



U.S. COAST GUARD

RESERVIST



MARCH 2004

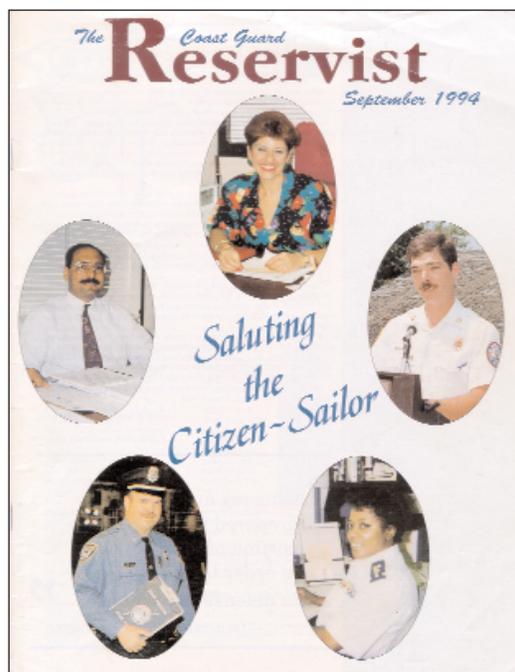


THE 10TH ANNUAL

CITIZEN-SAILOR

ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Citizen-Sailor 10th Anniversary

In September 1994, this magazine began an annual tradition with the Citizen-Sailor issue. We wanted to showcase our reservists' incredible civilian talent and skills nationwide (see cover above). Each successive year, we've published a variation of that theme: Citizen-Sailor families (1995); employers (1996); volunteer community involvement (1997); civilian occupations (1998); educators (1999); law enforcement (2000); firefighters (2001); and students (2002-2003). This year, for the 10th annual Citizen-Sailor issue, we asked you, our readers, to once again, submit short articles on your civilian occupations. We salute all who submitted articles and have tried to publish all of them.

Meanwhile, a word about this magazine and CGR Web site. If you have access to a computer and the internet, please log in frequently to www.uscg.mil/reserve. The Reserve Web site is updated daily with "Hot Items," messages and other useful information, opportunities and news you can use. Despite our best efforts, we realize that the hard copy of this magazine takes much longer to produce and get into your home mailbox. Here are the facts. Once it leaves our office, the printer has 12 working days (in addition to weekends) by contract to produce the hard copy. Then, once bulk-mailed from our printer in Alabama, it can take several weeks for delivery, especially to West Coast locations. Please understand our dilemma and know that we are working on cutting the time between laying out the magazine and the your receiving it at home. Your best alternative is to read it on line at: www.uscg.mil/reservist.

March is the kickoff for the annual Coast Guard Mutual Assistance campaign which runs until April 30. Here are the 2003 stats...reservists gave \$19,741 but received \$258,778 in assistance. That's a 13:1 ratio! See page 25 for a CGMA coupon.

Semper Paratus!

The **Coast Guard Reservist** is published by the Commandant, Director of Reserve & Training, U.S. Coast Guard. It is intended for information only and is not authority for official action. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security or U.S. Coast Guard. The editor reserves the right to select and edit all materials for publication.



Send submissions to:

**COMMANDANT (G-WTR-2)
U.S. COAST GUARD
2100 SECOND STREET SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-0001
ATTN: EDITOR, THE RESERVIST**

Phone: 202-267-1991
1-800-842-8740, ext. 7-1991/1024
FAX: 202-267-4325
E-mail: ekruska@comdt.uscg.mil

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Web Site
www.uscg.mil/reserve

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SELRES: PLEASE USE DIRECT-ACCESS TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, OR SEND YOUR ADDRESS CHANGE TO YOUR UNIT PERSRU; RETIREES, SEND E-MAIL TO: PSC-RAS@HRSIC.USCG.MIL

ADM Thomas H. Collins, USCG
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

RADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., USCG
Director of Reserve & Training

CAPT Louis M. Farrell, USCGR
Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs

LCDR Robert T. Hanley, USCGR
Chief, Reserve Communications Division
E-mail: rhanley@comdt.uscg.mil

