

TNR



MAKO STORM



LSE 2023



MDSC LAUNCH

LEADERSHIP

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SUBMISSIONS: TNR is always looking for submissions that display the work Navy Reserve Sailors are doing around the force. To submit a photo or story, email us at our new address CNRF_PAO@us.navy.mil. Instructions and submission criteria will be provided to help guide your entry.

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TNR



Large Scale Exercise 2023

By: MC2 Tyra Watson

For more than two weeks, both Active Duty and Reserve Sailors and Marines came together to refine how we synchronize maritime operations on a global scale at LSE 2023



7th Fleet Summer Patrol

By: Navy Reserve Fleet Public Affairs
U.S. Navy Reserve Sailors joined the embarked U.S. 7th Fleet staff aboard the flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) for her 2023 patrol in the Indo-Pacific, July 8.



MDSC Launches

By: Navy Reserve Fleet Public Affairs
Mobilization and Deployment Support Command (MDSC) officially launched during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Naval Station Norfolk, December 1, 2023.

THE NAVY RESERVIST VOLUME 2023 | ISSUE 4



TNR tells the story of the U.S. Navy Reserve through articles, news and photos showcasing the contributions of Navy Reserve Sailors delivering real-world capabilities and expertise in support of the Navy mission. Find more news and information at www.navyreserve.navy.mil



Mako Storm 2023

By: Ensign Andrew Park

More than 60 Reserve Sailors from U.S. 5th Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet and U.S. Fleet Forces Command completed a four-day exercise July 16 to enhance their planning and operational capabilities.



Todd Chen at the U.N.

By: MC1 Raymond Maddocks
Lt. Cmdr. Todd Chen talks with CNRFC public affairs about his assignment to the U.N., the importance of the watchfloor and gaining invaluable experience in a joint environment.

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SHIPMATES,

In 2023 we witnessed how rapidly the world can change – a brief scan of today’s headlines reminds us that we live in a dynamic and unpredictable security environment. Now, more than ever, our nation needs a Reserve Force that is designed, trained, equipped, and ready to mobilize to meet emergent global challenges.

For decades, the United States has maintained world influence because of the global maritime dominance of our Navy. Our forward-deployed Navy provides our nation with credible combat power from the sea, which ensures predictable, efficient maritime trade on both coasts...the lifeblood of a vibrant economy.

In this issue of TNR we explore the fundamental importance of our allies and partners to the success of the Navy Reserve and, indeed, the entire U.S. Navy. This is more than a matter of camaraderie or shared ideals; it's a cornerstone of our National Security Strategy, a key directive from the Secretary of the Navy, and an essential element of the Chief of Naval Operations’ Navigation Plan.

The President’s National Security Strategy clearly identifies strong alliances and partnerships as a strategic advantage. We operate in a complex world, facing an array of threats that no single nation can tackle alone. Our allies and partners bring unique capabilities, diverse perspectives, and critical geographic access to the table. They share our values of freedom and security, and they stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us in pursuit of a safe and stable world. The strength of our relationships with our allies and partners provides a strategic advantage our adversaries cannot replicate.

The Secretary of the Navy has emphasized the importance of building and sustaining strong partnerships with like-minded nations. This translates directly to our Reserve Force, as we are increasingly called upon to work alongside our international counterparts in exercises, operations, and response to real-world crises. The ability to seamlessly integrate with allied forces is vital, and each of you offers a wellspring of experience and expertise that contributes significantly to this goal.

The Chief of Naval Operations’ Navigation Plan further underscores the significance of "global naval partnerships." In the NAVPLAN, the CNO outlines a vision for a distributed maritime network, capable of deterring and defeating our adversaries anywhere in the world. This network relies on interoperability, in which our Reserve Force plays a crucial role. Through joint training, exchanges, and deployments, we build trust, understanding, and shared tactics with our allies, making the entire network stronger and more agile.

Admiral Franchetti, our Chief of Naval Operations, recently stated, “We must continue to build on our momentum with our allies and partners around the globe – at the tactical, operational, and strategic level – so that we can truly sail and fight as one team, dedicated to the principles and values that unite us.”

But let's make this concrete - here's where you come in. Imagine a complex maritime operation demanding expertise in maritime planning, logistics, cyber defense, or undersea warfare. The Navy Reserve, leveraging our diverse range of experiences and deep connection to civilian professions, can plug seamlessly into multinational teams, bringing essential capabilities to the table. This combined force, drawing strength from our collective knowledge and experience, becomes a true force multiplier, capable of achieving what no single nation could alone.



