COAST GUARD RESERVIST

CG 288

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THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

On 9 October, the President signed into law what may become the most significant legislation affecting the Coast Guard Reserve since its establishment. Public Law 92-479 provides authority for the involuntary recall of members of the Ready Reserve for emergency augmentation of Regular forces during serious natural or man-made disasters, accidents or catastrophies. This law pertains exclusively to the Coast Guard Reserve and as such makes it the first Service to have this capability.

Basically, the law provides that the Secretary, subject to approval of the President, may call members of the Ready Reserve (including ORTU's or individual reservists) to involuntary active duty. The Emergency Active Duty cannot exceed 14 days in any four month period or a total of more than 30 days per year. Active duty performed under this provision would be substituted for annual active duty for training on a day-for-day basis. Except in the most serious emergencies, reservists are allowed at least two days to report for this duty after receipt of orders.

The details for implementing this program are now being developed. However, I want all members of the Ready Reserve to be aware of the Coast Guard's new capability. I expect all reservists to keep themselves prepared and alert to the possibility of sudden recall in the event of a major domestic emergency. Certainly, we all hope that these disasters will not occur at all. However, they will--and now the Coast Guard Reserve has the authority and responsibility to respond to them. Their response will normally be voluntary.

Some reservists will be concerned about their possible recall during such an emergency, particularly if they are personally affected. First of all, we still plan to use volunteers for domestic emergencies where practical. In addition, there will be considerable discretion in the manner of ordering the involuntary recall, in view of its effect on the individual reservist. At the same time, however, you must realize that if it becomes necessary to involuntarily recall reservists for a major domestic emergency--it will be a serious situation involving endangered lives and property--it is expected that Coast Guardsmen would respond to assist. Needed organizational changes at the unit and district level will be considered. The matter of proper equipment for use by reservists in domestic emergencies is under review.

To test our call-up procedures, I intend to call up Ready Reserve personnel for a mobilization drill in the near future. This will involve all Reserve units and personnel will at least receive a telephone check. More information will be promulgated on this matter. Unit CO's may start now to think in terms

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The Honorable Silvio O. Conte: On the Importance of the CGR

The Honorable Silvio O. Conte, of the First District of Massachusetts recently spoke on the importance of the Coast Guard Reserve. The following comments are extracted from his statements.

"The Reserve Officers of this country are a vital component of the military force upon which this nation depends for its safety and well-being. In times of national peril, either in wartime or peacetime, we must depend on more than just the regular components of the armed forces. In such times, the nation turns gratefully to its Reserve force.

