

TNR

VOL. 2025 ISSUE 1



**WE BUILD
WARFIGHTERS**
THE NAVY'S STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

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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 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

TNR

THE NAVY RESERVIST VOLUME 2025 ISSUE 1

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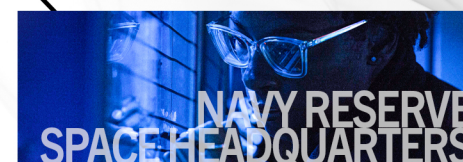
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It is my great honor to serve as your Chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force. This Force has been a constant source of pride and watching you balance the competing demands of family, civilian careers and service has been truly inspirational. You are the reason why I am fired up about the next four years.

We are in a strategic competition that demands urgent and focused preparations for a high-end fight. When the call comes to mobilize the Reserve Force, I am counting on each of you to be ready on day one to deliver warfare expertise to the Navy, Joint and Combined Force.

Four years ago, VADM Mustin initiated a decisive turn, positioning the Reserve Force to deliver strategic depth to our Navy Total Force. As a result, we have been singularly focused on warfighting. Warfighting will remain priority one, but you will see renewed attention on the warfighter. **Reserve Sailors are our competitive advantage and most valuable resource and I intend to invest in you.**

We will build a culture that enables all Sailors to reach their full potential; fosters high-performance at the individual, unit, and Force levels; and promotes a sense of connectedness across the entire Navy Reserve – our Sailors, Civilians, and Families.

Cultivating a positive culture is critical to improving recruiting, retention, and warfighting readiness and we all have a role in this.

We will respect the multitude of demands placed on our Reserve Sailors and find ways to make the drilling experience simpler and more effective. Unnecessary requirements sap the energy of our Sailors and cause them to lose trust in our organization. We will explore changes to policy, processes, and systems to do this.

Leaders at all levels, you are the key to our success. You must lay the foundation for the success of every Sailor and Civilian in the organization. Cultivate trust and respect within your commands and units. Invest in everyone individually. Expect and demand the best from your team and facilitate that level of performance.

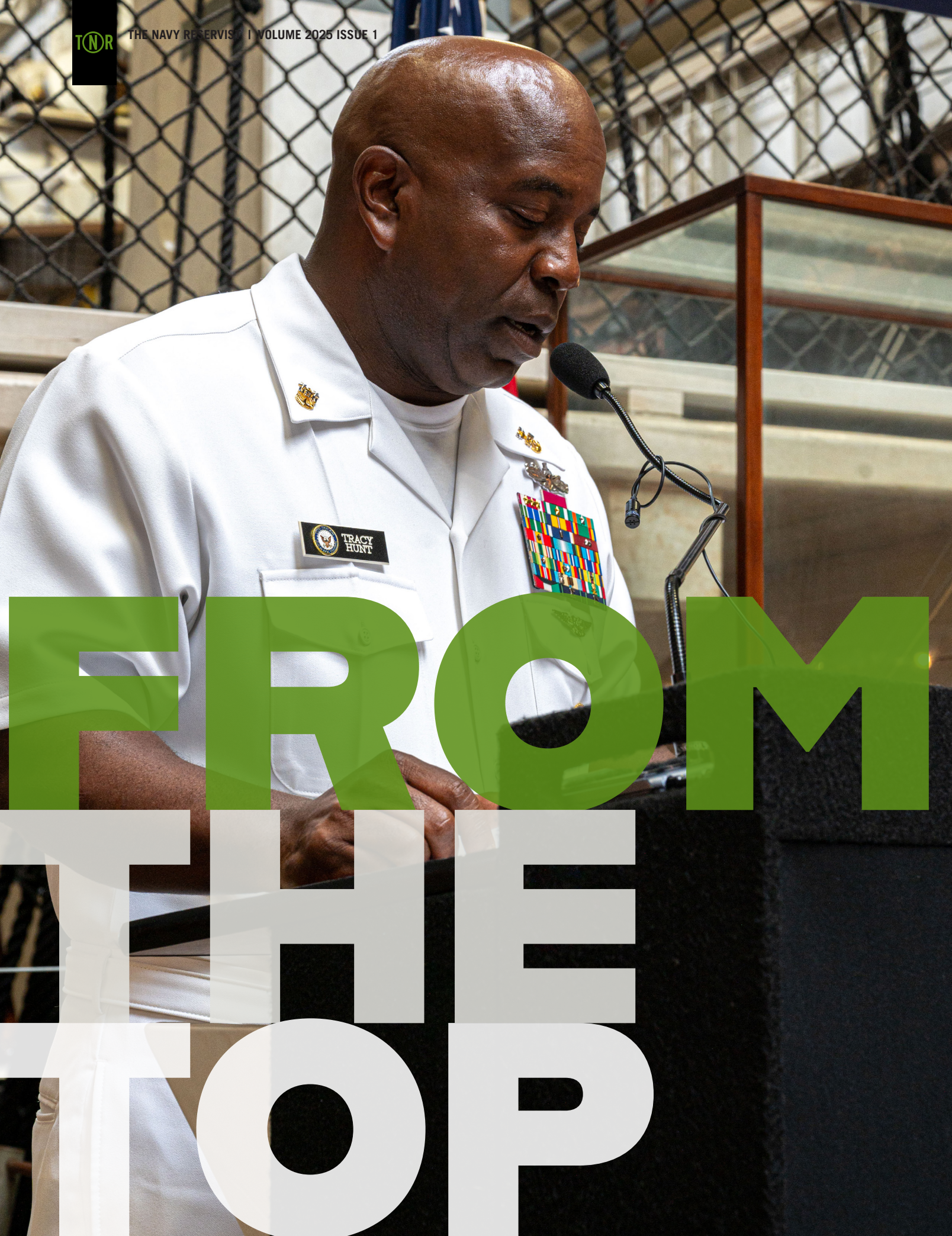
I am proud of where the Reserve Force is today. We have worked hard to build the strategic depth the Total Navy Force needs. But we have more work to do; work we will take on together. Our job is to fight and win our nation's wars and we must ensure our Sailors and their families are prepared to do this when the call comes. Our work starts now.