In the past year alone, Reserve Sailors have directly supported key exercises including Large Scale Exercise 2023 and Commander FIFTH Fleet’s MAKO STORM, while also providing operational support to our numbered fleets, including augmenting SEVENTH Fleet’s staff underway on USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and SIXTH Fleet’s staff underway on MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20). In the Pacific, the Reserve Force supported KEEN EDGE, COBRA GOLD, BALIKATAN, VALIANT SHIELD, and KEEN SWORD and other key multinational exercises. And in September, I participated in the 24th International Seapower Symposium, which brought together over 100 heads of Navy...and was supported by over 100 Reserve Sailors. In 2024, our Sailors will support more than 20 tier 1 and 2 exercises, including five in African waters in support of SIXTH Fleet and eight SOUTHCOM exercises supporting FOURTH Fleet.

Our allies and partners are not just friends; they are vital players in securing our nation and a stable world order. Our Reserve Force, with a unique capacity for flexibility and rapid mobilization, stands at the forefront of building and leveraging these vital partnerships. As we train, exercise, and deploy alongside our allies, we both enhance our own readiness and contribute to a safer, more secure future for all.

I hope you enjoy this version of TNR with a renewed appreciation for the value of our relationships with our allies and partners. In 2024, we will continue to build bridges, share knowledge, and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies as we maintain our position as the greatest maritime force the world has ever known.

LETS GET BUSY.



John B. Mustin

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin
Chief of Navy Reserve
Commander, Navy Reserve Force



HELLO SHIPMATES,

Welcome to Calendar Year 2024 Shipmates!

As 2023 is in the rear-view mirror I am impressed with the progress we’ve made in transforming the Reserve Force. And it is all because of your hard work on the deck plates. Also, I am excited about how much more we can build upon this solid transformation.

Deterrence comes through a strong defense and the strength of the Navy Reserve is you, the American Sailor! Therefore, peace and democracy are continuously threatened. Wars in Europe and the Middle East are just two examples of strife, but there is also the unrelenting and constant attack by our adversaries in cyber, industrial espionage, and economic warfare, waged against our nation and our partners, all intent on destroying democracy. The Navy is in a tough business, one that is unforgiving, with no place for complacency. The stakes are high, and I don't have to tell you that our fellow Americans have placed a sacred trust in each one of us to defend our nation, our freedom, and our way of life. Everything we do must support our one and only priority: Warfighting Readiness. And that's where you come in.

We are American Sailors, the nation’s watch standers, with the indispensable support of your families and employers, at the heart of the Navy. Let's be prepared physically, intellectually, and emotionally to serve our fellow Americans to honor their trust, just like those Shipmates whose service stretches back to the founding of our nation and whose sacrifice make possible the freedoms we enjoy today. So, let's honor their legacy by being always ready – and this comes through continuous training, education, and innovation.

The Navy invests in resources for the development of its most valuable asset, which is you. Sailor 360 and Enlisted Leadership Development (ELD) are two programs that will put skills in your toolbox that will help you throughout your career. I encourage you to make an investment in yourselves by actively participating, learning, and mentoring through these programs.



Tracy Hunt

Master Chief Petty Officer Tracy Hunt
Navy Reserve 17th Force Master Chief

Sailor 360 helps us develop not only our individual leadership skills but that of our Shipmates, contributing to Mission Readiness. And – let me foot stomp this – it is indispensable training for future Chief Petty Officers.

ELD will become a prerequisite for advancement in 2025 but don't wait for the deadline. ELD focuses on character, decision-making, self-awareness, and ethics.

Here are the courses available:
Foundational Leader Development (FLDC): Three-day course for E-3 and PO3.
Intermediate Leader Development (ILDC): Three-day course for PO2.
Advanced Leader Development (ALDC): Four-day course for PO1.
Chief Petty Officer Development Course (CPOLDC): Five-day course for Chiefs.

Leadership: (Triads, Wardroom, and Chiefs Mess) Sailor development is in our wheelhouse. I ask you to lean forward and ensure we are investing in our Sailors’ development. Thank you!

For more information, go to: www.netc.navy.mil/ELD:

The start of a new calendar year is a good time to review annual goals. Be forward thinking and stay ahead of your administrative, medical, and physical requirements. If you’re not at one hundred percent, ask yourself why and then go about correcting the behavior that holds you back from being fully qualified so that you can focus on being ready to mobilize when the nation calls.

This all comes down to you and how much you want to develop as a leader. Ask yourself: “How can I be better today than yesterday?” Then you identify mentors who can help you chart a course to achieve your goals. Reach out to your Chain of Command, the Chiefs Mess, Command Career Counselors, Chaplains, and peers, who are there to help you to be Ready On Day One and serve on station alongside our Active Duty Shipmates, our joint warfighters and allied partner nations when called. This is not an abstract topic. Let me highlight just two examples of the many Sailors who are “Ready On Day One”, forward deployed, at sea, fulfilling top priority active duty billets.

CMDCM(FMF/SW/SCW/EXW/AW) Sean C. Baney, is assigned to USS Shoup (DDG 86) and CMDCM(SW/IW/EXW/SCW/FMF) James H. Butler, is assigned to USS John Finn (DDG 113). Our two Shipmates got the call, were ready, and leading at the tip of the spear. BZ CMCs!

