantages of their current rating. To help them to make intelligent choices that will serve them and the Navy best.

If Sailors they meet the qualifications, they should change their rate.

An excerpt from COMNAVRESFOR message 032121Z reads: "Due to force shaping, personnel in over-manned ratings (ECMO C) are encouraged to change rate into under-manned ratings (ECMO A), some may be bonus eligible."

We have close to 10,000 Reserve personnel in over-manned ratings. We, as leaders, need to take a close look at the professional growth and the rate stagnation that is occurring. This over-manning affects promotion opportunities and sailors need to be aware of alternatives through counseling and Professional Development Boards (PDB).

To senior Sailors, I cannot say enough about the importance of holding Professional Development Boards (PDB) for your personnel. It shows that you care. It also enhances junior personnel career opportunities and promotes teamwork and professional development.

Collectively, we can make a difference in every Sailor's life. If you would like a copy of COMNAVRESFOR 032121Z message, please contact me at (310)241-2160.

**Help a shipmate today and hold a
Professional Development Board!**

PHASE IV (POST-NPSAC TRAINING)

The second quarter Phase IV training will commence on 6 March 2004 and end on 7 March 2004.

This training is mandatory for all APG personnel that completed their initial AT (Boot Camp) post September 2002.

Because the NPSAC Boot Camp cannot cover all of the training topics, the NRA is responsible for providing those topics not covered following the initial Annual Training.

The class will be held at the reserve center. Point of contact is CMDCM (SCW) Evans at (310)241-2160.

WELCOME to New NMCRC LA Training Officer

NMCRC LA is pleased to welcome Lieutenant Robert Bulatao/1115, Surface Warfare Officer, as its new training officer.

LT Bulatao's past duty stations and programs attended include USS JARRETT (FFG 33) 2002-2004 San Diego as Fire Control Officer, USS VALLEY FORGE (CG 50) 2000-2002 San Diego as Electrical Officer, Surface Warfare Officer School Newport, RI 1999-2000, University of Southern California NROTC 1995-1999, and Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) in Newport, RI from 1994-1995.



**NMCRC LA Welcomes
New Senior Enlisted
Advisor**

NMCRC Los Angeles' Senior Enlisted Advisor is Dental Technician Senior Chief (DTCS) Debora Postell. (Pictured on left.)

She joins the NMCRC LA command team from serving as Officer in Charge NR 4th FSSG, 4th Dental Company, Detachment-1.

Senior Chief Postell joined the Naval Reserves in 1981

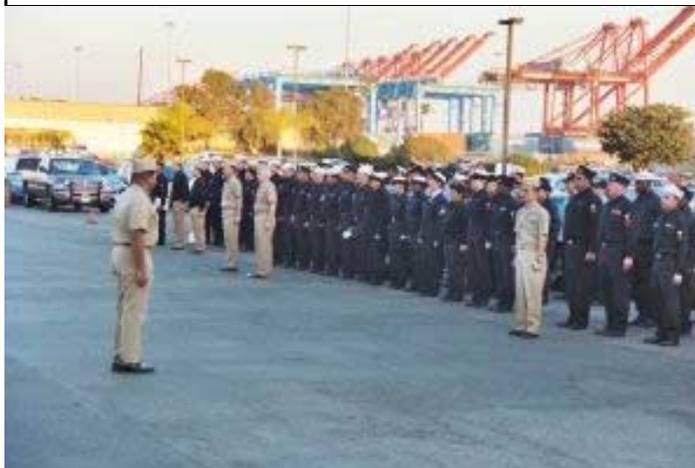
at Naval Reserve NDC 119 based out of San Diego, where she also attended dental technician school. She later transferred to NDC 119 in Los Angeles. In 1992 She transferred to NR 4DB 4DC-1.

Some of her duty stations have included a short tour in Panama and SDAT school as facilitator and instructor.

She served in Operation Desert Storm in support of 1st Dental Battalion Camp Pendleton.

Postell is a native of Panama and is fluent in Spanish.

MOBILIZATION READINESS



Morning Unit Muster



Medical Readiness



RESPAY and ADMIN FORMS



JAG BRIEFING/ WILL WORKSHEETS



SEABAG CHECK



DENTAL CHECK UP



URINALYSIS



VACCINATIONS



**STUDYING for the
ADVANCEMENT EXAM**



Kerzner...Continued from page 1

"The program was extremely rigorous from a physical training perspective. You have to complete several "humps" carrying in excess of a hundred pounds of gear. On forced marches of 4, 6, 7 or 8 mile humps, approximately half the class were dropped. Of the 240 at the beginning of the class, about 120 graduated. I am going to be 40 next month I was worried when I saw the average age of the people there was about 25. I am just happy to have made it through the training. At the outset I had my personal doubts."

Kerzner pointed proudly to his belt and described the process of earning the "tan belt."

"We were instructed in martial arts by a two-man team," said Kerzner. "We had a member of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program HM2 (FMF/PJ) Adrian Figueroa, and martial arts instructor trainer and Medical Service Corps. Capt. Carl J Hooton.

"The other component to the training which I think is useful is learning about the Navy and Marine team relationship, which I didn't know anything about before attending CREST," said Kerzner. "They work so closely together and I am amazed at how tough Marines are."

"One day a trainer at the school discussed whether the green side of the Navy should be allowed to wear the BTUs and in particular the anchor and globe, the insignia of the Marine Corps. There was an unanimous vote that the Navy corpsman and RPs should be able to wear the uniform, because their role is so vital to the Marine mission."

"One of the highlights for me was participating and watching the corpsman at the end of the course," recalled Kerzner. "They performed simulated medical triage on injured marines, and evacuations to Battalion Aide Stations (BAS). It was incredible to see the different levels of emergency care these corpsman have learned and now will apply these skills."

Kerzner had some advice for fellow Reservists. "This is a snapshot of the closest you are going to get to the action, but in simulation. The course trains you to deal with casualties. It helps you to further your understanding of combat and combat situations. That was something I didn't expect going into the program."

"It was pretty intense on our last day. During an exercise, they had smoke bombs everywhere and machine gun fire going off," recalled Kerzner. "As an RP, I provide security during an evacuation. They bring in evac vehicles and you have a radio in your hand. They expect you to know what to do in that situation. It was pretty intense. The commanding officer of the school said the whole purpose of the school is to provide us with skills we will need to survive."

Reservists may be concerned about the welcome they receive when they attend typically active-duty training and schools. Kerzner observed that the training environment was very conducive to building a "one force" team. "Some of the active duty side didn't even know we were Reservists, they thought we were active duty," said Kerzner. "The Reservists there were absolutely qualified to be there and I had a positive experience working with the active-duty side."

