

# TNR



## HUZZAH!

Chief petty officer selects practice with spikes during heritage training at America's Ship of State, USS Constitution.

VOLUME 2019

ISSUE 3

A SENSE OF URGENCY

THE FINAL FRONTIER

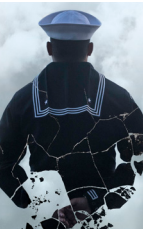
SURF RIDERS OF THE MIDWEST





BOSTON — (Cover) Chief Gunners Mate (Select) Cole Disy, from Navy Operational Support Center New London, practices with a pike. (Above) Chief Builder Alicia Baston, from NOSC Bangor, climbs the main mast rigging. Disy and Baston participated in the 2019 Chief Petty Officer Heritage Training event aboard USS Constitution, Sept 10. The yearly event brings together chief's messes from across the country to train newly selected chiefs on Navy history and heritage. Navy Photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Roger S. Duncan

## FEATURES



### 15 Invisible Signs

With almost 30 years in the Navy, Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Way was at a loss. So much emphasis had been placed on suicide prevention. She had sat through countless trainings on the subject. Still, she did not see this coming.



### 18 A Sense of Urgency

Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command expects 100% of the Navy Reserve force to be ready when called upon to provide the strategic depth and warfighting readiness essential to maintaining the Navy's lethal warfighting force.



### 22 Surf Riders of the Midwest

Sailing regattas, fishing charters, tour boats, water skiers and jet skis can be found up and down the shoreline of the great lake. Amongst these pleasure crafts are two working naval vessels, harbored at Naval Station Great Lakes.



### 26 The Final Frontier

"This was uncharted territory," said Lt. Cmdr. Ian Roessle. "We were adjusting our tactics, techniques and procedures as we went."

## DEPARTMENTS

02 Focus on the Force

04 BLUF: Reserve Pay

06 By the Numbers

08 Profiles in Professionalism

10 Around the Force

30 Reserve History: Water, Water Everywhere

32 Phone Directory



#### LEADERSHIP

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Commander, Navy Reserve Force

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Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command

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## Continuity of Trust



To those of us who grew up in the 20th century, the year 2020 has always sounded like the distant future. But time marches on, and the 20's are upon us. The new year and new decade bring change, but also continuity that past generations would recognize.

This summer, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Adm. Mike Gilday as the 32nd Chief of Naval Operations. As the commander of 10th Fleet, he was an innovative Navy cyber leader. Closer to home, Rear Adm. John Schommer, a surface warfare officer, took command of Reserve Forces Command in October. With more than 24 years as a Selected Reserve officer, Schommer brings his diverse experience of active duty and Reserve time to the force.

**Your interaction with our allies contributes to our collective strength and protects our interests around the globe.**

Across all the changes of the early 21st century, the armed services have consistently retained America's trust. A recent Gallup poll showed that Americans trust the U.S. military more than any other public institution, mirroring the past two decades of polling. What was the reason behind the high ranking? Respect for what we do — keeping America safe, and defending freedom. The report also cited “the competence with which they do their job, and the qualities of those who serve (including selflessness, bravery and discipline).”

The Navy has exhibited these qualities for 244 years, a milestone we noted, Oct. 13. During every visit with Sailors of our Reserve force, I hear amazing sea stories. Whether deployed or at their local NOSC, Sailors share anecdotes about mobilizations or exercises like Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), where they work with allied countries. This reinforces how so many of our team are integral in developing partnerships around America's shared interests. Your interaction with our allies contributes to our collective strength and protects our interests around the globe.

As we structure the Navy Reserve to support the Navy the nation needs, I echo the call in Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer's birthday message to “ask yourself each and every day, how can we accomplish our mission better, faster and more efficiently.”

Thank you for your commitment to our force.



*Luke M. McCollum*

Vice Adm. Luke M. McCollum  
Chief of Navy Reserve

One of the perks of being your Force Master Chief is watching career pathway briefs being constructed and continually analyzed. I really enjoy seeing the depth, breadth and quality of the talent in our Reserve force, as well as the vast opportunities Sailors have in their career progression.

In January 2018, a series of building block initiatives were started to foster Reserve rating health. As we head into a new year, those alignment initiatives are beginning to take off. Some lines of effort were based on officer career path observations, some initiatives were based on strategic initiatives, and a few of our initiatives were based on renewed commitments to fixing some unintended lack of focus on fit versus fill.

Last summer, two chief petty officers were given the opportunity to conduct prolonged orders at the Navy Education and Training Command. They were charged with coordinating the update of each enlisted rating Learning and Development Roadmap (LADR). This was the first time that a deliberate in-depth examination into each rate, from a SELRES perspective, was completed. The effort provided our team with a basis for understanding what we could begin to improve for each rate.

As I visit our Reserve force, I am proud to see the continuous development of our Sailors. I am impressed to see what our Sailors can accomplish over a limited amount of time. I am now asking that each Sailor fully understand their LADR, to ensure that the LADR is utilized at Career Development Boards, and for the Chief's Mess and Wardroom to invest the time and focus resources to ensure LADRs and command qualification progression are a major part of Sailor milestone development. Sailors cannot meet or exceed expectations if they are not clearly laid out by the leaders charged with developing them.

I am asking our Chief's Mess to ensure our Sailors are meeting their professional milestones; billet based (NECs), job based (qualifications) and duty based (watch qualifications). The future of our Navy Reserve is going to be oriented more on billet fit and less on billet fill. This means that milestones will become more valuable in career progression. To me, this means that watch qualifications, in-rate qualifications and NECs should drive decisions on training plans to enhance warfighting readiness. Simply put, if a Sailor is looking to promote to senior enlisted ranks, training orders to the supported command to develop warfighting readiness will be the imperative.

## A Culture of Milestones?



**The future of our Navy Reserve is going to be oriented more on billet fit and less on billet fill.**

To some, this may seem obvious; some may also be inclined to point out that individual augmentation is inconsistent with these efforts. I would agree, which is why we are placing a significant amount of attention and effort in those lines of effort as well. Our Chief of Naval Operations has put forward three strategic objectives; Warfighters, Warfighting and Future Force. I am proud to say that through our efforts within a Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority we are methodically maneuvering the Reserve force to meet CNO's intent.

Your focus and deliberate efforts in ensuring our Sailors are meeting billet and career milestones in every sphere of influence is instrumental in our future success and a value to our naval forces!



*Chris Kotz*

Master Chief Petty Officer  
Chris Kotz  
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief



As decades old financial systems are being brought in-line with modern systems, and as hard-copy transactions and hand-signed orders are reborn in digital form, every aspect of Reserve pay is under the spotlight of modernization.

The Navy anticipates that in the next two years Navy Reserve pay processes will be run in a single Navy owned pay system which will support the seamless transition from Reserve Component to Active Component orders and eliminate the delays and hand-offs that challenge today's process. The new system, known as Navy Personnel and Pay System (NP2), will bring Navy administrative processes into the 21st century and provide the platform needed to underpin flexible Reserve personnel actions.

In advance of NP2, enhancing customer service responsiveness and transparency is a major focus. To create more streamlined and efficient work flows, the Navy has begun a consolidation of Reserve Pay (RESPAY) support. Transactions previously completed at over 40 Personnel Support Detachments (PSDs) are now being channeled into a single center called the Reserve Services Branch (RSB) of Transaction Service Center (TSC) Norfolk. The TSC is building Reserve specific transaction expertise and is available to support both Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC)-based Command Pay and Personnel Administrators (CPPA), RESPAY leads and Reserve Sailors via the 24/7 My Navy Career Center (MNCC).

Early this year, Reserve Force leadership initiated a design blitz to identify and assess pay issues within the force. This led to a partnership between Reserve force leadership and the RSB, which established three teams to address ongoing concerns. Meeting weekly to triage and solve pay issues, one team focused on the mobilization process and the associated

active pay accounts and debt transfer; the second tackled Annual Training (AT), Active Duty for Training (ADT), drills and bonus pay; while the third investigated Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) and definite recall orders.

The team's findings have brought solutions and insights into understanding and addressing ongoing issues. To date, significant progress has been made to improve handling of Reserve pay and to better communicate pay transaction processes. Improvements include changing Page 2 verification periodicity from 180 to 365 days, standardization training to PSDs and CPPAs on AT/ADT checklist requirements, removal of administrative requirements following late submission to the Transaction Online Processing System (TOPS), and reduction of drill related trouble tickets due to a greater drill adjudication capability at Navy Reserve Activities (NRA) within the Enhanced Drill Management (EDM) system.