Like these Command Master Chiefs, each one of us is continually training as watch standers, to seamlessly integrate with our Active-Duty counterparts when the time comes. So that we can focus on mission readiness, we have implemented several programs specifically tailored to improve our quality of life for our families. The Childcare Pilot Program, SELRES Tuition Assistance, TAR In Service Officer Procurement Program, are just a few of these. In addition, we created more senior and master chief billets to expand the opportunity for advancement. And we have adopted Get Real, Get Better to guide us in self-addressing and self-correcting our behaviors in an open and candid manner. It's a new era of transparency to address our shortcomings as opportunities for growth.

Each one of you uses creativity and innovation to accomplish your jobs every day and it's important for me to hear your ideas on how we can improve our Force. To hear from you I have set up a new link on Navy Reserve webpage that comes directly to me at: <https://www.navyreserve.navy.mil/Contact-Us/FORCM-SUGGESTION-BOX/>

Again, welcome to calendar year 2024 Shipmates! Take care of yourselves and each other. Thank you for your service and leadership. See you out in the fleet.

KEEP PUSHING FORWARD SHIPMATES!

ON-BOARD-ING

Is there a new Sailor in your unit who is also new to the Navy Reserve? Help Them Stay Connected with onboarding resources!

<https://www.navyreserve.navy.mil/Onboarding/>

NAT Sailors and prior service can find the workbook download, pre-check-in information, help with their first drill weekend and much more!



ELD

We need Sailors that are ready to lead today and advancement eligible to lead tomorrow. **E7 Sailors must complete their ELD prior to the FY26 selection board. E5-E6 Sailors must complete ELD prior to 01JAN2025.** Courses can be found on CANTRAC and your command's Training Officer or ELD Manager can submit a request for you via eNRTS.

<https://app.prod.cetars.training.navy.mil/cantrac/vol2.html>

SELRES Sailors are encouraged to use RESFOR N7 ADT-schools funding and will automatically be added to an NROWS requirement once enrolled. Command AT, ADT, IDT or ATPs can be used at the command's discretion, but should be used to develop and maintain warfighting readiness.



AROUND THE FORCE



CNR RUNS WITH SELECTEES ON BIG J

LOCATION: NEW JERSEY

Vice Adm. John Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, and CMDCM Nicole Rios, of Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command go on a run with chief petty officers and chief selects during 14th Annual Big J Heritage Academy event held on Battleship New Jersey, affectionately known as “Big J”, September 16 in Camden, New Jersey.



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13 WAYPOINTS 2023

LOCATION: FORT MEADE, MD

Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, announced Cmdr. Ernest Jessop’s Reserve Artificial Intelligence Navigator (RAIN) as the winning entry of the Vice Adm. John G. Cotton Innovation Excellence Award during the second annual i3 Waypoints competition in a streaming broadcast September 18. i3 Waypoints is an approach to inventing: innovate something entirely new; improve on something already established; or integrate several ideas, products or processes rendering the former completely obsolete. Mustin launched the i3 Waypoints competition last year to fast-track transformative ideas from across the Navy directly to the highest levels of the Navy Reserve, without filters, administrative friction, or bureaucratic barriers along the way.



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SECNAV & CNR SPEAK TO RFOTS

LOCATION: ANNAPOLIS, MD

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro addresses members of the 2024 Flag Wardroom Class at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., June 27, 2023. Reserve Flag Officer Training Symposium (RFOTS) is a two-day event hosted by Vice Adm. John B. Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force, for admirals, and captains selected to the rank of flag officer, to discuss strategy, manpower, policy, and budget.



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VB STEM STUDENTS EXPERIENCE AVIATION

LOCATION: NAS OCEANA

The NAS Oceana Air Show's theme was “50 Years of Women in Naval Aviation” and took place September 16 & 17. Children from Virginia Beach and Chesapeake public schools took a field trip there and had the opportunity to build on their foundational understanding of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) concepts.



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LARGE SCALE EXERCISE

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LARGE SCALE EXERCISE

By: MC2 Tyra Watson

LSE²⁰²³

LARGE SCALE EXERCISE

By: MC2 Tyra Watson

There was a feeling of anticipation in the air as the third iteration of the Large Scale Exercise (LSE), commenced August 9, 2023.

For more than two weeks, both Active Duty and Reserve Sailors and Marines came together to successfully reinforce a culture of continuous learning, increase the nation's warfighting readiness and refine how we synchronize maritime operations on a global scale.

LSE 2023 was the consummate opportunity for eager Reserve Sailors to rehearse carrying-out the Navy Reserve mission.

The Navy Reserve exists to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities in times of peace and war, focusing unambiguously on warfighting readiness.

This year's exercise took more than 25,000 participants within six Navy and Marine Corps component commands and seven U.S. numbered Fleets, operating seamlessly across 22 time zones-- including more than 35 ships at sea.