We live in uncertain times. We can see the storm clouds gathering in the distance and feel the winds of change. While the challenges ahead may be daunting, I am energized to navigate this journey with you.



Nancy Lacore

Vice Admiral Nancy Lacore
16th Chief of Navy Reserve
Commander, Navy Reserve Force



Shipmates,

I want to start by expressing my gratitude for your dedication to our Navy Reserve. Your commitment to service defines who we are as a Reserve team, and it is my honor to serve alongside you as your Force Master Chief.

To our newest Chief Petty Officers, Class 131, a huge congratulations! Your selection to Chief is not only a tremendous personal achievement but a call to further develop, mentor and lead others. The real work starts now – building up the next generation of Sailors who will one day fill your shoes. I'm counting on each of you to uphold the tradition of mentorship and deckplate leadership that keeps our Navy Reserve strong.

I also want to recognize and thank VADM Mustin for his tremendous contributions as our 15th Chief of Navy Reserve. With his leadership, we championed warfighting readiness, modernization and strategic alignment in everything we do. As we welcome our 16th CNR, VADM Lacore, we commit to her vision to posture our Sailors and units for warfighting, strengthen our warfighters, and accelerate refining the foundation that supports the Force.

And as we renew our focus on the Warfighter, I want you to be fully aware and educate your Sailors on two key programs, which are vital to our continued professional development.

First up is the SELRES Tuition Assistance (TA) program. The recently released NAVADMIN 259/24 authorized funding for FY25 and it is crucial that we fully use this benefit. I strongly

encourage all eligible Sailors to take advantage of the SELRES TA program to pursue higher education, vocational training, or certification courses. Use this opportunity to sharpen your skills and expand your knowledge—your success is our mission!

Secondly, the Enlisted Leader Development (ELD) program – this is a non-negotiable and time is of the essence. The deadline for completion is approaching, so do not wait until the last minute. If you are having issues with accessing or completing the training, inform with your leadership now.

Finally, we also recognize the critical role our families play in our success. We could not do what we do without their unwavering support. A huge thank you goes to our ombudsmen, who provide a vital link between families and the command.

Congratulations to Mrs. Tiffany Dunlap, our Ombudsman of the Year, for her exceptional dedication and support. You embody the ideals of volunteer service and the best of what it means to serve our Navy families.

VADM Lacore's vision is clear: **Warfighting competency is our top priority.** This requires a renewed focus on you, the warfighters, who are the living foundation of our Navy Reserve Force. We will ensure each Sailor develops the skills necessary to meet the mission. And our mission is to be ready – ready to fight and win – anytime, anywhere.

Thank you for your service, your commitment, and your drive to make our Navy Reserve the best it can be.

Keep Pushing Forward, Shipmates!



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

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

NAVADMIN 123/24

NAVADMIN 123/24 announces three key changes to the Physical Readiness Program, effective immediately.

1. Removes the mandatory "Significant Problem" and/or mandatory adverse performance evaluations(FITREP/EVAL) for Sailors who fail PFA.
2. Provides commanding officers (COs) discretion when providing reenlistment or retention recommendations for Sailors who fail consecutive PFAs.
3. Directs one Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) cycle in CY25, which will occur between February 1-November 30, 2025.

For details refer to the full text of NAVADMIN 123/24.

Q WHY WAS THE MANDATORY "SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM" AND/OR MANDATORY ADVERSE FITREP/EVAL FOR SAILORS WHO FAIL CONSECUTIVE PFAs REMOVED?

A THIS POLICY CHANGE REMOVES THE MANDATORY ADVERSE EVAL REPORT AND ALLOWS COMMANDING OFFICERS TO RETAIN OR ADVANCE SAILORS.

Q HOW DO SAILORS WITH CONSECUTIVE PFA FAILURES WHO RECEIVED AN ADVERSE REPORT RESTORE ELIGIBILITY FOR RETENTION AND REGAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT?