Improvements have also been made in trouble ticket management, and continued progress is being made in development of an electronic AT/ADT muster capability and an enhanced pay application for bonuses and other special pays.

The teams also found many pay issues stemmed from Sailors who are incorrectly separated from Reserve pay systems before transfer to active orders, Sailors activated without enough contract time available to fulfill orders, and Sailors with unresolved debt obligations. A tiger team of Full-Time Support and Reserve Sailors was sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) agency to expedite the processing and eliminate residual active duty debt obligations. All residual debts are now transferred to Reserve pay accounts upon completion of active duty, which has solved previously unresolved debt obligations.

Steps taken over the last year to minimize these issues included an updated mobilization checklist and improved

processing steps at mobilization centers. These steps have effectively eliminated Sailors reporting to active duty on orders without a properly processed transfer to active duty pay systems. All Sailors now check out of Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command (ECRC) with an open active pay account.

The RSB at TSC Norfolk now processes over 80% of all AT/ADT payment transactions. Over 66,000 transactions processed in 2019 within 10 days of a properly submitted pay transaction.

As the Navy continues to build technology, consolidate customer service, and streamline the pay process, Reserve members are empowered to take a proactive role in their own paychecks. In addition to submitting signed orders on time and submitting properly completed travel claims within five business days, Reserve Sailors should understand the process of how AT/ADT orders are routed, who needs to sign them, and when to expect payment.

Recent additions to the last page of Reserve AT/ADT orders provides a simplified way to do just that. To help members track pay once the orders are endorsed and submitted, two line items have been added to the orders endorsement block. First is for the CPPA to sign, and the second is a spot for the TOPS transaction number. Sailors should ensure their orders endorsement block is properly filled out before leaving at the end of an assignment.

All Navy commands and Navy detachments have at least one CPPA to ensure command level accountability, auditability and full engagement with their supporting PSD. The CPPA serves as the link between Sailors, their commands and the supporting PSDs and are the member's point of contact for tracking the status of payments. The TOPS number identifies transactions as they move through the pay system. Both are required when researching an AT/ADT pay issue.

# 6 WAYS YOU CAN HELP AVOID RESERVE PAY DELAYS

- 1 Update your Page 2 every year.
- 2 Make sure your unit mustering team knows you're going on AT/ADT orders and that you are not to be mustered for drills while on orders.
- 3 Do not schedule drills for the travel day of your AT/ADT orders.
- 4 Submit your orders to the gaining command's CPPA or pay representative on the first business day of your orders so they can endorse and submit to PSD/TSC.
- 5 Get your gaining command's CPPA phone and email contact information before leaving the command to return home. Make sure the CPPA has entered the TOPS transaction number under the endorsing block on your orders.
- 6 Communicate regularly with your NOSC's and gaining command's CPPAs to monitor the status of your pay transaction.

Reserve pay is complex, but significant work is being done and senior Navy leadership is committed to improving how Reserve Sailors are paid. There is still much to be done. Both the Reserve and active Navy are updating processes, changing policy and modernizing financial systems. In the meantime, individual reasons for pay issues can vary significantly. These six basic steps are key tasks every Reserve Sailor should understand in order to limit the potential for a delay in pay.

Another significant step toward improving pay transactions is the recent addition of a My Navy Career Center knowledge base on Reserve pay processes. While the first point of contact to address pay concerns for Sailors should be the CPPA at the member's NOSC, NRA or squadron, MNCC support is ready 24/7 to answer questions, resolve pay issues, or create trouble tickets (with tracking) to route issues to the appropriate Tier 2 subject matter experts.

MNCC agents can be reached at 833-330-MNCC (6622) or email askmncc@navy.mil. Recent MNCC metrics show the most difficult AT/ADT pay issues were resolved and closed in less than a week. The service level agreement to process paper travel claims is 30 days from receipt of a complete claim and claims are now being processed in less than 24 days.

To further support Sailors, NRAs are directed to answer all pay related phone calls and emails in a timely manner and Reserve leadership is actively removing communication barriers so that all service members have direct access to key staff to discuss their unique situations. Sailors are encouraged to contact Navy Reserve Forces Command at cnrfc\_rpat@navy.mil if Reserve pay issues cannot be resolved through the command CPPA or MNCC.

The transformation of Navy Reserve pay processes are in preparation for the the navy-wide transformation under NP2, but many Reserve improvements are not waiting for the transformation to be complete. With issues identified, the Navy Reserve is taking action now.

One upcoming improvement is the AT/ADT eMuster program in development and planned for roll-out in early 2020. eMuster

will mirror how the EDM system accounts for Sailors during drill weekends. eMuster will be in use by gaining commands to electronically sign and endorse orders from the report date and will be submitted for payment instantaneously.

Your Navy and Navy Reserve leadership remains focused on delivering the best possible service and will continue to listen, engage, and improve the administrative processes for all Navy Reserve Sailors.

On-going pay process updates and answers to FAQs will be provided as a commitment to keeping the Reserve force informed on the progress of improvements to systems and the goal to provide world-class service delivery to all Sailors.





# BY THE NUMBERS

Since 1915, the Navy Reserve has been in the business of supporting the Navy total force mission to recruit, train, equip and organize to deliver combat ready naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.

We do this through delivering strategic depth and operational capability to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Forces.

Originally, the Navy Reserve was designed as a strategic asset in which

Reserve Sailors maintained a minimum level of readiness so they could mobilize for a major conflict.

This strategic construct is still in place. However, since 9/11, the Navy's more than 100,000 member Reserve force are more operationally integrated into the fleet serving side-by-side with active duty counterparts on a daily basis.

On any given day, 20% of SELRES and FTS Reserve Sailors are providing direct operational support to the total

force. The Navy Reserve consistently provides more than 75% of all Navy individual augmentation requirements worldwide with over 3,000 currently mobilized.

Throughout all 50 states and around the world, the Navy Reserve force delivers real-world capabilities and expertise to support the Navy mission — building a more lethal warfighting culture focused on great power competition.

AS OF NOVEMBER 2019

49,466	10,192	51,530
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Selected Reserve (SELRES)

36,747 Enlisted  
12,719 Officer

Full-Time Support (FTS)

8,602 Enlisted  
1,590 Officer

Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

TOTAL RESERVE FORCE: 111,188

6,833	3,091	1,291	460	878
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FTS Operational  
Support

Mobilized to  
Active Duty

Active Duty  
for Training

Annual  
Training

Active Duty  
Operational  
Support

TOTAL SELRES/FTS PERFORMING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT: 12,553 (21%)

MEDITERRANEAN SEA — The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Florida (SSGN 728) transits the Mediterranean Sea, Oct. 16, 2019. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Drew Verbis, a Reserve MC from Navy Reserve Public Affairs Support Element West on Active Duty for Special Work orders with U.S. 6th Fleet.



# Profiles in Professionalism



**Hull Technician 1st Class**  
**Maria Perez**  
Richmond, Virginia

Hull technicians are usually found crafting the metal work necessary to keep shipboard structures and surfaces in good condition. They also fix plumbing and piping fixtures, repair small boats, and operate and maintain ballast control systems. One responsibility normally not associated with the HT profession is personal financial counselor.

For HT1 Maria Perez, assigned to Reserve Submarine Expeditionary Maintenance Detachment Norfolk, giving a financial management seminar in front of a crowd of over 1,000 Sailors during her Annual Training in Guam is pretty normal.

Perez is a GS-13 Contracting Officer Representative with Defense Contract Management Agency in Fort Lee, Va. She’s also an adjunct finance professor at Saint Leo University and is currently finishing up her doctorate in program management. She has been using her financial skills while in Guam at her Reserve unit, as well as active commands on the island. For several years she has provided annual financial management seminars for all-hands meetings when her HT work permits.

Units in Guam aren’t the only ones benefiting from Perez’s skills. She recently completed a second set of orders to Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command to augment the skills and capabilities of the Reserve headquarters finance offices.

Perez has enjoyed the fruits of a successful civilian life and the change of pace that comes with serving in the Navy Reserve. “I’m all numbers and brainpower in the civilian world, but welding is all physical. I love it.”