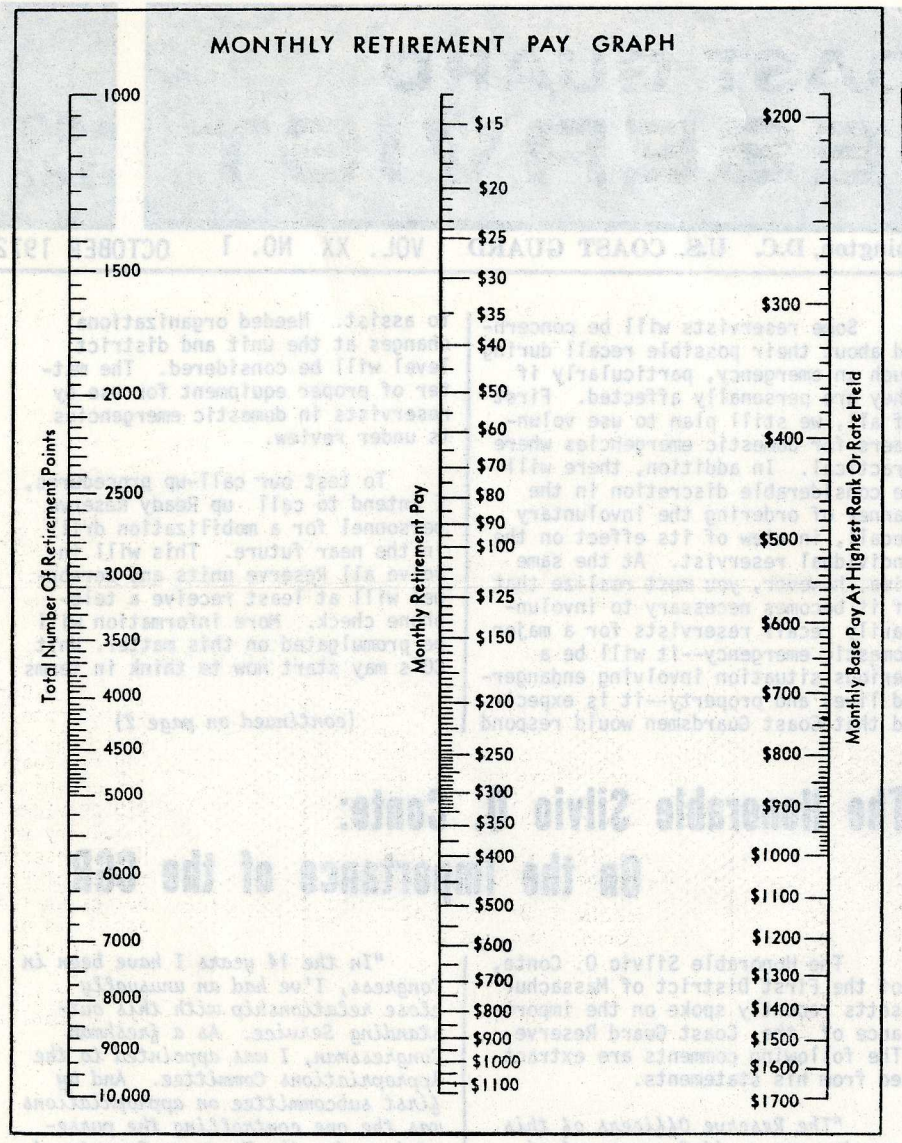
"Your training in the Armed Forces is a resource this nation can ill afford to lose. And so, by your participation in the Reserve, you continue to hone those talents for the moment when an anxious country will again turn to you.

"The Reserve is not an ornament on the country's defense structure. Rather, it is an important part of the very foundation of that structure. And I want you all to know that I will continue to do all I can to make sure that point is made over and over again where it counts in our nation's capital.

"In the 14 years I have been in Congress, I've had an unusually close relationship with this outstanding Service. As a freshman Congressman, I was appointed to the Appropriations Committee. And my first subcommittee on appropriations was the one controlling the purse-strings for the Treasury Department, which at that time had jurisdiction over the Coast Guard. For nearly 10 years I worked with Coast Guard officers to do whatever I could to ensure the continued greatness of this service. The friendships I made over those years are some of the most treasured I have ever made.

"When the Coast Guard Reserve needed help on appropriations this year, no one had to ask me to jump out in front and lead the effort. You had my support simply because you deserved it. The Coast Guard has served this nation, and served it well, since 1790. And the Reserve has been a vital part of that service. When such an organization does its job extraordinarily well, it doesn't need special favors. It simply needs fair treatment, and that's what the Coast Guard Reserve got this year.

(continued on page 4)



To determine your approximate retired pay, place a straight edge between your monthly base pay and the total number of retirement points you have earned (or expect to have). Your retired pay will be the amount indicated in the center column.

Navy League: Friend of the Coast Guard

In the past several years the Coast Guard has had increased contact with the Navy League. Invariably Reserve personnel ask, "What is the Navy League?"

It is an organization of 43,000 citizens concerned with the maritime posture of our country. Their interest include Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

The Coast Guard and Navy League officially established a close relationship in 1968. COMDTINST 5760.1 outlines Coast Guard policy toward the Navy League.