A A SAILOR MUST PASS A MOCK OR OFFICIAL PFA AND RECEIVE A SUBSEQUENT NON-ADVERSE EVAL/FITREP TO REGAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR RETENTION OR ADVANCEMENT.

PHYSICAL READINESS PROGRAM UPDATE

NAVADMIN 259/24 announces the continuance of the SELRES Tuition Assistance (TA) Pilot Program.

1. This pilot program expands eligibility requirements of the TA program to enlisted SELRES Sailors in a paid drilling status who meet the eligibility criteria.

2. SELRES TA will be limited to a cap of 18 semester hours, 27 quarter hours, or 270 clock hours (or any combination thereof) for each eligible enlisted Sailor per fiscal year.

3. Eligible Sailors are encouraged to apply in a timely manner, as funding may be limited based on the approved TA budget.

4. This NAVADMIN will remain in effect until superseded or cancelled.

For eligibility requirements and details refer to the full text of NAVADMIN 259/24.

SELRES TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Q WHAT IS THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TIME SELRES SAILORS CAN HAVE LEFT ON THEIR CONTRACT AND STILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE?

A SAILORS MUST HAVE AT LEAST 6 MONTHS REMAINING FROM THE COURSE START DATE UNTIL THE END OF OBLIGATED SERVICE OR AS EXTENDED

Q WHICH DOCUMENTS MUST A SELRES SAILOR SUBMIT TO BE CONSIDERED TO RECEIVE TUITION ASSISTANCE?

A SAILORS MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR MOST RECENT EVAL AND EXAM PROFILE DATA (OR COMPLETED PMK-EE CERTIFICATE IF NOT YET ELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCEMENT), COPY OF PFA HISTORY, AND A SIGNED 1070/613.

NAVADMIN 259/24

AROUND THE FORCE



LT JOE CARDONA RECEIVES NFL HONORS

LOCATION: NEW ENGLAND

New England Patriots long snapper Joe Cardona is the recipient of the NFL's 2023 Salute to Service Award. The award recognizes exceptional efforts of supporting the military community, and Cardona, 31, uniquely qualifies as a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve. USAA is contributing \$25,000 in Cardona's honor to the official aid societies representing each of the military branches. The NFL Foundation is matching the \$25,000, to be donated to Cardona's military charity of choice.



NRC CHEYENNE AT FRONTIER DAYS

LOCATION: CHEYENNE, WY

Sailors from Navy Reserve Center Cheyenne, USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), and USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) participated in the 128th annual Cheyenne Frontier Days festival from July 19-22 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Known as the "daddy of 'em all," this 10-day annual event started in 1897 draws nearly 200,000 visitors and features the world's largest outdoor rodeo and western entertainment.



CNRFC AWARDS KOREAN WAR VETERAN ON BIG J

LOCATION: BALTIMORE, MD

Rear Adm. Mike J. Steffen, Commander Naval Reserve Forces Command, awarded Korean War Veteran, Gunner's Mate Second Class (Ret.) Greg Picini Jr. with a Flag Letter of Commendation as well as a certificate naming him an Honorary Member of the USS New Jersey Firing Mount Gun Crew for his heroic service.



NRC BALTIMORE SUPPORT SAR EFFORTS

LOCATION: BALTIMORE, MD

Navy Reserve Sailors assigned to NRC Baltimore provided immediate Search and Rescue operations support in response to the collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge after a cargo ship collided with the bridge, causing its collapse into Patapsco River. NRC Baltimore responded to calls for emergency assistance to assist the U.S. Coast Guard, Naval District Washington and Baltimore city to search for survivors, and provide maritime security for the incident site.





NAVY RESERVE ...Strategic Advantage

The Navy Reserve Force (NRF) is the **STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE** of the world's most powerful navy. We put "more ready players on the field" – Reserve Sailors, ready for our missions across the globe, in steady-state and in conflict. We are prepared to mobilize a world-wide deployable Force within 30 days, delivering strategic depth at scale, trained and ready to contribute to the fight. We are an innovative and adaptive Force, continuously assessing our contributions to the fight and refining skills to ensure alignment with the Navy Total Force. Our culture supports individual, unit, and Force excellence based upon a foundation of trust and respect.

We are focused on CNO's two strategic ends: (1) readiness for the possibility of conflict with the People's Republic of China by 2027 and (2) enhancing the Navy's long-term advantage. To achieve these strategic ends, **WARFIGHTING READINESS** remains *Priority One*. We are aligned with CNO's priorities – **Warfighting**, **Warfighters**, and **Foundation** – by delivering a more ready and lethal NRF via the following strategic initiatives:

Posture for WARFIGHTING: Our Sailors, operational units, and readiness units of action are our weapons system. We are prepared for the mission, ready to fight and win decisively on Day One. Our Training and Administration of the Reserves community will ensure our Navy Reserve Activities (NRAs), Navy Mobilization Processing Sites, and command staffs are able to mobilize the entire Force within 30 days. NRA and unit leaders will maintain 80% WARFIGHTING READINESS across the Force.