Perez knows her education benefits her civilian and military careers, but it also allows her the ability to focus on one of her favorite pursuits — mentoring students and Sailors to be financially successful in their careers and lives.

Profile by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Craig Rodarte  
Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Van Nuys



**Lieutenant**  
**Brian Alan Berg**  
Upland, California

The desert skies over Edwards Air Force base in Southern California have hosted countless aviation firsts and technological achievements. For Lt. Brian Alan Berg, a Reserve Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer from Naval Air Warfare Center-Weapons Division, the base also holds an opportunity for the Navy Reserve to support the future of aviation warfare.

Currently on Active Duty for Special Work at Edwards, Berg’s mission is to “mine” flight test data from the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program that will be used for the verification, validation and accreditation of the F-35 Joint Simulation Environment. “Basically, that means I’m a liaison between flight test engineers and test conductors to identify, process and ship terabytes-worth of flight test data that the F-35 generates during test flights to our subject matter experts,” Berg explained.

His civilian experience as a mechanical test engineer for a defense contractor opened the door for the opportunity he’s now been supporting for over two years. “Navy Reserve personnel can be utilized to serve as force multipliers,” he said. “The fact that the Navy Reserve can leverage civilian expertise and talent, especially on such short notice, in support of active duty big Navy and even larger DoD efforts, is truly a remarkable capability.”

The work for Berg has been unpredictable and challenging, but with his laboratory environments experience developing unmanned aerial systems, he says he was well prepared to quickly learn on the job and succeed.

His advice for finding fulfilling opportunities is to get connected. “Whether it’s signing up for the e-mail blasts or networking with your unit, keep your eyes open,” Berg said. “Each day I feel incredibly fortunate that I get to put on my uniform under the legendary skies of Edwards AFB. Take the opportunities you have to serve, you won’t regret it.”

Profile submitted by Lt. Brian Berg. Air Force photo by Darin Russell



**Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class**  
**Sarah Burton**  
Denver, Colorado

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Sarah Burton is currently deployed to the 5th Fleet area of operations where she was selected to be the collateral duty command photographer covering morale events, promotions and documenting operational activities. Having picked up an interest for photography from her mother, Burton has gained professional experience volunteering to shoot weddings, family portraits and various events back home in Colorado.

“I love taking photos because they capture the beauty in things that people don’t see,” she said. “We miss memorable moments in our busyness, but with photography, having that ability to capture a beautiful mountain view or seeing the laughter or emotion in someone’s face is just priceless.”

Burton joined the Navy with the hopes of one day becoming a pilot. After her initial four-year enlistment, she joined the Navy Reserve and attached to Navy Operational Support Center Denver where she is cross assigned with Commander, Navy Installations Command, San Diego.

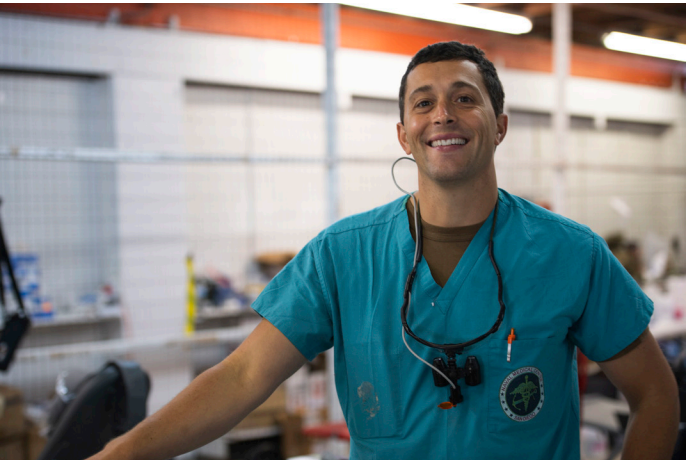
Winding down at the end of her 10 month mobilization, Burton serves as the assistant leading petty officer for base air operations terminal division and works as one of the terminal managers, coordinating incoming flights, cargo and personnel. It’s a busy environment that is full of opportunities to photograph the great work being accomplished.

“I had no idea I would get the opportunity to combine two of my passions: naval aviation and photography,” she said. “There’s never a dull moment with my work and it’s completely rewarding to tell the stories of my shipmates in a visual way.”

When she returns home she will pick up where she left off, attending Metropolitan State University in Denver. Burton is in her third year studying toward a bachelor’s degree in aviation aerospace science.

Whether it’s a commission as a Navy pilot or capturing a breathtaking photo, Burton’s future is taking off.

Profile and photo by Lt. Russell Chilcoat



**Lieutenant Commander**  
**Jay Ross**  
San Diego, California

If not for surfing, Lt. Cmdr. Jay Ross wouldn’t be a dentist. He explained the unique relationship between his pastime and profession recently while caring for patients in the tiny town of Wise, Va., during Appalachian Care 2019, a military readiness training event offering health care to underserved communities while providing training to military medical professionals.

Ross developed an interest in surfing while in college. On surfing trips to Central America he saw firsthand the needs of impoverished people living there. “As surfers, we travel around the world to find the best waves,” he said. “I would go down there to steal their waves, and I felt like I wasn’t doing anything but taking.”

He agreed to go on a humanitarian outreach program to rural Oregon with his cousin, who, along with other dentists, performed simple but vital procedures on first-generation immigrant farmers. Ross saw the good that could be done with basic dental procedures.

“I was watching all these dentists working on these people who don’t speak the same language, who don’t have anything in common, but are coming to them in pain, and they’re their only option to get out of pain,” he said. Ross realized then he could travel the world, surf and give back.

Overnight, Ross enrolled at the University of Southern California and joined the Navy for financial aid. After graduating, he found himself with no student loans and a full-time job with patients at the ready.

“I got into dentistry because I wanted to do humanitarian work,” he said. “Then I joined the Navy, and I feel like everywhere I go reassures why I became a dentist.”

In Wise, it became clear to Ross that bad eating habits and a basic lack of dental hygiene are major reasons why many communities are in such high need.

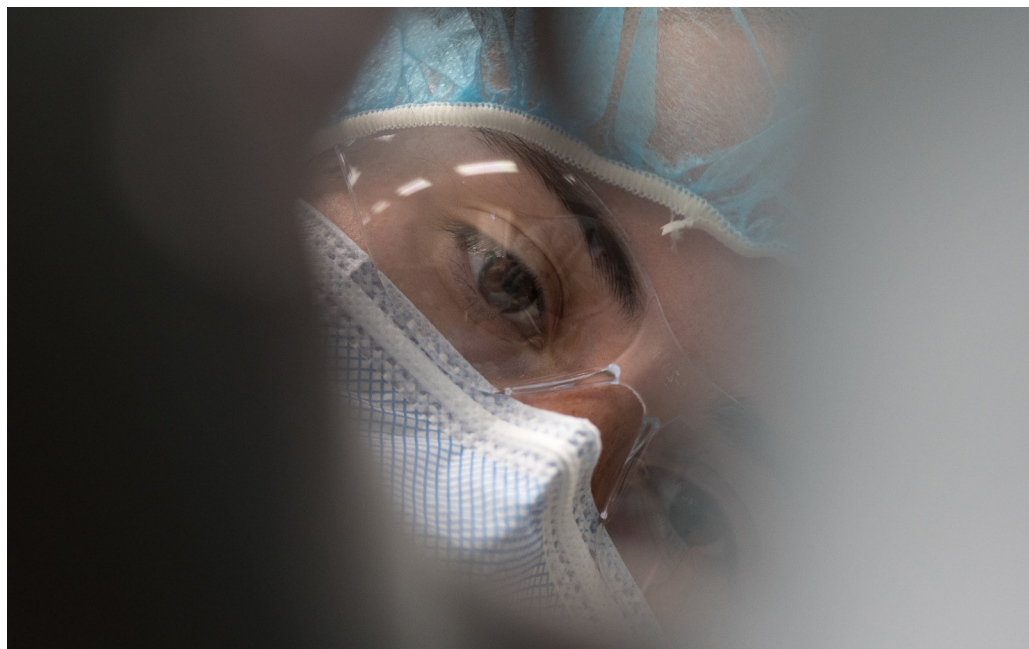
“You start there, and you can change their life,” Ross said. “Kids have an advantage because they have two sets of teeth. And when I talked to the young patients, most of them don’t even know they could join the military, that they could do something different with their life. To be able to share that with someone, that’s what blows me away.”