The League is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the telling of the country's need of the seas and the resultant need for a national maritime policy and strategy. It seeks to improve the public's understanding and appreciation of our Servicemen, and supports and recognizes the need for adequate Reserve components.

Coast Guard Auxiliary members and Reservists have been encouraged to join the Navy League and often act as chairmen of Coast Guard affairs programs.

Survivor Benefit Plan

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), a comprehensive survivor benefit program for all military personnel in retirement to complement the survivor benefits of Social Security, has been signed by the President.

The SBP replaces the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, provides an opportunity for a career member who reaches retirement eligibility an opportunity to leave his survivors an annuity of up to 55 percent of his retired pay and share in the cost by deductions in retirement pay.

Also, the SBP provides a minimum income guarantee for certain military widows.

Within the next several months, Reserve Administration Division plans to mail information on the SBP to all reservists scheduled to begin receiving retired pay.

For the complete details of this new program, interested personnel should contact their district office, or Headquarters through a specially established number: 202-426-0276.

Reservist Distribution

An effort is being made by the Office of Reserve to distribute *The Reservist* to all concerned personnel within two weeks of publication. If there is any irregularity in receipt of the publication, contact your district commander (r).

THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

...from page one

of how their unit will respond to a call-up drill as well as actual call-up to a domestic emergency--a real possibility at any time!

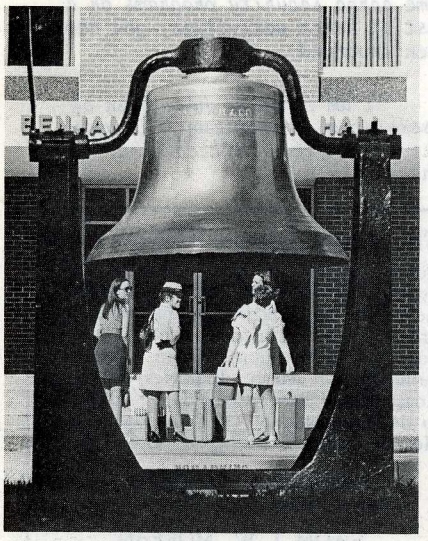
This new legislation is a significant force in the future development of a more rounded mission for the Coast Guard Reserve.

J. W. MOREAU

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT YORKTOWN

SPARS !!!

you've come a long way



NEW SPARS ARRIVE at RTC Yorktown, to begin their basic indoctrination, following the oath of enlistment (inserts, top of page).

The Coast Guard has graduated its first two classes of SPARs to receive basic military training on a Coast Guard installation in 25 years. The Coast Guard women will be used in administrative billets at Coast Guard Reserve units around the nation.

About 30 young women in each of the two groups trained completed two weeks of SPAR indoctrination at the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Virginia. Coming from as far away as Hawaii and Puerto Rico, they increased the total of enlisted SPAR reservists from approximately 35 to about 100.

Until the establishment of this new group, SPARs trained from 8-10 weeks with the Navy at that service's women's boot camp. This new program requires only two weeks indoctrination and allows the SPARs to train together at a Coast Guard Center.

The new SPARs came in at rates from petty officer first through third class, depending on their education and experience. They were enlisted for periods as short as 18 months, and are required to attend at least 75 percent of their monthly Reserve drills.

