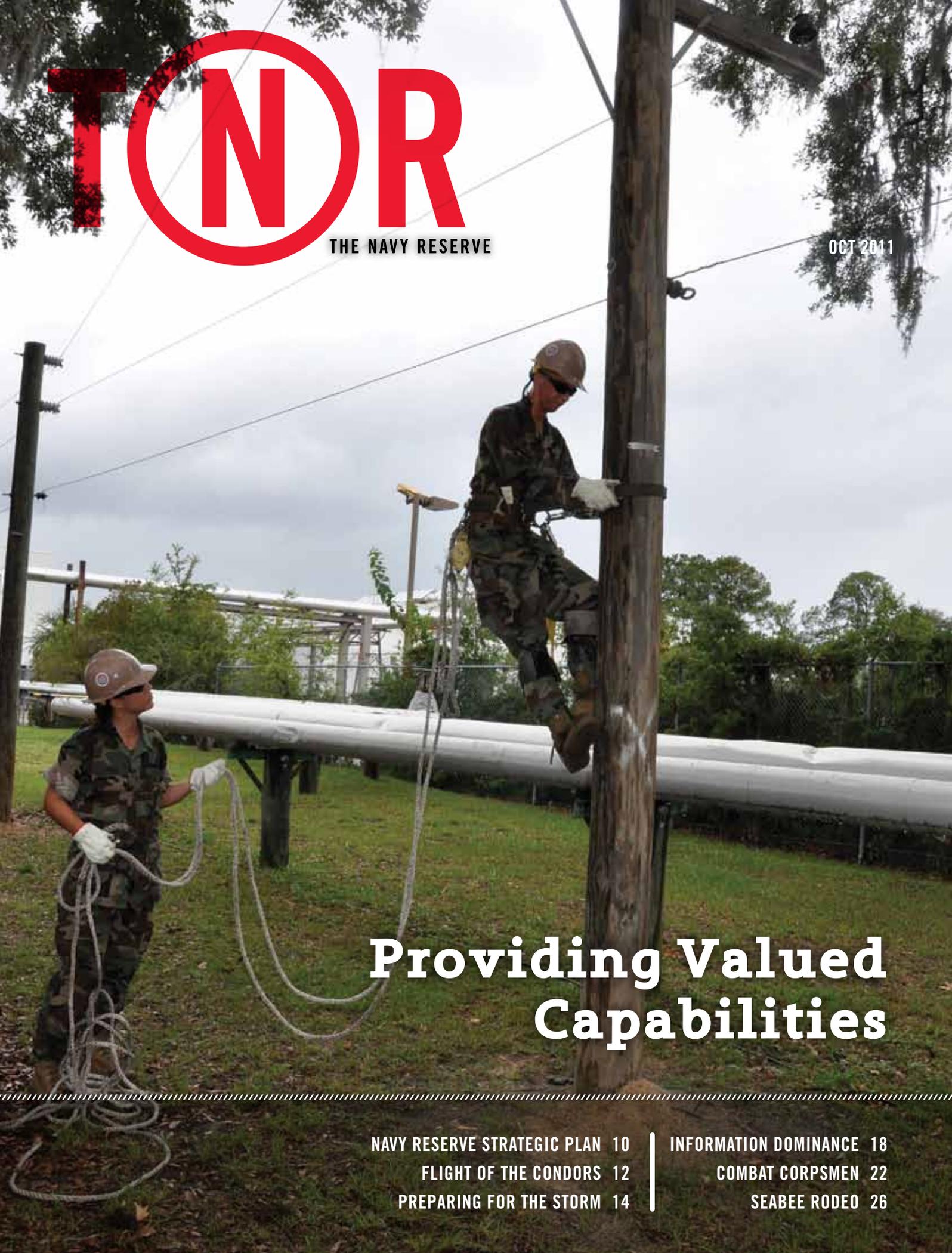


TNR

THE NAVY RESERVE

OCT 2011



Providing Valued Capabilities

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Ready Now!



Flying 11 miles high for more than 30 hours, remotely-operated BAMS aircraft represent a new capability the Navy Reserve is ideally suited to support.

Volume 3, Issue 10

Capabilities for the Future Force

October 2011

Shipmates,

As we start the new fiscal year, our Navy Total Force is globally engaged as our Nation faces continued threats to peace and stability abroad and challenging economic times at home.

Our duty as Reserve Component Sailors is clear: While continuing to deliver a ready and accessible force in a cost-effective manner for today's missions, the Navy Reserve must be innovative and agile in providing valued capabilities for the future force. Fortunately, innovation and agility – the ability to quickly change how we organize and operate – are two of the defining characteristics of the Navy Reserve!

We are particularly well-suited to provide capabilities that are periodic and predictable in nature, or that the Navy must be able to scale quickly. The Navy Reserve is cost-effective in all cases: roughly cost-neutral when employed full-time and highly affordable when used less than full-time. The Navy Reserve can produce as many as seven ready and accessible Selected Reserve Sailors when needed for the cost of a single full-time Sailor held in strategic reserve.

The Navy Reserve provides cost-effective options to carry out new roles as the Navy balances future Total Force requirements, risks and costs. We have demonstrated throughout our history, and in the last decade in particular, that we are a trusted partner in both peace and war, capable of taking on both **existing** missions currently performed by the Active Component and completely **new** missions based on new technology.

One such capability is the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance system, or BAMS. BAMS aircraft are launched and recovered in theater but operated remotely by pilots and sensor operators in the United States. As the need for BAMS support varies with world events, Navy Reserve Sailors can scale from part-time to full-time, providing valued capabilities exactly when needed, then scaling back to part-time status until needed again.

Other new platforms, systems and partnerships offer exciting opportunities for RC Sailors to serve in the future force. Mine Countermeasures (MCM) modules for Littoral Combat Ships, the Phased Adaptive Approach for ballistic missile defense, Security Force Assistance teams, C2 centers and cyber warfare operations are all capabilities where the Navy Reserve should play an important role in the next decade.

Navy Reserve Sailors have a proud tradition of adapting to new missions, technologies and systems. We bring innovation from our civilian jobs, and we're eager to be involved with new and challenging missions. It's a win-win situation for both the Navy and our Reserve Sailors: the Sailors get to do real and meaningful work and the Navy gets the talent they need while making every dollar count.

We are truly fortunate to have the opportunity to serve our Navy and our Nation at this particular time. Now and in the future, we have the rare privilege to provide valued capabilities to our Navy while living up to the spirit of our Navy Reserve Force Motto: Ready Now – Anytime, Anywhere!

VADM Dirk Debbink
Chief of Navy Reserve

FORCM (AW) Chris Wheeler
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief



TNR

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Chief, Navy Reserve
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The Navy Reserve is always looking for good action photos of Navy Reservists (minimum 300 dpi) that tell a story of Reserve training or support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph, including their respective rating, rank and command. Photos should also include a visual information record identification number or VIRIN. Information about VIRINs is available online at www.mediacen.navy.mil/vi/virin.htm. Submissions should be received eight weeks prior to publication month (i.e. October 1st for the December issue). Material will not be returned.

NEWS ONLINE ... The Navy Reserve current and past issues can be accessed online at <http://navyreserve.navy.mil>. Navy Reserve News Stand, a Web site featuring Navy Reserve news and photos, plus links to Navy fleet pages, can be viewed at www.news.navy.mil/local/nrf.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ... Selected Reservists with address changes need to provide updates to the NSIPS (Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System) via their NOSC Personnel Office.

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COVER PHOTO: Seabees in the construction electrician rate performed in-rate testing during the sixth annual Seabee Rodeo held at Naval Air Station Jacksonville July 6 through 10. Builder Constructionman Patricia Carter (standing) feeds a rope to Construction Electrician Constructionman Kevin Conner who climbed the electrical pole to change out the fuse at the top of the pole. Both Seabees are with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24. Photo by Kathi Holder, NAVFAC Southeast.

Letter from the Editor



Readers,

I noticed something this month while I was working on a few other projects and simultaneously putting together TNR. I noticed how much of the work coming across my desk really shows how the Navy Reserve is a cost-effective force. I run across examples of our cost effectiveness every day. I look at our Seabees as one of those examples. I think of all the Reserve Seabees who work in the construction industry in their civilian jobs. Every day they are learning about their trade, which in turn means Navy training can focus in other areas. The same can probably be said about our doctors and corpsman who work in the medical field as civilians. The list can go on and on.

Another way I see the Navy Reserve provides valued capabilities is with its ability to respond quickly to short term military needs. Recently when Hurricane Irene hit the East Coast the Reserve team of Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison officers went to work. I think this program is an ideal use of a part-time force. Reservists make it so staffing for emergencies only happens when needed, by moving in to affected areas, taking care of business, then going back home

In closing, TNR is always looking for YOUR stories. Next time you go on an exercise, do remarkable work supporting contingency operations, or do some interesting training keep TNR in mind. Send your photos and stories to NWOR_TNR@navy.mil or ideally, give me a call prior to the evolution to discuss what we are looking for.

Enjoy this month's TNR.

Sincerely,
Jim



Jim Vorndran
Editor-in-chief
The Navy Reserve Magazine

GETTING IT TO THE SAILOR

To the Cloud

Written by Information Systems Technician 2nd Class CARLOS FABIAN



The fundamental mission of the Navy Reserve is “to provide mission capable units and individuals to the Navy and Marine Corps team throughout the full range of operations from peace to war.” The tools used to fulfill that mission continue to evolve. Information technology (IT) systems provide us the means to process and store information, and enable collaboration across the force. The Navy Reserve includes members who work at Navy Operational Support Centers, deploy with a unit, or perhaps work between drill weekends at their residence. Because of this, solutions are required to be flexible.