Profile and photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacob Cessna



# AROUND THE FORCE

From 123 Navy Operational Support Centers and over 1,000 Reserve units, here is a snapshot of the Navy Reserve force delivering strategic depth and operational capability around the world.



## SIKESTON, Mo.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Casey Mullen, assigned to NOSC Chicago, provides assistance during a dental procedure at a temporary clinic, June 20. U.S. service members deployed to Sikeston in support of Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Tri-State Innovative Readiness Training 2019.

Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Jonathan W. Padish



## SANTA RITA, Guam

Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Alexandria Agbasoga, assigned to Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific, sets up a tent in preparation for an integrated training evolution, Aug. 12. Active duty and Reserve components assigned to NEFCPAC, work together to execute operational command and control of assigned and attached Navy Expeditionary Combat Forces in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and serve as the core Navy battle staff for crisis response and major combat operations.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Billy Ho



## MARIETTA, Ga.

Capt. Barry Parker presents Tess Gay, widow of WWII naval aviator George Gay Jr., with a letter from Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer during her 100th birthday celebration, Sept. 14. George Gay was shot down during the Battle of Midway while attempting to torpedo the Japanese aircraft carrier Soryu and spent 36 hours in the Pacific Ocean before being rescued.

Navy photo by Yeoman 2nd Class Michael Caudell



## CAMDEN, New Jersey

Every year, around the middle of summer, initiation training for newly selected chief petty officers begins at commands across the Navy. Near the end, many selectees participate in heritage events where units and commands gather together for a combined training event. This year, the Battleship New Jersey CPO Heritage Academy was recognized as the flagship chief's initiation training program by Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Luke McCollum and Reserve Force Master Chief Chris Kotz.

Held in Camden, New Jersey aboard the most decorated Battleship in U.S. history, this year's 10th anniversary of the training kicked off with a literal bang as a round was fired from the ship's 40mm saluting gun.

The event was the largest, longest and most robust iteration since its inception 10 years ago, as four half-day training evolutions for local Chief's Messes. 70 chief selects, 179 active, Reserve and retired chiefs from 18 Chief's Messes from across the nation attended the event focused on history, heritage and teamwork.

"Learning about history and heritage and being somewhere it actually happened are two very different things," said Senior Chief Logistics Specialist Scott Murry, assigned to Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 8. "Walking the same decks that Adm. Halsey and other commanders did through the past is an experience that can't be adequately described in words. It was a powerful and genuinely awesome experience."

This event is unique in that the chief selects are required to hold leadership roles and support the planning and execution of the event to enhance and develop leadership skills while familiarizing themselves with Navy processes and procedures. Often, the selectees become the chiefs sustaining the event in the future.

Both McCollum and Kotz attended this year's event and participated in a four-mile motivated formation run over the Ben Franklin Bridge into historic Philadelphia, followed by heritage tours and community relations projects aboard the WWII submarine SS Becuna and the Great White Fleet vessel USS

Olympia, that returned the remains of the Unknown Soldier to his final resting place.

Other highlights of the week included damage control training, tours of historic naval locations including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, and a retirement ceremony held for Command Master Chief Mark Kochanowicz.

As the sun set over the foc'sle on the third night, a moving dedication ceremony was held for Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon Kent, who was killed in action in 2019, in Manbij, Syria, while supporting Combined Joint Task Force, Operation Inherent Resolve.

Members of the Navy Band's Sea Chanters joined a chief selectee in singing the "Navy Hymn" as Old Glory was unfolded. Bagpipers from the New Jersey State Police played a rendition of "Amazing Grace" which marked the cue to unveil a portrait of Kent which will hang in the Jersey's Chief Petty Officer exhibit.

At the end of the ceremony, Chief Musician Pasquale Sarracco and Navy Band members who played "Taps" at senior chief's memorial at the Naval Academy, stood atop turret 2 to offer the selection again. Finally, all chief petty officers removed their starboard anchor and tacked it into a special wood burning, that was handmade by Wendy Prescott, bearing Kent's name, that will accompany her portrait in the exhibit. The dedication served as a reminder for chief selectees the lengths the Chief's Mess will go to honor one of their own.

"As a chief select, this was both a challenging and rewarding environment," said Chief (select) Information Systems Technician Vanessa Griffin. "It enabled selects from commands across the country to build together a greater sense of pride, teamwork, service to others and Naval heritage."

Navy photo by Master Chief Intelligence Specialist Joshua Mangum  
Story by Chief Operations Specialist Lindsey Carroll





## DENMARK

“The cheese plate spins under the blade? And the cheese doesn’t move? No way!” Danish Home Guard Private Petr Ahrens turned the handle on the plate for me and the whole thing dialed down to cut a perfect slice. We laughed over breakfast of rye bread, cheese and soft eggs. I wondered how well our Sailors would like rye.

Lt. Cmdr. Ruben Lopez, from NOSC Portland and I, at NOSC Bangor, joined the Danish Home Guard Summer Course in Denmark as part of the Military Reserve Exchange Program. We ate, lived and trained alongside Danish Home Guard members Liv, Alexander and Søren — all on a first name basis. A big part of the curriculum was getting to know each other. Every morning at formation we sang Danish hymns together. I wondered why singing was important to them — and why we don’t do it at home.

Nearly 600 troops made up the formation of the Home Guard, or Hemmevaernet, a mix of what we call Reserve, National Guard, Inactive Ready Reserve and retired. In Denmark they are all unpaid. They volunteer for as little as 24 hours a year. Some are almost full time. Some are just a few days out of school and others walk with canes. The troops are encouraged to earn and take leadership roles. Several older troops wore the rank of private, suggesting they no longer wanted active leadership roles. I wondered about our structure and how we treat our retirees.

Spouses and children are also welcome to attend and lined up alongside the rest of us at morning formation. Many families stayed at the camp with their Home Guard member during training. I wondered about how differently we would act if our families stood in ranks with us.

I met Cpl. Liv during the exchange. She’s a bank teller who studied anthropology, but has never used it. She’s been in the Hemmevaernet for three years and gives about 200 hours per year. “I do this because it gives me a purpose in life,” she said. I wondered what Americans would say when asked why they serve.

About 40 U.S. Reservists joined about 30 others from seven European NATO nations for the week-long training. “The most valuable part of the experience was getting to know our Danish hosts and our NATO partners,” Lopez said. “Working and socializing gave each other a better understanding of our different perspectives. This is invaluable to maintaining a productive partnership. Already I have applied the Danish perspective to see problems at work differently.”

The Danes are well-organized and on time. Guided by Danish precision, I personally improved my vision of the end state — and learned to better use the expertise in the room. We all learned to be better teachers, but we also only touched the tip of the iceberg on cultural differences. I wondered how this kind of thinking would go over in wartime.

I concluded that interoperability starts over the cheese cutter and singing hymns in formation. I’m sure that there are other ways of building it too — but this program was run by the Danes. We did it their way.

Whether you are able participate in this program or not, I encourage you to closely examine the ways other people work, speak and think. Wondering about these things has done me good and — as a result — the Navy as well.

Story and photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Roger Duncan (pictured top left). Duncan was the first Navy Reserve enlisted member to be selected to participate in MREP, an annual week-long cultural experience program sharing Reserve military ideas, customs and business practices. To read more about the MREP program, visit the N7 SharePoint portal online at [www.mynrh.navy.mil](http://www.mynrh.navy.mil) for application requirements and instructions.



## FORT MCCOY, Wis.

Navy Reserve members assigned to the Marine Corps 4th Medical Battalion, transport a simulated critical care patient during a joint combat support training exercise, August 17.

Army Reserve photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Waters



## SAN DIEGO

Rear Adm. Scott Jones, commander of Naval Air Force Reserve, speaks to civilian employers during a Navy Employer Recognition Event at Naval Air Station North Island, June 28. Selected employers were nominated by their Navy Reserve employees and invited to attend the one-day event which included a tour of a littoral combat ship, a static display of aircraft and a special warfare group equipment display.

Navy photo by Yeoman 1st Class Anthony Ardisone



## VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.

Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 Sailors offload vehicles from the large, medium-speed roll-on/roll-off ship USNS Watkins (T-AKR-315) during exercise Resolute Sun, June 17. ACB-2, comprised of 87% Reserve component Sailors, supported the exercise increasing major combat operational readiness in amphibious and prepositioning operations.

