



## RESERVE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

May 2007

***The Proud, The Prepared, The First***

Issue LXXII

*This is the seventy-second 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



Just a few weeks ago at my house it was snowing. Now, spring has arrived with mild temperatures.

I have a New Englander's inborn distrust of good weather in the Spring, but fair skies remind me that SAR season will soon be upon us. And later in

the summer, hurricane season will return.

Which brings me to today's topic. It is my only topic, actually: reserve readiness. As he did last year, this year Commandant has again requested pre-authorization to mobilize up to 1,500 ready reservists in the event of hurricanes or other natural disasters. If approved, the authorization would span the six month period from 1 June to 31 December 2007.

We think of mobilizations under this authority as covering hurricanes, but that's only because Katrina and Rita are still fresh in

our memories. You can see from the span of this authority that Commandant could use it to cover Coast Guard responses not only to hurricanes, but to “other natural disasters” such as early winter storms on the Great Lakes or severe nor’easters right here.

So all of us have to be ready—*Semper Paratus*, after all. In 2006 we had it easy. But a major hurricane will hit the Southeast or the Gulf again someday, and the nation will expect the Coast Guard to respond with the same alacrity and professionalism as we did in 2005. And, if a disaster hits later in the season in the colder regions of the country, the nation will rightly expect us to do the same there as well.

I’m sure by now that all of us have a “ready bag” packed. It is time to review its contents—uniforms, flashlight, rigging knife—you know the drill, and foul-weather gear. New Orleans in September may have been insufferably hot, but Detroit in December won’t be. Make sure your ready bag is ready for any climate.

*Semper Paratus*

- *Captain Frank Mullen*

### **Scheduled Requirements**

*Due in May*  
Biennial O-3 OERs;

Enlisted Performance Evaluations of E-6 members.

*Due in June*  
Biennial W-2 OERs;

Enlisted Performance Evaluations of E-9 members.

### **Helping Each Other**

*ALCOAST 130/07*  
*COMDTNOTE 5760*  
*15 March 2007*  
April was Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) fundraising campaign month. CGMA is the Coast Guard’s own financial relief organization, established by Coast Guard people for the purpose of helping each other through tough times. Thus, the theme for this year’s campaign:

*“Helping Each Other”*

Through CGMA the Coast Guard family provided nearly \$6 million in assistance to more than 6,500 needy Coast Guard recipients last year, along with over \$422,000 in supplemental education grants.

Working together we can ensure that CGMA continues to serve us well as we carry on the proud tradition of looking after our own.

Thanks to all who made a contribution during this year’s campaign.

### **October 2007 RSWE**

*UNCLAS N01400*  
*ALCGRSV 011/07*  
*12 April 2007*

The 2007 Reserve Service Wide Examination (RSWE) will be administered on Saturday morning, 20 October.

End of Course Test (EOCT) requirements to participate in the RSWE are waived for advancements to the following rates:

- BM1
- BM2
- FS2
- IV2
- MK1
- MK2
- MST1
- OS1
- OS2

The RSWE is waived for advancement to the following rates:

- FS1
- HS2
- MST2

### **New HS2 Rating Course**

*ALCOAST 129/07  
COMDTNOTE 1430  
15 March 2007*  
A new Health Services Technician Second Class (HS2) rating course is now available in the form of a Performance Qualification Guide (PQG).

Points of Contact:  
HSCM John Goodhue  
(202) 475-5174;  
HSCS Elizabeth Beck  
(707) 765-7296.

### **Panel to Review Reserve Report**

A Defense Department senior-level working group has reviewed the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve's wide-ranging recommendations for changing the way reserve component forces are led, organized, funded and employed.

Commission Chairman Arnold Punaro, a retired Marine Corps Reserve major general, said that much work needs to be done. The overall posture of the nation's reserve components, he said is "worse than the worst days of the 'hollow force' in the late '70s and early '80s."

### **Bill Would Neutralize Pay Gap**

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-Louisiana) has sponsored a bill that would require the government to make up the difference in pay for mobilized federal workers whose net income is reduced when they leave their civilian jobs.

The Department of Defense (DoD) does not support this bill because of the perception that the government would be paying reservists more for serving in uniform than it pays for full-time active duty service members.

### **MGIB Equity Proposed**

Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Arkansas) and Congressman Vic Snyder (D-Arkansas) have introduced companion legislation that would make benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) for members of the Guard and Reserve equitable with those of the active duty forces.

The Total Force GI Bill would:

- Tie increases in SELRES MGIB benefits to active duty MGIB increases;
- Make the Reserve

Educational Assistance program portable for 10 years after leaving active service; and

- Would link the monthly rate of GI Bill accrual for activated members of the SELRES to the active duty rate.

### **SBP Annuity Goes to 50 Percent**

Annuitants of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) age 62 or older, who are not already receiving 50 percent of the base amount, will find that their May checks raised to 50 percent.

Originally, beneficiaries received 55 percent of the base amount until age 62, then the annuity was reduced for most beneficiaries to 35 percent.

Under a change in the law, Congress phased the 35 percent back to 55 percent in 5-percent increments.

The May 2007 change from 45 percent to 50 percent will be followed by a return to the full 55 percent in April 2008.



April 2007

C	+4.43%
F	+7.37%
G	+0.42%
I	+3.76%
S	+2.51%

Last 12 Months

C	+15.23%
F	+7.37%
G	+5.03%
I	+18.99%
S	+11.67%

April 2007

L 2040	+3.28%
L 2030	+2.95%
L 2020	+2.58%
L 2010	+1.76%
L Income	+1.08%

Last 12 Months

L 2040	+14.27%
L 2030	+13.11%
L 2020	+12.04%
L 2010	+ 9.63%
L Income	+ 7.30%

**2050 on the Horizon**

Within the next couple of months, the federal 401(K) plan will offer a new option targeted to younger and/or more aggressive investors.

The L 2050 fund will be added to the 10 options already available to the 3 million active and retired federal and

military personnel who participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

The L 2050 fund will be designed for people planning to start withdrawing money from their TSP accounts between the years 2045 and 2055. It will have investment goals that include a portfolio that is heavily weighted in the higher-risk/higher-reward U.S. and international stock markets.

The L 2050 fund will have only a token investment in the super-safe G fund of guaranteed U.S. Treasury securities, or the bond market-indexed F fund.

Present L 2050 investments:

- 42% C fund
- 25% I fund
- 18% S fund
- 10% F fund
- 5% G fund

For federal employees who want the advantages of professional management and regular adjustments to make the investments more conservative over time, the L funds are worth considering.

Later this year, the board that runs the TSP will be asked to set up

several more specialized funds. In the past, Congress has pushed for an R fund for real estate investment trusts, another G fund that would invest in gold and other precious metals and a fund that tracks the dot-com market.

**Closing Quote**

*"The Deepwater project has been riddled with problems, delaying implementation of essential security measures and potentially wasting millions of taxpayer dollars. My bill aims for a real workable fix for the program.*

*"It's long overdue for the Coast Guard to make the necessary reforms to protect taxpayers and prevent further delays in the Deepwater program"*

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)  
Introducing the  
Deepwater  
Accountability Act  
(15 March 2007)

**KEEP UP THE  
GOOD WORK!**

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