

The NAVAL RESERVIST

Vol. 30, No. 2

SUPPORT TO THE FLEET ... READY AND FULLY INTEGRATED

February 2004



USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29)
CROSSING INTO

**FORCE
INTEGRATION**

CNO'S GOALS

TOP

5

PRIORITIES

Active Reserve integration is moving forward at full speed, and the Naval Reserve is leading this transformation. With full buy-in from the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations, active-duty commanders are assessing their capabilities and resources to define the Navy's requirements for our Reserve force, a process known as the Zero Based Review (ZBR). The outcome of this effort will help us align Naval Reserve capabilities with naval requirements and help organize and train as one integrated force. As our Navy forges these dramatic changes, we need to stay focused on goals...CNO's goals:

5

ALIGNMENT

"First, we must ensure that our organizations, systems, and processes are aligned to deliver exactly what they are designed to produce—a combat-capable Navy, ready to sail into harm's way. Second, alignment involves clear communication, from the recruiter, to the LPO, to the CO, to the CNO. It's about communicating realistic expectations and then helping Sailors accomplish realistic goals—in a word, credibility."

4

QUALITY OF SERVICE

"Quality of service is a balanced combination of quality of life and quality of work. Although we are seeing great improvements in quality of life, this has not been the case for quality of work. Quality of work includes everything that makes your workplace a great place to be—from getting the spare parts you need in a timely manner to working spaces that are up to current standards. Quality of service includes having a work environment that contributes to personal and professional growth."

3

FUTURE READINESS

"The power to compete in the future has everything to do with being credible today. The world is dangerous and unpredictable. Our Navy routinely operates in tough places, and that's as it should be. We work and operate in an atmosphere of risk and we should not shy away from it. We should be credible and we should be ready. We must constantly challenge the assumptions that we face on a daily basis and adapt to an ever-changing world."

2

CURRENT READINESS

"The best quality of work that I know of is when you're on the other side of the world taking on the enemy, you know you're going to come home victorious. That's why current readiness is where it is."

1

MANPOWER

"Manpower is, and will remain, our Navy's biggest challenge. We are at war for people and we are fighting this war on three fronts—recruiting the right people, raising retention and attacking attrition. To win, we need the involvement of every leader at every level, from admirals to third class petty officers and seamen—everyone..."

february features



new year 2004

2004 got off to a ringing start thanks to one Naval Reservist at the festivities in Times Square.

page 4



USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29)

Working side-by-side, drilling Reservists, Full Time Support and active-duty personnel are all serving together as Sailors—a model for force integration.

page 5

Marotta earns Bronze Star

Accomplishments of a Naval Reserve squadron in execution of Operation Iraqi Freedom are recognized with a Bronze Star for the former commanding officer.

page 7



NCWG 1

Small boats patrolling the Arabian Gulf are manned in large part by dedicated Naval Reservists.

page 8



combat artist

Naval Reservist has an eye for combat and the talent to document history in a unique assignment.

page 9

on the front cover



ABOARD USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)—A bird's eye view of the Panama Canal from atop the bridge of Groves. Making its way through the locks ahead of Groves is Grand View out of Hong Kong. Panamanian line-handlers walk the forecastle of Groves, while the "mule" in the bottom right-hand corner pulls the ship along. —Photo by JOSN J. Hastings McIver.

The NAVAL RESERVIST

SUPPORT TO THE FLEET ... READY AND FULLY INTEGRATED

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The Naval Reservist seeks photos of Naval Reservists (minimum 300 dpi digitals, glossy prints, negatives or slides) that tell the story of Reserve training or support to the fleet. Please provide full identification of all individuals in the photograph to include rate, rank and command. Photos should also include a Visual Information Record Identification Number (VIRIN). Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. Material will not be returned.

NEWS ONLINE

The Naval Reservist and the Naval Reserve News Service [electronic wire service] are available online at <http://reserves.navy.mil>. Naval Reserve NewsStand, a Web site featuring Naval 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 their database diary entry to admin personnel at their local Naval Reserve activity. Others should mail their new address, along with a copy of their mailing label, to *The Naval Reservist*.*

commander's view



VADM John G. Cotton

The Navy's ongoing alignment and emphasis on active/Reserve integration has captured the attention of our senior leadership, especially the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations. We had the opportunity to

brief the CNO recently

on the Reserve force's accomplishments to date, with an open and honest assessment of the headquarters' role in leading the many changes being planned. He was so impressed by our achievements, metrics and goals, that he briefed the Navy three/four star flag officers in Washington the following day. And let me say, they're excited about the efficiencies and increased effectiveness that their Navy's Reserve is bringing them. To win the Global War on Terrorism and "accelerate our advantages," CNO's vision of one flexible and surgeable, integrated Naval Force is an absolute requirement.

To focus our vision, we have implemented a new plan called ASAP. This one-year integration plan calls for four simple steps to create one aligned and synchronized Force that is optimally focused to support the Fleet Response Plan, and is included in future Navy budgeting plans. Details are as follows:

Alignment—We are one Navy, our organization and chain of command need to reflect that. In 2003 we began by assigning operational reporting responsibilities of our Washington, New Orleans and Readiness Command staffs to our active-duty counterparts. We also have begun embedding some of our staff members into these active-duty staffs to facilitate the integration process.

Synchronization—As one Navy, we need to

plan and act as one force with many capabilities. We have already developed new scheduling tools that will soon be introduced to the Force, and we'll continue to develop and modify systems that will better enable us to act and work together. Examples include NMCI, a single pay and accounting system, and common databases used by many programs.

Assessment—CNO has assigned Commander, Fleet Forces Command, ADM William J. Fallon, the responsibility of Total Force integration. RADM Dave Anderson, USNR, is the Director of Integration on his staff, and will work with other FTS and active-duty staff members to facilitate change.

Under their leadership, active-duty commands are currently undergoing a complete review of their

bers, their families and employers for the sacrifices they make. Everyone is part of the Total Force that helps ensure our freedoms and each of us is proud to serve and to make a difference.

We continue to contact Reserve Centers around the nation to talk with talented Reservists, and they still amaze me with their positive attitudes and answers to our questions. FTS HM2 Cheryl Lee Santillo in Erie, Pa., mentioned her family, the great Marines at the center and especially how much she's enjoyed her 12 years of service. OS2 Frankie Evans-Dees in Duluth, Minn., has served in the active Navy for eight years and is enjoying her first tour with the Reserve component she works with. She likes and admires the dedicated Reservists and

sees the need for joint requirements and improved training. EN3 Tyrone Downing is really pumped up and doing well in Greenville, S.C., (they have the best recording on their Center answering machine!) likes being near his hometown as well as being a proud dad of a three-year old boy. At NRC Reno, Nev., new SELRES (of two months), EM2 Qing Xu, is a college student in international business, speaks three languages, and made three cruises in four years on active duty aboard USS Boxer

(LHD 4). FTS Supervisor PN2 Nikalia Jane Higginbotham has served for four years, loves duty in Reno, and being with her three children. And yes, everyone knew the Naval Reserve vision...support to the fleet, ready and fully integrated!