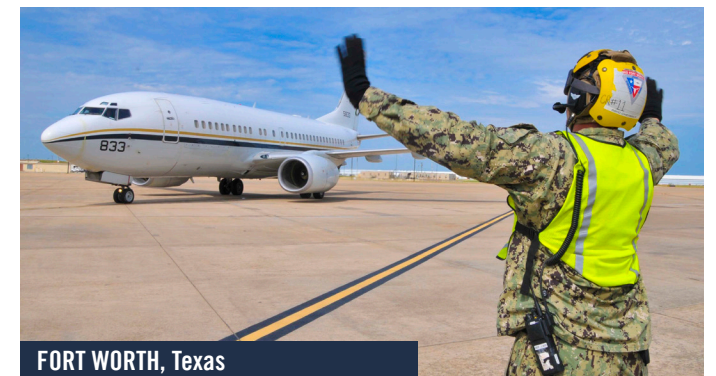
Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Craig Z. Rodarte



## SAN DIEGO

Family of Rear Adm. Paula Dunn put on her shoulder boards during a promotion ceremony on the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, Oct. 5. Dunn is the first woman to be promoted to a flag officer rank in the Reserve Public Affairs Community and now serves as the 21st Vice Chief of Information.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Gilbert Bolibol



## FORT WORTH, Texas

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 2nd Class John Chermack, assigned to Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base operations department, directs a C-40A Clipper on the flight line, July 8.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jose R. Jaen



## OAK HARBOR, Wash.

Oak Harbor Navy League Reserve Sailor of the Year, Naval Aircrewman Operator 1st Class Ryan Roberson, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 69, and his family ride in the annual 4th of July Oak Harbor Rotary and Chamber Grand Parade for Independence Day.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marc Cuenca





WASHINGTON

Shannon Baumgartner, Ombudsman for NOSC Fort Carson, receives the 2019 Mrs. Sybil Stockdale Ombudsman of the Year Award at an awards luncheon in Washington, D.C., Oct. 10. Baumgartner was recognized as the top performing Ombudsman for the Reserve force.

Courtesy photo



GULFPORT, Miss.

Builder 2nd Class Keith Price, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14, participates in a squad leader training course at Camp Shelby, Miss., May 14. More than 120 NMCB-14 Reserve Seabees participating in various training courses to maintain their qualifications and hone their skills necessary for mobilization.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jessica Dupree



BALTIMORE, Md.

Lt. Erickson Jackson, from NOSC Baltimore, prepares for a funeral honors ceremony. The Navy Reserve provides funeral honors for thousands of military service member burials across the nation.

Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman



HARVARD, III.

Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Cody Noren (left) assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22, is awarded the Medal of Valor from the City of Harvard's mayor during a special ceremony, Aug. 27. Noren, who as a civilian serves the city as a police officer, was presented the award in recognition of actions he took in the line of duty to save a man's life.

Courtesy photo



NORFOLK, Va.

Rear Adm. Thomas Luscher is thanked by staff members for his work as Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command after being relieved by Rear Adm. John Schommer. "It's been an honor to serve 33 years with the greatest Sailors in the world and I would do it again in a heartbeat," Luscher said. "I wish everyone the best of luck and I will be watching from the sidelines and cheering you on." The Navy Reservist magazine staff joins CNRFC in thanking Luscher for his incredible leadership and service to the Navy Reserve.

Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Van Nuys

# INVISIBLE SIGNS

## Staff Contributor

**H**er last note to me was on Mother's Day when she thanked me for being the best mom and said how she was so lucky to have me," wrote Lt. Cmdr. Brenda Way, about the last card she received from her daughter Lena.

One month later, in June of 2017, Lena took her own life.

"That note and my Bible will carry me through my days of doubt," said Way.

With almost 30 years in the Navy, Way was at a loss. So much emphasis had been placed on suicide prevention. She had sat through countless trainings on the subject. Still, she did not see this coming.

"I feel like all of the training I had leading up to the suicide didn't help me," said Way. "I didn't see any of the warning signs that we learn about in our Navy training. I think it's deeper. It's not like a week of somebody selling things off or this or that, or giving money away. It's so much bigger than that. Mental health issues are often invisible to others. My daughter's outer beauty masked the pain inside."



With suicides per year growing from a rate of 9.1 in 2006 to 20.7 in 2018 among active duty Sailors, the Navy has been trying to foster a positive suicide prevention narrative. Mainly the Navy promotes the understanding of suicide risk and protective factors, encourages active dialogue about suicide and psychological health and promotes help-seeking behavior. Way wants to take it a step further.

“I think being proactive in encouraging relationships — encouraging positive relationships, encouraging physical activity, exercise, encouraging the things that holistically make people better all along,” said Way. “I think those are more helpful than watching for triggers when it may be too late.”

She knows this is a tall order. People are busy. Especially in the Navy Reserve. Units often meet quarterly or less. If the unit has one chief, it will be hard for that person to keep track of 10 or more Sailors located all over the globe.

“It’s hard,” said Way, who recently returned from a year-long deployment in Djibouti. Whether seven miles or 7,000; keeping in touch is hard.”

Top down doesn’t always work, especially for those at the top. This is why Way says every unit needs to come up with an accountability system. Each person has a few people that they keep up with monthly. Battle buddies are a common thing on deployment. Everyone has at least one person with them. No one walks alone. However, people come back from deployment to all types of things; divorce, loss of a loved one, other traumatic events. When Sailors may need a battle buddy the most, there may be no one there.

That’s why Way has been trying her best to be there.

“I definitely put myself out on social media,” said Way. “Which I hardly ever used before. I really wanted people to know that they could talk to me, that I am approachable. Outside of that, even with putting myself out there, people are still reluctant to come to me. Everybody that’s reached out for assistance, help or questions, they’re always apologetic for bothering me and I want them to know it’s not a bother at all. If I can help even one person then I’m happy. That makes me happy to think I could keep one person from making the same choice.”

Way is glad the Navy takes suicide prevention so seriously, but admits it is hard for her to even go to training now — especially when someone leading the training asks if anyone has experience in the topic. Instead, Way thinks those who have

intimate experiences with it, or even those who have attempted it, should be the ones leading the training.

“Having someone like me up there talking about living through it is going to be more beneficial than someone with no experience just reading from a power point slide,” said Way.

Way does agree that the best thing you can do for someone who may be showing signs of depression or suicidal thoughts is to ask.

“Don’t be afraid to ask,” said Way. “I wish I had asked my daughter, but I never did. I’m not afraid to ask somebody now — ‘Are you thinking of hurting yourself?’, ‘How are you feeling?’, ‘What can I do?’ ‘Do you have a support system at home?’, ‘Do you have a

place to go?’. You have to have people in your life who will build you up and give you hope ... hope for the future. If you don’t have that, I encourage you to find it. It doesn’t have to be church, it could just be friends who have common interests, but positive interests. Whether it’s running, cycling, going to a coffee shop, it doesn’t matter, just common interests so you can get together and grow an expectation that you’re going to be there for them and they’ll be there for you.”

Way plans to practice what she preaches. She plans to come through for people in more ways than one. Way and her husband are planning to become foster parents. They are looking

to foster older sibling groups, since older kids are often passed over by people wanting to adopt or foster.

“Lena was always asking if we would consider that, and now we are doing it in her memory,” said Way.

Before, she said, they always had excuses of why they couldn’t foster: Too busy, or the time wasn’t right. But Lena’s story shows that time is not always a friend, and the call for action rarely comes when you’re ready. So Way tries to stay ready. She’s a little more sensitive. She cries a little more now than she used to, but she’s ready. ⚓

According to the Navy Suicide Prevention Branch, a majority of Sailors who die by suicide experience a combination of stressors prior to death that have been historically associated with suicide in the Navy. Stressors include:

- Intimate relationship problems
- Loss — death of a friend or loved one, etc.
- Disrupted social networks
- Disciplinary and/or legal issues
- Performance, relationship and/or conduct issues at work
- Sleep problems
- Financial strain

The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center states that understanding suicide warning signs and risk factors can help Sailors identify, prevent and intervene early to save lives.

Both groups offer valuable resources to be used not only by Sailor and Marines who need a helping hand, but also by family members and friends. For more information on the Navy’s support and services for suicide prevention, visit [www.suicide.navy.mil](http://www.suicide.navy.mil). For questions or additional support, please email [suicideprevention@navy.mil](mailto:suicideprevention@navy.mil) or call 901-874-6613.

