



RHUMB LINES

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February 16, 2010

The Navy Supply Corps... Celebrating 215 years of vital supply and logistics

"We could not do our jobs without the Supply Corps. The Supply Corps' mission of providing combat capability through logistics is a critical aspect of our Fleet Response Plan. If we don't have effective logistics support, then we can't properly prepare our forces for global assignments. You are experts when it comes to joint logistics, and you are doing a great job. As the Commander of the 2nd Fleet, I am a satisfied customer."

– Vice Adm. Melvin Williams, Jr., Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet

The Supply Corps plays a vital role in executing the Navy's Maritime Strategy by delivering logistics and business capabilities to the Navy and joint warfighter, ensuring the success of the Navy's diverse missions. It performs the key function of managing the global logistics support network to supply the Navy with items essential to the operation of ships, aircraft, facilities and expeditionary forces.

Supply Corps' Vital Role

- Supply Corps officers proudly wear the oak leaf insignia and are trained and employed in three principal lines of operation: supply chain management, acquisition management and operational logistics.
- Active and Reserve members of the Supply Corps provide critical skills to supply the warfighter and contribute to national defense. They play a pivotal role in supporting the Navy – both afloat and ashore – from the U.S. homeland to the mountains in Eastern Afghanistan to earthquake-ravaged Haiti.
- More than 3,500 Active and Reserve Component Supply Corps officers serve as force multipliers for the warfighter. At any given time, 30 percent of these officers are employed in afloat and expeditionary billets leveraging their operational logistics expertise across all theaters. This is evident today in Haiti where Supply Corps officers serve on the ground supporting Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, and Army missions in support of Joint Task Force-Haiti.
- Supply Corps officers and supply community enlisted Sailors serve in hundreds of Individual Augmentee (IA) logistics and contracting positions in Afghanistan, Iraq (in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom), and the Horn of Africa.

Supply Corps History

- The Supply Corps dates back to 1795 when President George Washington appointed Tench Francis, a Philadelphia businessman, as the country's first Purveyor of Public Supplies. Francis unified a group of independent pursers under a single organization, which eventually became the Navy Supply Corps.
- At its inception, the Supply Corps supported the Navy's six frigates, but its duties and responsibilities have kept pace with the expanding scope of the modern Navy's global mission.
- The Navy Supply Corps School will move to Newport, R.I., from Athens, Ga., in 2010.

Key Messages

- The men and women of the Supply Corps exemplify professionalism, resourcefulness and moral courage as the Navy's military logisticians and business professionals.
- Supply Corps officers will continue to make an essential contribution to the operational efficiency and fighting effectiveness of U.S. naval and joint forces. Their continuing vision is to produce autonomous, resourceful, military logisticians delivering mission readiness to naval and joint operations worldwide.

Facts & Figures

- Feb. 23 is the Supply Corps' 215th birthday.
- The Supply Corps has 2,701 active component (AC) and 882 Reserve component (RC) officers.
- 115 AC officers and 258 AC supply enlisted Sailors are supporting Operation Unified Response and Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) assignments.
- 37 RC officers and 276 RC enlisted Sailors are supporting GWOT assignments.