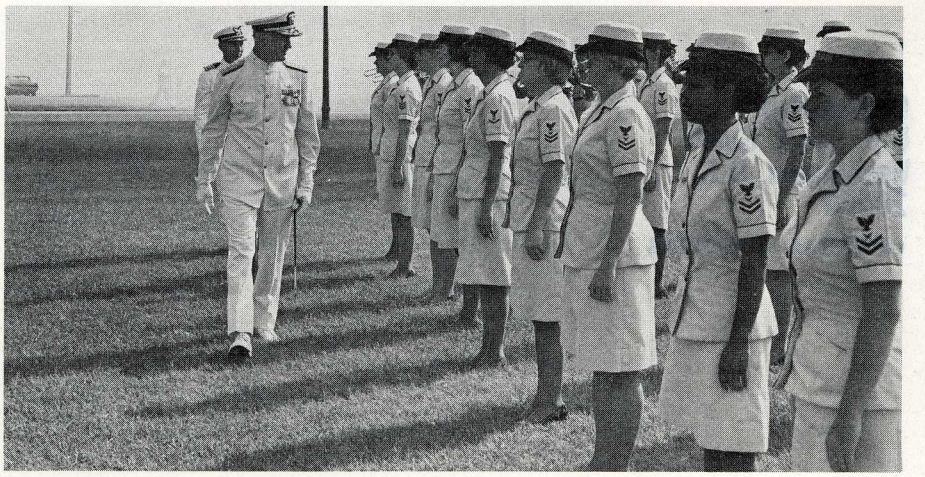
Indoctrination classes were centered around preparation for YN and SK rates.

The new group of SPARs is composed of young women with impressive credentials. The majority have secretarial and accounting skills and many have college degrees. They hold civilian jobs as secretaries, teachers, accountants and one is a writer.

Since they came into the Reserve as yeomen and storekeepers, indoctrination classes were centered around preparation for this type of work.

A typical day at Yorktown began at 0530, when reveille was sounded, and everyone fell out for physical training. Classes were scheduled between 0830 and 1700, with time off for ordering and picking up uniforms, obtaining I.D. cards or other special programs. Evenings were spent studying, cleaning the barracks or for on-base liberty.

Chief Petty Officer Virginia DeFoy, a reservist from Houston, Texas, who came on active duty to be part of the training staff, summed it up by saying, "This is a fine group of girls, interested in filling a very special need in the Coast Guard Reserve. After working closely with them, I am sure they will be a credit to themselves and the Reserve program.



IT'S A LONG JOURNEY from enlistment oath to graduating into the field, but they made it.....Navy Rear Admiral John B. Johnson reviews the graduating SPAR company, the first to receive basic military training on a Coast Guard installation in 25 years.

Reserve Augmentation: Expanding , Improving

Reserve augmentation of operating Coast Guard units is expanding and improving every day. The RESERVIST is too small to report every instance of augmentation. Here is a brief wrap-up on recent reports of augmentation throughout the country.

--Portland, Maine: Reservists assisted the local CG units in monitoring the clean-up of a 100,000 gallon oil spill caused by the grounding of a foreign tanker.

--Los Angeles, California: Reservists participated in Coast Guard activities involving a huge tank farm fire in the San Pedro harbor area. Coast Guardsmen laid hose, supplied foam and provided waterside assistance to the battle against this spectacular fire involving millions of gallons of inflamable chemicals and exploding storage tanks.

--Louisiana: Reservists have taken over full-time responsibility for maintenance of all aids to navigation in one section of the Mississippi that formerly required active duty personnel to travel down-river from Memphis, Tennesse. Now local reservists maintain the aids, including "all hours" emergency repairs.

--Great Lakes: Reservists worked with a number of American and Canadian agencies on a bi-lateral study of the Great Lakes' hydrographic and meteorological conditions.

COUNT YOUR LUCKY SPARS...see page 3

Congressman Conte: On the CGR

...from page one

"The Coast Guard has distinguished itself in peacetime and wartime; from the days of rampant smuggling in a fledgling nation, to the days of "Fortress America" to the present time of international power and influence. Reserve officers don't have to be told that, for you have lived it. Whether it is wartime combat, search and rescue operations, service in natural disaster, anti-pollution efforts, maritime cargo security programs or a host of other activities, you have been involved.

"I am proud to have been of assistance in ensuring that your needed services will continue in the future."

The Coast Guard RESERVIST

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Editors

All photographs are official Coast Guard material unless otherwise designated.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are invited to submit articles of interest to the Editor of RESERVIST for possible publication.

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