These great Sailors continue to affirm my conviction...we are so lucky to have men and women of incredible character, committed in their personal, professional and Navy lives. Their courage and pride in service are evident in all that they do. Each and every day, it is an honor and great privilege to serve with them as Chief of Naval Reserve.

JOHN G. COTTON
Vice Admiral, U.S. Naval Reserve

"To win the Global War on Terrorism and accelerate our advantages, CNO's vision of one flexible and surgeable, integrated Naval Force is an absolute requirement."

Reserve units, and will determine where Reservists can best provide support with their own surge capabilities, as units and as individuals. This process, known as the zero-based review (ZBR), will help guide us in organizing as one force to meet Navy's current and future requirements.

Programming—based on the results of the ZBR and ensuing organizational changes, the Navy will budget and program our Total Force manpower and equipment requirements, as well as training metrics to optimize our integrated and Reserve-unique capabilities.

As we continue to mobilize Reservists is support of new requirements and the force rotation plan for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, our nation offers great thanks to all service mem-

what's new

New tool designed to help improve exam preparations

New Advancement Exam Strategy Guides are new information sources to provide rate-specific and professional military knowledge sample exams, practice questions, references, learning opportunities, and additional resources to help Sailors better prepare for exam day. The comprehensive, easy-to-follow tool includes strategies for preparing and taking the exam, information on the exam development process, and an overview of the Navy Enlisted Advancement System. To check out this valuable resource, go to <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/study/asg/sailor>.



Photo by JO1 Dennis J. Herring

MCPON Terry Scott talks with Sailors from Reserve unit Helicopter Combat Search and Rescue/Special Warfare Support Squadron Five in front of their hangar at Baghdad International Airport. The unit is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

sailors matter



F/MC Thomas W. Mobley

Monumental changes are happening in our Navy. There is a need for these changes. Simply put, as the world threats change, the Navy must change. Our changes will allow us to remain the world's strongest naval sea

power with an expeditionary force capable of reaching any area and applying immediate force. Every enlisted person serving today is a valuable member in the Navy's change process. We have been given acronyms to help us understand what is important, and what we can do in these changing times. Many of us may have known ASAP to mean "As Soon As Possible," but we will redefine it as a guiding focus for change as "Alignment, Synchronization, Assessment and Programming."

At the deck plate, alignment to us is being a part of the change process, contributing to the efforts

of building the Navy of tomorrow, by anticipating the changes that will come and implementing the changes quickly. This may mean that our Navy needs our skills and talents in different, more challenging roles that only we can perform effectively and efficiently.

Years ago, I worked at Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department on air data computers. When I would open the case, it was filled with circuits, synchros and gears. If they were out of adjustment, the motors, gears and synchros would not operate correctly, sending incorrect information to the cockpit indicators and the autopilot. This lack of synchronization could be fatal to the pilot and crew if not corrected before putting the computer in an aircraft. Synchronization in the design of our Navy of the future is just as important. Our contributions at this crucial time will ensure success in the end.

We often look at an assessment process as a way to validate the need and value of something. Fleet Forces Command is performing a Zero Base Review of the need and value of every job and requirement in the entire Navy. This is fundamentally important to build upon the efficiency and effectiveness of

our Navy. As future Navy mission requirements are formed, we can assess job and career opportunities that come with a new mission.

Programming is where the rubber meets the road. The Navy will fund the programs they need. We will participate by matching our skills and talents to the Navy's requirements. This will ensure success in our war fighting capabilities.

At one time in our Navy's history, battleship commanders thought there was no need for aircraft carriers. History has shown the importance carriers have had on our war-fighting capabilities. We are at a crucial decision-making period now, just as before when the Navy made the decision to use carriers. Just like Sailors that served before us, today's Sailors perform remarkable accomplishments in the face of challenges. Again our country calls on us to meet the challenges of war and the challenges of change. It takes special people and the world's best Sailors to make it happen. I'm glad to serve with the best and will continue to enjoy the opportunities that are given to us at this time.

THOMAS W. MOBLEY
Force Master Chief, U.S. Naval Reserve

opportunities

Advanced Joint Professional Military Education Course

Joint Forces Staff College has 48 quotas available for drilling Reservists for FY-05 advanced Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) class.

The preferred applicant is an O4/5/6 drilling Reservist with JPME Phase I and joint experience. Applicants without JPME phase I/joint experience will go through a waiver process to ensure their suitability for senior level joint assignments.

Full details on selection criteria and application requirements is available in COMNAVRESFORCOM message DTG 161450Z Dec 03.

Naval Reserve Advancement Management Seminar

The Naval Reserve Professional Development Center will host the Naval Reserve Advanced Management Seminar (NRAMS) May 10-14 in New Orleans. The purpose of NRAMS is to provide senior Reserve personnel with a solid baseline of information regarding the current state of the Naval Reserve; key issues, concerns and challenges; and executive perspectives and global Reserve viewpoints. Briefings will be given by flag and secretariat level personnel.

NRAMS is intended for top performing O5/6 Reserve officers who possess the potential for further command and promotion.

Full details on selection criteria and application requirements is available in COMNAVRESFORCOM message DTG 161414Z Dec 03.

Army War College Professional Military Education Course

The Army War College has provided nine quotas for Commander or Captain drilling Reserve of-

ficers to participate in their Joint Professional Military Education Phase I distance learning education course. The program is a two-year course that closely parallels the scope of the resident course, and upon successful completion of curriculum and graduation, students receive a U.S. Army War College diploma and a master of strategic studies degree.

More course information is available online at www.carlisle.army.mil/hotnew/hotnet/htm.

Full details on selection criteria and application requirements is available in COMNAVRESFORCOM message DTG 191519 Dec 03.

NAVSOUTH seeks MOC Duty Officer

NAVSOUTH seeks a Navy Reserve officer (O3-5) and senior enlisted (E7 and up) to fill the position of MOC Duty Officer through Dec. 2004. Applicants for this position should have at least two years of operational experience, however no particular warfare specialty is required.

Restricted line officers from intelligence and other communities supporting operations are also suitable individuals. Senior enlisted (E-7 and up) who have operational experience are suitable for this duty. The training requirements are such that two days of study and preparation are usually sufficient to train the MOC Duty Officers. Although 29-day ATs are preferred, even those on 12-day orders have sufficient time to in process, train and contribute. The MOC DO supervises 2-3 additional personnel and is responsible for organizing and presenting three briefs each week to flag officers and senior NAVSOUTH staff. The MOC DO is responsible for the smooth operation of 4-8 surface ships (Standing Naval Forces Atlantic and Mediterranean) operating under NATO. The DO is fre-

quently involved in supporting submarines and maritime patrol aircraft operating under NATO command.

To apply, go to <https://www.nsa.naples.navy.mil/navres>, click on "AT apps, other info" and apply for a Billet Control Number. In the comments section put NAVSOUTH MOC DO position. That will notify them to send you to NAVSOUTH for the AT.

