



1132

**JUL 9 2010**

Dear Coast Guard Reserve Family Members,

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill has impacted most Americans in one way or another. Members of the Coast Guard family have been particularly involved in this National response effort, as the Coast Guard has been on the leading edge of responding to what is being heralded as the largest environmental disaster in our Nation's history. Our Coast Guard reservists are playing a key role, serving on the front lines in the Gulf and on the beaches, and in support roles standing watches at the Incident Command Posts, Unified Area Command and other locations.

Thank you for supporting your family member's participation as a valued member of the Coast Guard Reserve. You should be proud of your loved ones' accomplishments and dedication to duty. I invite you to view the most recent copy of our "Reservist" magazine (<http://www.uscg.mil/reservist/>), which highlights the roles of the Reserve force in the Deepwater Horizon response.

I realize that in many instances, your loved one received little notice of deployment, requiring changes to summer plans. Thank you for your flexibility, and for supporting your family member as they answered the call to serve. I know that when the reservist is recalled to duty, the family members are also recalled, in a manner. I appreciate your dedication to your reservist and your Nation.

As a member of the Coast Guard with over 28 years of service including 12 at sea, I know first hand the difficulties of being deployed. Throughout my career, support from family and friends has been critical to my success and that of my shipmates. I realize that in addition to having a family member deployed you are likely facing additional challenges such as employer notifications, insurance and dependent care among others.

To assist you, I have directed my staff to post Coast Guard Reserve-specific information on employee benefits and rights for employees/employers. Throughout the Deepwater Horizon response we will continue to update [www.uscg.mil/reserve.mil](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve.mil) with the most current information we have available.

To the families of those reservists serving in support of ongoing overseas contingency operations and other missions, thank you for your continued dedication. You are also invited and encouraged to visit our website.

On behalf of the Coast Guard, I thank you, the family members, for your understanding, cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra L. Stosz".

Sandra L. Stosz  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Acting Director of Reserve and Leadership