LSE 2023 merged real-world operations with virtually constructed scenarios to create a realistic training environment that allowed Sailors and Marines to train the way they fight, regardless of geographic boundaries.

More specifically, for Navy Reserve Sailors, LSE 2023 represented the opportunity to sharpen their skills on a global stage by rehearsing the ability to fight and win at a moment's notice.

U.S. Navy Photo by MCSN William Bennett IV

LSE 2023 provided Navy Reserve Sailors—who must be ready to mobilize within 72 hours—the opportunity to train to their billet in line with the Chief of Navy Reserve’s Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions.

The Fighting Instructions outline four lines of effort to modernize the force: design, train, mobilize, and develop. The “Train the Force” line of effort, also called, “Mob-to-Billet,” advocates for Sailors to focus on completing the warfighting requirements of their mobilization billet, in addition to readiness requirements, making LSE 2023 the perfect rehearsal.

“Exercises such as LSE contribute greatly to our Reserve force’s ability to focus it’s training efforts on preparing Reserve Sailors for their mobilization billets and ensuring all Reserve Sailors are trained, ready to activate, integrate, and be able to fight on day one,” said Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Admiral John B. Mustin. “Warfighting readiness is our only priority.”

.. ALL RESERVE SAILORS ARE TRAINED, READY TO ACTIVATE, INTEGRATE, AND ABLE TO FIGHT ON DAY ONE



Vice Adm. John B. Mustin
Chief of Navy Reserve
Commander, Navy Reserve Force



THE NAVY RESERVE'S ROLE AS A CRITICAL ENABLER AND A SOURCE OF STRATEGIC DEPTH IS OUR ORGANIZATIONAL MANDATE

Integrating six Navy and Marine Corps component commands and seven U.S. numbered Fleets around the globe, LSE 2023 was designed to reinforce the Chief of Naval Operations’ effort to set the stage for advancing naval doctrine and tactics by globally integrating fleet operations with emerging technologies to refine and validate Distributed Maritime Operations capabilities.

LSE 2021 was the first iteration of what is slated to become a biennial exercise, to include U.S. partners and allies from around the world. Two years, later, the exercise has proven to be monumental in displaying the Navy’s force.

“The United States is a global power that has global interests. We have allies and partners around the world. We routinely sail, fly, and operate in international spaces,” said Adm. Stuart Munsch, commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Africa. “You put that all together, and we have a responsibility to be able to operate globally, effectively, and that's what we're doing. We demonstrate that to assure our allies and partners, and we demonstrate it to deter adversaries.”

In this era of strategic competition, our Reserve Force remains ready to answer the call to fight at any time.

“The Navy Reserve’s role as a critical enabler and a source of strategic depth is our organizational mandate,” Mustin said in his concluding remarks. Our Navy and our joint forces are counting on each of you to contribute to assuring our allies and partners, deterring our competitors, and decisively competing and winning across the spectrum of conflict, in all domains, when called upon.”

The U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps will incorporate lessons learned from LSE 2023 into the planning of its next large scale exercise iteration which will take place in 2025.

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM

Story: MC2 TYRA WATSON

SANTIAGO GUERRERO



RANK	PS1
LOCATION	VIRGINIA
COMMAND	CNRFC N7
CIVILIAN CAREER	N/A

“I grabbed onto the mirror and held on for dear life. Eventually my arm gave out and I fell off because he was driving so fast. He ran over my leg, sped off, and left me in the middle of the street.”

In January of 2021, shortly after reporting to Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC), Personnel Specialist 1st Class Santiago Guerrero was struck by a car and dragged for two city blocks during a hit-and-run, in what was almost a fatal incident.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, on what Guerrero thought to be a regular weeknight for him and his family, he entered the parking lot after dropping his daughter off at ballet rehearsal to find an individual attempting to flee from a hit-and-run on his car.

“I see this car that had hit my car, and he was trying to take off,” said Guerrero. “Silly me, I tried to be Superman and got in front of the car to try and stop him, but he didn’t stop. I jumped over to the side and held onto his mirror and he dragged me for two blocks.”

After his body finally gave up and he eventually let go of the mirror, Guerrero dropped to the ground, and the driver ran over his right leg before speeding off.

“When I hit the floor, everything went foggy,” said Guerrero. “I lost consciousness. When I woke up in the middle of the street, I couldn’t move. I heard the ambulance sirens approaching, voices, and steps of people coming to my rescue that picked me up and dragged me to the sidewalk.”

“I GRABBED ONTO THE MIRROR AND HELD ON FOR DEAR LIFE.”

Guerrero was quickly loaded into an ambulance and rushed to Sentara Hospital.

The accident left the tendons of his right ankle mangled and damaged. His right hand was broken, the skin and muscle on his left leg was scraped down to the bone, and he suffered a severe concussion.

“After that night the pain was always present. I was unable to balance myself on my right foot, —creating a permanent limp in my walk,” said Guerrero.

His corporeal circumstances following the accident left him unfit to perform simple tasks at work and at home.

