



**NAVY RESERVE**  
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.

# Ready Now!



*Taking care of our families is a key part of deployment readiness – and part of every leader’s job.*

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Shipmates,

Thanksgiving is behind us, and the holiday season and new year are ahead of us. It’s a time of reflection and resolutions. For most of us, the season is a chaotic mix of many elements – travel, reunions, shopping, gift-giving, parties, dinners, ceremonies, songs, sermons and celebrations. And in that chaos, we have a few bursts of clarity: a child’s happy face, the smiles of parents and grandparents, a hug from a brother or sister. Our families make it all worthwhile.

And deep down, love for our families is what drives many who serve in our Armed Forces. Our fellow Service Members have all sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, but when FORCM Wright and I ask Sailors why they serve, the answers are often expressed in terms of family: “I want my kids to have the same freedoms I grew up with.” “My uncle died fighting for our freedom in World War Two, and I serve to honor his legacy.” “I want to give my children a better life.”

Taking care of our families is vitally important, both in terms of short-term readiness and the long-term health of our Navy Reserve Force. Our Sailors will eagerly and honorably deploy, and they will serve with distinction in arduous, uncomfortable conditions as long as they know that their family members are being taken care of and are doing well back home. Our covenant with our Sailors includes ensuring that we protect, defend, and support their families. As has been said many times: we recruit the Sailor – we retain the family.

Because it is so important, taking care of our families is a responsibility of leadership at every level. The Navy recognizes and honors the service of our family members through numerous programs, policies and benefits. Sailors can now transfer [college tuition benefits](#) to spouses and children. [TRICARE Reserve Select](#) makes quality healthcare coverage affordable and available. And there is a wide variety of services to help families are available online through [MilitaryOneSource.com](#).

There is no substitute, however, for involved leaders who know their people, ask questions and show concern for their Sailors. Engaged leaders know who the families are, where they live, who they work for, and what is going on in their lives. Engaged leaders take the time to find out what concerns these family members, and they help get these issues resolved quickly. They don’t assume that someone else is doing this... they are proactive and engaged. We challenge everyone who wears the uniform of our service, to be that leader!

We honor our families by our own service, and we honor our shipmates by helping them take care of their families. Strong families make Navy Reserve Sailors **Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.**

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