"In fact, two of the four Reservists in the entire class won awards upon graduation," said Kerzner.

Kerzner and a Reserve corpsman both earned the distinction of graduating "with honors." After graduation from CREST, RPs and Chaplains receive the Navy Enlisted Code

(NEC) 2401.

Kerzner has some more advice to Reservists planning to attend CREST or FMSS. "The Marines are incredibly tough, they want to make you or break you. To get through the program you have to be stubborn. If your feet hurt, you have to get past that."

"I never thought that eight months into my Naval career I would have the combat training I have," said Kerzner. "I feel very proud to be apart of this Navy Marine team."

Many Reservists are following in Kerzner's footsteps into FMSS. Recently, Reserve HMs from NMCRC LA graduated from Hospital Corpsman School in Great Lakes. In the next few weeks, two of these Reserve graduates from NMCRC LA will attend FMSS.

LINK-Perspective Transitions to Web Format in May

By Journalist 1st Class Teresa J. Frith, Navy Personnel Command Communications

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- LINK-Perspective magazine is now available online at the Navy Personnel Command (BUPERS) Web site. The January-April 2004 edition can be found at www.bupers.navy.mil/periodicals/link-perspective/Link-Perspective.htm.

This edition will be the last printed version of the publication, which has been a Navy icon in one form or another since 1956. Beginning with the May-September issue, it will be available only on the BUPERS Web site or via the BUPERS CD-ROM.

"The new, online-only versions of LINK-Perspective are part of the Navy's initiative to give our Sailors Web-based methods of accessing information vital to their careers. It gives them the information they need at the click of a mouse the moment it is needed, information that can be updated as needed, thus ensuring access to the most current career- or policy-enhancing items," said Rear Adm. John W. Townes, Commander, Navy Personnel Command.

The Officer section began in 1956 as the Line Officer Newsletter. That changed to Perspective in 1980. The enlisted section began as LINK in 1972. Both publications started out small, with little or no graphics, but by the time they joined together in 2002 to become LINK-Perspective, they had become a larger, more informative magazine with both black and white, and full color photos.

The January-April issue has already implemented features that will be continued in the online-only versions. For the first time, readers can click onto Web sites, NAVADMIN messages and instructions listed in each article. This gives Sailors instant clarification on the subject matter without having to look up the information elsewhere.

LINK-Perspective is the Navy's career bulletin, providing critical information to both officers and enlisted Sailors on key issues and emerging trends that will affect their careers. It will continue to be the vital link between the Sailor and the detailer by giving them that information in a more timely fashion, offering the ability to update any information instantaneously if a breaking policy change occurs, or any other item needs to be put out to Sailors.

Future issues may also contain items such as links to detailers, chat rooms and other assets, as the magazine continues to mature into a publication with less redundancy and more issues relevant to a Sailor's needs.

"This is just one of the many ways that we are staying true to our promise of 'Mission First, Sailors Always,'" said Townes.



Pictured above: Sailors during an all hands and during general military training.

The Changing Face of GMT

By Lt. j.g. Amanda Raymond, Naval Personnel Development Command Public Affairs

DAM NECK, Va. (NNS) -- Passing out of General Military Training (GMT) is now just a few clicks away. Through an online or CD-ROM based pre-assessment test, Sailors can now receive credit for what they already know.

The Center for Personal Development, working with Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and Navy eLearning, developed this program to improve training accountability and to evaluate for the first time how well Sailors comprehend GMT materials. While still at the discretion of commands, this new program is estimated to save the Navy thousands of man-hours.

The Navy requires specific GMT topics to be taught every year to all Sailors in the areas of personal health and wellness, safety, and personal and professional development. Currently, pre-assessment tests for the nine required annual topics are available on the Navy eLearning Web site. By passing these pre-tests with an 80 percent or better, Sailors can print a completion certificate and turn it in to their training officer, exempting them from formal command training.

"This revolutionizes the way training is conducted and the potential benefits are extraordinary," said Center for Personal Development Commander Officer Capt. William Marlowe. "Sailors can finally receive credit for knowledge they already possess, and reduce the time they would spend in training."

These courses also include a post test, which will help course designers assess the training's effectiveness.

Through NKO, users can find the assessment tests on the eLearning Web site. Once there, select 'catalog' to find the General Military Training category. Users then can click on 'FY04 GMT Required Topics' to add it to their learning plan and select 'Launch' to begin taking the tests.

To learn more about the GMT topics online, visit the Center for Personnel Development's on NKO at www.nko.navy.mil.

February is National African American History Month

From the Desk of the CNO...

February marks the 78th Annual observance of African American History Month. This year's theme is "BROWN VS BOARD OF EDUCATION (50TH ANNIVERSARY)."

African Americans have made extraordinary contributions to the Navy throughout its history. From chief gunner's mate John Henry "Dick" Turpin, the first African American chief petty officer, and a survivor of the explosion aboard USS MAINE, to Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances Wills, the first African American Women Naval officers. These proud warriors served on the front lines of freedom, bringing talent, dedication, and innovative ideas to the fight.

They still do. Today, there are more than 75,000 African Americans on active duty in the Navy, with thousands more serving proudly in the Naval Reserves. They work, train, lead, and contribute everyday in the finest tradition of the heroes who preceded them. Indeed, they are writing new history.

During the past year, a number of exceptional African-American Sailors and civilians were recognized for outstanding service to country and community. YNC(SW) Hazel M. Hudson received the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP);

Mr. Larry Hollingsworth was selected by the Black Engineer of the Year organization for the Professional Achievement in Industry or Government Award; and RDML Melvin G. Williams won the National Society of Black Engineers' Golden Torch Award for Lifetime Achievement in Government. We salute and congratulate these individuals, but we also recognize that they represent the high ideals the selflessness and the proud service of all African American – indeed all American – Sailors.

Commander Ward.... Continued from page 2

2003 - Old

TAR (Training and Administration of Reserves)
USNR(TAR) (enlisted designation)
USNR-R (ready reserve designation)
PCS (Peacetime Contributory Support)
RLO (Reserve Liaison Officer)
Naval Reserve Requirements
Naval Reserve Goals
Naval Reserve Skills
Naval Reserve Equipment
New Orleans Reserve "Tri-staff"

2004 - New

FTS (Full-time Support per Title 10)
USNR
USNR (this change was actually made years ago)
OS (Operational Support)
OSO (Operational Support Officer)
Navy Requirements
Navy Goals
Navy Capabilities
Navy Equipment
Naval Reserve Forces Command(1 staff) New Orleans

Commander Ward...