Guerrero fought every single day to get his mobility and body back to its fighting shape.

Following extensive physical therapy, he was told that there was no further action the therapists could take to heal his ankle more than they already had.

Guerrero was left to pick up the broken pieces of his body and his career, and weave them back together on his own.

“I knew the doctors said that there were a lot of physical limitations I would have following the accident, but I gave myself the last word,” said Guerrero. “I would be the captain of my fate. It wasn’t time for me to give up on myself or my career.”

Seemingly doomed with the ominous sentence given to him by doctors and therapists, Guerrero wore resilience as a cape, pushing his body to its limit to maintain mission readiness and get back to doing the things he loved most.

“When I was growing up, if I was stressed, if I was sad, if I was happy, or angry --whatever circumstance I was going through and trying to figure things out --the best and only way I knew how was by running,” said Guerrero. “For me, running was everything, and the accident took that away from me.”

For almost two years, Guerrero implemented exercises and stretches, and studied incessantly, all the different ways to improve mobility and build back the strength in his ankle. The accident had become an unexpected storm ripping its way through his life, blowing through everything he knew and depriving him of the small joys he hadn’t even realized he held so dear.

“The worst part of the incident was that I was unable to enjoy physical activities with my kids that I’ve always enjoyed and oftentimes took for granted,” said Guerrero.

Besides being a devoted Sailor, Guerrero is a family-man. He is a husband and father, born and raised in Ecuador, who moved to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1999 for his chance to firmly grasp the American dream in his hands.

Organically embedded into a legacy of service, Guerrero grew up watching his uncles and two older brothers serve in the military and law enforcement. He ended up joining the Navy Reserves as a Training Administration of Reserves (TAR) Sailor and graduated from Navy boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois at 36 years old.

“The U.S. Navy serves and protects America,” said Guerrero. “I got the opportunity to be a part of a team that serves our country and supports our constitution, and I feel proud and accomplished to be a part of it.”

Guerrero supports the Navy Reserve mission at CNRFC working out of the N7 department where he bears the responsibility of managing the Military Training and Education requirements for Sailors. His efforts directly align with Vice Adm. John Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force’s Fighting Instructions, which calls on Reserve Sailors to focus their efforts on consistent warfighting readiness.

“THE WAY I SEE IT, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TWO OPTIONS. ONE IS TO KEEP PRESSING ON, AND THE OTHER IS TO JUST GIVE UP... WE ALWAYS HAVE THOSE OPTIONS, AND I'M NEVER CHOOSING THE SECOND OPTION FOR MYSELF.”

Earlier this year, Rear Admiral Mike Steffen Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, Deputy Commander, Navy Reserve Force held an all-hands call in the auditorium of CNRFC where he put out that any Sailor that beat his scores for the next physical readiness test (PRT) would be rewarded with his parking spot for a week and lunch on him.

“SEEING HOW ADMIRAL STEFFEN PROMPTED US TO DO OUR BEST INSPIRED ME. I THINK AT THAT MOMENT, THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED TO RECOVER AND REALLY GIVE THIS REHABILITATION PROCESS MY BEST.”

The admiral’s challenge was the fuel Guerrero had been looking for to fight back against the diagnosis from the physical therapists and the criminal that had taken so much from him.

“I was encouraged by that,” said Guerrero. “Seeing how Admiral Steffen prompted us to do our best inspired me. I think at that moment, that was exactly what I needed to recover and really give this rehabilitation process my best.”

The rest of Guerrero’s road to recovery was hard-fought to say the least, but not one he would abandon. He showed up for himself daily with a brave face, striking blows in the face of doubt and failure.

“The way I see it, you always have two options,” he said. “One is to keep pressing on, and the other is to just give up. I keep that in the back of my mind whether I’m dealing with issues from family and friends, work, an injury, promotions. Whatever it is, we always have those options, and I’m never choosing the second option for myself.”

Guerrero’s tenacity paid off. He conquered Rear Admiral Steffen’s challenge and achieved the highest PRT score of his career, snatching back all the joy that the violent incident took from his life.

“Every day we have the opportunity to make things better for ourselves and those around us,” said Guerrero. “The time we are on earth is short, and we owe it to ourselves to make every day count. We are merely a raindrop in the storm.”

RAMIRO GARCIA

RANK	MA1
LOCATION	SAN DIEGO
COMMAND	REDCOM SAN DIEGO
CIVILIAN CAREER	POLICE OFFICER



The hot sun beat down on Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Ramiro Garcia as he led the 2-8 Infantry Unit belonging to the Army Task Force Warhorse Regional Command South down a road to conduct soft knocks in a village outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Garcia, a dog handler, was at the front of the group rucking down the dirt road. He and his military working dog, Don, had an important mission; detect, avoid and mark potential explosives along the way.