LT Scott C. Toves, USCGR
Assistant Chief, Reserve Communications Division
E-mail: stoves@comdt.uscg.mil

LTJG Jae-Won Kwon, USCGR
Reserve Awards; E-mail: jkwon@comdt.uscg.mil

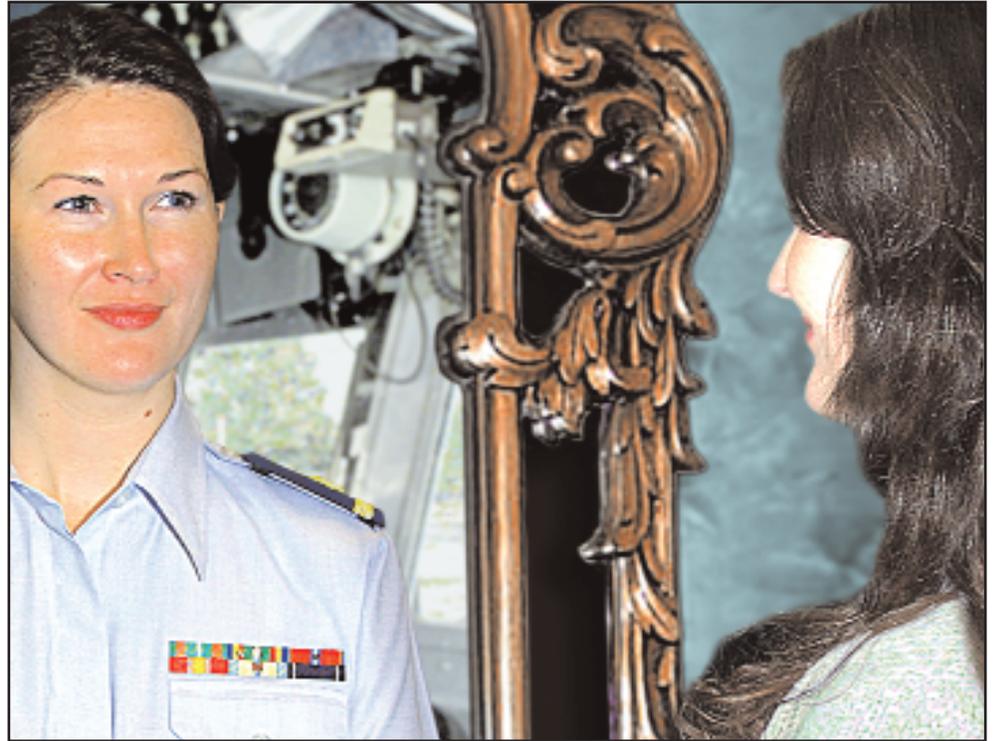
CWO2 Edward J. Kruska, USCGR
Editor, The Coast Guard Reservist
E-mail: ekruska@comdt.uscg.mil

Mr. Chris S. Rose
Asst. Editor, Layout & Design
E-mail: crose@comdt.uscg.mil

BMCM Mark H. Allen, USCGR
Staff Assistant & Special Projects
E-mail: mallen@sgt-inc.com

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For the 10th year we celebrate our unique blend of citizens and sailors.



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Retirement Questions

I have a question regarding retirement. I hope to make CWO4 in June 2004 and will have served 30 years in September 2005 which will give me approximately 15 months in grade. Someone said that you have to put in 24 months prior to retirement to draw pay at that grade. I believe 24 months is for active duty and not reservists. I have looked in the *Reserve Policy Manual* in Chapter 8 Section C on "Retirements" and in 8.C.8 it appears that my prior statement is incorrect. Could you please give me some clarification.

CWO Edward D. Salva, USCGR
Baton Rouge, La.

Ed's note: According to Mr. Peter Buel of Personnel Service Center Retirement and Annuity Services (ras), the requirement on the Reserve side to successfully hold CWO4 (or any officer grade) is 24 hours (Reserve Policy Manual, Chapter 8.C.8). The active duty side is another story with some different factors. Essentially there is a two-year requirement there, although by law only six months required. Coast Guard policy is to obtain a minimum two years service from a newly promoted officer (see Coast Guard Personnel Manual, Chapter 12.C.15).