Continued from page 2

Leadership

VADM John Cotton, Chief of Naval Reserve and Ech II Commander Naval Reserve Force in Washington, DC, ADDU to CFFC, ADM Fallon

RADM John Debbout, Ech III Commander Naval Reserve Forces Command and Deputy Commander Naval Reserve Force in New Orleans, ADDU to CFFC, ADM Fallon

RADM Dan Kloeppe, Ech III Commander Naval Air Force Reserve and Vice Commander Naval Reserve Forces Command in New Orleans, ADDU to CNAF, VADM Malone

RDML Dave Anderson, FFC N8R, Director of Force Integration, working diligently on the ZBR of all NR billets and mapping of NR capabilities

The first big change is that instead of the usual TAR term to refer to full-time reservists, we will now use "Full-Time Support" or FTS. This is the term used by Congressional staffers and Title 10 for all the reserve components and better describes what they do...full-time support to the Navy and full-time enabling of Selected Reservists to support the Navy.

We also stopped using the term "peacetime contributory support" for what reservists do to support the Fleet. Instead, we'll use "operational support," because everyone in the Navy does the same work. "OS" is done on every type of orders, AT/ADT/ADSW/Mobilization, as well as drill periods (IDT). RLOs will become OSOs and should be included in your planning and training discussions to optimize reserve capabilities and effective utilization of mandays. Numbers of reserves mobilized is not a good metric of the contribution of the Reserve Force to the Navy on a given day, so we're now developing and reporting "OS" to CNO weekly, and the numbers are impressive. Many reservists are already embedded in your daily operations, training and instructing, providing support to the Fleet.

Also, there are no longer any Naval Reserve requirements... only Navy requirements. CNO's goals/priorities are also the Naval Reserve's. The Navy mission is also the Naval Reserve Mission. One Navy, one team, is the message I'm taking to the 160+ Reserve facilities, and it's being accepted with open

arms. One Master Chief told me recently, "it's about time." We are the Navy's Reserve.

In the past two months, this message has been delivered to the Hill, Associations, OPNAV leadership and throughout the Force. The response has been resoundingly positive. We exist to provide operational support to the fleet...period.

Structured correctly, the NR will compliment and enhance warfighting wholeness. Experience counts and should be leveraged. We have tremendous surge capabilities combined with valuable critical civilian skills.

The preceding remarks should provide some insight into the changes occurring across today's force, as well as facilitate a better understanding of the motives, goals and objectives behind these initiatives.

VADM Cotton's remarks again serve to best summarize this article's message and our direction as a force, "The Navy mission is the Naval Reserve Mission. One Navy, one team".

Until our next issue, stand proudly, sail boldly and fly your colors high!



FTS (Full Time Support) Staff are responsible for raising the colors as well as numerous other duties around the Reserve center. Pictured above: EN2 Gilbert Cornejo (left) and EN2 Ricardo Usita

3d ANGLICO Continued from page 1
attempt to dislodge coalition forces.

3d ANGLICO and 3 Para utilized combined arms to stop the enemy's counterattack and to shape the north bank of the Al Hammar canal in preparation for its eventual crossing by coalition forces.

Enemy activity consisted of strong counterattacks in the vicinity of the north Rumaylah bridge with pockets of enemy resistance encountered south of the bridge and occasional infiltration by Ba'ath Party members in an attempt to organize asymmetric attacks.

3d ANGLICO participated in the crossing of the north Rumaylah bridge and in combat operations directed against the Iraqi 6th Armored and 14th Infantry Divisions from March 25th through April 6th.

3d ANGLICO supported their British allies in the close battle through the employment of close air support (CAS) and artillery to defeat enemy units while Brigade headquarters fought the deep battle through the use of air strikes on enemy units based on human intelligence and feeds from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

3d ANGLICO made the first strike in the battle for Al Ba rah on March 25th. Working directly with the British Special Air Service (SAS), 3d ANGLICO's Targeting/Fire Support Coordination (FSC) cell located and targeted the Ba'ath Party Headquarters in Al Basrah. An immediate Joint Tactical Air Request (JTAR) was submitted and two F/A-18s destroyed the target building with Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM). Human intelligence (HUMINT) from SAS confirmed that the building was occupied at the time of attack with over 20 senior Ba'ath Party officials.

Forward Air Controllers (FACs) from 3d ANGLICO controlled U.S. F/A-18s and British Tornado ground attack aircraft in a coordinated attack with British ground forces into Al Basrah on March 26th. The coalition aircraft struck their targets within two minutes of each other in support of the ground scheme of maneuver destroying a Ba'ath Party leader's house -seven of nine buildings attacked were destroyed or severely damaged.

Coalition tanks and mechanized infantry assaulted these positions immediately after the air strikes and discovered dozens of enemy killed in action (KIA) and wounded in action (WIA). This was a highly successful integration of close air support (CAS) utilizing JDAM combined with ground assault.

Iraqi resistance had crumbled and combat operations in the 1 United Kingdom (UK) (Armored) Division area of operations ceased on April 10.

Commander James P. Kitzmiller, Commander Brian R. Borlet, Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey D. McGee and Lieutenant James N. King served with distinction as Naval Gunfire Liaison Officers (NGLOs) and Forward Air Controllers (FACs) during the conflict effectively directing combat operations against Iraqi forces.

HM1(FMF/PJ) David L. Clark, HM1(FMF/PJ) Barry G. Hurt, HM1(FMF/PJ) William P. Law, HM2(FMF/PJ) Emmitt L. Sanders III, HM2(FMF/PJ) James D. Pritchard and HM2(FMF/PJ) David A. Perry provided invaluable medical support to 3d ANGLICO Marines and supported British Medical Service Corps personnel in treating military and civilian casualties both during and after the combat phase of operations.

NR 3ANGLICO, an airborne trained Naval Reserve Program 9 unit, is assigned to Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, Los Angeles. The well-trained Naval Reservists were ready to mobilize at a moment's notice and they seamlessly

NMCRC LA Reservists Participate in City of Tustin's 2003 Veterans Day Parade

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng and SK2 Charles Moore

On Veteran's Day, Reservists representing NMCRC LA participated in the City of Tustin's 2003 Veterans Day Parade.

Storekeeper Petty Officer second class Charles Moore from the ship augmentation unit (SAU) and NPSTRU, coordinated the volunteers. "The parade was a great success," said Moore. "The parade started off without a hitch, the weather held with a cool overcast morning."