It was Garcia's first deployment to Afghanistan and his first as a dog handler. He was keenly aware that when Don detected explosives, he was trained to immediately sit down to warn Garcia of the presence of hidden improvised devices. As the unit rucked across the flatlands toward the mountains ahead, Garcia scanned the road searching for potential danger.

Then he saw Don sit.

The moment Garcia had trained to be prepared for finally came and, to his surprise, he felt... calm.

"I remember in that moment I was completely confident," said Garcia. "I felt confident in my training and in my dog's training. There was no fear. It was just like another day of training. The dog sits, I notify the Soldiers, we mark the suspected bomb and we continue with the mission."

"I FELT CONFIDENT IN MY TRAINING AND IN MY DOGS TRAINING. THERE WAS NO FEAR."

It was no accident Garcia, now an MA1, found himself in Afghanistan performing that mission. In fact, it was something he had to work very hard to achieve.

"I joined as an undesignated Seaman and I quickly realized I wanted to be in a more boots on ground type of environment," said Garcia.

He was selected to be an MA and soon realized there were only a few paths to get to where he wanted to be. His options were: work with special operations or the Seabees or to apply for dog handler school.

"Because of where I was stationed [Bahrain] dog handler seemed like my best option," said Garcia. "I went to the Military Working Dog facility and volunteered to help them out after work and on my off days. I helped clean out the kennels and wore the bite suit whatever they needed me to do."

Shortly after, Garcia got selected for the school and was able get into the boots on ground environment he was looking for.

Garcia said he felt drawn to the expeditionary environment out of a desire to protect his fellow service members.

"When I got to do that first deployment to Afghanistan in 2011, I felt like I was actually accomplishing my goal," said Garcia. "I wanted to do this type of mission to help people and protect my comrades."

After 12 years and 6 deployments (2 boots on ground and 4 at sea), Garcia decided it was time for him to settle down, but he wasn't ready to leave the Navy behind.

"I'll always be looking out for my people," said Garcia. "Looking out for my younger Sailors and helping them out by mentoring and developing them is where I get the most job satisfaction."

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

RANK	PS3
LOCATION	VIRGINIA
COMMAND	CNRFC COMMAND SERVICES
CIVILIAN CAREER	INSURANCE AGENT



Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Kimberly Williams graduated from Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois, last November at the age of 38.

What motivates Williams to embrace her new role as a pay and personnel specialist at Commander, Naval Reserve Forces Command is "My daughter, she said. "My decision to join the Navy Reserves was solely based on creating a better future for my daughter. I decided I wanted more for her, and that is what led me here."

Williams doesn't seem like your average junior Sailor. She maintains a centered, dignified aura and had a self-assurance about her one might expect to see in the chief's mess or wardroom.

She recounted the struggles that drove her during her childhood in Columbus, Georgia.

"From 18 years of age, I have been my own provider and caretaker," said Williams. "I've learned to push through the hard times and I continue to work toward being my greatest self."

Williams' road to the Navy Reserve was a winding one. Initially, she pursued her dreams of becoming an actress and began college as a theater major, but ultimately switched to social work after a gentle nudge from her father to consider pursuing a more practical degree. She eventually earned her bachelor's degree from Clark Atlanta University, volunteered at an afterschool program for at-risk youth and performed her practicum at 'The Samaritan House', an employment readiness program for the homeless. There, her passion for service was born.

"I'VE ALSO LEARNED THAT IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, GO FOR IT."

"When I graduated, there was a hiring hold on social workers," said Williams, "but I knew I loved working with people and I wanted what I did to matter."

Williams remained to live and work in Georgia for 16 more years after graduating from college. Prior to joining the Navy, she worked at group homes and colleges, served as an aging and disability resource counselor and eventually became a special investigator for Child Protective Services.

"Even though I'm just getting started in the Navy, I have grown by proving to myself that even at my age, pushing my body to its full potential is possible and mentally I am stronger than ever before," said Williams. "I've also learned that if you want something, go for it. If you don't like the benefits of your current situation, change it."

Her parents built her life on a foundation of confidence, power, energy and strength.

Williams' father served for 20 years in the United States Army. Her mother, a financial specialist, holds a master's of business administration degree. Williams recounted the sacrifices and life lessons which came from her parents.

"My parents come from extremely humble beginnings and their lives were not ideal, but they made it out of the "dirt," said Williams. "I'm grateful for the opportunities they provided me with, and wherever they are is home."

Williams now finds herself over 700 miles away from her Georgia home, carrying out the mission of the Chief of Navy Reserve's warfighting lines of effort. Williams helps develop the force, making sure policies and processes are transparent and seamless, making it easier for service members and their families.

"I am honored to be able to continue working to serve people," Williams said, flashing a humble smile from ear to ear. "The Navy Reserve is my path to taking care of my family, and my family means everything to me. It inspires me to give everything I've got every day and to truly take advantage of this opportunity that I have been given."