Background: Mission requirements compete with budget constraints for IT purchasing dollars. Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) reviews opportunities for cost savings by consolidating infrastructure periodically, such as our legacy network shut down in 2010.

The Solution: CNRFC transitioned from traditional computer room servers to virtualized “cloud computing” for the new Navy Reserve Homeport. Before that transition, each server required considerable room in equipment shelves. When additional memory, disk storage, or computing power was required, the upgrades were available for only that specific server. In addition, the upgrade process resulted in service down time and numerous purchases for the primary and back-up computer rooms.

Paradigm Change: Now, system administrators can add or remove memory, disk, and computing power resources as needed. This provides CNRFC a flexible solution using virtualized servers that operate as a “cloud.” Simple web

pages with clickable web links provide the interface for users to access online databases and document libraries. The data center purchases large quantity of disk, system processor and memory capability. In turn, CNRFC buys fractions of these resources for use in the computer servers. Back-up data centers can be configured and mirror the primary data center. This provides a safety net in the event of fire or other disaster.

The cloud's groups of servers are upgradable by way of software changes, and managed by a full-time data center team. The Navy Reserve will save substantial operating costs as compared to traditional server implementation. In a related news article posted at Defensesystems.com, Cmdr. Michael Leachman who was then the information assurance officer in CNRFC noted, “By not having to maintain the legacy infrastructure we are saving \$100,000 each month, and that the migration will ensure a more secure environment mainly because of virtualization and common access card login requirement.”

Conclusion/Way Forward: To minimize hardware purchases costs, computer server virtualization will be the way forward for IT. Computer servers will be reconfigured as memory, storage, and computing power needs change. Software will be purchased as a service from the computer centers, reducing the need for CNRFC to purchase and maintain libraries of software licenses. This will simplify IT service management. As more IT solutions move to the cloud, the computing power of the central servers will increase, while the requirements for the desktop systems should correspondingly decrease. In addition, our end users should notice an increasingly robust Navy Reserve Homeport over the course of the next year as we continue to bring online upgrades.

LEADERSHIP

A Cost Effective Force

Written by Cmdr. STEPHEN P. FERRIS

The Navy Reserve is an important component of the Navy's Total Force because of its numbers, but also because of its cost effectiveness. When a Navy Reservist is mobilized, it is for specified period of time to accomplish a particular mission or task. Reservists don't remain on the Navy payroll once the mission is accomplished. Leadership can directly contribute to the cost effectiveness of the Navy Reserve and its value to the Navy Total Force through the careful management of unit training and personnel programs.

Leverage Existing Assets: Leaders should strive to make use of active duty training materials, facilities and equipment. This approach to training has two distinct advantages for the Navy. First, it develops familiarity with the processes and equipment the Reservist will encounter on active duty. This helps Reservists train as they will fight. Second, it contributes to the cost effectiveness of the Navy Reserve since the training employs existing assets and doesn't require new resources.

Retain Personnel: A unit's current Sailors represent a significant investment by the Navy in training, travel and education. When skilled Sailors leave the Navy these costly investments are lost. Leadership must encourage the reenlistment of its trained Sailors so the Navy can continue to use their talents in support of its global mission. When fully trained Sailors leave the Navy, replacements must be recruited and trained.

Continuum of Service: Although official policies have not yet been developed, the Navy recognizes the need for variable service options for its Sailors which could include periods of

intermission from active duty. The intent of such policies would be to help the Navy retain its valued Sailors. Leadership needs to become aware of what can be done with existing policies and waivers to help Sailors respond to family or personal issues that might require some time away from the Navy. Creative and proactive leadership can help the Navy keep a strong performer while allowing service members the time they need to manage their affairs.

Use of Members' Civilian Skills: Reservists possess an abundance of civilian experiences and skills that can be valuable in the performance of Navy Reserve duties. Leadership should consider the wealth of training expertise resident within its own unit. The careful use of unique civilian skills of unit personnel can accelerate training, reduce travel costs and enhance unit esprit. Their use represents an effective way of stretching training dollars and contributes to the cost effectiveness of the Navy Reserve.

Identify Support Opportunities: Leadership needs to promote the abilities of its unit personnel throughout the command and elsewhere. The key to effective mission accomplishment is getting the right people to the right place at the right time. Leadership can identify missions or Navy needs that can be served by personnel from its own unit. By being actively involved in monitoring annual training, active duty training, and mobilization opportunities, unit leadership can make important contributions to the delivery of cost effective solutions by the Navy Reserve. Such efforts will only further enhance the selection of the Navy Reserve as the force of first choice for missions requiring the often unique military-civilian skill set of the Reservist.



CULTURE OF FITNESS

All Eyes on You

Written by Personnel Specialist Chief (AW) CHAD HELMS

Through the years, the Navy has seen many changes in our mission requirements, filling billets many of us never thought we would support. Boots on the ground did not seem a reality for the Navy. Our Full Time Support and Selected Reserve Sailors are participating in missions that support global and joint efforts worldwide. In doing so, it is our duty to be at peak physical readiness at all times.

All eyes on you! This is a statement I want to bring home. From the most junior seaman to the most senior officer, shipmates are watching. They are motivated by your efforts.

We represent a diversity of culture like no other organization in the world. We pride ourselves on the creativity and ideas our people have to offer. You may ask where you fit into this equation. That's easy! Show up loud and proud at physical training. We all have something to offer. Whether you are a Chief Petty Officer who enjoys the camaraderie or a seaman apprentice who wants to be part of something bigger, everyone matters.

The Navy's culture of fitness requires a consistent commitment by each Sailor to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This lifestyle directly affects many aspects of our lives. The National Center for Health has been tracking America's obesity problem for more than four decades. The following statistics support the growing concern regarding the obesity problem in America: Between 1962 and 2000, the number

of obese Americans grew from 13 percent to an alarming 31 percent. Sixty-three percent of Americans are overweight with a Body Mass Index (BMI) in excess of 25.0.

Childhood obesity in the United States has more than tripled in the past two decades.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General Report, obesity is responsible for 300,000 deaths every year (American Sports Data, Inc January, 2004).

Ask yourself if you are ready for the challenge. If you are put into a position where other lives depend on you, will you be ready? All eyes are on you!



TRAVEL SMART



Travel Assistance

Written by Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) AUDREY JENNINGS

The Navy Reserve is the first Reserve component in history to implement the Defense Travel System (DTS). In April, we completed DTS implementation throughout the force. DTS includes the ability for members to make their own travel arrangements, including flights, hotels and rental cars. DTS has a faster turnaround time for payment of vouchers, which is typically three to five days after the voucher has final approval. However, the following reasons can prevent vouchers from being processed in a timely manner:

- Missing records to substantiate travel claims in the DTS trip record. Records needed include endorsed NROWS orders, final SATO itinerary (ticketed), all lodging expenses (itemized daily), rental car receipt and, all original receipts for individual reimbursable expenses of \$75 or more. For travel outside the continental United States, the currency conversion rate must be supplied.
- Reserve Sailors ordered to a U. S. installation (as opposed to a geographic location like a town or city) need to provide a certificate of non-availability (CNA) if lodging is not provided by the government.
- Claiming expenses that are not authorized on the NROWS orders. Some types include laundry, haircuts, rental cars and prepayment of gas.
- Not attaching the reimbursement letter (CNRFCINST 1571.1 series appendix 4, Guidance for Ticket Reimbursement) when an airline ticket is purchased without prior approval from N33.

Keep Your DTS Profile Up to Date

If your DTS profile does not match your NROWS profile, the voucher will be rejected in DTS. (This can happen with use of a middle name or a maiden name). Also, it is important you ensure that your, home address, and government travel charge card (GTCC) information is current in your DTS profile. If this information is not kept up to date, travel reimbursements may be affected. You should periodically check your profiles in order to update other information like rank, organization, phone number, emergency contact and other traveler information.

When should I update my profile?

- When your GTCC expires or is reissued.
- After a permanent change of station PCS.
- When receiving a promotion/or getting a new job.

Steps for Updating Your Profile Information in DTS

1. From your DTS homepage (after login), hover over "Traveler Setup" on the top menu bar and select "Update Personal Profile".
2. On the "My Profile" screen, click on each section to verify your information (My Preferences, My Additional Information, My TSA Information, My Account Information).
3. Save changes, then select the Update Personal Information button at the bottom of the screen.

As a reminder: DTS currently cannot support orders, other appropriations and back-to-back orders. In addition, when you submit authorizations using DTS you must complete and submit travel vouchers through DTS upon completion of travel. There is no need to file with a servicing personal support detachment. If the member requires assistance with DTS, first contact your unit/command. If they are unable to help you should contact the NROWS/DTS help desk at (800) 537-4617, option 1.

PROFILE IN PROFESSIONALISM

We have many talented people in our Navy Reserve. Each month we highlight our stellar Sailors and some of the unique careers, skills and services they provide to the fleet. To nominate a Sailor, e-mail the editor, james.vorndran@navy.mil, for a submission form. Please include a high-resolution (300 dpi) 5"x7" digital photo of the candidate.



Dean T. Hutchinson
AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN 3RD CLASS

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.