"Some members who volunteered were IT3 Jonathan Mills from NCTAMS PAC DET I, YN2 ??? Willis from SAU USS CURTS FFG-38, Master Chief Michael Brown from KILAUEA CART TM B, BM1Green and her husband CDR Green, and Seaman Alex Santana," said Moore.

"The mile-long parade down Old Town Tustin was filled with Reserve Officer Training Corps. units from Santa Ana High School and Lakewood Senior High School, along with LT CDR Duff Johnson, a retired Naval Aviator," observed Moore. "CDR Johnson was pleased to be involved in the parade, and to be with the 35 students wearing smart uniforms with unit flags and the American standard."

"Various units from the Army National Guard were in attendance to display motorized equipment of HUMVEE's, a Semi Truck with a Low Deck trailer, a Pettibone Scissor Boom Fork Lift, some vintage Willy's WWII jeeps, and participants dressed as WWI Dough Boys to contemporary uniforms," said Moore.

During the parade, other participants happily commented on Navy participation. "We were absolutely pleased and honored to meet Navy Waves from WWII whom we happily gave them a ride upon an Orange County Fire Engine - you should have seen their smiles - a crowning moment of the parade."

"Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies were happy to participate in the parade proudly displaying their merit badges and skill awards," said Moore. "Their pride in our National colors was heart warming to see."

The parade concluded at Pepper Tree Park where LT. Walker "Bud" Mahurin, a WWII Fighting Ace, was a POW during the Korean War for 18 months, spoke to the audience.

"LT Mahurin poignantly stated how important it is for each and everyone of us to remember the sacrifices that our Veterans have made for our country and for our freedom. That the hero's of yesterday and today share the same belief in patriotism, devotion to country and faith," observed Moore.

The American Legion Post 227, the City of Tustin, and Orange County presented the 2003 Veterans Day Parade & Events to celebrate the men and women, past and present, who have provided the security and liberty of the residents of Tustin, Orange County, California, and the United States of America.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS !



Pictured Above: **USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76)** enters the port in Fort Lauderdale during its maiden liberty call.
 Pictured below: JO2 Margaret Peng and ENS Chris Neeley are helicoptered back to shore from the **REAGAN**.



Pictured above: The tower onboard the **REAGAN** and the gangway up to the ship.



Reservists Support REAGAN Port Visit
 By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Program 35 members from the East and West coasts supported USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)’s command information bureau during the ship’s first-ever port visit, in November.

Responding to enormous local interest, the Reservists helped the ship’s public affairs staff promote, celebrate and document the visit, which occurred over four days, including Veterans Day.

CIB staffers from Naval Reserve units included Ensign Chris Neeley of Navy Information Bureau 108 in Atlanta, Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Kevin Langford of Navy Information Bureau 208 in Jacksonville, Fla., and Journalist 2nd Class Margaret A. Peng from Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles.

“It is not often Reservists get a chance to serve aboard a ship,” Langford said. “It was a great experience to work with other PHs on the active-duty side. We were able to work seamlessly with a common goal.”

The Reservist’ hard work with local newspaper, radio and television outlets paid off with three days of headline news and more than 15 news broadcast stories.

“We came to USS Ronald Reagan as a diverse and talented group of Naval Reservists,” said Neeley, officer in charge of the detachment. “By the end of the tour we became a well-oiled public affairs team and shipmates for life.”

Continued on page 11



Pictured above: **REAGAN** Sailors preparing to get underway in the hanger bay.



Pictured above: USS Ronald Reagan Sea King helicopters arriving on the flight deck after shuttling personnel ashore.

Pictured above right: Sailors ‘man the rails’ in preparation to go underway back to Norfolk, Virginia after the port visit.

Pictured to the right: View from a Sea King helicopter -transporting passengers back to shore after the REAGAN was underway.



Continued from page 10

“Having never served on a ship, I was anxious to see how active-duty Sailors would receive a group of Reservists,” he continued.

“I immediately received their respect, trust and the reins of leadership in accomplishing the mission.”

The ship’s public affairs officer, Lt. Suzanna Cigna, had not worked with Reservists before.

“I believe it is critical for Reservists to take advantage of opportunities on the active duty side in order to properly train and to learn, to really gain an understanding, of what it means to serve in the U.S. Navy,” Cigna said, adding that she was impressed with the support she received – and that it played a critical role in providing information to the public.

“The quality of training that Reservists receive when deployed with active-duty service men and women is incomparable to the quality of training that they would receive elsewhere,” Cigna said. “It doesn’t get any better than getting out to sea to train with the active-duty fleet.”

Pictured below: **USS Ronald Reagan** pulling into port. Fort Lauderdale network media and family members of Sailors wait for Sailors to come ashore.

Pictured below: **USS Ronald Reagan** pulling into Port Everglades past Fort Lauderdale highrises. REAGAN Sailors are manning the rails.





Pictured above: ETCS (SS) Kenneth H. Behrmann retires after 36 years in the U.S. Navy By JO2 Margaret A. Peng



Pictured above: Supportive friends and longtime Shipmates of ETCS (SS) Behrmann line up to wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas." By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

ETSC Behrmann Retires After 36 Years In Navy

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Electronic Technician Senior Chief (SS) Kenneth H. Behrmann retired in December 2003 after serving the active and Reserve Navy a combined total of over 36 years.

Behrmann began his Naval career graduating from Quartermaster "A" school in August 1967. In 1999, the Naval submarine force combined the quartermaster rate with electronic technician rate.

The retirement ceremony included the presentation of colors by the Coast Guard Station Sea Cadets, a welcome by CDR Richard Henderson, presentation of awards and certificates, letters of commendation from the Mayor of Los Angeles James Hahn and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry Scott, and a flag ceremony.

"You don't give 36 years of your life only because you are committed to the Navy, you do it for the love of your Sailors and for your country," said NMCRC LA Command Master Chief Terry Evans.

The retirement ceremony also included a symbolic flag ceremony ending with Sideboys, selected from the Reserve Center ranging in the ET rate from seaman to chief, presenting a carefully folded American flag to ETSC Behrmann.

His duty locations included serving on the USS Mississinewa (AO-144), USS Petrel (ASR-14), Submarine School in Connecticut, USS Bashaw (AGSS-241), USS Pomodon (SS-486), NavRes Surface Div 3-90 (L) NRTC Rochester, New York, Fleet Training Center DET 419 ORU San Diego, USS Sperry (AS-12), CONVOYCOM Long Beach DET 219, Fleet Training Group DET 119 San Diego, USS Racine (LST-1191), Afloat Training Group, Pacific (ATGPAC) DET 119, and Voluntary Training Unit (VTU) DET 1904G.