Strengthen our WARFIGHTERS: Our Sailors understand the significance of our mobilization billets and warfighting contributions to the Total Force. We possess specialized skillsets and capabilities, unique to the Reserve Force, and provide the Navy additional capacity. Reserve Sailors, their families, and our civilian workforce are connected to each other and to the Navy Total Force as **One Team**. We will retain and promote Sailors who embody our culture of excellence, resilience, and warfighting readiness, and develop and select leaders who are committed to the personal and professional growth of our Sailors and civilians.

Accelerate Refining the FOUNDATION: Our Force is a learning organization, continuously self-assessing and optimizing our force structure, talent management, and training to meet the warfighting needs of the Navy. We will focus on quality of service by simplifying processes, easing administrative burdens, and removing barriers to Selected Reserve participation, refining the continuum of service for greater active-reserve component permeability. We will accelerate delivery of force-wide programs, capabilities, and infrastructure that build warfighting readiness and competencies.

Our Focus: We integrate with the Navy Total Force to deter, defend and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries. The global security environment demands our urgent preparations and readiness to respond to the call, when needed. We will **posture** our Force for warfighting by **accelerating** the pace of organizational development and **strengthening** our warfighters. The Navy Reserve Force will be **READY** on **DAY ONE!**

NANCY S. LACORE
Vice Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Navy Reserve /
Commander, Navy Reserve Force



Vice Admiral Nancy S. Lacore, 16th Chief of Navy Reserve, Commander Navy Reserve Force delivers final remarks at Chief of Navy Reserve Change of Command Ceremony.

WARFIGHTING. WARFIGHTERS. FOUNDATION.

POSTURE

ENSURING & MAINTAINING
WARFIGHTING READINESS



ACCELERATE

OPTIMIZING SERVICE
THROUGH STREAMLINING
READINESS & INTEGRATION



STRENGTHEN

RETAIN & PROMOTE SAILORS,
TRAIN & SELECT LEADERS

STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

navy employer recognition event

Over 47 civilian employers representing companies from across the nation were recognized by the Navy Reserve Force for their exceptional support of Navy Reserve Sailors during the Navy Reserve's annual Navy Employer Recognition Event (NERE) June 11, 2024.

The annual event recognizes employers who provide outstanding support to Navy Reserve Sailors who work for their organizations in a civilian capacity. The all-day event included a tour of USS Tripoli (LHA 7), static displays of aircraft and facilities and a dinner reception aboard USS Midway Museum.

The support of Navy Reserve employees is critical to our bi-coastal nation's ability to maintain maritime dominance and to protect our economic vibrancy, our prosperity and our security, which, frankly, depends on the seas.

Visiting executives from various employer organizations had the opportunity to experience a live demonstration from the Navy Marine Mammal Program, view an aircraft static display from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR-57), take tours of Navy patrol craft and observe a demonstration with the military working dogs from Naval Base San Diego Security Department.

Employers and participants also met with Navy special warfare operators from SEAL Team 17, toured the USS Midway Museum, and enjoyed a lunch provided by the ESGR.

"Just being able to work with Reserve Sailors in a way that allows them to do all the great things that they are doing for the country is really important to us," said Laura Kitto, Vice President of Human Resources for Distributor Wire and Cable in Aurora, Colorado.

"To be able to see that there are other folks out here from different businesses trying their best to support Reserve Sailors is pretty neat."

NERE provides an opportunity for employers to get better acquainted with the military commitments of their employees who are members of the Navy Reserve, providing a deeper understanding of the importance of employer support to Navy warfighting readiness. It also provides a day of fun for spectators as many of the Navy's critical operations.

"This has been super fun to get a look inside the culture (of the Navy) and to try to understand it better," said Kitto. "Also, the dolphin demonstration was really cool."

Navy Reserve Sailors used the occasion as an opportunity to thank their employers for supporting them and their families before, during and after mobilizations or deployments.

For more information on how Navy Selected Reserve Sailors can recognize their civilian employers, visit the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) webpage. ESGR is a DoD program that develops and promotes supportive work environments for service members in the Reserve Components through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities. Navy Selected Reserve Sailors can also nominate their civilian employers for a Patriot award at: <https://www.esgr.mil/>



"Being able to work with Reserve Sailors in a way that allows them to do all that they are doing for the country is really important to us."

- Laura Vitto, VP of HR Distributor Wire & Cable Co.



Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Brittney Johnson, assigned to the "Conquistadors" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 57 was traveling the world long before she raised her hand to enlist.

Though she considers Hopkinton, Massachusetts her hometown as it's dearest to her heart, she grew up traveling the world with her family.

"My dad worked for a dredging company that had us all over the place, even overseas," said Johnson. "I loved it. My sister and I made friends easily. I got to travel all over the world even before high school. Bahrain, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Puerto Rico, Mexico and visited several others. I got to vacation in Australia and visit China for a few days."