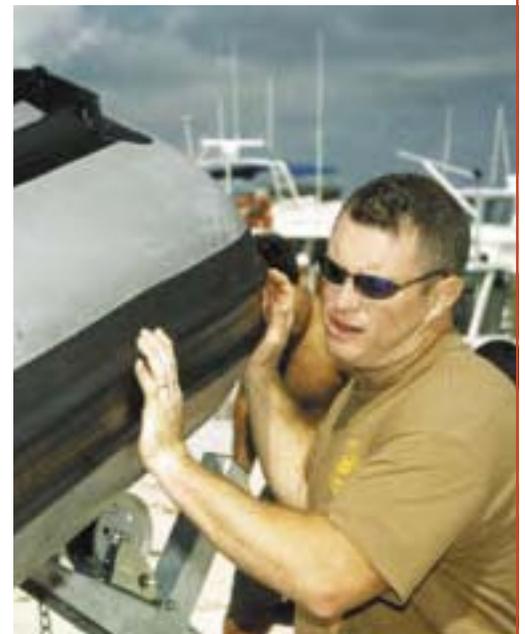


Photo by PH1 Timm Duckworth

FLORIDA—CM3 Greg Mayhan, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, guides a rigid-hull inflatable boat onto a trailer for transport in support of Naval Special Warfare diving training.

family focus



Yonna Diggs
Force Ombudsman

the “Reserve Ombudsman Basic Training Class,” are without a doubt the most valuable tool in helping our families.

Just recently, my parents lost their home to fire. The devastating effects made me realize how important it is for ombudsmen to help our families understand the hazards that cause fires. Moreover,

Naval Reserve ombudsmen face many unique challenges when assisting our military families. Reserve families, often times not being in fleet concentration areas, must heavily rely on the skill, dedication and preparedness of Reserve ombudsmen. Our resource files,

which we discuss in the “Reserve Ombudsman Basic Training Class,” are without a doubt the most valuable tool in helping our families.

we need to have resources readily available to assist families victimized by fire. The tragedy that occurred with my parents brought home the impact on Navy readiness in the event of such devastation. The family, as well as the service member, is affected both financially and emotionally.

How can we support Reserve families? Here are a few lessons learned from my recent experience:

- Talk with your commanding officer and family support team about how you help them facilitate having fire professionals train on fire safety.
- In newsletters, include a checklist on fire-proofing homes and provide names and phone numbers of emergency services in the areas where they live.
- Encourage documentation of personal belongings with photographs, videotape, receipts and other proof of belongings for insurance purposes.
- Recommend safeguarding of family keepsakes

and pictures in fireproof boxes or safety deposit boxes.

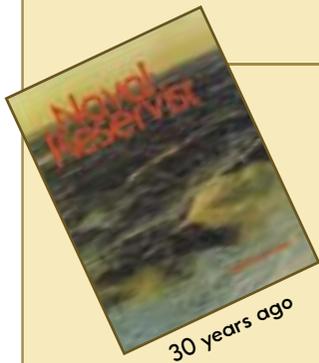
- Suggest conducting of regular fire drills with all family members to ensure the safety of all household members.
- Ensure all insurance policies are up to date and adequately cover damages or loss. Your insurance provider may have a check list to help with this task.

Thanks very much to each of you that reached out to my family and me during this time of crisis. Your sincere kindness and caring is true testimony of what makes American the greatest nation in the world. We are truly a Navy Team!

I look forward to working with each of you during the year.

If you would like additional information about the Reserve ombudsman program contact me at Yonna.Diggs@navy.mil.

a look back



30 years ago

1974—This issue highlighted the history of the first naval aviators, a group comprised of about 30 young men from Yale University. On March 24, 1917, during World War I, the group was enrolled in the Naval Reserve Flying Force and ordered to active duty. During that time, David Ingalls, while piloting a Sopwith Camel, became the first air ace in naval history when he shot down four enemy planes and at least one balloon.



20 years ago

1984—Naval Reservists returned home from Lebanon, where they had been aiding in the evacuation of U.S. military casualties from the bombed U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut. A team of 20 Navy hospital corpsmen and doctors were flown into Beirut by Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 56, where they recovered 12 injured personnel and airlifted them to U.S. medical facilities in Naples, Italy.



10 years ago

1994—Air and surface Reservists participating in Operation Support Democracy rescued 19 Venezuelan crew members stranded 25 miles off the coast of Haiti after their cargo vessel sank. The U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft that received the Venezuelan ship's distress signal contacted Naval Reserve Force frigate USS Estocin, which promptly deployed Reserve helicopter Goldensword 22 to come to the rescue of the crew members.

ESGR float—Tournament of Roses Parade



Photo by PH3 Paula Sato

The Naval Reserve Force took center stage at the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day. CEC Keith Rousseve (right), a Reservist from Montclair, Calif., was selected to ride on the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) float. Rousseve drills with Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303. As a civilian, Rousseve works for the U.S. Postal Service. His manager, Carlton Powers (left), joined him on the float. Powers is also a former Naval Reservist. Two additional Naval Reservists participated in the parade as color guard. They were SK2 Gregory Pielaat of Combat Construction Battalion Port Hueneme and YN3 Bruce Hoffman of Reserve Recruiting Support Unit 1939.



Courtesy of Countdown Entertainment, LLC

Naval Reserve helps ring in New Year 2004

Times Square

JOC Maria Gonzalez
COMNAVRESFOR Public Affairs Staff

NEW YORK—The Naval Reserve helped ring in 2004 at the most famous New Year's location in the world—New York's Times Square.

Karen Fritz, who is assigned to Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn., and serves as national program manager for the Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Information, Tickets and Travel section, organized two New Year's events—the famous ball drop countdown in Times Square and the first opening day of 2004 for the NASDAQ stock market on Wall Street.

"The Navy Division was approached by the Times Square Business Improvement District about the possibility of involving the military in their New Year's celebrations to help thank our armed forces for their service," Fritz said. "We thought it was a wonderful opportunity and worked with our sister services to help make it happen. Being part of the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square was a fantastic experience for our military representatives, a chance in a lifetime they will always remember. The people of New York City were wonderful hosts and the warm welcome we received showed our military personnel that their commitment and sacrifices are very much appreciated."

For both events, one person representing each branch of the military was selected to represent the U.S. armed forces. Included in the group were celebrities, including Army Spec. Shoshana Johnson, who was held as a prisoner of war in Iraq.

Representing the Naval Reserve was

MMCM(SW) Terence Hoey, a native New Yorker and member of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 10, Fort Story, Va. He was selected for his life-long ties to New York City and his contribution to the Global War on Terror.

At Times Square, the representatives pressed the button that began the descent of the famed laser ball as the final seconds of 2003 ticked away. After the Times Square countdown ceremony, the representatives appeared on live interviews as part of the FOX Cable News Network program, "Your World with Neil Cavuto."

On Friday, Jan. 2, they joined NASDAQ executive vice president Bruce Aust to host the opening ceremony for the first day of trading for the new year. Hoey read the opening speech.