ETCS (SS) Behrmann graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. degree in Economics and is currently employed by the RMS Foundation (Queen Mary) in Long Beach. He resides in Monrovia with his wife Bonnie.



Fair Winds and Following Seas...

We bid shipmates farewell with this naval "blessing" because it represents the ideal underway conditions

Senior Chief - A senior chief is an E-8 and the equivalent of a master sergeant or first sergeant in the Marine Corps and the Army. The insignia on the left is what a senior chief would wear on his sleeve, but you're more likely to see a senior chief wearing khakis and sporting the anchor with a star on his collar.



Activities around the Reserve Center:

"Integrity is doing the right thing,
even if nobody is watching."
~Jim Stovall

"It takes less time to do a thing right
than to explain why you did it wrong."
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



BBQ FUNDRAISER



Physical Readiness



NMCRC LA Reservists Graduate Hospital Corpsman School at Great Lakes

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Reservists from Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles (NMCRC LA) recently graduated from Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes.

Student registration at Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes is usually limited to active-duty Sailors. Because of the number of deployed Sailors, there was an opportunity to open the training to Reservists.

Command Master Chief Terry Evans of NMCRC LA saw the opportunity for the Reservists at his command and actively recruited Reservists to attend the school.

"Going to corpsman school is what I wanted to do, and the Navy gave me the opportunity to do it," said Hospital Corpsman (HM) Petty Officer Third Class Douglas Augustson of NMCRC LA Light Aerial Reconnaissance, Unit 4. "I heard good things about the school and you can never have too much on-the-job training. It was a great experience."

Another shipmate had similar comments to add to Augustson's enthusiastic remarks. "Going to corpsman school is what I wanted to do and Master Chief Evans gave me the opportunity to go," said Hospitalman (HN) Frederick Espejo from Light Aerial Reconnaissance, Unit 4. "The school was great. The experiences and challenges made it very meaningful to me."

The Navy has a long history of providing training and opportunities to Sailors who want to earn a bachelor's degree or to enhance their professional skills.

"Since I was seventeen years old, I wanted to join the Navy," said Augustson. "I pursued another career, but it was always on my mind. Now I am 26 and the Reserves gave me the opportunity to serve as a corpsman. Everything I wanted, the Navy could offer to me."

Going to an "A" school can be challenging to Reservists. The time away at school can create stress at home and at work. Once arriving at the school many Reservists may not know what to expect.

"My challenges were more of a personal nature," said Espejo. "Being away from the family was the hardest part. I also felt they expected more from the Reservists, but I think we came up to par to what they expected."

"It wasn't what I expected at all," added Augustson. "As a health care provider for the City of Los Angeles in my civilian job, I had to learn it a totally different way. I had to adjust my thinking and learned it the way the Navy teaches it. It made my learning process harder, but it taught me to adapt and learn from different types of teaching."

"The training focused on teamwork and the pace was a lot faster than I anticipated," said Augustson. "I also feel that what I did during my 14 weeks at corpsman school was the best work I have done in my life, better than when I was in college. At the end of each division, we applied all we learned."

"I felt the instructors expected the Reservists to work harder to achieve the same level of skills the active duty side have," said Augustson. "It is harder for us, but I highly recommend going to the school. You will learn about teamwork and your responsibilities as an HM."

"When I joined the Naval Reserves, I came in as an HM3," said Augustson. "The instructors at the school expected a lot from me. They expected me to know the things a third class petty officer would know and have experience in. That was a challenge. That higher expectation pushed me to study and train harder."

Whether being deployed, going to annual training or attending schools, a Reservist can face termination from their civilian job.

Augustson faced this unwanted situation. With the support of Navy employer liaisons and proper notification procedures, a



Pictured above: Hospital Corpsman (HM) Petty Officer Third Class Douglas Augustson and Hospitalman (HN) Frederick Espejo from NMCRC Los Angeles Light Aerial Reconnaissance, Unit 4.

Sailor can avoid a poor relationship with their employer.

"It was difficult to be away for so long. I have two jobs prior to attending corpsman school," said Augustson. "I had a job that was very supportive, and another one that was not so supportive. The second job wanted to terminate me. They had a hard time understanding what I did, how I was being trained, and why I was away for such a long time."

"I talked to a employer liaison instructor at Great Lakes and they gave me advice on how to handle the situation, and how to explain to my employer," continued Augustson. "I filled out the proper paperwork and made a couple of phone calls. It is still possible to have a good relationship with your employer after a misunderstanding. After a few discussions, we were able to resolve the situation and I am returning to work."

"My suggestion to anyone planning on going to any school is to give your boss enough notice that you will be away and to explain why you are going and how important it is to you and your career," said Augustson.

"My job, a healthcare provider, has been very supportive of my training," added Espejo. "They appreciate the Navy training me and sending me to school. It increased my value to the company."

Both Sailors plan on attending Field Medical Service School (FMSS) in the coming months.

Naval Reserve Corpsmen to be Trained Online

By JO2 Jessica Pearce, NSTC Public Affairs

Non-prior enlisted Naval Reserve Corpsmen will have the opportunity to go through corps school in a new way starting in the fall—online. Instructors at the Navy Hospital Corps School Great Lakes are working with reserve leaders to put the curriculum online, where it will be accessible to reservists who are not able to spend 14 weeks at Great Lakes. Reservists will complete the coursework during their drill weekends, and then spend their two weeks completing the lab work at Corps school.

The first group of officer and enlisted corpsmen recently completed the two weeks of lab work at Great Lakes. This group will serve as the instructors at their reserve center,

Continued on page 17



NMCRC LA Reservist Amentler Graduates Naval Hospital Corps School 'With Distinction'

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Hospital Corpsman petty officer third class James Amentler (pictured above), a Reservist at Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles, graduated 'with distinction' October 2003 from Naval Hospital Corps School Great Lakes' Accelerated Pace Program (APP).

The Hospital Corpsman Basic course at the Naval Hospital Corps School Great Lakes is typically attended by active-duty Sailors. Due to this year's deployment schedule, spaces opened for Reservists interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to attend.

Amentler's grades and performance made him eligible for the Accelerated Pace Program (APP), graduating six weeks earlier than the regular program participants. He also served as class adjutant for the APP.

Amentler, 40, with only a year in the Reserves, talked about his reasons for joining the Navy. "Joining the military is something I always wanted to do. I ended up being a single father for quite a while, but the events of 9/11 really made think about how I could serve my country."