When Johnson had the opportunity to continue her travels as a Training and Administration (TAR) Sailor in the U.S. Navy Reserve, she was excited to continue her adventures.

"I joined the Navy in October of 2016," said Johnson. "I loved traveling and wanted to do more of it."

Her current assignment with VR-57 allows her the best of both worlds.

BRITTNEY JOHNSON

RATING: AD2

LOCATION: SAN DIEGO

COMMAND: VR-57

"I like VR-57 because I feel like it's a good balance between working hard while still being able to balance your personal life," said Johnson. "Squadron life can be really demanding. Working on three large aircraft and going on detachments three times a year to Bahrain, Japan and Italy allows me to both work hard and still get to travel and explore."

Johnson's job in the Navy is aviation machinist's mate, one of several Navy ratings that works collaboratively to perform maintenance on naval aircraft.

"I'm a mechanic," said Johnson. "In my rate specifically, we do a lot of engine work, though at my current command I also work alongside other mechanic rates working on things like panel repair, tire changes, and working on struts and hydraulics."

Johnson said she enjoys working with her team and seeing their impact to the VR-57 mission.

"When there's a problem, especially if it's downing the aircraft, being able to get hands on with my team and resolve that problem to see it take off is always a good feeling," said Johnson. "Just knowing that you're able to contribute to that aircraft flying, no matter how small the job, is always pretty rewarding."

"JUST KNOWING THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT AIRCRAFT FLYING, NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE JOB, IS ALWAYS PRETTY REWARDING."

STORY BY: MCC CHELSEA MILBURN



Tyler Petrea, a native of Kaufman, Texas, grew up in a middle class household. He is the eldest of his two siblings. In 2008, at the age of 22, his siblings expressed to him their goals of pursuing nursing careers and he wanted to help them achieve their goals.

He went to a Navy recruiting office and inquired about jobs that included signing bonuses. He planned to assist his siblings with the cost of their college tuition.

Petrea was offered the rate of Navy Diver. He never really thought of himself as an awesome swimmer, but was told by the Navy recruiter that he would learn things like underwater welding which seemed to be right up his alley. He enlisted as an active duty Sailor in January of 2008.

Once Petrea completed boot camp, he attended his first school at Naval Station Great Lakes Dive Preparatory Training, and quickly learned that his swimming skills were not where they needed to be.

Through hard work, the help of his instructors and the support of his fellow dive school shipmates he persevered. He completed the preparatory course and continued through dive school.

TYLER PETREA

RATING: ND1

LOCATION: KEYPORT, WA

COMMAND: NRC KITSAP

Although the school was extremely difficult, Petrea successfully graduated. His plan of helping his siblings with the financial burden of college was a success.

Petrea continued his career as a combat swimmer instructor and dive representative.

In 2013 Petrea decided to leave the military and was hired by Puget Sound Naval Shipyard as a Department of the Navy civilian diver.

As Petrea approached a nearly two-year break in service, he began to think that he had more to offer the Navy. In 2015 he reenlisted into the Navy Reserves.

"I have a lot a pride in my Naval service, I have become very proficient at my job and felt I still had so much more to give," said Petrea. "The Navy Reserve gave me the opportunity to continue with my civilian career and also continue to have adventures as a Navy diver abroad."

Petrea is currently assigned to Navy Reserve Center Kitsap and cross assigned to Expeditionary Maintenance Unit Headquarters. He is awaiting orders to 1C Advanced Dive School at the end of the year.

As Petrea continues to advance in his career so does his siblings as they are both practicing registered nurses back in Texas.

"My siblings are thankful, proud and are anxiously awaiting my return home to Texas," said Petrea. "I will most likely have to return to Galveston or Corpus Christi for my retirement because I'm not sure I could survive without salt water so we will see."

"THE RESERVES GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE WITH MY CIVILIAN CAREER AND ALSO CONTINUE TO HAVE ADVENTURES AS A NAVY DIVER ABROAD."

STORY BY: MC1 HARRY ANDREW D. GORDON



Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Nathan Taylor is a native of Grindstone, Pennsylvania and is currently assigned to the “Fighting Saints” of Fighter Squadron Composite (VFC) 13 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nevada.

“I was 24 when I decided to join the Navy,” said Taylor. “Pretty much everybody in my family served in the armed forces in one way or another.”

Taylor had initially considered enlisting to serve in the military following his high school graduation but ultimately decided it wasn’t the right time. Years later, the opportunity for service once again piqued his interest.

“I’d been working at a factory in Jamestown, New York,” said Taylor. “They ended up laying a bunch of people off. I wasn’t going to get that job back, and I thought, ‘You know what? I’ve been putting this off, and maybe it’s time.’”

Taylor explained that in his area, the recruiters of all branches of the military were in a central location with respective offices.

“I went to the recruiting center and the Navy recruiters were there,” said Taylor. “I’d been deciding between the Navy and the Air Force at that time, and the Navy recruiters were the ones there in the office.”