Boat Forces Operations Pin

I've seen several references during recent months about the Boat Forces Pin, but I've yet to see one worn on a uniform. Can you tell me the requirements for awarding and wearing the pin? I looked for M1020.6D but couldn't find it at our unit. Just curious. Thanks and keep up the good work.

PS1 Robert W. Young, Jr., USCGR
Columbia, S.C.

Ed's note: You must be referring to the Boat Force Operations insignia. LT Lynda LeCrone of Commandant (G-OCS-1) directed us to the Boat Operations & Training Manual, Vol. II, Chapter 7, page 2-111 through 2-115, available on the Coast Guard intranet site. The basic insignia design and color scheme is comprised of pewter-tone waves, crossed boathook and oar, and a superimposed compass rose. The silver and gold-tone insignia is for those who have achieved a heightened level of qualification. For the pewter-tone insignia, members must serve five years of cumulative service at Boat Force field units, must attain a boat crewmember qualification code (enlisted) or certification letter (officer) by completing the appropriate qualification tasks, and must receive a favorable recommendation from the Group Commander. Please see the references above for specifics on temporary entitlements and administration and for the specifics of the silver and gold-tone insignia.



ID Cards for IRR members?

I transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) after 31 years active duty, active and inactive reserve time. Do I need an ID card? I asked the YN1 at my parent unit about that and he looked at me as if he had never heard of such a thing.

MSTC Gary Jarboe, USCGR
Owensboro, Ky.

Ed's note: We checked with CWO George Paidousis, Assistant Branch Chief, Reserve Enlisted Personnel Management, Coast Guard Personnel Command. He said members of the IRR are issued an ID card and says members can obtain an ID card at any ID card issuing authority (any branch of service). Questions can be directed to CWO Paidousis at 202-493-1720; E-mail: gpaidousis@ballston.uscg.mil

Reserve Emblem

A number of years ago, about 10 I believe, there appeared in *The Reservist* a window or bumper sticker like the one enclosed. As a retired BM1 reservist, I would be proud to display this emblem on my vehicles. Could *The Reservist* again publish these self-stick emblems on a yearly basis? Thank you.



BM1 John R Kriete, USCGR
Harbor Beach, Mich.

Ed's note: The CGR emblem was "unveiled" by RADM John N. Faigle, then Chief, Office of Readiness and Reserve, for the CGR's 50th anniversary in the May 1990 issue. Although the emblem has been printed on the pages of this magazine numerous times over the years, it was never included as a bumpersticker insert. Foil CGR emblems were printed for the CGR's 50th anniversary and distributed to Reserve units nationwide. However, this is a good idea. We'll look into it for possible publication in a future issue.

Thanks from "Santa's Helper"

I must say – you and your crew outdid yourselves. It was beautiful ("Former Coastie now Santa's Helper," December 2003). Needless to say, I will certainly treasure this issue. The U.S. Coast Guard over the years has had a very special place in my life. I feel bad that the USCG has not received its status among the armed forces in the past. It seems that is changing for the best. There is no doubt that *The Reservist* is helping the U.S. Coast Guard find its place in the sun. Good luck on your future endeavors and may God hold you all in the palm of His hand. Semper Paratus.

Capt. W. E. Cudlipp, USAR Ret.
Palmyra, Pa.

ROCI's 20th Anniversary

Let me first thank you and your staff for the work you do for the Reserve program. I noticed in the November 2003 issue that a couple of officers in the "ROCI Graduates of

2003” picture (page 8) are wearing other service pins (example: the commander in the front row, second from the left, is wearing the combat infantry badge). I know that we are now authorized to wear other service pins but I cannot locate the regulations that back this up. I have heard that the pin or badge must be earned while in the Coast Guard, but I remember seeing a message that authorized the wearing of pins or badges earned while serving in another service. Can you pinpoint this message or regulation to clarify this?