His civilian occupation is as a photographer for a body building magazine. He also works as an instructor for the Emergency Medical Tech Lab at El Camino College and American Heart Association basic life support instructor.

"I wanted to go to corpsman school to learn more about being a corpsman and more importantly, I wanted to learn the Navy way of doing things," said Amentler. "A lot of the curriculum that was taught at Corpsman school were things that I do in my civilian job, but I would have to learn the "Navy way" of doing things."

Amentler has some advice for fellow Reservists planning on pursuing an HM rate. "I would say any Advanced Pay Grade Reservist who wants to be a HM should go to corpsman school," said Amentler. "It also depends on whether they have existing emergency medical skills. Even if you are a Registered Nurse, you will have the nursing experience, but you will not have the field and emergency medical experience they teach you at corpsman school."

"The most important thing to remember when going to corpsman school is to maintain your focus and not get distracted during your studies," said Amentler. "It is a short amount of time to study hard and it is definitely attainable if you work at it."

For a Reservist, leaving your work and family for 14 weeks is a huge sacrifice. Being away from family can be especially trying.

"My overall experience was interesting," said Amentler. "It was the first time I have been away for a long time from my wife and daughter. The instructors are excellent. They really are there for you to learn and are more than willing to help you out with whatever problem you may run into. The support I received was really great. I felt like they outreached to the Reserves and made an effort to incorporate us into the program."

"My daughter had torn her ACL playing soccer and she needed surgery," added Amentler. "My instructor facilitated getting everything done for me to get back to my daughter in time for her surgery."

At times, Reservists wonder what the reception will be for them working together with their active-duty counterparts. Amentler remembered a

comment by one of his instructors: "Any comment against a Reservist will not be tolerated."

Amentler recalled his proudest moment at Corpsman school. "One of my instructors said to me 'you are one of the most squared away Reservists to ever come through Corpsman School.' I was surprised and happy to hear that. I felt proud to have been able to represent the Reserves in such a positive way, and to work with active-duty personnel."

Amentler plans on attending Field Medical Service School (FMSS) for 7 weeks starting January 2004. After FMSS, he joins his unit 4th Light Armor Reconnaissance. "My primary reason for joining the Navy was simply to be a part of the force which protects the United States," said Amentler. "I joined as a Corpsman because I wanted to be out in the field. I didn't want to be stuck in four white walls."

His long-range plans include studying for his advancement exam, continue his education by taking advantage of the Montgomery GI Bill, and becoming a Registered Nurse.

FOCUS: Reserve Hospital Corpsman (HM)

The duties performed by HMs include: assisting in the prevention and treatment of disease and injuries; preparing/administering medications including injections; caring for the sick and injured; administering immunization programs; rendering emergency medical treatment; instructing sailors and marines in first aid, self aid and personal hygiene procedures; transporting the sick and injured; conducting preliminary physical examinations; performing medical administrative, supply and accounting procedures; maintaining treatment records and reports; supervising shipboard and field environmental sanitation and preventive medicine programs; supervising air, water, food and habitability standards. They also serve as battlefield corpsmen with the Marine Corps, rendering emergency medical treatment to include initial treatment in a combat environment.

Qualified technicians perform clinical laboratory tests and operate sophisticated laboratory equipment; take and process X-rays and operate X-ray equipment; fill prescriptions, maintain pharmacy stock; serve as operating room technicians for general and specialized surgery; do preventive maintenance and repairs on biomedical equipment; operate sophisticated medical diagnostic treatment equipment. Includes kidney dialysis machines, radiation monitors, hearing and vision testing machinery, heart and lung test apparatus, ultrasound, nuclear medicine and CT scan equipment. Qualified hospital corpsmen may be assigned the responsibility of independent duty aboard ships and submarines; Fleet Marine Force, Special Forces and Seabee units, and at isolated duty stations where no medical officer is available.

During their 96 days of training at Great Lakes, HMs are taught basic principles and techniques of patient care and first aid procedures. After completion of "A" school, hospital corpsmen are normally assigned to Navy medical treatment facilities although some are assigned to operational units. Advanced training in a "C" school, a tour at sea or ashore, overseas or with the Marine Corps may follow this initial tour. Women are assigned to most ships and field medical support units of the FMF. Women are not assigned to submarines, with the SEALs, or some units of the FMF. En route to their first permanent duty stations, most male HMs will be assigned to either Field Medical Service School, Camp Lejeune NC, or Camp Pendleton CA, for specialized training in the knowledge and skills required to perform medical services in the field with the Marine Corps and/or the "Seabees."

Hospital corpsmen work in a variety of environments. Most HMs work indoors in hospitals or clinics. Others work aboard ships and submarines; with air squadrons, special operational environments (ie, SEALs, Recon Forces, Seabee units and Deep-Sea Diving). Duties are service oriented, repetitive and require good judgment and mental alertness. HMs may work alone or with supervision by other health professionals, depending on the assignment.

Mess Management Specialist Rating Name Changes

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- In a rating name change that better reflects their professional expertise, Mess Management Specialists (MS) will now be known as Culinary Specialists (CS).

"The name change more appropriately describes the duties and mission of the rating, aligns the rating with today's commercial culinary profession, and enhances the rating's professional image," said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Joe Donellan, rating technical advisor and Supply Corps enlisted community manager.

The rating's progression from cook to commissary man, to mess management specialist, and finally to culinary specialist, is a natural one and in keeping with the Navy's tradition of defining a Sailor's occupation in modern terms.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Myers, aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5), believes the name change will have a positive effect when Sailors transition back to civilian life.

"We'll finally be able to compare our knowledge and training to the civilian world, which will allow an easier transition into the culinary field," he said. "I really like it."

Aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Jack Slattery said he felt the change will "definitely help in enabling our civilian counterparts to better identify with our job as opposed to the term "Mess," which is a contradiction in terms when you think about the sanitation standards we're expected to maintain."

Personnel in the MS rating will be automatically converted to the CS rating effective immediately with the release of NAVADMIN 012/04. Request for conversion from Sailors or commands is not required.

The rating badge of crossed keys and quill superimposed upon an open ledger is being retained for Culinary Specialists.

NAVADMIN 012/04 will soon be available on the Web at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.



Culinary Specialists serve hundreds of meals to Reservists each drill weekend.