NOSC: Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans

Unit: Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 54

Brief description of your Navy job: I am currently assigned to the maintenance training shop. We support all other maintenance shops through proper functioning and operation of support equipment, perform scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, and launch and recover three C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Brief description of your civilian job: For the last year: I have been a stay-at-home parent supporting my wife, Krista, with her military career. She is a captain in the Air Force and works as a physical therapist.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? Being selected as the honor graduate from my boot camp division; being advanced to third class petty officer following completion of "C" school; being selected as Reserve Reveler of the Quarter in my first nine months at VR-54.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy? My wife, Krista. She is such a driven person and

always tries to raise the bar as high as possible. She is a tremendous example of work ethic and perseverance. She encourages and supports me to achieve the highest level in everything I do.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy? I have really enjoyed the camaraderie, as well as, getting to know many new people with different backgrounds over the past two years. There is such a wealth of knowledge and experience in today's Navy Reserve, and I'm trying to soak up as much of it as I can.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy? Downtown New Orleans on a weekend. I think it might just be the U.S. capital of "weird and unusual," but it is such an amazing place to just sit and people watch. You never know what you are going to see.

Current hobbies: I enjoy playing softball. I tried out and made the Keesler AFB softball team and played nearly 75 games this summer in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Also, coaching is a passion of mine. It is such a joy to teach young kids and be a positive influence and role model for them.



Shalima L. Cook
AVIATION MAINTENANCE ADMINISTRATIONMAN 1ST CLASS

Hometown: Clinton, Miss.

NOSC: Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans

Unit: Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 54

Brief description of your Navy job: I am a logs and records supervisor and Naval aviation logistics command management information system data analyst.

Brief description of your civilian job: Dispatcher in Ambassador Services (patient transport) at University of Mississippi Medical Center. I manage and evaluate a staff of 12 personnel, providing feedback regarding call performance and training requirements.

What has been your greatest Navy achievement? Being requested to supervise and train a logs and records clerk before a major wing audit. Due to the success of my team during that audit, I was awarded my first Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

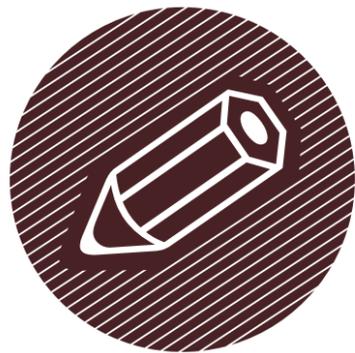
Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy? Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class (AW) Melinda Cooper. We were the same rank and approximately the same age, and I quickly learned that my one-size-fits-all approach for leading wouldn't work. Now, I take the time to learn who my people are as individuals and what motivates them to succeed. I then try to tie their goals with our overall mission.

What do you enjoy most about the Navy? I love being surrounded by professionals who continually challenge each other to excel at whatever they do.

Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy? Rota, Spain. The culture, food and people are amazing. I was stationed in Rota for almost three years. That is the one place I would love to take my family to visit.

Current hobbies: I love to read books about personal finance and investing.

NOTABLE



Reserve LDO/ CWO Programs

Written by Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) MARIA YAGER
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Navy is seeking applications from highly qualified Reserve Sailors in pay grades E-6 through E-9 for the fiscal year 2013 Navy Reserve Limited Duty Officer (LDO) and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) programs.

“Limited duty officers and chief warrant officers bring a variety of experience and perspective into the wardroom from their enlisted service,” said Capt. Victor Cooper, head Reserve officer community manager, Bureau of Naval Personnel. “The LDO/CWO career paths are intended to provide technical and leadership opportunities to enhance a Sailor’s ability to contribute to the Navy.”

The Reserve LDO and CWO programs have designators in the surface, intelligence, aviation, administration, security, supply, special warfare and civil engineer communities.

The programs give Reserve Sailors the opportunity to serve in a variety of leadership billets within their technical fields, ranging from division officer to commanding officer ashore.

Eligibility requirements for selected Reserve Sailors (SELRES) to apply for the Reserve LDO program include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9 or an E-6 who has passed the E-7 advancement exam. SELRES personnel must have completed at least eight, but not more than 16 years of total qualifying federal service as of Oct. 1.

Eligibility requirements for SELRES to apply for the Reserve CWO program include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9. SELRES personnel must have completed at least 12, but not more than 22 years of total qualifying federal service as of Oct. 1.

These programs do not require applicants to have a college degree. Applications must be postmarked no later than Nov. 1, 2011.

Eligible Sailors should apply for the designator for which they are most qualified, regardless of their current rating.

Complete application procedures, eligibility requirements and links to other resources can be found in NAVADMIN 226/11, available on the Navy Personnel Command website at www.npc.navy.mil.

“LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS AND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS BRING A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE AND PERSPECTIVE INTO THE WARDROOM FROM THEIR ENLISTED SERVICE,” SAID CAPT. VICTOR COOPER.



Navy Reserve Variable Participation Unit

If you want to serve in the Navy Reserve, but are unable to provide the standard time commitment (generally two days a month plus two weeks a year), the Variable Participation Unit (VPU) may be perfect for you. The program is designed for service members who want to be a part of the Navy Reserve force, but due to personal or professional obligations, can't commit to the traditional reserve time commitment. For VPU, your obligation can be from two to five days a year on active duty for training orders.

The VPU provides Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members with an alternate, part-time service option, and increases the strategic depth of the Navy Reserve by retaining members with experience, training, and critical skills who might otherwise choose to separate. The program is designed to maintain a pool of ready personnel with a desire to serve, but who are not able to

commit to the level of participation required as a Selected Reserve or Volunteer Training Unit (VTU) member.

This continuum of service initiative allows members to “Stay Navy” by providing flexibility and enabling members to serve at a time and frequency that their personal or professional obligations permit. VPU participants are IRR members and, like all IRR members, they are subject to involuntary recall to active duty in accordance with Federal law. VPU members may also volunteer for mobilization or other active duty opportunities.

As members of the IRR, VPU members are eligible for certain benefits and entitlements, such as Veterans’ Group Life Insurance eligibility; commissary, Navy Exchange, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation privileges; a Common Access Card; a Navy and Marine

Corps Intranet account; access to the Navy Reserve Homeport website; and an annual medical assessment to include vaccinations.

The Navy Reserve is currently looking for personnel with critical skills in the following ratings (BU, CE, CM, CT, EA, EO, EOD, FC, HM (NEC 8404), IT, IS, LS, MA, PS, RP, SB, SO, SW, UT, YN), designators (1835, 2105, 2905, 3105, 4105, 5105) and Additional Qualification Designators (BH0, BM1, BM2, BN2, BN4, BO3, BO4, BX1, JJ1, JP1, JP2, JP3, JPN, 247, JSA, JS1, JS2, JS4, JS5, JS7, JS8, J1C, J2C, J3C, J4C, J5C, J6C, LT2).

If you possess these skills and want to support your Navy and nation through the Navy Reserve VPU program, call (800) 535-2699 or email the IRR Force Management Division at IRR_Counselor@navy.mil for more information about this new and exciting program.

Ready Now: The Navy Reserve Strategic Plan for 2012

By Capt. Robert Durand, Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve

What would you do to make the Navy Reserve better?

For the fourth year since he became Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Admiral Dirk Debbink put that question to himself, his staff, and Navy Reserve leadership. A team gathered input and evaluated options. The resulting “to-do list” is known as Ready Now: The Navy Reserve Strategic Plan for 2012.

The goal of the strategic plan is simple: help the Navy Reserve accomplish our mission of providing strategic depth and operational support to the Navy and Marine Corps, and Joint Forces, from peace to war – while driving us toward our vision of being a provider of choice for essential naval warfighting capabilities. The plan is used to drive change in the Navy Reserve. Here’s a look at how the team put the plan together.

Focusing on the Fixable

Discussing things to change is easy; choosing what to do is the hardest part.

Starting in March, ideas were actively sought from across the Navy Reserve Force to help determine what to work on in 2012. The ideas were compiled, reviewed, and discussed with key Navy Reserve leadership to determine the most appropriate initiatives to explore. The team used the advice of author and productivity expert Stephen R. Covey to help make choices.

“In The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Covey recommends examining what you can do instead of focusing on worries over which you have no control,” said Captain Dwayne Baxter, Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve (OCNR) in Washington. “All the proposed initiatives were

things we cared about. We chose to focus on those things we have the ability to change, to concentrate efforts for maximum impact.”

Driving Change

The team also chose to focus on driving changes that cannot be achieved through ordinary business processes.

“Our Navy Reserve is full of talented Sailors and Department of the Navy Civilian employees, each working to make their part of the Navy better,” said Rear Admiral Buzz Little, Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command. “They are the subject-matter experts working every day to drive incremental improvement in our operations and processes. The initiatives process identified many improvements we could make in the course of our daily work.”

Friends in High Places

Some issues cannot be addressed through daily work alone – they require changes in Navy-wide or Department of Defense policies and procedures, and perhaps federal law.

“The Navy Reserve enjoys tremendous support from the CNO, Congress, DoD, and other important officials,” said Rear Admiral Bryan Cutchen, Deputy Chief of Navy Reserve. “Our Sailors earned this support, so we need to make sure that if we are asking for external assistance, it’s for things that truly matter and make a difference.”

In Focus and On Track

The strategic plan for 2012 features 9 key initiatives, grouped into three strategic focus areas: DELIVER a Ready and Accessible Force, PROVIDE Valued Capabilities, ENABLE the Continuum of Service. The 9 initiatives, grouped in these three focus areas, are designed to improve readiness, eliminate barriers to access, increase our capability and enable Sailors to serve our Navy across a lifetime.

To ensure initiatives stay on track and help further our Commander’s Intent, each initiative has a key officer responsible for developing an action plan and leading efforts to implement changes. Additionally, a Flag officer serves as the initiative’s “champion” to help provide guidance and remove barriers.