If you or someone you know needs help, 24/7 support is available online and over the phone for free, regardless of military status.

Call the suicide prevention lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK** (8255 option 1) or visit the military crisis line at [www.militarycrisisline.net](http://www.militarycrisisline.net).



# A SENSE OF URGENCY

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Stephen Hickok

**I**t's night in the Persian Gulf as the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) steams across the dark waters during Operation Desert Shield. A young Officer of the Deck guides his bridge watch team as their ship leads a 13-vessel armada steaming toward an amphibious assault in Kuwait.

The responsibility of the position wasn't lost on the 24-year old Lt. j.g. John Schommer. Faithfully, he monitored his crew's actions and maintained the ship's course. It was a defining event for Schommer, as he recalled many years later. It was the moment he understood the Navy had trained him and now trusted him to execute orders that would play a critical role in a global conflict.



Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class E. T. Miller



The Navy’s trust in young Sailors to operate ships of war, accomplish tactical objectives and effectively run the bulk of military processes has proven a time-tested business practice. But now, with 31 years under his belt, Rear Adm. John Schommer sees a crack in the system.

“When I attended Officer Candidate School as a TAR Reserve Sailor (Training and Administration of the Reserve) in the 80’s, all of us knew we were training to go to war against a known enemy,” Schommer said. “We knew as a society that we had an enemy. That the Soviet Union and communism were a threat. We had heard it our entire lives. Coming into the Navy, we had to learn Soviet ships, and aircraft, and weapon systems, and where the fleets were, where the homeports were for the enemy — the red forces we would call it.

It was very clear to us that if we went to war with the Soviet Union, we would have to know how to fight with our ship and anticipate what the enemy would bring to the fight.”

The Department of Defense’s 2018 National Defense Strategy describes China and Russia as our country’s peer competitors and has labeled our current national military struggle as a Great Power Competition. In many ways similar to his Cold War upbringing, Schommer says the difference between then and now is a sense of urgency. “The military talks about it, we in the Navy talk about it, but it’s not a societal discussion like it was during the Cold War,” he claims.

Schommer wears two hats now as Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, and as Deputy Commander, Navy Reserve Force. The positions place on him the responsibility ensuring Reserve Sailors, just like his 24-year old self, are trained, trusted and ready to go to war. Along with the training and administrative requirements being leveraged to accomplish his readiness mission, he also sees a significant need to instill the same mindset that was part of every Sailor’s daily life until the end of the Cold War.

“I think the reason many young Reserve Sailors haven’t heard about Great Power Competition is because it’s not a common line of discussion,” he said. “My sense of urgency is to instill in the Reserve force the understanding that a major crisis is possible. Whether it’s next week, or in a year, or five years or even never — I’m hoping it’s never, but we have to plan for next week.”

His expectation extends across the entire Reserve force. All 49,000 Selected Reservists, 10,000 Full-Time Support staff, the active component Sailors tied in with Reserve commands and the 45,000 Individual Ready Reservists — each group, according to Schommer, must understand that every day Reserve Sailors go to drill, they are preparing to go to war.

“We have to be 100% mobilization ready,” he said. “I realize that’s everybody, but we need everybody. If I set our readiness numbers at 80% or 90%, that may be more realistic, but my goal is that all 49,000 Selected Reservists are ready to mobilize. Now, I realize there will always be medical, or training or other limiting factors that will be present, but I don’t know how to set a lesser goal. The fact remains that when war comes, we must be ready.”

For many Reserve Sailors, the one weekend a month spent in a Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) isn’t doing the job of instilling Schommer’s sense of urgency. “A Sailor’s mission is more than in a NOSC training,” he said. “When Sailors

understand where they fit in, and why they are important to the Navy, out of that grows the motivation to be mobilization ready and warfighting ready.”

After leaving the TAR program, Schommer rose through the ranks as a Selected Reservist. He has decades of first-hand experience in the drill weekend lifestyle and knows many Sailors don’t understand how they fit into the operational side of the Navy.

What he envisions as a cultural shift in mindset begins with leadership. “It is the leadership’s responsibility — whether the active component, NOSC or the unit leadership — to inform each of their Sailors what billet they are assigned to and the expectation for their job,” he said. “From there, Sailors can go to the active unit on orders and know what they’re expected to accomplish and



what’s required of them. That’s the baseline, and that’s where the sense of urgency begins.”

Schommer calls this relationship the triad of readiness. “Mobilization readiness happens when the NOSC sends Reserve Sailors downrange to their active command — with medical and administrative requirements completed,” he said. “Warfighting readiness is delivered by the active component — ensuring Sailors are trained and capable of doing their jobs. The connecting link between the two is the Sailor’s unit. The unit makes sure both sets of requirements are met. Each of the three sides have to have a vested interest in working together to make effective warfighters out of our Reserve Sailors.”

As a career Reservist, Schommer is now in a unique position as the Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. The Reserve’s 123 NOSCs report up to their Regional Component Commands and then up to CNRFC. The efficiency of the NOSCs in his triad illustration are his responsibility, and through his years as a Selected Reservist, he’s had plenty of time to observe the complexity of maintaining Reserve Sailor readiness.

“I remember when I was first in the Navy Reserve, to go on Annual Training you had to hand write where your orders were going to take you, the NOSC would type the orders, print them and then hand them back to you,” Schommer explained. “The NOSC would make the flight reservations and then you would have to return to the NOSC to get a copy of the plane tickets. Finally,



you’d have to go around to each of the different NOSC offices to be manually checked out before leaving on orders. It was painful and inefficient.”

Today, with an online orders writing process, the Defense Travel System, email, and an overall better access to completing Reserve requirements and receiving support from the NOSC, Schommer still has a long to-do list.

“What do I owe the force?” Schommer asked. “I owe the force the ability to be mobilization ready. I owe them better systems and processes. I owe them better resources and enough medical support to ensure they’re medically qualified. I owe them connections with their active component commands who will train

them to the mobilization billet we have them assigned to. And I owe them the ability to travel to that active command to get the training they need.”

In addition to all of the requirements, processes and work to be done, Schommer adds that there is a key element to Reserve support that has to be a main part of the picture.

“The main difference between active duty and the Reserve is that Reserve Sailors are responsible to a civilian employer,” Schommer said, adding that this well-known but easily forgotten fact is an important part in improving NOSC efficiencies and support. “I often remind our Full-Time Support staffs to keep in mind that if our SELRES Sailors make a call or write an email, that may be their only time they can do that for their entire week during work hours. We have to be responsive to that and understand it.”

The additional responsibilities of Reserve Sailors is another illustration involving three components. “I heard a long time ago an analogy that being in the Reserve is like juggling three balls representing the Navy, civilian job and family,” Schommer said. “You don’t want to drop any of them. What I like to add to the analogy is that one of them is glass, meaning at any given point, one of them is more important than the others. Maybe your civilian career is the priority, or maybe there is a significant life event at home that needs to be your focus. Being in the Reserve is a juggling act.”

As Reserve Sailors move up through the ranks, Schommer understands that their service is not a one-weekend a month and two-weeks a year job. “I’ve served as commanding officer of six units and that wasn’t just on the drill weekend, it was day-to-day,” he said. Early on, Schommer learned the importance of balancing all aspects of Reserve life — family, employer, Navy — but the key to surviving was to have support.

“Your family has to support your service,” he said. “There’s going to be times you miss birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Your employer has to support it, because at times you’ll be away from your job and your coworkers will be left with extra work. It’s more than personally balancing it, everybody in your life has to balance it — including the Navy.”

Mobilization readiness, warfighting readiness, NOSCs, active units, training, balancing acts, and every other moving part of a Reserve Sailor’s life affects the nation’s ability to succeed in this era of Great Power Competition. But for Schommer, it all goes back to the bridge of the USS Tarawa and his reasons for joining the Navy.

“We all joined the Navy, I like to think, as a way to serve our country, to wear the cloth of our nation, or for some patriotic drive,” he said. “A paycheck is an important part of that, but I think most Reservists join for the same reasons I did, a sense of being part of something greater than themselves. The Navy has a reputation and a culture that people want to be a part of.”

The Navy needs the Reserve component because the Navy needs warfighters.