"I was honored, yet very humbled, to be selected to be involved in these events," Hoey said. "Humbled, because as we stood there in New York City, I felt very safe knowing that there are thousands of U.S. service members and security personnel around the globe providing us with a high degree and sense of security, providing us with freedoms that we cherish, and providing liberty to those less fortunate."

Hoey is a 24-year veteran of the Navy and Naval Reserve. Each month Hoey drives nearly 700 miles round trip to make his drill weekends in Virginia. In addition, he is a member of the New York Naval Militia, serving as one of the militia's senior enlisted personnel.

In his civilian capacity, Hoey is president of a Manhattan consulting firm specializing in real property, facilities management and security services.

The governor of N.Y. activated Hoey to duty with the Naval Militia during the 9/11 attacks. As the events of that morning were first unfolding at the World Trade Center, Hoey witnessed the disaster from the rooftop of his office building just a short distance away. He made several telephone calls and was mobilized. He rushed to the scene as a first responder.

Hoey narrowly escaped the collapse of tower number one and worked with the N.Y. State division of military affairs and the New York City emergency management office to reestablish the Office of Emergency Management, a tenant of the World Trade Center whose spaces were destroyed in the attack.

Hoey later conducted escort duties in and out of ground zero, getting key personnel and critical supplies to the New York Fire Department.

Hoey was later mobilized as a Naval Reservist for 20 months of active duty where he was detailed to various locations in the National Capital Region in support of Operation *Noble Eagle*. During his assignment to the National Infrastructure Protection Center, Hoey assisted in the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security and helped implement Operation *Liberty Shield* during hostilities associated with Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. For his service, Hoey was recognized by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller for "Exceptional Service in the Public Interest."

"New York is the greatest city in the world," Hoey continued. "This New Year undertaking – the military, the city, the fire department, the police – all prove that this is the greatest city in the world."



Photo by BMI Jesus Vazquez

Members of the U.S. Department of Defense, including Naval Reservist MMCM(SW) Terence Hoey (far right), retired Army Specialist and former prisoner of war Shoshana Johnson (second from right), and singer Cyndi Lauper (far left) join New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as he gets

ready to push the switch that sends the famous Times Square ball on its descent that ticks off the final seconds of year 2003. Hoey, a native New Yorker, is attached to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 10, Fort Story, Va.

USS STEPHEN W. GROVES



Photo by LTJG Ken Shade

JOSN John Hastings McIver
Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs

ABOARD USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)—The Navy of the future is coming. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), ADM Vern Clark, has a vision for the future integration of all naval bodies—active duty, drilling Reserve and Full Time Support (FTS)—but there is at least one place where that vision has already solidified into reality.

Hundreds of miles from any form of land, USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) cuts swiftly through the dimpled crests and troughs of the Caribbean. She boasts a crew of about 220 officers and Sailors, and what they lack in numbers, they easily make up in courage and tenacity.

Groves, one of three Naval Reserve Frigates (NRF) assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Six and Commander, Naval Surface Group Two (COMNAVSURFGRUTWO), is currently tasked with the interdiction and disruption of drug-smuggling operations in the Caribbean and Pacific. She has already had two successes, which is impressive, given that she has only been deployed on the mission for 60 days.

There is one aspect in particular that sets Groves apart from many naval vessels sailing the seas today. Its crew is hewn from the fabric of three different forms of Sailor: active duty, drilling Reserve and FTS (formerly known as the Training and Administration Reservists, or TAR, program). But to look at them, you'd never know the difference, for they form a tightly knit unit, ready and fully integrated in the truest sense of the term.

"My command philosophy is: If you walk around onboard my ship, you can't tell who's an FTS enlisted, drilling Reservist (DRILLRES) or USN," said CDR Rudy Laco, Groves' commanding officer. "Everyone's integrated into place, and that's the way it should be. It's based on what we need to do as a ship in meeting with the mission requirements."

Laco has served his country for the past 18 years as a proud United States naval officer. Since 1987, he has been a member of the FTS program.

A key element of the ship's mission success is Laco's experience in the FTS program and his understanding of the need for all three types of Sailor. He is determined to fill Groves' billets with the Sailor that is ready and available for the position, regardless of duty status. Laco's philosophy serves well aboard Groves. All Sailors are welcome to join her crew, and that has led Reservists from both her primary unit in Gulfport, Miss., and her secondary unit in Mobile, Ala., as well as Reservists from around the country, to return again and again, many of them for full deployments.

One such Reservist is BM1(SW) Victor J. Trahan, who is enjoying his fourth cruise aboard Groves.

"There's got to be a need for the ship to want you, and for some reason they always want me," said Trahan, modestly referring to his extensive knowledge of the inner-workings of Groves, after having sailed with her repeatedly since 1997.

"He's invaluable to the ship, because he knows where everything is, and if new Sailors need to know how to do anything, he knows how to do it," said Laco of Trahan.

Trahan is always willing to sail with the Groves, and if he can offer another boatswain's mate a little time off on one of his drill weekends, then he's happy to do so.

"I'm qualified in all the deck watches, I'm qualified with all the weapons we've got on board. It's just about helping my shipmates out and being part of the crew. That's all it is, just being part of the crew," Trahan said.

Sentiments like those of Trahan seem to be the rule aboard Groves. As assistant leading petty officer of his division, he commands a group of 30 Sailors, made up of roughly 10 active duty and 20 FTS. Together, they perform like a well-oiled machine, and one would never guess that they come from such varied naval backgrounds.

"We all do the same job," Trahan said.

One member of Trahan's division is BM2 David L. Mullins, an active-duty Sailor of 10 years. Far from harboring any doubts about his Reserve superior's abilities, Mullins said the hardest days aboard Groves are those on which Trahan is not present.

Mullins is just one member of Groves' team, doing his part in the Global War on Terrorism and drug-smuggling interdiction efforts.

"We're out here showing our presence. It doesn't matter who sees us, they know we're out here and they see that we're patrolling. . . It's always a show of force when you're underway. We're just making our presence known," said Mullins.

Mullins is also a Sailor who understands the positive aspects of a having

such a diverse crew.

“Everybody works together,” said Mullins. “You get a lot of different experiences with the mix of people.”

Groves has no problem finding Sailors to add to that mix, either. Laco said his biggest problem right now is that every rack in berthing is full. That’s the kind of problem for which every naval vessel should hope.

“For calendar year ‘03, we’ve had over 750 man-days of support. That’s two years worth of Selected Reservists on board to fill gaps,” said Laco. “The ultimate goal is to have a Reservist and to train them so that they can fit right in as a part of the crew. We have some Reservists in our unit that are going to take a few more years to get them ready. But then in some other cases, I’ve got Reservists that are teaching my crew what to do.

“In areas where we may have a new chief or a new first class onboard, I’ve got to get them trained, so I utilize the Reservists that have been on the ship for a long time, and I integrate them into our training teams to help us get some flexibility and move them around and help us conduct cross-training,” said Laco, exemplifying just the sort of mobility in his leadership that his Sailors provide in their individual abilities.

The one area in which Laco feels there is room for improvement is in the assignment of Sailors.