From there, Taylor’s Navy career began in aviation.

NATHAN TAYLOR

RATING: PS2 **LOCATION: FALLON, NV** **COMMAND: VFC-13**

“I joined in 2015 as a Naval Aircrewman Mechanical (AWF),” said Taylor. “I went through most of the syllabus. I was at [Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 53] at Andrews Air Force Base. I ended up doing a conversion to personnel specialist (PS) in 2017.”

Taylor then explained his first command as a PS, Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Allentown, Penn., which has since been closed, and how it helped prepare him for his current role.

“It was a good little place, and I learned a lot in my three years there,” Taylor reminisced. “I didn’t end up going to PS ‘A’ school, so I learned on the job. I learned everything I could at that command, and then I came here to VFC-13.”

VFC-13 is a Navy Reserve squadron that provides adversary support to the fleet. The squadron’s aircraft are painted to resemble those of an adversary, and its aviators play the role of the aggressor, flying against Navy pilots for combat training.

“We have top-notch performers,” said Taylor. “From our lowest ranks to our commanding officer, they’re really sharp. They know their stuff.”

Taylor said he’s proud of his work supporting VFC-13’s aviators while they carry out the mission.

“When they’re up in the air, they can’t be worrying about their pay, life insurance, etc.,” said Taylor. “Being able to help them have a clear mind by taking the worries of that administrative burden and eliminating them is really rewarding.”

Taylor explained that the best part of working at VFC-13 is the dynamic of the “Fighting Saints” team.

“People here are amazing, treat each other well, and I get nothing but respect from the people above me,” said Taylor. “The trust is given when the trust is earned here, and I know that my work is valued.”

He added that the squadron has a strong culture of mentorship, which he’s benefitted from throughout his time there.

Despite feeling confident in his work as a PS, Taylor remains eager to continue honing his craft.

“It took a lot to get to where I am today,” he said. “I still don’t know everything; there’s no way to. I’ll always be learning.”

"I'LL ALWAYS BE LEARNING."

STORY BY: MCC CHELSEA MILBURN



Have you ever had the dream of being in a game with 10 seconds left on the clock? Time continues to count down as if in slow motion. You’re passed the ball. You shoot. The final buzzer sounds. You score!

Gunner’s Mate 3rd Class Brittany Ommen, a native of Arlington, Wa., had the opportunity to live that dream. Ommen, a U.S. Navy Reserve Sailor attached to Navy Reserve Center, Kitsap, played in the Armed Forces Basketball Championship Tournament in Fort Moore, Ga. for the Navy women’s team last fall.

“I have been playing basketball since the 5th grade,” said Ommen. “I played all through high school and 2 years of college. Playing basketball for the Navy is an honor and my goal before every game is to bring home the gold trophy and put it where it belongs in OUR HOUSE!”

Ommen started her military career as a chef in the Air Force stationed in Colorado Springs for 4 years. She missed home and her family so she decided to transition out of the Air Force and into the Navy Reserve to be closer to home yet still serve.

“Knowing the military had Armed Forces sports teams was one reason I joined the military in the first place,” said Ommen. “Serving in the Navy Reserve gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream, stay close to home, and also represent the Navy.”

Military tradition runs deep in the Ommen’s family. Two of her brothers serve in the Air Force and Army which put bragging rights on the line during this tournament.

BRITTANY OMMEN

RATING: GM3 **LOCATION: KITSAP, WA** **COMMAND: NRC KITSAP**

Her father is also a retired Navy Chaplain who swore her into enlistment at Naval Station Everett.

“Being a part of the Navy Reserve gives me a sense of purpose that makes me feel like I can still help my country and defend the constitution that America is built on,” said Ommen. “My family is proud of my dedication to the military but especially my dad because he loves the Navy.”

Ommen’s biggest fan is her husband who is proud of her Naval service but also athletic achievements.

“My husband is a huge supporter of my decision to join the Navy Reserve and go represent in this tournament,” said Ommen. “We talk before every game and he gives me an added motivation to do my best.”

The tournament features men’s and women’s teams from all branches. The teams compete until one branch is crowned the Armed Forces Basketball Champion.

“This tournament has been very high energy and every branch comes into the game wanting that gold medal,” said Ommen. “Competition is hard and you don’t have room for error. You have to bring your best and be resilient, something being in the military has taught me. The game is never over until the last buzzer sounds.”

Ommen is living her dream of playing basketball for the Navy Women’s Team. She realizes she only had that opportunity by serving in the Navy Reserve and wants other athletes to know it could be a dream they could live too.

“Advice I would give someone who wants to play sports for the All-Navy team is that if you don’t try then you cheat yourself out of an opportunity to represent the Navy, acquire better skills at your sport, and experience competition at a very high level,” said Ommen. “Give yourself a chance, don’t cut yourself short. Have confidence to try!”

“SERVING IN THE NAVY RESERVE GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL MY DREAM, STAY CLOSE TO HOME & ALSO REPRESENT THE NAVY.”