“We are warfighters,” Schommer said. “That’s why we wear the uniform. The expectations for each of us are clearly spelled out. When called upon, we must be 100% ready to provide the strategic depth and warfighting readiness essential to maintaining the Navy’s lethal warfighting force.” ⚓





# SURF RIDERS OF THE MIDWEST

**Photos and Story by**  
**Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Sorensen**  
**Navy Public Affairs Support Element Midwest**

**F**rom April to October the weather in the Midwestern United States offers boaters just enough of a break from the cold to enjoy the waters of Lake Michigan. Sailing regattas, fishing charters, tour boats, water skiers and jet skis can be found up and down the shoreline of the great lake. Amongst these pleasure crafts are two working naval vessels, harbored at Naval Station Great Lakes.

Operated by the Reserve Sailors of Assault Craft Unit One (ACU-1), Detachment 1813, these two Maritime Prepositioning Force Utility Boats pack quite a punch. Forty-one feet long with a 14-foot beam, a displacement of 20 tons, powered by two Cummins QSM11 engines providing a combined output of 1320 horsepower, the twin MPFUBs cruise at 40 knots with a cargo capacity of 10 tons or 30 troops each — these MPFUBs are an amazing sight to see at full speed.

Each boat is designed with the ability to mount any combination of the M2 Browning .50 caliber machine gun, Mk19 grenade launcher or the M240 machine gun.

The Sailors of ACU-1 detachment 1813, affectionately known as “the Surf Riders,” are attached to Navy Operational Support Center Great Lakes. Because they only have a handful of weekends available to train with their crafts, these fresh-water Sailors make the most of their time.

“We’re out here, training on the water every chance we get; practicing what the Navy needs us to do,” said Engineman 1st Class Christian Martinez, one of the unit’s leading petty officers. “I expect 100% effort from our Sailors. I’m a big proponent of work hard, play hard. We get along very well with each other so it makes the training schedule very easy to put together.”

When called to action, the Sailors from ACU-1 detachment 1813 are able to answer the call.

“We integrate very well with our active duty counterparts in Coronado,” said Engineman 1st Class Dennis Trejo, a 15-year veteran of the Navy who has spent the last three years with the Surf Riders. “We have qualified personnel who are able to cover watches and act as coxswain or enginemen when asked. We are able to provide what the active duty needs.”

Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Rubin Fair has been with the Surf Riders for nine months. He is very pleased with the type of training he gets with the unit. Fair explains that these boats, being in freshwater, are in great shape.



“We are truly a privileged Reserve unit. With the tools at our disposal, we are able to train every drill weekend with warfighting skills.”



“We get a lot of time on the boats because they are in such great shape. Rarely are the boats down for maintenance during our drill weekends,” Fair explained.

Lt. Cmdr. Chris Beck, commanding officer for the Surf Riders of Great Lakes, is thrilled that the Sailors under his command are able to train regularly on Lake Michigan.

“We are truly a privileged Reserve unit. With the tools at our disposal, we are able to train every drill weekend with warfighting skills,” Beck said.

Machinist Mate 1st Class Nicole Ortega has been with the Surf Riders for three years. A highlight so far for her time with the unit was during the spring of 2017 when she traveled to South Korea to augment the active-duty ACU-1 unit during a joint logistics over the shore or JLOTS exercise with the United States and Korean armies.

“At JLOTS we spent a lot of time transporting personnel from the shore to large military vessels,” Ortega explained. “JLOTS tested our abilities to work as a team.”

Ortega said the difficulty during this mission was learning to navigate in open water. “Here at Great Lakes the water can get rough, but it’s nothing compared to the open seas around Korea.”

The Surf Riders from Great Lakes have worked with their

active-duty counterparts in several mission essential training evolutions. Traveling regularly to the west coast, these Sailors find themselves aboard MPFUBs in the waters off Coronado and Camp Pendleton, assisting with troop transports, logistics support and equipment delivery.

“It’s a great time when we are there,” expressed Trejo. “Many of the active duty members of their unit are surprised when they learn that we have Reservists who are fully qualified to man these boats. It isn’t uncommon for them to ask us questions and to get our opinions on how the job is done.”

Capt. Billy Franklin, commanding officer of NOSC Chicago, is extremely proud to have these crafts available for training at Great Lakes. He meets with the unit regularly, sitting in on navigation briefings, asking questions, asking opinions, always seeking out more ways to help the Sailors under his command train better and more effectively.

“Regular, routine training with our boats on Lake Michigan is paramount in keeping ACU-1, our FTS and SELRES trained and ready to provide support when asked,” Franklin said.

“The Reservists of our ACU-1 detachment are first-rate Sailors,” Franklin said. “Their skills with these boats are highly valued by our active duty counterparts and are routinely requested when mission essential optempo demands it.”

The Surf Rider motto of “Initiative, Dependability, Cooperation” says a lot about what ACU-1 does on a daily basis. The command rarely waits for a mission to present itself. Taking the initiative to get the job done is something these Sailors pride themselves on. Dependable service, cooperating with everyone involved makes the Surf Riders a go-to organization when equipment or troops need to be moved between larger craft beaches around the world.

Since 9/11, ACU-1’s mission set has expanded beyond the traditional assault and follow-on echelon operations to support the Global War on Terrorism. These missions include independent multi-day anti-piracy patrols, visit, board, search and seizure operations, oil platform defense, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Along with their official mission, ACU-1 Sailors also find themselves conducting positive outreach programs for area school children. Each year, Surf Riders host more than 300 Junior Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps students from the greater Chicagoland area. Rope handling skills, CPR demonstrations and even a white-knuckled ride in the surf off the shores of Naval Station Great Lakes keep students coming back year after year.

“One of my missions is to educate the public about the capabilities of the Navy,” Beck said. “When the field trip is over

we want the students to understand how important the Navy is and also how beneficial it is to be a Sailor.”

Beck is extremely proud of the Sailors under his command. “Whether its training to hone our warfighting skills or to educate the JNROTC students who come to us,” he said. “I have an incredibly motivated group of professionals working for me.” ⚓

Reserve members of Assault Craft Unit-1 maintain and train with maritime prepositioning force utility boats in the waters around Navy Operation Support Center Chicago at Naval Station Great Lakes. ACU-1’s mission includes the traditional assault and follow-on echelon operations to support the Global War on Terrorism as well as independent multi-day anti-piracy patrols, visit-board-search and seizure operations, oil platform defense, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The ACU-1 crew trains on drill-weekends for events like those documented in the photos on this page. From left, the events include Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Bianca Ward acting as coxswain of the boat; Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Ryan Brazel leading a search and rescue drill; Damage Controlman 1st Class Prudence Crossman preparing rigging; Sailors preparing to get underway on Lake Michigan; Engineman 1st Class Christian Martinez demonstrating proper safety techniques during a man overboard drill; Sailors run sea and anchor drills at the boathouse onboard Naval Station Great Lakes.





# THE FINAL FRONTIER

By Cmdr. Pat O'Brien  
Navy Space Cadre

Was the adversary moving assets for reconnaissance only or in preparation to disable critical U.S. satellites? Will our defensive actions in space inadvertently immobilize warfighters on the ground in the midst of a major conflict? How fast could we get ahold of the President? The stress was almost unbearable, but exactly what was needed to be ready for a worst-case scenario. These were some of the scenarios and questions facing members of U.S. Space Command during exercise Global Lighting.

Lt. Cmdr. Ian Roessle's annual training in Colorado Springs supporting the space focused exercise was exciting, stressful and rewarding. It was also historic, as it was a final test of the newly organized SPACECOM capabilities before being officially commissioned in August, 2019. Roessle became one of a small group of founding members testing the mettle of SPACECOM as a full-fledged combatant command.

"This was uncharted territory," said Roessle. "We were adjusting our tactics, techniques and procedures as we went."

Roessle is a Reserve member of the Navy Space Cadre — a diverse community with extensive space training, education and experience supporting Navy and joint force space missions. The Space Cadre is part of the Information Warfare Community and qualified Space Cadre members can earn the Information Warfare Officer pin. But unlike the other information warfare community programs like intelligence or information professionals, Space Cadre members can hold any designator.

Most members are either unrestricted line officers, engineering duty officers, or members of one of the other components of the information warfare community. But there are even Judge Advocate General's Corps and public affairs officer members of the Space Cadre. What they all have in common is a passion for space.