“If there’s any progress that needs to be made, it’s that we need a system which will allow the Navy to fill the highest priority gapped billets. We need the ability to pool all of our personnel resources – USN, DRILRES and FTS – and the flexibility to fill the permanent assignment with first available USN or FTS and fill the gapped periods with appropriate DRILRES personnel.”

From the most experienced of officers to the hardest-working enlisted Sailors, Groves’s crew is a shining example of CNO’s vision for full integration. In combining the forces made available by today’s Navy, Groves has achieved a level of competence and organization to which the fleet as a whole can aspire. She carries out her mission with strength and speed, and sends a powerful message to the world.

“We certainly have a story to tell,” said Laco. “I know that of all the ships at COMNAVSURFGRUTWO, you could take any of the USN or NRF ships, and if they asked them to conduct battle group ops, they would be ready, and you wouldn’t be able to tell the difference.”



Photo by JOSN J. Hastings McIver



Photo by LTJG Ken Shade

USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)—Ceremonial honor guard aboard Groves prepares to present colors during National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day services. The ceremony was held on Groves’ flight deck during transit back to Mayport, Fla. Honor guard, from left to right—SN Nicholas McQuigeldern, STG2(SW) Justin Schreurs, STG2 Juan Marquez, SM2(SW/AW) Fines Stevenson, LT William Rayburn.

USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)—HSL-42 “Proud Warriors” takes off from the deck of USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG-29) with BM3 Bill Baumlner, US Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team North. Baumlner is flying as a tactical observer during counter narcotics operations somewhere in the Caribbean Sea.



VFA-201 CO earns Bronze Star



Photo by PH1 Brad Garner

An F/A-18 Hornet prepares to launch from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Roosevelt and Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW-8) deployed during 2002 and 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

LTJG Penny Cockerell, Navy Information Bureau Det. 1118

The Bronze Star was recently awarded to CDR Thomas Marotta, the former commanding officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 201 (VFA-201).

Marotta credited his 220-member Naval Reserve Force squadron for the honor, while applauding their outstanding combative efforts aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in Operation *Iraqi Freedom*.

"I get to wear the ribbon, take it home and show it with pride, and every time I do, I'll tell the story of what a great job you guys did," Marotta said to the squadron during the award ceremony. "Every one of you here deserves to wear this award."

The VFA-201 "Hunters" are a Naval Reserve squadron, based at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) Fort Worth. The squadron was the first of its kind to be mobilized for combat operations since the Korean War, some 50 years ago.

The time from notification to facing combat took a mere 90 days—a rapid rarity, especially for a squadron this size.

Their entire combat mobilization lasted from October 2002 to June 2003.

Its members distinguished themselves in several ways, namely by having flight skills that surpassed most, if not all, other squadrons.

"They led their air wing in bombing accuracy and took five of the top 10 in landing grades, and that's just unheard of," said CDR Paul Paine, commanding officer of NAS JRB Fort Worth.

VFA-201 began night carrier operations from the first day of the Iraqi War. By the time their mobilization ended, they had flown more than 1,200 flight hours and met 100 percent of assigned tasking.

The Hunters delivered 216 precision-guided

weapons—totaling 220,000 pounds of ordnance. They destroyed an Iraqi AM transmitter facility, a key bridge over the Tigris River, an intelligence operations center in Mosul, the Ansar Al Islam terrorist training camp and other targets that led to defeating the Iraqi regime.

CDR Shawn Grenier is VFA-201's current commanding officer and was the executive officer during the war, where he flew 13 missions himself. He credited their bombing accuracy, high marks in landing, and ability to keep their jets flying nearly 100 percent of the time to simply having an experienced squadron.

Most members, he said, had at least 1,000 flying hours before mobilization. Also easing the tension was how well the active command accepted them into operations.

"We also went in there totally humble," said Grenier, whose troops primarily fly the FA/18 Hornet.

Ultimately, whatever the Hunters did, well or not, came back to Marotta, who was not only responsible for each squadron member, but who was flying missions of his own.

"The Bronze Star is definitely warranted here," Grenier said. "With the combat part of it and the stresses of being responsible for everyone, he deserved it."

Presenting the award was RADM Dan Kloeppe, Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve. He lauded the Reserve unit's ability to not only integrate with an active command in wartime, but to perform in a way that made the Reserve forces shine.

Such integration comes at a time when active commands are weighing the value of Reservists and how to best utilize them.

Most of the Reserve pilots in VFA-201 are civilian commercial pilots. Many work for major air carriers. Reserve weekends involve training missions in fighter planes. In short, as Grenier said, "we train constantly."

Apparently, that training showed their value not only to Roosevelt, but to Iraqi insurgents and ultimately the entire force.

"It was an unbelievable experience, and I will cherish it forever," Marotta said to his troops. "Again, every one of you deserves to wear this award because everyone of you served in combat."



CDR Thomas Marotta
Bronze Star medal recipient

Former Commanding Officer of
Strike Fighter Squadron 201



NCWG 1— Reservists keep vital port secure



ASH SHU'AYBAH, KUWAIT—(Above left) Coast Guard BM3 Shannon Brewer, assigned to Naval Coastal Warfare Group One (NCWG 1), skillfully maneuvers a Coast Guard inshore patrol boat while patrolling off the coast of Kuwait. NCWG 1 provides force protection harbor defense worldwide.

(Above right) High above the port of Ash Shu'aybah; ETC Norman Chase and IT1 Robert Jamack provide visual information, coordinating with NCWG 1's operation control center to ensure the safety of the port. Photos by PH1(SCW) Lou Messing.

By JO2 John J. Pistone

Navy Information Bureau Det. 119

ASH SHU'AYBAH, KUWAIT—While most Reserve units are, by design, structured to augment gaps active-duty operations, Naval Coastal Warfare Group 1 (NCWG 1) has a mission all their own.

NCWG 1 is a Reserve command that has seen every unit within its umbrella activated at least once in the last two years for up to nine months per deployment—some with multiple deployments. With the face of warfare changing, and space of battle evolving, so too, must the roles of the Naval Reserve.

Comprised of U.S. Naval Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Units (MIUWUs), Inshore Boat Units (IBUs) and Harbor Defense Units (HDUs), NCWG 1 provides seaward surveillance and landward security forces in amphibious objective areas, harbors and other militarily significant coastal and inshore areas throughout the world. In addition to the naval units, Ash Shu'aybah is host to Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Military Working Dog and Coast Guard Port Security Units (PSUs) to provide additional fast attack patrol units to defend coastal assets.

Naval Coastal Warfare has been a part of naval history for more than 25 years, dating back to Riverine missions in Vietnam—small boat units that patrolled the waterways and coasts. Since then, the role of littoral warfare has evolved. Recent events, such as the bombing of USS Cole (DDG 67), heightened homeland security and operations in

the Middle East demanded a greater commitment for inshore units. During the last two years, the nature of coastal warfare has changed and Reservists have been utilized so much the Navy is ramping up active components in the Coastal Warfare Groups to handle the increased need for an integrated, fast reacting, on-call littoral defense.