STORY BY: MC1 HARRY ANDREW D. GORDON

RESERVE SAILOR OF THE YEAR

FC1 John Clements was announced as the 2023 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY), in a ceremony, May 17.

FC1 Clements from St. Augustine, Florida, assigned to Commander Naval Surface Group Southeast DET B, was selected from a group of five finalists as the fiscal year 2023's top Reserve enlisted Sailors during a ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Navy located at the Navy Yard, Washington, DC.

The finalists competed for selection as the Reserve Sailor of the Year during an interview board held from 13–17 May 2024 in the Nation's Capital. During the week, finalists met with senior leadership, toured the Pentagon, the National Mall, the Navy Memorial, the National Archives and enjoyed fellowship with their Shipmates.

As a result of Clement's selection, he will be recommended to the Chief of Naval Personnel for meritorious advancement to the rank of chief petty officer per OPNAVINST 1700.10P, Navy Sailor of the Year Program.

The additional 2023 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year finalists were:

YN1 Matthew Fields, Mobilization and Deployment Support Command.

AT1(AW) Paul Laughlin, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron FIVE NINE.

MM1(SS) Matthew Lipscomb, Surge Main Everett

IS1 Sinclair Sandoval, Office of Naval Intelligence Warfare Intelligence Center Alameda.

Ceremony hosts Vice Adm. (Ret) Mustin, and Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Tracy L. Hunt were joined by 2022 Navy Reserve Sailor of The Year, Chief Lewis McClintock.

Leading up to the ceremony, a team of senior enlisted leaders chaired by Force Hunt conducted a rigorous selection process and ultimately made the recommendation for the finalist to the Chief of Navy Reserve, Commander Navy Reserve Force.

According to Hunt, making the final choice was no easy task and the margin for the selection of a winner was razor-thin.

"Choosing one Sailor was no small feat," said Hunt. "You should all be proud of your accomplishments. In the Olympic games, the difference between winning gold and silver may be fractions of a second, and the same can be said for selecting one of you as our Sailor of the Year."

The individual competitiveness and sustained superior performance of each Sailor will ultimately serve to strengthen the Navy Reserve Force for years to come.

After the announcement, the newly minted Reserve Sailor of the Year talked about the importance of the support he's received from his family, mentors and junior Sailors.

"Without them I wouldn't be here," said Clements, addressing family and friends directly.. "Thank you for your unwavering support since day one..... They've pushed me, they've driven me and they've made me the best version of myself so that I can be here today...."

I am proud to serve, and I look forward as a chief petty officer to continuing our Navy's primary mission of warfighting readiness."

Late Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jack Whittet initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The program was later expanded to honor the top Shore and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.

NAVY RESERVE SPACE COMMAND

STORY BY CDR JENNIFER FRANCO
SPACE CADRE, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION LEAD



The Navy Reserve Navy Space Command Headquarters (NR NAVSPACE HQ), located at Fort Meade, Md, solidifies a professional pathway for multi-domain warfighting capabilities and provides standing Reserve forces who serve as warfare qualified technical space experts. The establishment of NR NAVSPACE HQ is historic and timely in keeping pace with training, and aligning Reserve Sailors to engage with the fleets, as needed, with relevant Space capabilities.

"We need a Reserve Space community to support the Maritime Operation Centers and at the COCOM level. The problem with how we've mobilized is that it is based on a specific designator or community," said Capt. Jake Schmitter, Reserve Space Domain Lead. "To avoid losing this required capability, we needed to organize and align with the active-duty space professionals as a managed community that will be dedicated to the MOC Space Cells and the Joint Space fight."

Each service branch within the Department of Defense has space equities to enable space capabilities to all warfighting domains. To effectively work with the U.S. Space Command, functional combatant command (COCOM), It is vital for Navy warfighters to understand the Space environment and how threats to Space capabilities can degrade their combat systems, and for warfighters to mitigate those threats.

"The establishment of NR NAVSPACE HQ is a powerful demonstration that the Navy is committing to advocacy for its Space capabilities," said Capt. Aaron Klein, the Commanding Officer for NR NAVSPACE HQ. "This pool of warfare qualified space experts provides significant capacity and organizational resiliency and is a fleet enabler."

The U.S. Space Force was established as the sixth military branch, but it does not negate the need for Space professionals across all service branches to support Combatant Commanders nor does it ensure equities for our nation's other warfighting services as they leverage Space-based capabilities. Between the summer of 2018 and the summer of 2020, several military exercises demonstrated that winning against the People's Republic of China required a staff with greater knowledge of the Space environment and capabilities, and the ability to maintain Space superiority. In response to lessons learned, Navy Leadership modified the MOC Standardization Guide to integrate Information Warfare and Space into each of its 10 Fleet MOCs.

"Traditionally, we have looked at one Navy Space Program, encompassing both acquisition and Operations," said

Rear Adm. Eric Ruttenberg, Reserve Director of Maritime Operations at U.S. Pacific Fleet, during a recent change of command ceremony held at NR NAVSPACE HQ. "As we continue to build out the structure for Space billets in the MOC...our ability to reach across communities as well as experience will be critical to the success of the Fleet Commander."