“From deckplate ideas to flag-level review, the team worked to ensure that we selected initiatives that we can accomplish, initiatives that will produce positive changes that would not have happened otherwise, and initiatives that require key external support to make them happen,” said Mr. Jim Grover, OCNR Deputy Director for Strategy. “Our 2012 Strategic Plan will help make our Navy Reserve the best it can be.”

“OUR NAVY RESERVE IS FULL OF TALENTED SAILORS AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, EACH WORKING TO MAKE THEIR PART OF THE NAVY BETTER,” SAID REAR ADMIRAL BUZZ LITTLE

READY NOW: THE NAVY RESERVE STRATEGIC PLAN - 2012

MISSION

The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to our Navy and Marine Corps team, and Joint forces, from peace to war.

VISION

Our vision for the Navy Reserve is to be a provider of choice for essential naval warfighting capabilities and expertise, strategically aligned with mission requirements and valued for our readiness, innovation, and agility to respond to any situation.

Strategic Focus Areas

DELIVER a Ready and Accessible Force	PROVIDE Valued Capabilities	ENABLE the Continuum of Service
DELIVER a Ready and Accessible Force Initiatives/Objectives		
Navy Reserve support for accessions.		Develop and execute a campaign plan to help achieve annual Navy Reserve Sailor accession goals.
Navy Mobilization Processing Sites (NMPS) Process Improvement.		Work with Navy stakeholder organizations to gain additional efficiencies in the NMPS process.
TRICARE coverage within the Continuum Of Service.		This initiative will prompt Sailors to make TRICARE election options when changing service status thereby avoiding unplanned lapses in coverage.
Mobile Computing Devices / Digital Seabag.		Empower Sailors by improving mobile access to Navy networks.
PROVIDE valued Capabilities Initiatives/Objectives		
Navy Reserve Operational Planner Requirements.		Assess the need for Navy Reserve Sailors as Planners on Combatant Commander, Joint and Navy Fleet staffs and after requirements are determined, assist with gaining billet designation and training resources.
Total Force Optimization.		This initiative will help make sure the right Sailor – Active or Reserve – is being used for the job, at the best cost.
Navy Reserve within NAE/SWE System development (a multi-year initiative from 2011).		UAS, LCS, and BMD are a fundamental part of future Naval warfare - this will chart the role Navy Reserve Sailors will play in the development and deployment of these important future weapons systems.
ENABLE the Continuum of Service Initiatives/Objectives		
Career Summary For Reserve Sailors.		Ensure Sailors obtain an accurate and complete summation of all military service upon retirement.
Navy Veteran Delayed Affiliation Program (NAVET DAP).		Establish a NAVET DAP to help retain high-performing Sailors who cannot affiliate with the Navy Reserve in the current fiscal year.



Flight of the Condors

Written by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class RON KUZLIK
FLEET LOGISTICS SUPPORT SQUADRON 64 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

▲ Members of Navy Reserve Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 84 (HSC-84) board a C-130T Hercules transport aircraft from the “Condors” of Fleet Logistics Squadron 64. The “Red Wolves” of HSC-84 were relocated to Burlington, Vt. from Naval Air Station Norfolk. U.S. Navy photo.

When Hurricane Irene came barreling up the East Coast in late August, the Condors of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 64 were tasked with moving personnel, their belongings, cargo, and even pets out of Irene’s path and back into position after the storm abated.

With Irene moving up the East Coast, the crew of two officers and five enlisted, flying a squadron C-130T Hercules transport aircraft under the call sign “Convoy 3947”, flew from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. to Naval Air Station (NAS) Norfolk.

By the numbers:

- People moved** 100
- Pets moved** 8
- Pounds of cargo** 12,750
- Flight hours** 17.4
- Number of landings** 9
- Mission length (in days)** 4

There, they loaded up 30 “Red Wolves” and 8,750 pounds of cargo from Navy Reserve Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 84 and relocated them to Burlington, Vt., away from the brunt of the storm.

Convoy 3947 then flew on to Lovell Field in Chattanooga, Tenn., and remained overnight.

The following morning, as Hurricane Irene continued its trek to the northeast, the C-130T flew from Chattanooga to West Palm Beach, Fla., and delivered its payload of 58 passengers (including three infants), eight pets in kennels, and cargo, back to the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center support base and downrange tracking station at Andros Island in the Bahamas.

The Condors then headed to NAS Jacksonville, Fla., 450 miles to the north.

On the final day of the mission, before returning to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, they flew back to Andros Island, this time carrying a dozen Sailors from the “Swamp Foxes” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74 along with 4,000 pounds of cargo. HSM-74 was tasked with multiple missions, including operations with the MK 54 anti-submarine warfare (ASW) torpedo.

Aircraft commander Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Garrett, Co-pilot Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Horlacher, Flight Engineer Naval Aircrewman 1st Class David Clark, Flight Engineer (trainee) Naval Aircrewman 1st Terry Allegood,

Load Master Naval Aircrewman 1st Class Wayne Patton, Second Load Master Naval Aircrewman 1st Class (NAC/AW) Joseph Logan, and Second Load Master Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class William Hunt flew 17.4 hours and landed nine times at multiple airports during the four-day mission.

As Second Loadmaster (2LM), Logan’s duties included assisting the Loadmaster during cargo onload and offload operations.

“As 2LM and loadmaster trainee, my duties are to ensure the comfort and safety of our passengers in flight, while boarding and unboarding our aircraft, and making sure they enter and exit the flight line in a safe and orderly manner. A 2LM is also responsible for ensuring the passengers are properly manifested, have valid identification documents and that customs and immigration forms are filled out correctly,” Logan said.

The missions of the Condors are never alike.

“The most challenging part of this or any mission is always being flexible and ready to adapt as the mission changes. Modifications or “MODs” happen regularly. Unforeseen maintenance issues even in-flight emergencies are not unheard of, but our sailors at VR-64 are always ready to adapt and demonstrate our Condor “Can Do” spirit.

Even during this mission, after the flight engineer brought a damaged tire to the attention of the aircraft commander, a replacement tire was

flown in by sister Reserve squadron VR-62 from NAS Jacksonville, Fla., and enlisted flight engineers and load masters quickly changed the damaged tire in Palm Beach before continuing their mission to Andros Island.

In his civilian job, Logan is an aircraft electrician for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Marietta, Ga., where he builds the electrical control and supply system for the C-130J Hercules aircraft.

“I’m proud to fly in the aircraft that were built by my company for the Navy and that I’m part of the team building the newer version for future aircrewman,” Logan said.

“The crew’s teamwork, persistence and technical skills enabled us to complete this mission despite the challenges we face,” aircraft commander Lt. Cmdr. Garrett said. “It’s one example of hundreds that highlight why VR-64 and Commander Fleet Logistics Support Wing Sailors are known to be the most responsive air logisticians among the services.”

Fleet Logistics Support Squadrons have no gaining command in the active component. These Reserve squadrons account for 100 percent of the medium and heavy-airlift capability of the Navy. They provide responsive, flexible, and rapidly deployable air logistics support required to sustain combat operations from the sea. During peacetime, they provide air logistics support for all Navy commands as well as provide continuous training for mobilization readiness.

▼ Second Loadmaster Naval Aircrewman (NAC/AW) Joe Logan provides a watchful eye as personnel from Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center are returned to Andros Island in the Bahamas following Hurricane Irene. U.S. Navy photo.



Preparing for the Storm

Written by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class MONIQUE K. HILLEY
 COMMANDER, NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



▲ Visible satellite image of Hurricane Irene. Image courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (NEPLO) deployed to 11 states in support of Hurricane Irene.

“Our NEPLOs provide a much-needed liaison with civilian stakeholders, so we can act as a team during time of natural disaster,” said Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. “They were fully engaged in the hurricane preparations well in advance of Hurricane Irene. The training we do on a regular basis with NEPLOs throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region allows us to quickly respond at the right time, at the right place.”

The NEPLO program, managed by Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), was established to coordinate mutual service and Department of Defense (DoD) support for national security emergency preparedness, response to natural or man-made disasters, and other domestic emergencies. They provide DoD support inside the United States, acting as a direct liaison to civil and federal authorities to plan, prepare for, coordinate and execute DoD civil disaster assistance programs.

“NEPLOs operate at a critical nexus where local civilian authorities’ potential requirements for DoD support are evaluated and validated,” said Capt. Mark Patterson, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Lead NEPLO.

Due to the size of Hurricane Irene and its track along the East Coast, which affected states from North Carolina to Maine, NEPLOs were pulled from all over the nation for Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). For the first time, 19 of 21 Navy Region Mid-Atlantic NEPLOs, as well as NEPLOs from Naval District Washington, Navy Region Southeast and Navy Region Southwest were deployed.

“In just two days we were able to process everyone’s orders and get them on station in state Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), Joint Force Headquarters and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional offices,” said Patterson. “This is not only a credit

The NEPLO program is staffed entirely by the Navy Reserve and is an example of the One Navy concept at work. There are no active component counterparts to the NEPLO program.

“Reserve officers bring a unique perspective to this interagency and intergovernmental challenge because of civilian careers that often lend experience and expertise to the NEPLO’s roles and responsibilities and because of a passion of service to be able to directly help our own fellow citizens,” said Capt. Peter Finney, Massachusetts NEPLO.

Every branch of service has an EPLO program. The mission of the EPLO program has become increasingly important over the past decade due to significant events during which they were called upon, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Unlike U.S. military operations and experiences in far off places, military support within the United States and its territories require special considerations because of laws that limit our

military authority and use of power.