Working in conjunction with Kuwaiti port authorities NCWG 1 is the eyes, ears and firepower for all vessels, particularly High Value Assets (HVAs), traveling in and out of the port.

The boat units consist of fast attack patrol boats, manning the mouth of the harbor at all times while under the watchful eyes of the onshore port operations unit under the coordination of the Harbor Defense Unit (HDU). From the shore, an array of observation and listening devices monitor, electronically and visually, all traffic and coordinate the boat units. With this tightly coordinated, well-trained coastal defense group, the reason for ramping up these units is clear.

HTCM Jeffery Covington, the command master chief, attributes the success to “the fact that we’ve spent long hours back home training for this and to come over here and continue operations without a single incident demonstrates the success of this unit.”

The port of Ash Shu'aybah is a congested and important area with billions of tons of material floating in and out of Kuwait. It is also the key point of entry for nearly all equipment moving in and out of the local theater of operations.

“Without this port, we can’t do Iraq. And without the Navy, we can’t do this port,” said CDR

William Daily, deputy force security officer for NCWG 1. “It’s the role of the inshore Navy to ensure that this whole thing keeps going.”

All commands in Ash Shu'aybah operate in conjunction with the Army’s 143rd Transportation Command (TRANSCOM). CAPT Allen Painter, NCWG 1, represents the Navy as commodore for Commander, Task Group 55.5. The command, approximately 90 percent mobilized Reservists, consists of a variety of backgrounds and experience.

The group originally moved into the area in Dec. 2002 with Reserve boat and coastal warfare units rotating on eight- to nine-month deployments.

A coalition of up to 15 different agencies from the multitude of U.S. military units to Kuwaiti military, port authorities, fire and law enforcement as well as transient multi-national forces, can make Ash Shu'aybah a very busy place. This coalition stronghold stands out as a major presence in the area.

“We want to establish an overt presence here, to deter any threats, and it’s been successful,” said OSCS Ron Zilli of MIUWU 108.

Since the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom, more tonnage has moved through Ash Shu'aybah than the entire Gulf War. Before the operation began, NCWG 1 has been in place in Kuwait, at times surging into hot spots like the port of Umm Quasar, in support of the Army and Marine Corps efforts to reach Baghdad. The group will still be here when troops and equipment begin to pull out and the last ship leaves for home.

combat

artist



Photo by JO1 Joseph Kane
CDR Monica Allen, combat artist.

JO2 Dan Heaton
Naval Information Bureau 813

“I never understood ‘haze grey,’ at least not in artistic terms, until I began to paint it,” said CDR Monica Allen. “Like khaki, it is made up of quite a few different colors—some you would not even imagine, like cobalt violet, raw sienna and chrome green.”

“The challenge is giving light and life to a two-dimensional piece of cotton rag paper with all the variety of daily life the Navy and Marine Corps has to offer. It is exciting stuff.”

Allen should know. She’s been a Navy Combat Artist since 1995.

The Navy has operated an official art program since 1941 when New York muralist Griffith Baily Coale convinced the brass that he and others should be sent out to the fleet to help tell the Navy’s story. To one degree or another, Navy artists have been sketching and painting ever since.

Allen, a Naval Reservist, spent three weeks in the Mediterranean Sea area last year, documenting the advance preparations for Operation Iraqi Freedom. She eventually created 10 paintings from the trip. The Navy’s only other combat artist, Morgan Wilbur, spent eight days with Fleet Hospital Three in Iraq in April 2003.

“That was an historic event, the Navy setting up a field hospital out in the desert,” Wilbur said. “I spent two days in the operating room, eight days total at the hospital, watching and getting to know the people there.”

“The things that hit me the hardest, that move me the most is what I paint first,” said Wilbur, who recently unveiled his first finished product from Iraq—a scene from the operating room.



Left—“HC-4 Black Stallions”; Above—“Black Stallions”; Right—“Priority Mail”.
All three illustrations by CDR Monica Allen.



“It is the people that you meet. You get to know them if you can spend a few days with them. That changes the images you take away,” Wilbur said.

Wilbur is a retired aviation warfare systems operator 1st class who spent his entire military career as a member of the Naval Reserve. Now, he works as the art director of Naval Aviation News and serves as a Navy Combat Artist when scheduling permits.

While Allen and Wilbur create artworks as part of their official duties, the Navy is always on the lookout for quality art from the fleet.

“We take donations from Sailors and civilians who create Navy related art work,” said Gale Munro, head curator of the Navy Art Collection at the Navy Historical Center, at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC.

Munro said all artworks from decommissioned ships or closed Navy bases also become property of the collection.

“You’re be surprised at some of the things that turn up, items that nobody even remembers where they came from,” she said.

Today, the Navy’s collection of art includes about 17,000 works. Included in the collection are works from long before the U.S. Navy was

An individual interested in contributing original artwork may submit images to the Naval Historical Center, at (202) 433-3815, or www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg6.htm. The images should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the individual's command, requesting the artwork be considered for inclusion in the Navy Combat Art Program/ Navy Art Collection. All artwork accepted becomes property of the Navy.

born—engravings of British and Dutch sailing vessels from 1560.

“They tell the story of a period early in the history of sailing ships,” said Munro, who said the collection includes items from every period since.

In World War I, the British Navy had an official art program and the U.S. Army commissioned a limited number of artworks. After Coale helped create the Navy's program in the days before World War II—eight artists eventually served on active duty in the Navy in that conflict—the program continued at various levels of operation. During the Korean War, two active-duty members served as Combat Artists; in the Vietnam Era, civilian contractors were brought in to tell the Navy's story in art.

In the early 1980s, the Navy's Combat Art program was merged with the Naval Historical Center—10 years later, artists were with the fleet during Desert Shield/Storm.

The Navy loans out art works for displays at local museums around the world.

“At any given time, we probably have more than 200 pieces out on display,” Munro said. “County and state museums are among our best customers.”

Allen became involved with the art program in 1995 when she was deployed in support of NATO operations in Bosnia as a supply officer. During a meal in a UN cafeteria, she wondered aloud if there was a way to combine her love of the Navy with her other great love—art. One of her shipmates at that meal was familiar with the Navy's art collection and recommended she put together a portfolio.

“The following summer, with orders in hand, I was in Sarajevo and Mostar, then back in my studio, painting,” Allen said.

Allen said a command willing to fund a period of active duty for training for a specific project can contact her about the possibility of creating an artwork, which would then become the property of the requesting command. The request can be forwarded through the Naval Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard.

Images of a sampling of the Navy's Art Collection may be viewed at www.history.navy.mil/branches/org6-2.htm.



Griffith Baily Coale 1890-1950

Naval Reservist and artist CDR Griffith Baily Coale, from Baltimore, Md., helped ADM Nimitz establish the Navy Combat Art program in 1941. Below are two examples of his work that came from the combat art program. For more on Coale and to view his online gallery, visit the Naval Historical Center Web site: www.history.navy.mil/ac/artist/c/coale/coale1.htm.