7th summer patrol fleet

RESERVE SAILORS INTEGRATE, BOLSTER U.S. 7TH FLEET DURING 2023 SUMMER PATROL

MC2 BELEN SALDAÑA, U.S. NAVY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SOUTH CHINA SEA – U.S. Navy Reserve Sailors joined the embarked U.S. 7th Fleet staff aboard the flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) for her 2023 patrol in the Indo-Pacific, July 8.

The patrol consisted of cooperative exercises, expertise and knowledge exchanges, as well as several community relationship engagements. It took the unique skill and talent of every Sailor on-board, including the mobilization and integration of Reserve Sailors, to maximize the impact of the patrol.

Acting Maritime Operations Center Director, Capt. Michael Husband, was able to see first-hand what his fellow Reserve Sailors could accomplish.

“It’s very humbling seeing my fellow reservists blending in with the staff so well. They’re professionals in their civilian careers and they’re proving to be professionals here too,” said Husband. “They’ve added value to the active component and have brought in new ideas to help improve how the active component operates.”

The innovation brought by Reserve Sailors in the areas of planning, operations and logistics added value to 7th Fleet’s role in supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific through operations at sea and port visits to Singapore; Jakarta, Indonesia; Brunei Darussalam; and Puerto Princesa, Philippines.

“There’s a lot of acceptance and understanding that reservists bring a new perspective but also are able to provide what’s required when it’s needed. I think this patrol has shown the diversity and ability of Sailors to make an actual impact,” Husband added.

Reserve Sailors bring a different perspective to active missions and deployments. Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Danielle Holle was also embarked aboard USS Blue Ridge and saw opportunity in the upcoming patrol. Holle has been a 7th fleet Sailor since 2020 and this summer patrol is her first underway with the ship.



“It’s really cool and I know being on board Blue Ridge is something that’s really unique for a reservist,” said Holle “I worked really hard to get out here and have the opportunity to get underway.”

During the patrol, Holle had the responsibility of briefing vital information to U.S. 7th Fleet leadership and commanders, from various task forces throughout the Indo-Pacific. Information that added to the strategic depth of real time operations and exercises.

“It’s definitely a good feeling to be able to get out here and do real world things and see the information that we put out actually being implemented by commands all throughout the pacific,” said Holle “For these briefs you need to have that all-encompassing knowledge about the area of operation.”

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U.S. Navy Reserve Sailors integrate within any environment, mobilizing quickly, and maintaining the strategic depth of warfighting readiness.

“While being here I’ve learned how to find comfort in the chaos. Coming here I’ve experienced so many new things all at once,” said Holle “It was a lot of learning and making mistakes and with everything I’ve experienced I’ve found my groove in the whirlwind of it all.”

Blue Ridge, with the embarked Seventh Fleet staff, is currently on patrol in the Indo-Pacific operating with allies and partners in support of preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific.





NAVY RESERVE LAUNCHES MOBILIZATION & DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT COMMAND

CNRFC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mobilization and Deployment Support Command (MDSC) officially launched during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Naval Station Norfolk, December 1, 2023.

MDSC reflects the Navy Reserve's rapid alignment with the concept of Adaptive Mobilization, a process intended to improve warfighter readiness by enabling the Navy to respond with speed, agility and quantity of personnel in support of large-scale contingencies and to improve processes and procedures that will ensure effective mass mobilization capability.

"MDSC is being established to provide oversight of all Reserve Component (RC) mobilizations and Active Component (AC) Individual Augmentee (IA) mobilizations," said Rear Admiral Michael J Steffen, Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. "This is a wholesale re-imagining of the legacy, centralized mobilization process and is the realization of the Reserve's shift from operational support through a centralized center of excellence to strategic reserve via adaptive, distributed mobilizations."



"Our Reserve Force is laser-focused on warfighting readiness and our swift transformation will further sharpen our focus on one thing, and one thing only... our ability to fight and win."

— Rear Admiral Michael J Steffen

The establishment of MDSC coincides with the disestablishment of Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), which transferred to Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) in January 2022.

MDSC will retain the Mobilization Center of Excellence role to train, oversee and execute the Navy's mobilization processes and continue to deploy steady-state IA Sailors across the globe, while adjusting processes and procedures to encompass the Navy's focus on Adaptive Mobilization in support of large-scale contingencies and mass mobilization requirements.

According to Steffen, MDSC will continue to set the standard across all Distributed Activation processing sites to provide deployment ready and mission capable warfighters to effectively implement the strategic, operational and tactical objectives of the Navy.

"With the drawdown in missions supporting the Global War on Terror, the return of strategic competition and the new reality of multi-domain warfare, MDSC's new mission and capabilities now align to the Navy's focus in decentralizing the mobilization processing from a singular center at MDSC to the regional REDCOMs and other strategic locations," said Steffen. "Our Reserve Force is laser-focused on warfighting readiness and our swift transformation will further sharpen our focus on one thing, and one thing only... our ability to fight and win."