The EPLO program was designed to operate within the limits of the law, while using its special strengths and skills to serve DSCA.

There are many examples of EPLOs supporting DSCA. These include using air assets to aid in fighting wildfires and medical teams to help hurricane or flood victims. During the Minnesota bridge collapse in 2006, Navy divers aided in the search and rescue efforts. In 2010, seven NEPLOs assisted in the cleanup efforts off the Louisiana coast, following the oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

All states have an ability and infrastructure in place to assist their citizens. However, when a disaster is beyond that state’s capacity to respond, the federal government, including the DoD, has resources to assist.

In the case of Hurricane Irene, Patterson believes that everyone truly epitomized the Navy Reserve motto: “Ready Now. Anytime. Anywhere.”

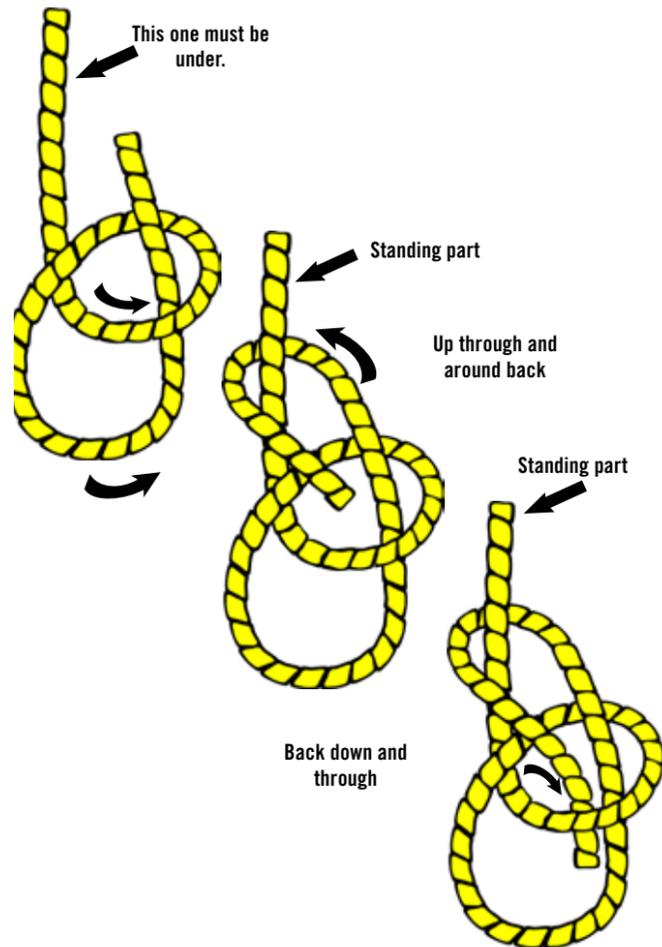
BACK TO BASICS

Know Your Knots

Taken from NAVEDTRA 14325, *Basic Military Requirements*

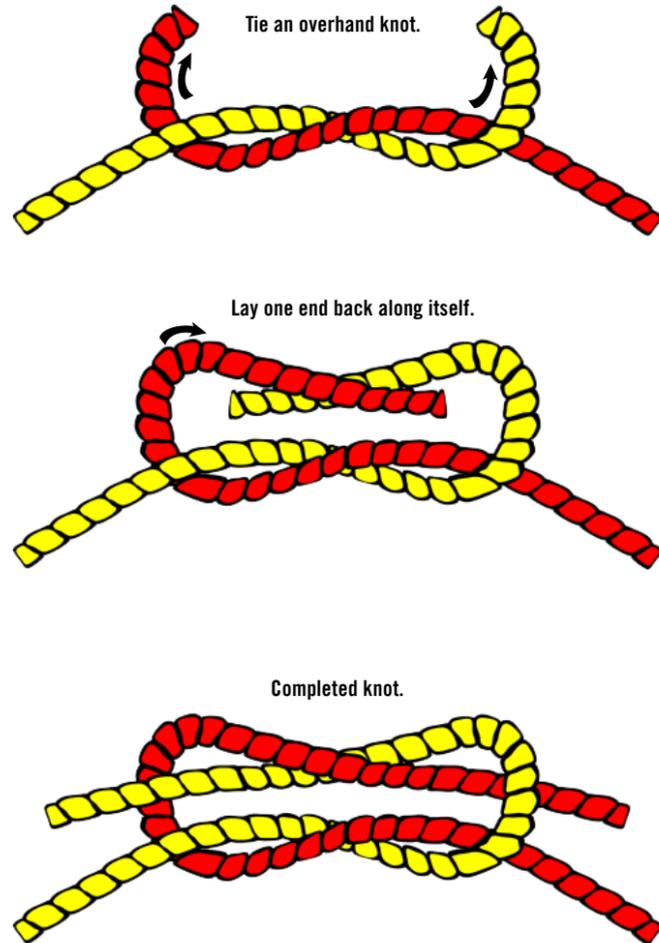
Bowline

The bowline, with its many variations, has many uses. Its chief use is to form an eye; but it can also be used to secure a line to a padeye, to secure another ring around a stanchion or other object, or to bend two lines together.



Square Knot

The square knot, also known as the reef knot from its use in reefing sails, is quickly and easily made and has a great many uses. It will not slip, but it can jam under heavy strain. It can be loosened, however, by pulling on first one and then the other end.



Terms to know:

- Bends are used to secure two lines together.
- Hitches are used to bend a line to or around an object, such as a ring, spar, or stanchion.
- Knots are used to form eyes or to secure a cord or line around an object.

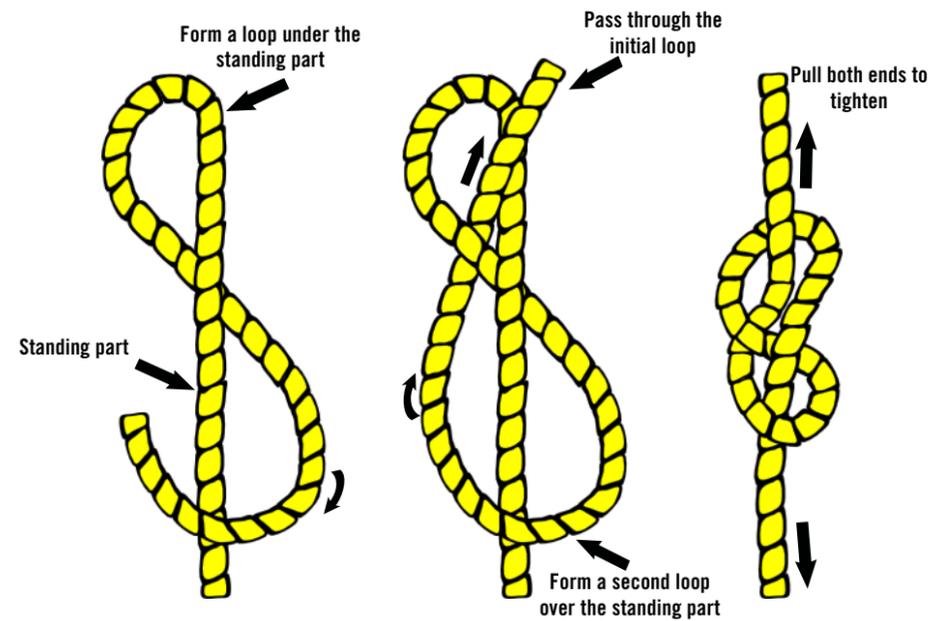
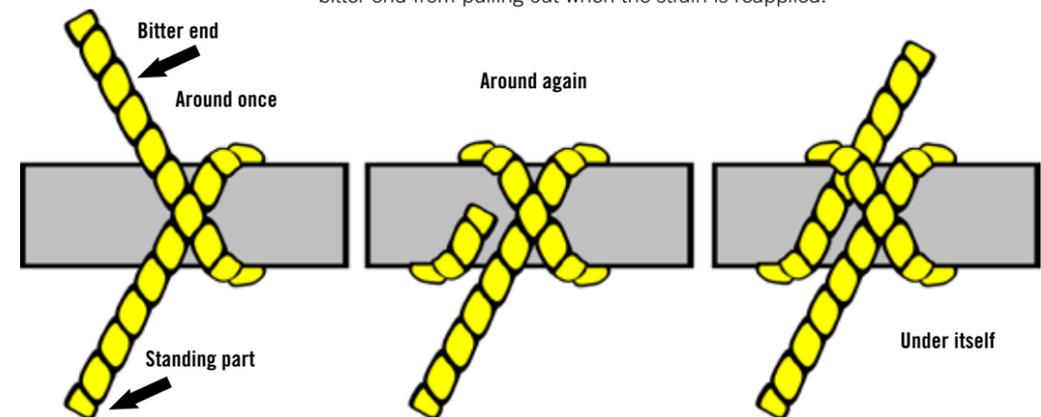


Figure-eight

The figure-eight is used to stop ropes from running out of retaining devices and is easily untied, even after tremendous strain.

Clove Hitch

The clove hitch can be quickly and easily tied in several ways, and it will hold as long as there is a strain on it. Once the strain is taken off, however, the hitch must be checked and tightened to prevent the bitter end from pulling out when the strain is reapplied.



Information Dominance

Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) System prepares for the first autonomous landing aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Nashville (LPD 13). With an on-station endurance of over four hours, the Fire Scout system is capable of continuous operations, providing coverage at 110 nautical miles from the launch site. Utilizing a baseline payload that includes electro-optical/infrared sensors and a laser rangefinder/designator, Fire Scout can find and identify tactical targets, track and designate targets, accurately provide targeting data to strike platforms, employ precision weapons, and perform battle damage assessment. Photo by Kurt Lengfield.