Fleet and Family Support

Free Income Tax Preparation

Free income tax preparation for military and their family members through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. This is a wonderful, and FREE, service offered by volunteers through Naval Legal Services Office. For more information, contact Navy Legal on 32nd Street at (619) 556-2211 or Navy Legal on North Island at (619) 545-6438.

VITA at 32nd Street (Naval Station)

- Offered at Navy Legal Service Office Southwest, Bldg 56, 3395 Sturtevant Street, Suite 2, San Diego, CA 92136
- For more information, call (619) 556-2211 VITA services are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

VITA at NASNI (North Island)

- Offered at Navy Legal Service Office, above the FFSC NASNI, in Bldg 318
- For more information, call (619) 545-6438
- VITA services will be available beginning February, 2, 2004 After 2/2/04, office hours will be Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Special Note: In the past, VITA Services have been offered at the Fleet & Family Support Center on 32nd Street. There are currently **NO** office hours scheduled for the FFSC 32nd Street, so please go directly to the Navy Legal Services Office, Bldg 56, on 32nd Street if that is the area most convenient for you.

NMCRC LA Reservist Attends Yeoman "A" School

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Yeoman (YN) Petty Officer Third Class Ginette Pilote of NMCRC LA Personnel Mobilization (PERSMOB) Team DET 2419 used her additional duty training (ADT) days to attend 5-week Yeoman "A" School at the Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) in Meridian, Miss.

"I felt I needed more training and to be more proficient in my duties as a Yeoman," said Pilote. "Now I have more confidence when I work at the Reserve center and eventually when I am out in the Fleet."

Pilote joined the Naval Reserves through the Non-Prior Service Advanced Pay Grade program in October 2002. Over the course of the year, she has been busy completing her course books, General Military Training, adjusting to her unit, and on-the-job training for her rate.

Now she was ready for the next step. She knew she needed more training to be an effective Yeoman and petty officer.

"The role of a Yeoman is essential to the Navy," said Pilote. "We take care of all the administrative paperwork necessary to all personnel."

"While at "A" school, I found two aspects to the lessons very important," said Pilote. "First, we learned about the duties of the YN with sample writing, filling out forms and evaluations. Second, we learned about the importance of leadership and the role of the petty officer in the Navy."

"I recommend the school to all Personnelmen and Yeomans, even some other rates like Storekeeper and Journalists," added Pilote.

Recently the Naval Personnel Development Command introduced a self-paced online version of Yeoman "A" school. This online program will cut the classroom time down to 3 weeks.

"I think the online idea is great, but you may lose the military context of learning and observing leadership styles and skills of the instructors," observed Pilote. "You lose out on the dialogue with the instructors."

"It was an enriching experience for me to work with active-duty Yeomans," said Pilote. "Most were about to be sent out to the Fleet and oversea commands. There were very few Reservists at the school, about 4 of us."

"I think more Reservists should take advantage of this training," commented Pilote. "It will help us to advance and build on our leadership skills."

Yeoman 'A' School Joins Online Training Revolution

JO2 Diane Jones, NAVPERS Development Command Public Affairs

Beginning now, the Sailors who are destined to become future yeomen (YN) are in for a great surprise. The 'A' school they were expecting is now online. A revolution in Navy training innovation, Sailors now learn to become YNs through a virtual online office simulating the environment Sailors will encounter at sea.

The new prototype of YN 'A' school is an interactive online course taught in a classroom environment. Students will learn through a virtual office. For example, a student can click on a filing cabinet and learn about the Navy's filing system, among other pertinent skills. Instructors are replaced by facilitators who are there to help students navigate through the courseware.

Sailors can work their way toward becoming a qualified yeoman at their own pace. These Sailors will now be able to begin school as soon as they arrive in Meridian, Miss.

"The yeoman course normally takes five weeks to complete," said Dean Norman, director of innovations and analysis at the Naval Personnel Development Command/ Task Force EXCEL. "With the new hands-on, reality-based course, the time could be cut down to as little as three weeks. It's all up to the Sailor. Using this prototype as the example for the future of learning will save the Navy money. According to Norman, the YN 'A' prototype alone can save the Navy up to \$900,000 the first year.

Not stopping with the YN 'A' school, the approach will eventually extend to all the administrative 'A' schools. This means the personnelman, religious program specialist, aviation storekeeper, storekeeper, ship's serviceman, aviation maintenance administrationman ratings, and the flag writer follow-on school will become a self-paced online interactive course. The face of traditional A-schools is changing.

This prototype, as well as the electricity, electronic, communications and radar prototype launched earlier, will have far-reaching results," said Norman. "These innovations are bringing knowledge to Sailors, wherever they are and when they need it."

For more information about YN A-school, visit www.nko.navy.mil.

HM ONLINE COURSE:

Continued from page 14

helping the other corpsmen through the online coursework.

Lt. Cmdr. Angela Saunders, the Department Head for the Educational Support Services Department, explains that the idea originally began during the Gulf War, when reserve corpsmen were called up who hadn't had the same training as their active duty counterparts.

"With this program, the reserves will be more in sync with the active duty corpsmen," Saunders said. "They'll be able to help out more and be readily available in any work area. It will help build a more cohesive work environment."

Lt. Cmdr Steve Stanton, the director of marketing and training for the reserves, explained that web-based training wasn't the first method they tried.

"We thought about some different methods," he said. "We thought about correspondence courses, or trying to send groups to corps school for several years in a row. But then we looked at the web-based training, and found that we had the technology to do it online."

One of the many considerations for the program was the technology available. While many reserve corpsmen work in the medical field, civilian hospitals often have a very different way of doing things.

"We needed the technology to be able to do a sophisticated course," Stanton said. "The corpsman curriculum is very hands-on, it's a great deal of information. With this online training, we can show the students different diagrams, like the circulatory system; how blood gets to and from the heart."

Eventually the online work will be something that is built into reserve contracts, much like the Non-Prior Service Accessions Course (NPSAC), the two-week reserve boot camp, is built in now.

Stanton anticipates the first corpsmen reserves signing up for the online program late this fall, with the first group of corpsmen arriving at corps school to complete their two weeks of lab work in the summer of 2004.



Pictured above: Commanding Officer Commander John Ward awards MSSN Tracy Watters a letter of commendation for her graduation from Great Lakes 'Boot Camp' as the Honor Recruit.

Pictured to the right: MM1 Michael Buchanan received the Active Duty Sailor of the Year 2003 award. MM1 Buchanan is the command career counselor.



