



NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.

Ready Now!



A Strategic Reserve, comprised of Active and Reserve Component Sailors, provides valued capabilities to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Forces.

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The Value of a Strategic Reserve

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Shipmates,

As our Navy continues to answer the Nation’s call around the world, we must balance strong demand for our naval capabilities with the finite resources given to us. And because our economic security is a vital component of our national security, we must ensure every dollar is spent wisely.

One thing is certain: our Nation’s naval warfighting capabilities must be credible. Our Sailors must be well-trained, mission-focused and resilient; our ships, aircraft, submarines, systems and equipment must be ready and reliable. A force that is over-extended, under-maintained and exhausted cannot deter potential adversaries or protect our allies. Conversely, a well trained & equipped Total Force – with a “deep bench” – that can easily shift from being “in reserve” to operational engagement, fully supports our national security objectives.

To fully appreciate the value of a strategic reserve, it is important to understand that this is a Total Force concept. Both the Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) have strategic reserve elements that can be brought into play as needed. In an era of tough economic choices, a strategic reserve not only provides depth, but also preserves capabilities at lower cost.

Some capabilities are like special teams in football – you don't always have them on the field, but when you need them, they are ready to make a play. The Reserve Component is an ideal and logical choice for many of these types of capabilities. Likewise, depth must be maintained for surge capability in case of multiple contingencies or broader-scale conflict. Our fleet response plan, which has ships, squadrons and expeditionary units at varying states of readiness, is an example of how the Navy routinely uses strategic depth. Shifting some of this depth to the RC can be a way to retain certain capabilities at even less cost.

Just like the AC, the Navy Reserve is organized to provide valuable capabilities and transition from a strategic to an operational posture in a prompt, orderly manner. And therein lies the value of strategic reserve. Whether AC or RC, general surge forces or specialized skills, strategic reserve forces are ready to bring Combatant Commanders the right capabilities where and when needed. This is where the Navy Reserve shines: providing valued capabilities with a force that is ready and accessible.

Being ready IS our mission! It is part of our heritage. We have always responded when the Nation called, and our ability to respond promptly has vastly improved in the last decade. The RC can play a leading role in missions which require near-instant response, as we do with our submarine rescue teams, or as part of regular Total Force rotations, as our Seabee battalions have done for years. We provide ready and accessible capabilities in a highly cost-effective manner and because the Navy understands the value of a Strategic Reserve, the service of every Sailor is valued, from a few days per year to full-time duty.

As we examine our force structure, required capabilities, and cost, the Strategic Reserve will play an important role in our Navy’s ability to meet future challenges. Navy Reserve Sailors – “Ready Now, Anytime, Anywhere” – will be an essential component of our Navy’s Total Force Strategic Reserve solution.

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