



RESERVE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

August 2006

The Proud, The Prepared, The First

Issue LXVI

This is the sixty-sixth issue of the electronic newsletter from the First District Office. This newsletter is intended to inform all members of the

Coast Guard team throughout the District on reserve program issues. Current distribution of this newsletter is to major unit COs/XOs and senior reservists, and to reservists and selected active duty members of the First District staff. Please forward this newsletter throughout your organization by such means as e-mail, posting copies, or mailing copies to reservists at home. This newsletter shares information on the reserve program district-wide. We welcome input and news from field activities. Please note that the information in this newsletter is unofficial. Check references before taking any action based solely on information contained in the newsletter.

From the Desk of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs



I was told a year ago that then-Vice Admiral Allen kept a "ready bag" in the back of his truck. The story held further that upon Admiral Allen's being put in charge of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, a high-ranking DHS official called his home to give him amplifying instructions. But the admiral wasn't

there: his truck was at the airport, and he and his ready bag were jetting to the Gulf Coast.

I don't know how much of this is strictly true and how much is legend, but it is certainly a compelling legend to be told of the leader of an organization that bills itself as "Always Ready."

Now a year later, hurricane season is on us again. This is a good time for all of us to see that the ready bag is ready. You know what goes in it: ODU's, dop kit, flashlight, rigger's knife, all that.

There are other items that we need to take but

that don't fit in the ready bag. These include the expertise we gain by meeting our training obligations and the stamina we maintain by keeping ourselves fit. These are among the readiness qualities the Coast Guard is trying to quantify and track when it looks at reservists' medical, dental, IDT, and ADT currency rates. And that is why I beat the drum on these items every time I visit a unit or speak at an all-hands.

There are a couple of other things we need to take, but of these there seems to be no shortage: initiative and enthusiasm. The story about Admiral Allen illustrates these qualities, and so do the reports I've read from many D1 reservists who were mobilized last year.

So, while I don't hope for another mobilization to respond to a hurricane or some other disaster, I'm pretty sure we'll have to mobilize for something, and it will probably be sooner than we expect. So be ready. Be Always Ready. Go pack that ready bag.

- Captain Frank Mullen

Scheduled Requirements

Due in September
Performance Evaluations of E-7 members.

Tricare Reserve Select

COMDTNOTE 6010
ALCOAST 421/06
11 August 2006
The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act of 2006 introduces a new Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) program for Selected Reserve (SELRES) member and their families.

TES is a three-tiered benefit with separate qualification requirements and monthly premium rates for each tier.

Tier I
Reserve members released from active duty in support of a contingency operation.
Monthly Premium:
\$81 – Individual
\$252 – Family

Tier II
Drilling Reservists with no civilian employer-sponsored insurance.
Monthly Premium:
\$145 – Individual
\$451 – Family

Tier III
Drilling Reservists.
Monthly Premium:
\$247 – Individual
\$767 – Family

All TRS tiers require the member to commit to service in the Selected Reserve for the period of TRS coverage.

Coverage is for a minimum of one year and renewable during an annual open season with recertification.

The current enrollment date is 25 September 2006 with an effective date of coverage of 1 October 2006.

More detailed information can be obtained by logging on to the TRS website at [www.tricare.osd.mil/serve/reserveselect](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect)

Or by calling the Coast Guard's Tricare information line at 1-800-9-HBA-HBA (1-800-942-2422)

Army Creating a New Reservist Category

Service members in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) that are especially qualified and ready to deploy could now fall into the new Individual Warrior Category (IW), the Army announced on April 12.

Soldiers in the new IW group will be required to maintain a higher level of readiness than traditional IRR service members. They will have to attend annual readiness processing

and maintain proficiency in their military occupational specialties.

Creating Disaster Reservists?

(Government Executive)
A Senate committee has called for the dismantling of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the creation of a new agency within the Homeland Security Department to take its place.

The panel also recommended that DHS consider training an unspecified number of employees outside of the agency replacing FEMA to act as reservists in the event of a disaster.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee report called for changes to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act and to the National Response Plan, to ensure they address all types of disasters and catastrophes.

Extensive Role

(Kiplinger's Budget and Program Newsletter)
How extensive is the role of the Reserves and National Guard?

According to the Government

Accountability Office (GAO) they constitute over 30% of U.S. forces in Iraq. Their condition was summed up by one U.S. Senate Armed Services subcommittee chair, as being "under stress in this war unlike any other war." He added that, unless troop levels were raised for the Army and Marine Corps..."we're going to break the Reserves and National Guard."

At the heart of this is a profound shift - from lending active duty troops strategic reserve support - to becoming operational units. That raises questions concerning training, equipment, pay, policies, and an organizational structure that hasn't changed much since the 1950's.

The new dynamic also creates an imbalance concerning domestic National Guard duties and lack of equipment - about 100,000 supply items have been transferred overseas, exhausting certain inventories. National Guard officials believe their Katrina response was affected because..."significant quantities of critical equipment such as satellite communications, radios, trucks, helicopters and

night vision goggles were deployed to Iraq."

The FY 2005 Defense authorization bill created a 13-member commission to look into needed changes.

PL 109-233 and It's Impact on SGLI

On 15 June 2006, the President signed Public Law (PL) 109-233, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006. This new law has resulted in a change affecting the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program.

Currently, service members who have SGLI coverage and are totally disabled when they separate from service can apply for an extension of their SGLI coverage for up to one year with no premium cost.

Public Law 109-233 extends the maximum free coverage period from one year to two years and is retroactive to one year prior to enactment. As a result of this change, the two-year SGLI disability extension is available to veterans who meet all of the following conditions:

- Were discharged on or after 15 June 2005
- Had SGLI coverage at the time of separation
- Have been totally disabled continuously since their date of separation from service.

More information is available at www.insurance.va.gov/sqbsite/sqli/sqlidisabled

FEHB Enrollment Extended for Active Duty Reserve

Federal employees called to active duty may soon be eligible for an additional six months of Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage.

The Office of Personnel Management has published proposed regulations in the Federal Register that would extend the FEHB coverage period from 18 months to 24 months for federal employees who met the following five criteria. Employees must be:

- * Enrolled in the FEHB program
- * A member of the reserve component of the armed forces

* Called or ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation

* Placed on leave without pay or separated from service to perform active duty

* Serve on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days

TSP Ticker



Rates of return include 12-month averages for the L funds now that they have been in existence for one year.

July 2006

C	+0.65%
F	+1.32%
G	+0.44%
I	+0.98%
S	(-2.79%)

Last 12 Months

C	+5.42%
F	+1.42%
G	+4.84%
I	+24.00%
S	+5.35%

July 2006

L 2040	+0.13%
L 2030	+0.20%
L 2020	+0.35%
L 2010	+0.37%
L Income	+0.49%

Last 12 Months

L 2040	+9.12%
L 2030	+8.50%
L 2020	+8.15%
L 2010	+7.32%
L Income	+5.51%

Closing Quote

"The Coast Guard is developing a maritime security strategy that will guide its decision-making, rulemaking, technological requirements and requests for legislation into the future.

"This strategy is needed because the Coast Guard has had such a high operations tempo since the September 11, 2001 attacks that we haven't had a chance to sit back and assess what is the end state."

- Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen speaking at a briefing sponsored by *Defense Weekly*, 21 July 2006.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

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