Above—“AA Gunners, PT Boats,” circa 1942; Below—“Ship's Search Lights, Pearl Harbor,” circa 1942. Both illustrations by Griffith Bailey Coale, courtesy of Navy Art Collection.



FTS detailing going online with JASS

PNC(AW/SW) C.J. Mitchell
 FTS PN/NC/Special Programs Detailer

Effective Jan. 24, all enlisted Full Time Support (FTS) personnel now have the ability to view and apply for billets through the Job Assignment Selection System (JASS).

JASS is an automated detailing process that will enable all eligible candidates to have equal opportunity to review and apply for current vacancies/requisitions. This will eliminate “first come – first serve” detailing. JASS also ensures Manning Control Authority and Enlisted Personnel Management Center (EPMAC) priorities and fleet balance are adhered to, but most importantly it should increase command involvement in the detailing and manning processes.

“JASS will ensure fairness and equitability throughout the detailing process. It also marks necessary technology improvements to the detailing process that will bring us alongside our Regular Navy counterparts.” said CMDM(AW/SS) Hutchison, assistant director of FTS detailing.

How it works: Sailors are encouraged to continue to contact their detailer regarding career development and duty assignment options, but the application and selection process will be conducted exclusively via JASS.

In order to view all available requisitions, service members log in to JASS using a personal account. Initial login procedures are available at <https://www.jass.navy.mil>. Command Representative/Command Career Counselors must submit a request letter to PERS-455D in order to gain command-level access. A sample letter is located at www.bupers.navy.mil/jass/access.

Application/Review Window: All available requisitions will be advertised during the application, review window period. Sailors can apply for and prioritize up to five available billets via the Command Career Counselor (CCC) or authorized command representative.

Detailers will review all applications submitted after Sailors have applied for jobs in JASS during the Application/Review window. When multiple applications are received for the same job, detailers will use a slating process to determine which applicant is best qualified for the billet.

What has not changed: The primary method for submission of personal action requests (NAVPERS 1306/7) is via BUPERS Access through the CCC. JASS is not meant to eliminate Sailor and detailer communications.

The JASS support Web site at www.bupers.navy.mil/jass provides:

- CCC JASS training
- JASS schedule of requisition, application and selection postings
- JASS user manual, software download and troubleshooting guide
- How to acquire a JASS account
- JASS help desk phone numbers

FTS enlisted detailing will continue to undergo substantial changes in response to the needs of Sailors and changes in technology. Detailers will continue to serve as career and assignment counselors. JASS is one step to a Web-based detailing process for Navy jobs and use of software agents to display optimal matches for future assignments.

“JASS will ensure fairness and equitability throughout the detailing process. It also marks necessary technology improvements to the detailing process that will bring us alongside our Regular Navy counterparts.”

JASS Timetable

Application Review Window Start	Application Review Stop—Selection Start	Selection Stop	Results Released
Jan. 27 at 1730 Feb. 10 at 1730 Feb. 24 at 1730 Mar. 9 at 1730 Mar. 23 at 1730	Feb. 4 at 0500 Feb. 18 at 0500 Mar. 3 at 0500 Mar. 17 at 0500 Mar. 31 at 0500	Feb. 4 at 0500 Feb. 18 at 0500 Mar. 3 at 0500 Mar. 17 at 0500 Mar. 31 at 0500	Feb. 6 at 1630 Feb. 20 at 1630 Mar. 5 at 1630 Mar. 19 at 1630 Apr. 2 at 1630



(Above) The cover photo of *The Naval Reservist* January 2004 Almanac issue was taken by PH1 Donald Dinsmore of VR-61, NAS Whidbey Island, Wash. Dinsmore will be retiring from the Naval Reserve with over 30 years of military service.

(Left) WHIDBEY ISLAND, WASH.—Recruits enrolled in Naval Reserve Center Whidbey Island's Non-Prior Service class listen intently to their instructor during a class on military rank structure. Pictured left to right are AN Jeff Sahar, AN Thomas Richards, ATAN John Emori, and STSN Grant Furness.

REDCOM round-up



REDCOM Southeast

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Members of Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Memphis recently moved a Navy carrier attack aircraft to the Dyersburg Army Air Base Veterans Museum in Halls, Tenn. This was the final step in a two-and-a-half year process leading to the A-7E Corsair II aircraft being part of a display at the museum. During the process, members of NRC Memphis were engaged in a voluntary basis with restoring and transporting the aircraft to its final display location.

—NRC Memphis Public Affairs

MIAMI—A new unit was recently established at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Miami. Naval Reserve Commander, Naval Region Southeast Force Protection Unit Key West Det. B was established to provide trained manpower necessary to sustain heightened security requirements. Over the next year, Reserve Naval Security Force units will be stood up in support of every installation in the Continental U.S. and Regional Operations Center.

—JOC(SW) Gabe Puello, NMCRC Miami



REDCOM Northwest

FORT CARSON, Colo.—Thirty-seven Naval Reservists were recently honored at Naval Reserve Center Fort Carson for their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism. The Reservists were presented a plaque by RADM Robert Passmore, Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northwest. Fort Carson Reservists have served more than 10 different commands worldwide.

—SK3 Paige Crenshaw and IT3 Robert Mogyey, Navy Information Bureau Det. 1118



REDCOM Northeast

NEW YORK—Navy Reservists who serve in the New York City Police Department were honored recently at One Police Plaza as part of the annual New York Police Department/U.S. Navy remembrance ceremony. First Deputy Police Commissioner George Grasso was presented the Stephen Driscoll memorial award in recognition of his many years of distinguished service to the New York Police Department. The award is named in honor of Driscoll, a Navy Seabee veteran and police officer who died on 9/11 in the World Trade Center.

—LCDR Christopher Scholl, Navy Information Bureau East Det. 102



REDCOM Mid-Atlantic

MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va.—Mobilized Reservists and their families were recognized recently for their contributions in support of the Global War on Terrorism at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Moundsville. Individuals and their spouses each received certificates

of appreciation and a heart felt applause.

—REDCOM Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

WILLOW GROVE, Pa.—Patrol Squadron 66 (VP-66) of Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove earned top honors at the 2003 P-3 “Liberty Bell” competition. VP-66 outperformed six other Reserve P-3 squadrons in the annual tactical event that tests an air crew’s and an ordnance load team’s proficiency in a variety of war-fighting areas. During the three-day competition, the crews are graded on weapons

loading, weapons deployment and in-flight assessment of surface and subsurface targets.

—LCDR Jeff Sychterz, VP-66 Public Affairs



REDCOM Mid-West

GREAT LAKES, Ill.—Members of Naval Reserve Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 1 Det. 1813 of Great Lakes were able to hoist their three landing craft out of Lake Michigan and put them into dry dock storage for the winter. This is the first time they have been able to accomplish the storage since 1999 due to low water levels in the lake. Reservists used a lift platform cradle that rests just below the craft’s waterline to lift them out of the water. While housed in the boathouse during the winter, Reservists will perform maintenance and preservation to the crafts.