In October 2009, the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) was created to bring together the intelligence, information warfare, information professional, space cadre, and meteorology/oceanography communities. The goal in creating this new warfare community is to ensure information dominance over adversaries and to provide decision superiority for commanders, operational forces and the nation.

“Operations are intelligence-driven like never before,” Rear Adm. Tom Meek said. “In Iraq and Afghanistan, demand for intelligence is at an all-time high. Both high-end operations, such as capture and kill, and low-end operations, such as counterinsurgency, could not be done without deep intelligence work.”

With the exception of the meteorology/oceanography communities the Reserve component is following suit with the creation of the IDC Reserve (IDCR). This realignment into one Corps creates one of the largest Reserve commands with 6,300 selected Reserve Sailors.

The realignment creates a total force approach for manning, training and equipping (MT&E) across the IDC. Navy Cyber Forces is responsible for MT&E across the active component and the IDCR across the Reserve component (RC). Rear Adm. Gordon Russell, dual-hatted as the Reserve Deputy Commander at Navy Cyber Forces and the Commander, Navy Intelligence Reserve Command, will lead the newly-aligned command during its first year. This relationship with the type commander ensures a consistent and coherent total force approach to MT&E across the IDC. The IDCR contributes approximately 437,000 man-days a year to the Navy total force. This is equivalent to 1,680 full time positions. Through mobilizations, active duty recalls, and short-term assignments, Reservists have increased operational value through integration and synergies.

“It is an exciting time to be in the information business,” Communications Officer, Lt. Linda Laws said. “By combining all the information gathering communities into one organization we are increasing our capability to provide a clear picture of the operational environment to commanders.”

The total force approach made possible with the creation of IDCR increases operational capabilities within the community.

“We have to think through the unique intelligence requirements that come from thinking about cyberspace as the fifth operational

warfighting domain,” said Rear Adm. William Leigher. “Concepts like visualizing foreign cyberspace and providing indications and warning for impending cyber attacks need to be developed and included as part of the education of our future intelligence professionals.”

Aligning the Reserve IDC communities makes the IDCR a cost-effective force in several ways. The elimination of one command structure, consolidation of manpower and billet assignments for the IDCR, and coordination of

training requirements across the IDC total force results in efficiencies not previously possible. The IDCR consolidated its manpower and personnel functions and now coordinates billet actions with Navy Cyber Forces (NAVYBERFOR). This merger creates the ability of individual communities to be more successful and save costs. In some instances, NAVYBERFOR will determine whether it is more cost effective to source a requirement from the RC or AC.

“The information age is about change, and the Information Dominance Corps functionally integrates what was formerly separate communities into a team that provides the Navy with agility to anticipate, respond to, and exploit change,” Rear Admiral Paul Becker said.

The consolidation of IDCR manpower management enables cost effective and efficient personnel management. It has also reduced the number of people needed to manage community billets creating significant savings. The new manpower model also allows increased ability to assign the most qualified person to fill a billet and ensure an agile response to emerging requirements from the AC.

On the operational side, IDCR efficiencies are being generated as well. In support of a surface to air missile simulation exercise there was a requirement for expertise normally provided by contractors. IDCR Reservists provided their expertise in mapping capabilities and saved the Navy thousands of dollars. The IDCR support proved invaluable to the exercise and was timely in its execution.

“OPERATIONS ARE INTELLIGENCE-DRIVEN LIKE NEVER BEFORE.”
REAR ADM. TOM MEEK

“We want the same operational excellence on our networks that we want out of our SEALs or any other Navy component,” Rear Adm. Pat Brady said. “With respect to the cyber warriors, they may not need to do as many pushups as a Navy SEAL does, but that doesn’t mean their combat is going to be any less rigorous or their training will be any less demanding. We need to have core operational excellence in all those areas.”

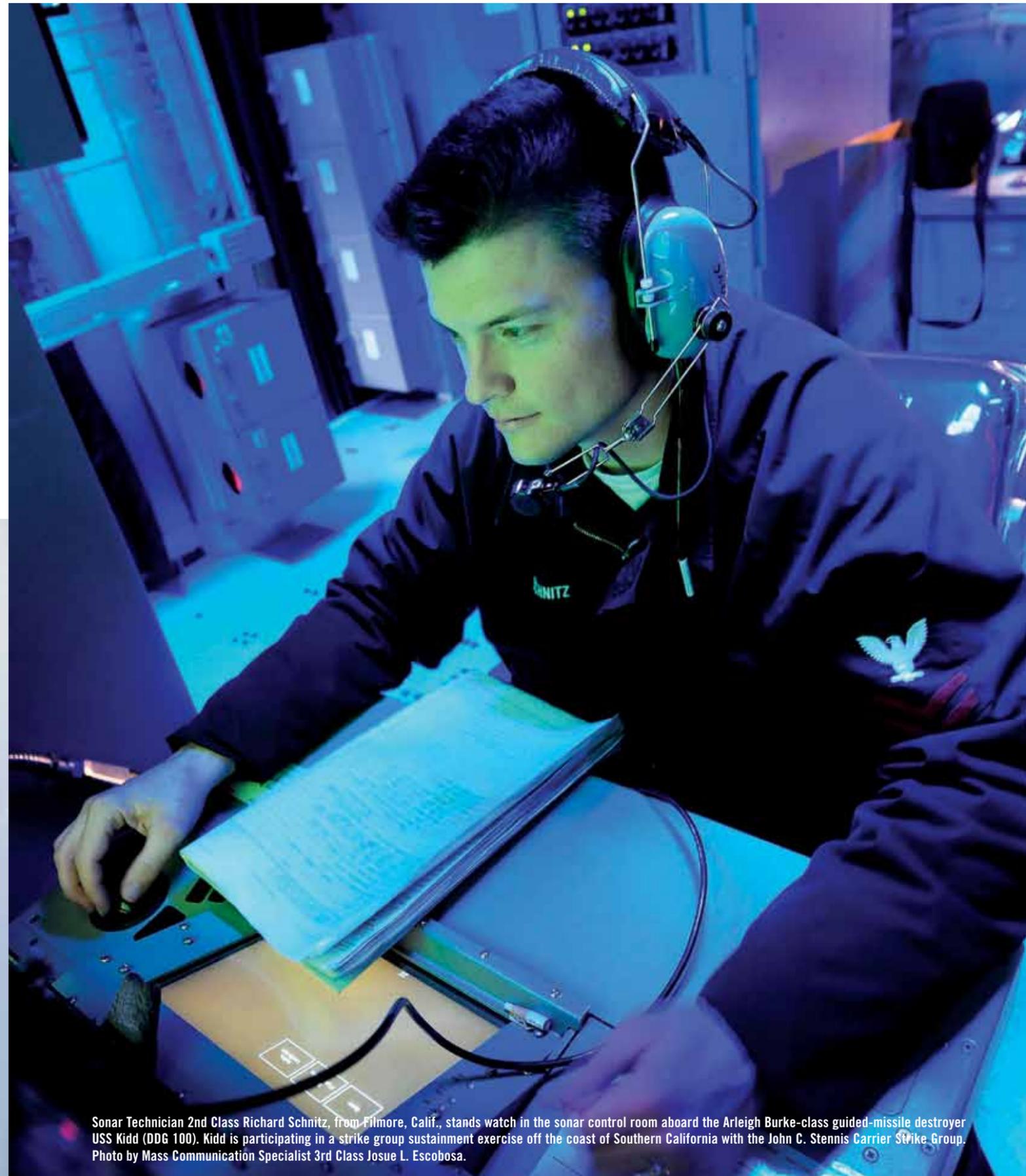
As the establishment of IDCRC moves forward, active commands will be surveyed to gain a clear understanding of Reserve support and future requirements. Looking for a baseline of customer satisfaction related to RC services helps determine future requirements. A five to seven year outlook will identify new training pipelines to deliver newly required skill sets.

“The IDC (is) a cadre of professionals who will manage the vast amount of information available in support of naval and joint operations,” Rear Adm. Meek said. “Embrace this change. Each individual community will maintain its identity, while enjoying more opportunities for cross training and varied assignments.”

So far, IDCRC is finding a strong demand for IDCRC and an increased requirement for Reserve and active units to train together before mobilizing. More than a few of the information dominance skill sets acquired by the IDCRC members are perishable, and this places increased pressure on IDCRC members to train with active units. This total force approach to training reduces costs by eliminating the need for Reserve-specific training pipelines. The IDCRC provides the right capabilities for current and future requirements but is dependent on the AC to define requirements.

The ultimate goal in the IDCRC alignment is to recruit, train and professionally develop the IDCRC for deployment and operational support to the active component, while at the same time improving efficiencies across the IDC. In so doing, the IDCRC furthers the Chief of Navy Reserve strategic vision by delivering timely, cost-effective operational capabilities, through our people and equipment, which are relevant and valued by the Navy and Joint customers.

A Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicle launches from the amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45). Scan Eagle is a runway independent, long-endurance, unmanned aerial vehicle system designed to provide multiple surveillance, reconnaissance data, and battlefield damage assessment missions. Comstock is assigned to Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multi-national coalition conducting counter piracy and maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joseph M. Buliavac.



Sonar Technician 2nd Class Richard Schnitz, from Filmore, Calif., stands watch in the sonar control room aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd (DDG 100). Kidd is participating in a strike group sustainment exercise off the coast of Southern California with the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Josue L. Escobosa.