The coordination and alignment of forces to provide Space capabilities did not occur in a vacuum. Standing up NR NAVSPACE HQ has been long in the making.

"Space, along with the other Information Warfare domains, as a warfighting capability has been evolving as a standing requirement for the past several years, and the Navy Reserve is dedicated towards integrating these capabilities to enable the Fleet MOCs," said Klein.

"If someone has a desire to learn about space operations... we encourage those SELRES to join the Navy Reserve Space Cadre community. The Fleet needs qualified Space Cadre subject matter experts who can advocate and apply space-based capabilities to the maritime domain," said Schmitter. "There are many opportunities to be learn and grow Navy Reserve space operations regardless of designator. The VS Additional Qualification Duty (AQD) enables Reservists to remain within their designators while gaining operationally important Space domain knowledge, experience, and warfare qualifications."

NR NAVSPACECOM HQ supports developing, integrating, and conducting full-spectrum space domain operations as the Navy service component to United States Space Command, in concert with coalition, joint, inter-agency, and other partners. COMNAVSPACECOM advocates for the Fleet to obtain space capabilities in support of maritime operations, establishes requirements for training and integration of space capabilities, and provides space planning and operations expertise to the Fleet. For Reservists interested in becoming Navy Space Cadre, please contact the Navy Reserve Space Cadre Advisor. For more information, view: https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/cnifr/N9/Space_Cadre/Pages/default.aspx

i3 WAYPOINTS 2024

Every groundbreaking innovation ignites from a spark-- a moment, an experience, or an encounter that compels us to challenge the norm.

Cmdr. Erik A.H. Sand's Automated Alerts for SELRES Gains and Losses program innovation came directly from experience leading Reserve units. "My idea came from a hole that I saw that could be filled in what was often a frustrating process for Navy Reserve unit leadership," said the Lake Elmo, Minnesota native.

Cmdr. Sand was announced as the winning entry of the third annual i3 Waypoints competition in a streaming broadcast July 25, 2024.

i3 Waypoints was launched to harness the ideas of Sailors who accomplish challenging tasks each day with their innovation and creativity, to fast-track transformative ideas from across the Navy directly to the highest levels of the Reserve force, without filters, administrative friction, or bureaucratic barriers along the way, and to accelerate the aggressive transformation of the Navy Reserve as a key Warfighting-Ready component of the nation's defense architecture.

Cmdr. Sand, a Selected Reserves Sailor currently attached to Navy Reserve Center (NRC) New London, in Connecticut, is an Assistant Professor in the Strategic and Operational Department at the renowned U.S. Naval War College.

Sand initially conceptualized his idea after continually experiencing an administrative disconnect in the process of Sailors reporting to and detaching from NRC units when the gaining and losing commands wouldn't know about Sailors arrival or departure until it was too late.

"I can't tell you how many times I've had a Sailor assigned or detached to my unit without anyone knowing about it. When I was on active duty, we would get a naval message every time a Sailor received orders to or from our command. I thought a similar notification could help with a lot of frustration in the Reserve Force."

It wasn't just about trying to win the competition for Sand. It was about "trying to grab some 'low hanging fruit' that could improve the functioning of Reserve units and lives of Reserve Sailors," he said. "I was less concerned about winning and mostly just wanted to try and make my idea happen. Winning was gratifying, but mostly I'm excited about the chance to help implement this improvement."

i3 Waypoints is an approach to inventing: innovating something entirely new; improving upon something already established; or integrate several ideas, products or processes rendering the former completely obsolete.

Now in its third iteration, the i3 Waypoints competition has garnered more than 230 total submissions. However this year, only five final entries were subsequently chosen and presented to a panel this summer.

The impressive and highly qualified panelists included, 15th Chief of Navy Reserve, Commander Navy Reserve Force Command, John B. Mustin, Cmdr. Ernest K. Jessop, who's application "Reserve Artificial Intelligence Navigator (RAIN)" was the winning entry

of i3 Waypoints 2023, and is now in operation at MNHR.mil, Mr. Bruce E. Mosler, Chairman, Global Brokerage of Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., Command Master Chief Nicole C. Rios, Command Master Chief of Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, and Chief Fire Controlman John A. Clements, the 2023 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year.

The large number of creative, thoughtful strategic ideas submitted in a relatively short timeframe far exceeded the judge's original expectations. The eager participation demonstrates the Reserve Force's commitment to innovate, improve efficiencies, and reduce administrative burdens, allowing Sailors to focus on warfighting readiness – the Navy Reserve Force's one and only priority.



CMDR
ERIK A.H.
SAND
AUTOMATED ALERTS FOR
SELRES GAINS AND LOSSES

NAVY RESERVE CHAPLAIN HOTLINE

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Lancaster, PA
Permit #299



new number. same compassion, accessible care & support
100% confidential | 100% of the time