—JO2 Ed Bergstrom, Navy Information Bureau Midwest Det. 113

MINNEAPOLIS—Naval Reservists with Commander, Naval Force Japan, Headquarters (CNFJ HQ) developed a mini-exercise scenario to train personnel locally using a Local Area Network. During normal drill weekends, the 75-member unit splits into three watch teams and a group of expert game controllers in order to simulate watch-standing events commonly encountered at the Battle Watch Center in Yokosuka, Japan. The unit has engaged additional commands from around the Midwest to work together more effectively in training exercises.

—CNFJ HQ Public Affairs



REDCOM South

FORT WORTH, Texas—Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 109 (MIUWU-109) of Fort Worth recently returned from an eight-month deployment in support of Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. During their service in the region, members of the unit had the opportunity to interact with Iraqi school children. As part of a community relations project, Reservists from MIUWU-109 and Harbor Defense Command Unit 114 built picnic tables and collected hundreds of bags of paper, pens, crayons, soccer balls and candy for school children in Um Qasr, Iraq.

—LTJG Bert Kelly, MIUWU-109



REDCOM Southwest

MORENO VALLEY, Calif.—Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Moreno Valley recently conducted an all hands pre-mobilization exercise. More than 400 Sailors updated their personnel, medical and dental records to assure mobilization readiness of all Sailors stationed at the center. During the stand down, approximately 120 dental exams were performed; more than 355 immunizations administered; 158 HIV blood draws taken; 287 annual check-ups conducted; 18 physicals performed; and 435 Sailors updated all of their records.

—JO2 Jennifer Franco, NMCRC Moreno Valley

SAN DIEGO—Naval Air Reserve (NAR) San Diego was awarded the Bronze Hammer in a recent command award ceremony. The award recognizes Naval activities making exceptional progress improving their command through self-help programs. NAR San Diego funded \$187,932 in large-scale project materials for renovations to Building 251 and NAR San Diego Sailors completed 12 projects totaling more than 2,200 man-days.

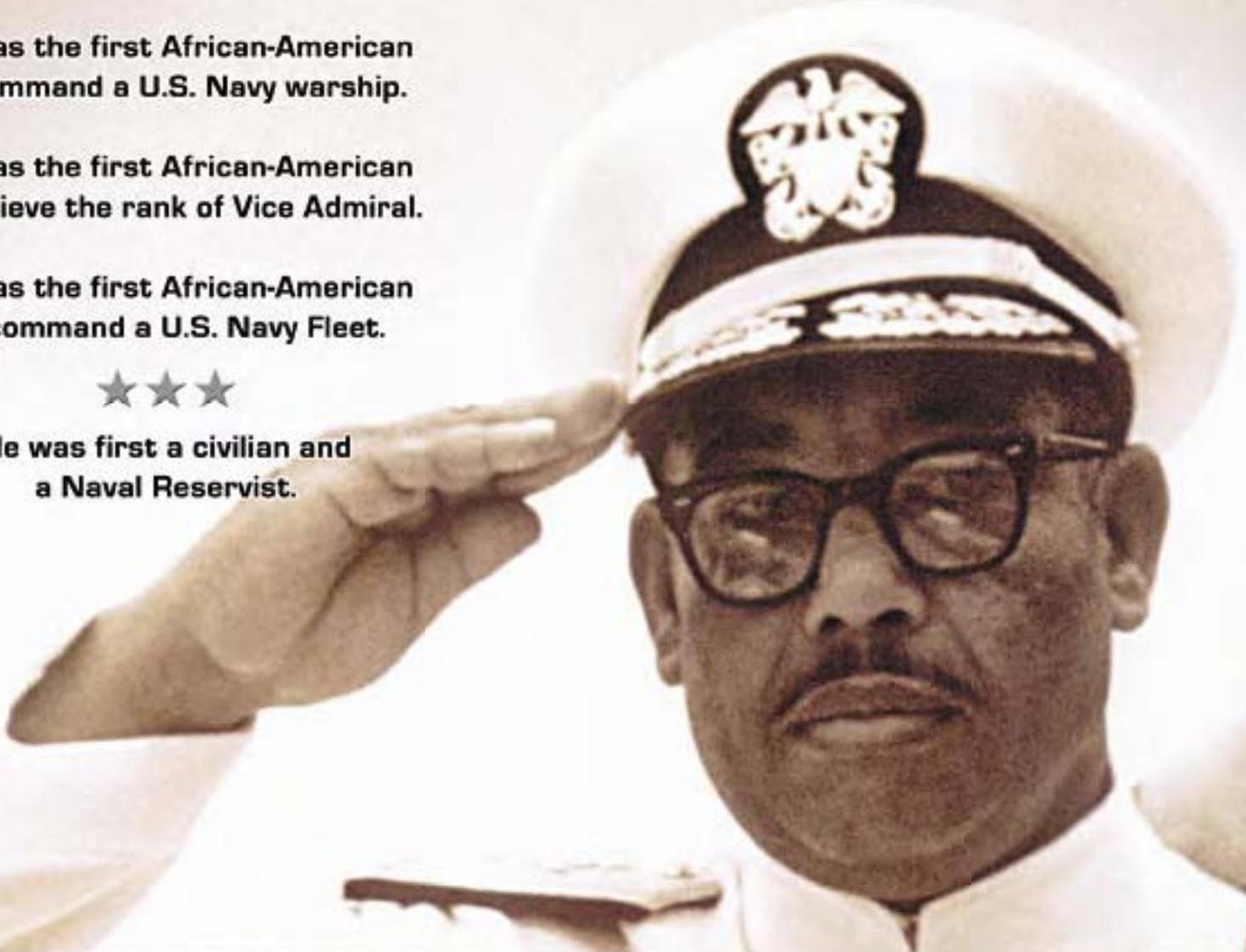
He was the first African-American to command a U.S. Navy warship.

He was the first African-American to achieve the rank of Vice Admiral.

He was the first African-American to command a U.S. Navy Fleet.



He was first a civilian and a Naval Reservist.



During this month that we celebrate Black history, the Naval Reserve honors the commitment of all African-Americans who have proudly served in our force. From accomplished military leaders such as Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. to patriotic, everyday citizens, Naval Reservists have safeguarded our nation as they secured better futures for themselves and their families. Their contribution and dedication will continue to serve as an inspiration for all Americans for generations to come.

www.navalreserve.com
1-800-USA-USNR

**NAVAL
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Naval Reserve Profile of the Month

Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1922. After attending Virginia Union University, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1942. In 1944, he became an Ensign. In 1945, Gravely reported aboard USS PC-1264. Next, LTJG Gravely was mobilized in 1949. He had sea and shore duty during the next decade, including Korean War service, and transferred from the Naval Reserve to the regular Navy in 1955. His first seagoing command was USS Falgout (DER-324). In 1971, while serving as Commanding Officer of USS Jouett (DLG-29), CAPT Gravely was promoted to Rear Admiral. He was the first African-American to achieve flag rank in the Navy. In 1976, VADM Gravely assumed command of the Third Fleet. From 1978 to 1980, he was Director of the Defense Communications Agency. Gravely retired in 1980 after 38 years of service.