MAKO

MOC TRAINING & MENTORSHIP

SENTRY

TRAINING & MENTORSHIP

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SENTRY

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**RESERVE SAILORS DEVELOP, MAINTAIN
CRITICAL SKILLS IN MAKO STORM 23**

BY: LT. CMDR. JANICE LEISTER



**"This is an opportunity
for them to ask
important questions
and gain insight
from experienced
mentors in a training
environment."**

-CMDR. SEAN MARVIN



NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Virginia — More than 60 Reserve Sailors from U.S. 5th Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet and U.S. Fleet Forces Command completed a four-day exercise July 16 to enhance their planning and operational capabilities.

Mako Storm 23 took place July 13-16 in a specially configured maritime operations center (MOC) at the Navy Warfare Development Center at Naval Station Norfolk. Sailors stood watches, provided mentorship, and planned exercise events.

"Mako Storm allows Reserve Sailors to familiarize themselves with the MOC and to help them develop and maintain skills that are essential for their work over at 5th Fleet," said Cmdr. Sean Marvin, the Mako series lead planner. "This is an opportunity for them to ask important questions and gain insight from experienced mentors in a training environment."

Rear Adm. Robert Nowakowski, vice commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet, said the exercise is an important building block in meeting the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions (NRFI) lines of effort to design, train, mobilize, and develop the force.

Sailors received more than 830 man-hours of training, which Nowakowski said was, "a force multiplier and aligns with the NRFI lines of effort of warfighting training to ensure our Sailors are ready day one."

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command is responsible for an approximately 2.5 million-square-mile area including the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. Its mission is to conduct maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts and strengthen partner nations' maritime capabilities to promote security and stability in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

TODD CHEN AT THE UN

In 2004, Todd Chen was going into his freshman year at the College of the Holy Cross. As part of the school's First Year Program, Chen was required to complete some summer reading. One of the books on his reading list was called "Mountains Beyond Mountains," about a doctor working extensively in Haiti to help treat tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

"I gained a lot of inspiration from that book," said Chen. "It made me want to put myself out there and do something for the greater good — something that would help people."

When Chen, now a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve, recently saw orders to be an operations officer at the United Nations in the Central African Republic, he knew he had to take the opportunity.

"When I saw the orders, I really felt this was the opportunity I'd been looking for," said Chen.

Although Chen jumped at the chance to take on the mission, he soon found making an immediate difference isn't always as quick or easy as is often depicted in literature. According to Chen, situations from the routine to the emergent often arise — situations he needs to be ready to handle at all times.

"As an OPS officer I have certain things I do every day, things that I plan for," said

Chen. "The daily SITREP [situational report], for example is one of those things. Our office gets information from all the field offices all around the country and we verify, cross-check, compile it and send it out to mission leadership and UN headquarters by a certain time."

Chen said other aspects of the job, although frequent, are often impossible to plan for.

"One of the reasons that we're [the UN] here in this country is because of armed elements within the country that are either fighting each other or fighting the government," said Chen. "When I'm on the watch floor, I need to be ready at a moment's notice to find out what is going on, get all pertinent information and report it up and across the chain. Sometimes we receive early warning information in advance of a potential event, and receiving and reporting that information in a timely manner is so important. When we're able to do this,



we can be better prepared for — or even prevent — a disastrous situation from happening."

Chen said he feels despite — and maybe even because of — the mission's challenges, he is fulfilling the promise of the inspiration he felt when he first read that book back in college.

"It's a little different, because the doctor in the book built a foundation from the ground up and the foundation of this mission was already in place," said Chen. "But these orders are just what I was hoping for in the sense that I'm able to be a part of something bigger than myself and make a difference. It means a lot to me to be helping this country stabilize and to be contributing to the people who live here."

In addition to the fulfilling assignment Chen also enjoys the opportunity to work with locals and meet military and civilian personnel from all over the world.

"I am the only U.S. military servicemember at the joint operation center and I work with people from Rwanda, the United Kingdom, France, Togo, South Korea, Sweden and a lot more," said Chen.

According to Chen, the assignment has given him valuable experience to bring back to his Reserve unit and the Navy Reserve Center.

"I really feel these orders are improving my warfighting readiness," said Chen. "I am developing watch standing experience in a joint environment, which is invaluable."

When Chen finishes his time at the UN, he will go back to his civilian job as a math teacher at a combined middle and high school at a U.S. Navy base in Sasebo, Japan. Although being a Reserve officer and teaching algebra may seem worlds apart, Chen says some skills translate to both of his jobs.

"Obviously, the people I work with in each job are very different, but when it comes to motivating people and helping them engage with and improve at what they're doing, there is more overlap than you'd think," said Chen. "Also, the military has really helped me to manage people and to hold them accountable to a higher standard, and that is something I've definitely implemented in my civilian career."

"THESE ORDERS ARE JUST WHAT I WAS HOPING FOR IN THE SENSE THAT I'M ABLE TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE."





but it sure won't be if you don't complete ELD!