The Navy's Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) communications satellite, like this one launched in 2015, provide seamless connectivity around the globe into the Global Information Grid and the Defense Switching Network. Reserve Space Cadre Sailors operationally support the MUOS constellation's ongoing connectivity to a globally dispersed fleet. Photo courtesy United Launch Alliance

To join the Space Cadre, an officer must spend time in a space-related billet and complete the Space Cadre Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS).

"It covered a lot of ground," Roessle said about the PQS. "From orbital mechanics to spacecraft subsystems to space law to how you actually deliver all this critical data and imagery to the warfighters. You don't come out an expert on any of it, but at least understand how all these things fit together."

Roessle completed the PQS in a previous assignment to one of the seven Navy Reserve space units with space missions. Among other space-related tasks during that tour, he spent time on active duty orders as a launch room watch officer during the launch of several of the Navy's Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellites. But Roessle caught the "space bug" years earlier when, as a college computer science major he interned at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, developing artificial intelligence algorithms for the Earth Observing-1 satellite.

The continued development of anti-satellite weapons by potential adversaries has propelled the military space sector into the public eye and prompted several recent reforms, including standing up SPACECOM.

When fully manned and operational, SPACECOM will oversee nearly all defense department satellites, from the Air Force's GPS constellation to the Navy's own MUOS communications satellites. It also controls a myriad of radar sites, satellite ground stations, and joint centers that support warfighters in areas such as missile warning and navigation. SPACECOM will also play a role in training space operators from all four services in a similar way that U.S. Special Operations Command does for special operators.

The Space Development Agency was also stood up in 2019 to streamline the procurement of new space capabilities. Further, the White House is advocating for the establishment of a sixth branch of the U.S. military that would man, train and equip space operators, a proposal that is being deliberated by Congress. Whatever form a new service might take, the Navy will continue to need space expertise within its own ranks.

The Navy has a storied history in space, going back to the Vanguard Program which launched some of the world's earliest satellites in the 1950s, closely trailing the Soviet Union's Sputnik program. The Navy still operates the MUOS constellations and other communications satellites from the Navy Satellite Operations Center in Point Mugu, Calif. But much of the focus within the service is on getting timely, relevant satellite data — whether from military, intelligence, commercial

or partner nation satellites — to the Fleet.

The increasing reliance on satellite data, from communications to precise timing on weapons systems, has brought a surge in demand for space experts needed, not only at space-related commands, but also embedded within Navy carrier strike group staffs and at numbered fleet headquarters.

With only 124 Reserve Space Cadre members, the demand is quickly out pacing the number of qualified officers. "We're in very high demand," said Capt. Stephen Melvin, commanding officer of NR SPACECOM. "There's never been a better time to be in space. It's the equivalent of buying Amazon at \$2 a share."

As the unit CO, Melvin led Reserve support during the establishment of SPACECOM and continues on active duty orders there. Like many of the active component members, Melvin has served in a number of roles. Over the course of the command's transition from a three star component, through a four star

component command, to a full combatant command, Melvin has served as the director for Plans and Policy, the Warfighting Logistics, battle watch commander and even as the chief of staff.

According to Melvin, most people selected for the Space Cadre gained knowledge of satellite operations and applications from varied active duty experiences or from civilian careers. In this, he sees the Navy Reserve as uniquely capable to fill the growing demand. "There are so many Reservists in space-related civilian careers," he said. "Since there is currently no designator that would keep an active duty officer on a continuous career path in space, this has become

an especially important area for Reserve support to the active component."

If you have space experience in your military or civilian jobs, you can use your expertise to take center stage in the Maritime Operations Centers, and be a critical part in enhancing fleet operations. Any Navy Reserve officer interested in joining the Space Cadre can contact Reserve Space Cadre Advisor Cmdr. Scott Maley at [scott.maley@navy.mil](mailto:scott.maley@navy.mil). He is also interested in hearing from civilians in the space field who would like to pursue a direct commission to the Navy Reserve. You can find more information on [www.mynrh.navy.mil](http://www.mynrh.navy.mil) by searching "Space Cadre".

At a White House ceremony marking the establishment of SPACECOM, President Trump said, "As the newest combatant command, SPACECOM will defend America's vital interests in space — the next warfighting domain." Not long ago such words would have been dismissed as the stuff of science fiction. But they describe today's reality as experienced by an elite cadre of Navy Reservists. ⚓

**“There’s never been a better time to be in space. It’s the equivalent of buying Amazon at \$2 a share.”**



# Water, Water Everywhere

By Retired Master Chief Petty Officer James L. Leuci  
Navy History And Heritage Command

There are many things we take for granted as Reserve Sailors in the 21st century. Wifi, DTS, cell phones, and simple things like water filtration systems are easy to overlook as we provide operational capacity and technical expertise to the Navy.

Access to clean water may not be the first thing you think of when considering modern technology, but from the beginning of the United States Navy in 1775, through the mid-19th century, water at sea was always in short supply and rationed — fresh water that is.

On wooden sailing ships, fresh water was needed for drinking, cooking and hygiene. Sea water, or salt water, was used by Sailors to wash their clothing, hammocks, bedding and often themselves.

Navy ships through the immediate post-Civil War years, stored fresh water in wooden casks, stacked within the vessel. The casks would be topped off prior to leaving port. Until the next port visit, the only other source of fresh water at sea was rain water. Fresh water brought aboard would be distilled or chlorinated to make it pure.

By the 1880s, water was being stored aboard ship in iron tanks, fitted to the form of the ship, and placed in the hold. Fresh water was now also being distilled from salt water aboard steam driven ships and some wooden sailing ships. On, average, one ton of coal was needed to distill 7 tons of fresh water.

Officers generally fared better than enlisted men when it came to having access to fresh water. Staterooms, on many late 19th century ships, were equipped with fresh water plumbing. Officers also had stewards to clean their clothing and bedding so they were not directly concerned about access to fresh water for those tasks.

It was different for enlisted men. Sailors were generally issued a galvanized, iron bucket when first reporting aboard their ship. The average ration of fresh water was around a

bucket a day to be used for rinsing clothing that had been washed in salt water up on the main deck. A portion of the fresh water ration was also needed for bathing.

Washing clothes was a time consuming evolution in a ship's routine through World War II. Clothing was washed in a designated area, usually on the main deck, where a salt water pump was located. Salt water and salt water soap were used to scrub and clean all of an enlisted man's clothing along with his hammock and bedding. After clothing was rinsed, it would

be attached to clotheslines hanging down from the yardarms which would be triced up to allow the clothing to dry.

Clothing was attached to clotheslines using clothes stops. Clothes stops were a piece of line, about 18-inches in length and 1/8-inch in diameter, which was crimped or lashed on each end so it wouldn't unravel. Enlisted uniforms manufactured prior to the Korean War came with pairs of tailored holes in the jumper hems and trousers waistbands to accommodate stops.

Prior to WWII, large ships began to be equipped with laundries for the crew. It wouldn't be until after WWII that the issuing of buckets to enlisted men at sea would cease. However, clothes stops continued to be used ashore through the 1950s to hang clothing, washed by hand, by Navy recruits.

Today, as more Reserve Sailors head out to sea on orders instead of the desert in support of changing operational and strategic demands, remember that scuttlebutt used to be around a water cooler that didn't supply an unlimited amount of gossip-fueling and purified H2O. ⚓

Nautical parlance for a rumor, scuttlebutt, comes from the word scuttle, to make a hole in the ship's side causing her to sink, and butt, a cask used in the days of wooden ships to hold drinking water. The term actually means a cask with a hole in it. Scuttle described what most rumors accomplished if not to the ship, at least to morale. Butt described the water cask where men naturally congregated, and that's where most rumors were started. The terms "galley yarn" and "messdeck intelligence" also defined the spreading of rumors, most of which were passed along on the messdecks.



Photos courtesy of the Navy History and Heritage Command



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Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Diana Quintana

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The drill-weekend Reserve Retirement Counseling Sessions listed are designed to educate and inform Sailors who are considering retirement.

For those close to or eligible for retirement, The Reserve Retirement Awareness Workshop in Millington, Tenn., offers a more comprehensive look at the retirement process. The next workshop is scheduled for 05-07 May, 2020.

For more information, contact your local NOSC career counselor or see the Reserve Retirement page on the Navy Personnel Command website.