Combat Corpsmen

Written by Capt. Eleanor Smith and Capt. Lesley Morgan



▲ Lt. Cmdr. Cecilia Salazar and Cmdr. Judy Dye during improvised explosive device convoy defeat training. Photo by Capt. James Quejada.

◀ Students undergoing training at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute escort an injured Sailor to a medical vehicle during scenario training. Photo by Cpl. Damien Gutierrez.

Life on the battle field is never the same. Every combat situation comes with constantly changing risks and dangers. With those dangers, the decisions and training of corpsmen and medics is crucial to seeing people get home alive.



▲ Reservists prepare to fire during the 9mm live-fire exercise. Photo by Cpl. Damien Gutierrez.

operational training course containing a number of sub-components: land navigation, basic radio communications, mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) familiarization, M9 pistol qualification, high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle egress trainer (HEAT), improvised explosive device (IED) recognition, and convoy operations.

“The evolutions were so realistic that at first it was hard to think of what to do next,” Pono said.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Edward Ramos was also impressed by the realistic training.

“The special effects during the TCCC practical and the caravan patrol on our last day included the sounds of gun fire and bombs, smoke and simulated blood,” Ramos said.

Participating corpsmen arrived at the exercise site with Hospital Corpsman Skills Basic certificates and completed the three days of training in TCCC. Most of the training was conducted while simulating a deployed environment.

“What stands out for me is the TCCC part of the course; topping it off by learning from very experienced corpsmen who were there first hand. I have a very high regard for them,” Pono said.

In addition to the medical training, the chief’s mess provided leadership training. The chiefs mentored and helped prepare the first class petty officers for advancement.

“This training was twofold, on one hand I was able to learn about leadership from the chief’s mess. On the other hand, I was able to put into practice the skills I learned in TCCC classes. I was then able to use them in a practical environment,” Hospital Corpsman 1st Class

▼ Reservists prepare to fire during the 9mm live-fire exercise. Photo by Photo by Capt. James Quejada.



To ensure Navy Reserve corpsmen have the tools to provide effective medical aid in the field Navy Reserve operational health support units (OHSU) are taking their training out of classrooms and clinics to learn of the unique situations found in the field.

“Military oriented field training is an essential component for military healthcare providers, especially as the majority of Navy Reserve healthcare providers serve as individual augmentees,” Capt. Lesley Morgan said.

Because of the importance of field training Reserve Sailors assigned to OHSU San Diego (OHSU SD) received operational readiness training at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI) at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Sailors, who normally spend drill weekends performing physical health assessments, or staffing Navy medical facilities, had the opportunity to acquire operational skills. More than 120 participants were drawn from 12 detachments of OHSU SD. Members from OHSU Camp Pendleton, OHSU Bremerton, and the voluntary training unit also participated in the exercise. The medical personnel chose combinations of training based upon their healthcare backgrounds.

“This training evolution provided me with a different approach to patient care in a tactical situation,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Rene Pono, of OHSU SD Det. F. “As a blueside corpsman, I have always been taught to assess ABC’s (airway, breathing, circulation) and work on them. Here we were taught to treat wounds as we see them. The tourniquet was our best friend.”

The training included a tactical combat casualty course (TCCC), advanced burn life support course, and a trauma nursing core course. The courses were taught by instructors from the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute and NEMTI. They also taught an

Charles Main of OHSU SD Det. B said. “It was a great opportunity to lead a mixed group of 35 enlisted and five junior officers during the operational phase. The biggest lesson I learned was to use the strengths of those around you. Just because you might have a higher rank than another, there are others who have experiences which could benefit the group.”

When it was time to return to the field all members worked together during operational training. The HEAT phase of the exercise simulated a vehicle rollover caused by an IED. Students practiced evacuating the simulator and establishing a safe perimeter.

“The HEAT trainer was a personal favorite of mine. In addition to providing training, it was an amazing team building and confidence boosting exercise,” Capt. Mollie Mullen said.

Along with land navigation, basic radio communication, MOPP lecture and practical exercise, training activities included disposition of human remains, tactical movement and troop leading. An M9 pistol orientation was followed by weapons qualification, where 72 Sailors qualified as marksmen, 29 sharpshooters and seven experts. The NEMTI staff offered additional firearms training after hours for those desiring increased weapons proficiency.

The medical teams found the IED convoy defeat training to be their favorite portion of the seven-day evolution. Students participated in a convoy that was subsequently attacked. Members practiced evasive action, established safety perimeters, and provided emergency care to “injured” Sailors.

“The convoy evolution gave me a chance to see how easy a situation can change and emphasized the need to be flexible and work as

▼ Operational Health Support Unit San Diego members during mission oriented protective posture training. Photo by Photo by Capt. James Quejada.



▲ Operational Health Support Unit San Diego members prepare for improvised explosive device convoy defeat training. Photo by Photo by Capt. James Quejada.

a team,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Robert W. Aiken, from OHSU Det. B, Phoenix, Ariz.

The exercise was informally named “Smith’s Shooters” after OHSU Commanding Officer Capt. Eleanor Smith. Many of the Smith’s Shooters had never experienced a field exercise. For others, it was their first experience running this type of exercise. The training introduced the corpsmen and medical officers to the practice of medicine in a rigorous environment. The students got a taste of what it is like to be forward deployed in combat, or engaged in humanitarian assistance or disaster relief. Having familiarization with the tasks and sufferings of field work allows improved service to military patients in all situations.

“As a dental officer my exposure to this level of NEMTI training was almost zero. I am like a dry sponge hitting water — just sucked it all up. All info was good and sitting with the enlisted gave me a great perspective,” said Cmdr. Steven Jaksha.

The exercises boosted morale and cohesiveness between the training teams.

“OHSU SD set the bar high for future evolutions; in their learning aptitude, engagement and esprit de corps,” said Capt. Thomas Sawyer, officer in charge, NEMTI.

Smith’s Shooters leadership was grateful for lessons learned from last year’s “Rattler’s Rage” sponsored by OHSU Camp Pendleton. With the lessons learned, NEMTI instituted a more complex and larger training evolution. The NEMTI, Camp Pendleton, field training exercise for the Navy Reserve healthcare community continues to evolve and refine to ensure readiness of Navy healthcare providers to answer the call “anytime and anywhere.”

SEABEE RODEO!

Written By Ens. Amy Hession, Patrol Squadron 62 Public Affairs



▲ Construction Electrician Constructionman Whitney Shields from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 23 Seabee leads the way through the confidence course during the sixth annual Seabee Rodeo. Photo by Matt Simons, NAVFAC Southeast public affairs assistant.

The Third Naval Construction Regiment's fifth annual Seabee Rodeo at Naval Air Station Jacksonville gave junior Sailors from the Southeast and Pennsylvania the opportunity to show off their in-rate practical skills while competing against each other for bragging rights as the regiment's most skilled battalion.

Based in Marietta, Ga., 3rd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) is composed of three Reserve battalions. Jacksonville-based Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14, which also hosted the event, took the top prize after competing with Sailors from NMCB 23 from Ft. Belvoir, Md. and NMCB 24 from Huntsville, Ala. The rodeo included evolutions like steel working, heavy equipment operation and maintenance, and a timed tent set-up exercise.

"We could have done without the rain, but obviously we're really happy with the outcome," said Lt. Cmdr. Daryl Lotempio, officer-in-charge of NMCB 14.

The daily downpours didn't stop Builder 3rd Class Kourtney Lester of NMCB 14 from leading battalion members in the practical exercise to build a frame for a concrete wall. Small teams from each battalion competed for the highest score in each practical exercise. Lester was a class leader at Builder 'A' school, and an honor graduate, so the rodeo helped her build on that training.

"This is my first rodeo and it was definitely a challenge," said Lester. "But it's helping me sharpen my leadership skills – and I got to make some new friends."

A Reservist from Douglas, Ga., Lester joined the Navy Reserve without prior military service. Her 64 college credits allowed her to enter the Navy Reserve as a 3rd class petty officer. She hopes the construction skills she's learning with the Seabees, along with her collateral duty experience managing manpower as the unit's personnel readiness

capability program (PRCP) coordinator, will help her in land a civilian job in construction project management.

Capt. Donald Hedrick, commodore of 3rd NCR, said the leadership training and team building experienced by Lester and other Sailors are the primary objectives of the rodeo.

"With this event our Sailors are learning basic leadership skills and learning to take care of each other," Hedrick said. "This directly ties into battlefield operations. We put people in harm's way where it all comes down to small-team leadership."

When Sailors from 3rd NCR were forward deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan they built roads directly behind other forces clearing IEDs. The danger of the mission necessitates strong leadership in small teams and trust in one another.

"Our folks are out there by themselves and they have to survive. This is how important this type of training is to the regiment," Hedrick said.

Regular deployments keep the regiment busy. NMCB 23 is preparing to deploy to Guantanamo Bay to support U.S. Southern Command and 4th Fleet operations. Humanitarian missions and participating in joint

exercises will keep the battalion busy with two back-to-back, six-month deployments. NMCB 14 will deploy to Afghanistan within a year.

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Michael Thompson with NMCB 24, a Reserve Seabee from Louisville, KY, said his first deployment came sooner than expected.

"I was five months out of 'A' school when I went to Iraq," said Thompson. "I had a lot of explaining to do to my girlfriend, but it ended up being the best hands-on experience I could have ever gotten."

Thompson also joined the Navy Reserve with no prior military experience. The Reserve seemed like a natural fit to Thompson because he was already established in his career as a production supervisor for a light manufacturing company. He missed the camaraderie he had playing team sports in high school so he looked at the Navy Reserve. Thompson's grandfather was a Seabee, so when his recruiter told him the equipment operator rating was open he was sold.