BRAVO ZULU

Sailor of the Year 2003

Active Duty– Machinist Mate Petty Officer First Class Michael Buchanan
 SELRES- Culinary Specialist Petty Officer First Class Philippa Matthews
 SELRES BJOY– Information Technician Petty Officer Third Class Anson Anderson

Sailor of the Quarter , Fourth Quarter 2003

Active Duty– Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer Second Class Simone Gomez
 SELRES– Journalist Petty Officer Second Class Margaret Peng
 SELRES BJOQ– Yeoman Petty Officer Third Class Joy Allen

Deployed Junior Sailor of the Quarter

(Currently deployed to Commander Logistics Forces, US Naval Forces Central Command/Commander Task Force 53 (CTF-53) Kingdom of Bahrain) Storekeeper Petty Officer Second Class Eduardo Rodriguez (NMCRC Los Angeles SAU)

Letters of Appreciation

SK3 Rolando A. Floresmorales	Commander, Fleet Activities, Yokosuka
BM2 Michael R. Clarke	NMCRC Los Angeles

Letter of Commendation

IT3 Gabriel Brooks	NMCRC Los Angeles
MSSN Tracy Watters	NMCRC Los Angeles

Deployed NMCRC LA Reservist Rodriguez Awarded Junior Sailor of the Quarter

By JO2 Margaret A. Peng

Storekeeper Petty Officer Second Class Eduardo Rodriguez of Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles Ship Augmentation Unit, currently deployed to Manama, Bahrain, was selected as Commander Logistics Forces, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander Task Force 53 (CTF-53) Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Rodriguez is serving as the material Control Officer (MATCONOFF) tasked with the MATCONOFF Program, which locates available material on U.S. ships within his area of responsibility and supplies the material to requesting ships, be it U.S. or Coalition forces.

"We can expedite material to requesting ships in a much faster time frame than having to wait for the material from the States," said Rodriguez. "The end result enables the war fighter to continue fighting with strong supply support."

"My deployment experience has made me feel historically enriched and I am honored to be here serving the right cause," said Rodriguez.

While on deployment, Reservists often have a difficult time adjusting to active-duty. Rodriguez offered some advice to fellow Reservists. "At first you feel segregated, but once they see the quality of our work, the professionalism, and most importantly, our dedication, Reservists are looked at with respect and as an essential asset."

Continued on page 19

Rodriguez...Continued from page 18

Being well versed in your rate and confident in your training is also a big part of being successful during a deployment. "Being a prior HM (Hospital Corpsman) and jumping to SK was a big change for me," said Rodriguez. "But with fortitude and resolve, the transition was smooth for me."

Shipmates at the Reserve Center have many good things to say about Rodriguez, especially his supervisor. "SK2 Rodriguez is very reliable, and has a reputation at the Reserve center as the "go to" person in supply," said NMCRC LA supply department head SK1 Allan Marcley. "Whenever a Sailor needed anything, SK2 Rodriguez is always eager to help fellow shipmates and regardless of the task, he is always willing to get the job done."

"He runs the supply department during the Reserve drill weekends with little supervision," added Marcley. "I know I don't have to worry, he is a very motivated Sailor. "I am honored to receive this award, said Rodriguez. "Getting this award proves that drill weekends are more than GMT and courses. Thanks for not forgetting us. Fight on with Honor, Courage, and Commitment!"

Rodriguez has been in Bahrain since March 2003, recalled under Noble Eagle to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He expects to return July 2004. He joined the Navy in 1982 and became a Reservist in 2000. His duty stations included Beaufort, South Carolina as Battalion Aid Station Corpsman with the Marine Corps in Parris Island Recruit Depot, USS Forrestal (CV-59), the Mediterranean, and Yokosuka, Japan.

Honor

"Doing right when there is no one else to make you do it but yourself"

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003

On 11 November 2003, the President signed the "Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003" into law. This Act includes several very favorable tax provisions for our Sailors and their families:

1. Exempts "extended official duty" time from the five-year residence requirement that qualifies taxpayers for a capital gains exclusion from the sale of a principal residence. This provision requires that the service member either relocate to a duty station 50 miles or more from the qualifying principal residence or be under orders to reside in government quarters. The Act makes this provision retroactive to the enactment of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (May 1997) and includes a waiver of the normal 3-year statute of limitations to seek a refund of taxes paid. This provision an indefinite suspension period, government quarters exception, retroactive application, and ability to seek a refund well beyond the normal statute of limitations;
2. Increases the death gratuity benefit to survivors of U.S. military members killed in the line of duty after 10 September 2001, from \$6,000 to \$12,000, and increases the tax-free treatment of the benefit from the current \$3,000 to the full amount of the benefit (\$12,000);
3. Provides an above-the-line deduction of up to \$1,500 for overnight travel expenses such as transportation, lodging, and meals for National Guard and reserve members;
4. Excludes amounts received under the Department of Defense Homeowners Assistance programs for BRAC related sales;
5. Expands combat zone filing rules to contingency operations as designated by the Secretary of Defense. This eliminates some of the complications relating to seeking tax advantages for military operations not formally designated as combat zones.

Navy "One Source" Free 24-Hour Information and Referral Service

The Department of the Navy announces a new phone and online service to all military, reservists, and their family members. Contact them by phone or access them online 24 hours a day for a variety of services and referrals.

Navy "One Source" will cover areas such as parenting and childcare, educational services, financial information and counseling, civilian legal advice, elder care health and wellness, crisis support, and relocation information as well as many other fields. The service will offer practical solutions, background information, and advice via telephone, email, or the web. It is designed to augment existing Navy support activities; to help Sailors and their families with personalized customer service and referral; and to link customers to key Navy resources, web pages, and call centers.

This service will be particularly useful to overseas or geographically dispersed Sailors who may not have access to traditional support services. It will also be available to OCONUS civilians with SOFA status or ON FFSC staffs.

The Navy "One Source" toll free CONUS telephone number is: 1-800-540-4123

OCONUS sailors and families may access the service either through an OCONES universal free phone at 800-5404-1233 (with appropriate country-specific toll free access codes) or an OCONUS collect call to 484-530-5914. Info on specific overseas toll free access codes is available on the Navy "One Source" web site at WWW.NAVYONESOURCE.COM.

For family members with special needs, the TTY/TDD phone number is: 800-346-9188. A Spanish language line is also available at: 877-989-5392. All calls will be handled by a live Navy "One Source" staff member. Full Navy "One Source" is also available via the website. The universal user ID is: NAVY; and the password is: SAILOR.

Navy "One Source" ushers in a dramatic increase in the scope and depth of support and assistance available to our people and further accelerates the delivery of self-service and self-reliance tools and opportunities to the total force. We are very proud and excited to bring it to you.