He said he counts on training experiences like the rodeo in order to keep his practical and his military skills sharp. And he wasn't shy describing his team's performance on the equipment operator practical.

"We smoked it." said Thompson.

Seabees like Lester and Thompson joined the Navy Reserve without prior military experience. Today many Reserve Seabees work in civilian jobs similar to their Navy rating. "Recruitment of experienced civilians allows the Navy to build a cost-effective force by taking advantage of the skills Sailors have already developed in their civilian careers", said Master Chief Constructionman (SCW) Pedro Villacorta, NMCB-14's senior enlisted leader.

The Reserve Seabees have a long history of providing valuable skills to the Navy for minimal training cost. When construction forces were needed during World War II, the Navy created the Seabees by recruiting civilian construction workers to build roads and bases throughout allied controlled areas in Europe and the Pacific islands.

While many Sailors enter the Seabees with more work experience under their belts than Sailors in some other skills, they still need events like the rodeo to build and maintain confidence according to Command Master Chief Neal Beard.

"It's important our Sailors leave here with a higher level of confidence, because it infects

other people in their unit," said Beard, from Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

The scoring for the event was handled by the regiment's chief's mess. Chief Steelworker David Dickerson, from Blackshear, Ga., scored the steel working practical. His role was to evaluate, advise and help junior Sailors fine tune their performance. Seabees received immediate feedback on their performance.

"We're trying to build confidence and get them through this process," said Dickerson of the Seabees he coached during the practical. "They're doing a great job, we just want to help them improve."

There were some lighter moments at the rodeo. Dickerson ran into Chief Steelworker Robert Eason from Smith Station, Ala. whom he met years ago in Key West when they were both working on a Navy construction project.

"It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends in the Seabees," said Dickerson. "You meet so many people throughout your Navy career, and you never know who you'll run into again."

▼ Builder Constructionman Patricia Carter (standing) feeds a rope to Construction Electrician Constructionman Kevin Conner. Photo by Kathi Holder.



▼ Top: Equipment Operator 3rd Class Tyler Warren helps assemble a field tent. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Gary Granger Jr.



Bottom: Construction Mechanic Constructionman Matthew Adams of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 24 works his way through the confidence course. Photo by Kathi Holder



▼ Builder 3rd Class Kourtney Lester with NMCB 14 cuts wood used to construct a frame for a concrete wall. Photo by Kathi Holder.



'Bees in the Box

Story and photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Terrina Weatherspoon

A little like Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz," there is always someone you know you will miss the most when it's time to tap your muddy boots together and SCREAM, there's no place like home, there's no place like home.

Just like Dorothy, I started my journey alone. Somewhere along that dusty brick road I found my scarecrow - Senior Chief Equipment Operator Virgil Scott Packard.

Of course I was apprehensive at first. This was Packard's fifth deployment with the Seabees. He was an organic member of the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment and knew everyone and seemingly everything. He had supported Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. What was this salty Seabee going to think of this newbie? I could hear it already.

"We are in war little girl! Shave that head of yours and get some dirt on your face!"

And the guy only had nine fingers. Well, nine and a quarter. A little nub on his right ring finger; a reminder of a dirt bike accident where he came up a little short — in more ways than one.

But you know what I learned pretty quickly? This guy had my back. I knew if there was something I had forgotten to bring on deployment, he would have it. On more than one occasion I came to his office for sweet tea. He would brew it in his office and he even had an ice maker. Ice cold sweet tea in the middle of Afghanistan was a pretty nice perk. It was clear he knew how to make the best of less than ideal situations. I was happy to having him travel down the brick road

with me. (I was sure, had we ever found the wizard, he would ask for a finger).

Packard worked insane hours. While some of the rest of us were able to make use of our evenings by learning to play guitar or talking with loved ones, he was often glued to his computer. His computer was for getting the job done, nothing else. This did not make his new wife Mallory very happy. She would send messages asking me to take a picture of her hubby so she could verify he was still alive. Having married just days before the deployment, his departure to Afghanistan wasn't exactly the honeymoon they had in mind, but waiting another minute to marry the woman he loved was not an option.

Sleep was also not an option at times. Due to the time difference, Packard spent many a night waiting until just the right time to reach people back in the states who could get him the parts he needed to keep equipment up and running.

Packard was directly responsible for more than 2,400 units of engineering equipment. He prioritized non-mission capable assets, including excavators and front-end loaders, and expedited repair parts to restore them to fully mission capable status.

You can imagine the climate and terrain in Afghanistan is tough on equipment. Seabees were clearing roads, building bridges, digging dirt to fill barriers, moving gravel, wood, cement, whatever, to get the mission complete as fast as possible. Then they were off to the next job. Equipment would go down often. It's hard enough finding the parts and time to fix equipment in the states. Imagine how difficult it was to do this in Afghanistan when everything you do is on a strict

timeline. It was essential to repair or replace equipment quickly so units could maintain readiness levels and execute their missions. Even if it meant Packard spend countless evenings on the phone with parts carriers and shipping companies and not his wife.

But don't get me wrong. Packard was not all work and no play. He had a juvenile sense of humor that didn't always translate well in a war zone. And when you put him with the tin man and the lion, oh geez... nothing but raw humor and ridiculousness would ensue.

Once I was in my office, obviously deep in thought — hey, these columns don't write themselves you know — and in comes Packard. I usually welcome a break from work, but on this day I was on a deadline. That didn't bother Packard one bit. He sat down anyway. A few minutes later his wacky best friend Chief Gunner's Mate Jack Thompson walks in. The two begin taunting each other and chasing each other around the small office. They are throwing things at each other and utterly transforming the office into a kindergarten classroom. I finally mom-up and say, "Get out of here! You two are so distracting and childish!" I hear Packard whisper to Thompson on the way out, "Dude, you got me in trouble."

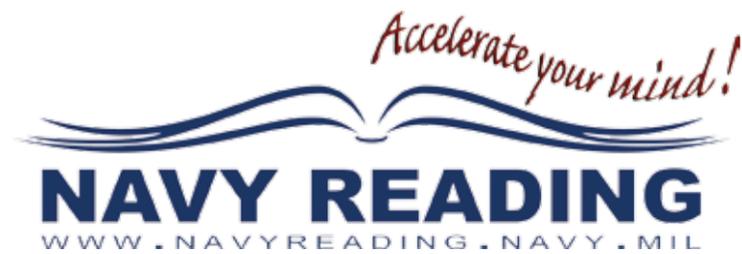
Packard and I got into it on more than one occasion. But there was never a time he didn't come through when I needed him. You know those friends you have you always seem to have attitude with because you know they will love you anyway? You know they won't hold it against you or think less of you. Unfortunately for him, that was Packard. He was a sounding board for all things mental, miniscule, and menstrual.

"I'll miss you most of all Scarecrow."

MCC Terrina Weatherspoon left active duty as a Chief in January 2008 after 13 years of service, and affiliated with the Navy Reserve in March of 2009. She is currently deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan with the Third Naval Construction Regiment "The Leaders" out of Marietta, Ga. The regiment heads up Task Force Keystone, one of the largest engineering efforts in Afghanistan.



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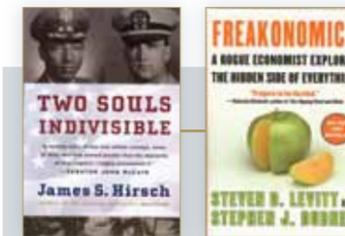
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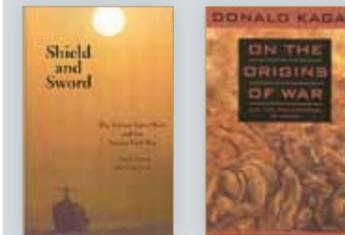


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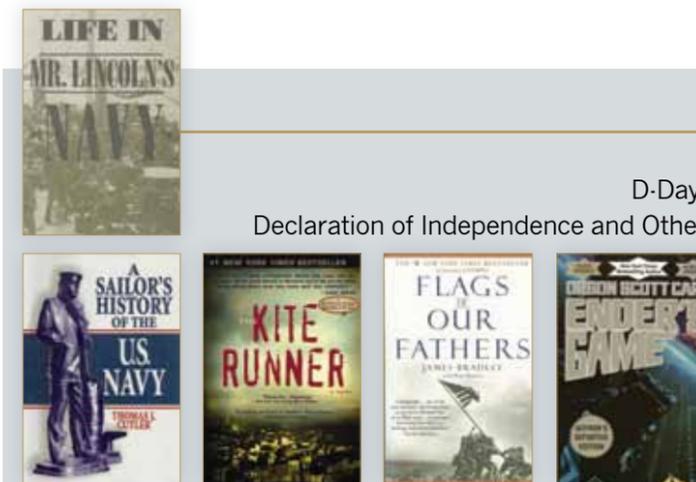


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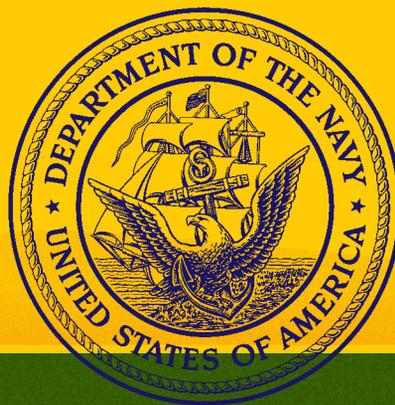
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