*ENS Ron Nakamoto, USCG
Washington, D.C.*

Ed's note: Wow! What an eagle-eyed ensign you are! The Coast Guard Uniform Regulations (COMDTINST M1020.6E), Chapter 3.E.1, address your question as follows: "Coast Guard officers and enlisted members who, while a member of the Coast Guard, have earned qualification insignia from another United States military service are authorized to wear said insignia on the Coast Guard uniform as described in this section. The individual Coast Guard member is responsible to provide proof of authority to wear another United States military service's qualification insignia for inclusion in their service record as appropriate. When multiple levels of qualification are attained, the more advanced qualification is worn in lieu of the previous."



In the November issue of the U.S. Coast Guard Reservist you published a photograph entitled “ROCI Graduates of 2003” on page 8. In the caption you appropriately indicated that it was ROCI’s 20th anniversary and that many visiting Reserve officers in attendance were from the very first ROCI class of 1983, some of whom were shown in the front row.

This brought back many fond memories of that 1983 summer when I served as senior instructor along with LT R. D. Lanning and LTJG Ann Courtney at Yorktown, Va. Twenty years is a long time and I am sorry to say that I did not recognize any of those former graduates depicted as names were not indicated.

In this regard, I would love to know the names of those officers in attendance or to hear from any of those from 1983. My e-mail address is wbeal001@tampabay.rr.com.

Incidentally, your photograph depicted a very fine group of newly commissioned officers. I kind of wonder if any of the traditions that we established in 1983 were carried forth

for future classes. One of those traditions we tried to establish was the playing of the theme from the movie *Rocky* as background to many of our activities. Again, I would like to hear from anyone in this regard. Keep up the great job. Bravo Zulu!

*CAPT William C. Beal, USCGR(Ret.)
Seminole, Fla.*

Ed's note: Our apologies to readers for not listing names as they were not available at press time. Front row of the photo (shown on this page), left to right are: CDR Jim Montgomery, CDR Reg Needham, CDR Steve Little, CDR Larry Jones, RADM Duncan Smith, CAPT Ron White, CDR Van Young, OCS staff; LT Joseph Althouse, OCS staff; LT Eric Wescott, OCS staff; and LTJG Josi Heron, OCS staff.

Recruiting Issue “Ham”

The September 2003 issue of *The Reservist* (recruiting) was great! I found the posters particularly interesting. I am a Ham Radio Operator and have reproduced two of the posters as QSL cards. QSLs are confirmation cards sent to other “Hams” after talking to them.

*CDR Gerald R. Skinner, USCGR(Ret.)
Ormond Beach, Fla.*

Recruiting During Korean War

During the Korean War, as a Coast Guard Reserve lieutenant commander, I was ordered to 30 days active duty to recruit enlisted men for our service.

I was provided with a Coast Guard station wagon driven by a chief petty officer, a movie camera, and several color films of Coast Guard activities. We were given general orders — instructions really — to select groups of young men in the Fifth District for recruitment, and to guide all interested to the nearest CG Recruiting Office.

I spoke to various groups of such young men, and, during those 30 days, met the **entire recruiting quota for that year**. No such plan has **ever** been employed since, to my knowledge, although I later wrote a letter to our Headquarters in Washington — and we still have recruiting problems.

*CDR Harry H. Sandidge, USCGR(Ret.)
Richmond, Va.*

Ed's note: Thanks for the trip down memory lane, commander. Recruiting is a full-time job and today's Coast Guard recruiters face big challenges, especially in the post-911 environment. Everyone can help by memorizing the Coast Guard recruiting Web site (www.gocoastguard.com) and phone number (1-877-NOW-USCG). The toll-free 877 phone number connects callers with a recruiter in their local area.

Corrections / Clarifications

The PSU 311 member on the back cover of the November 2003 issue was PS3 James Kephart, not PS2 Patrick Hassel. • Some readers have recently wondered about the qualifications for the PSU Insignia. They are reprinted in this issue on page 28 and can also be found in the *Coast Guard Personnel Manual* (COMDTINST M1000.6), Chapter 6.C.3.

Five Priorities for Reserve Affairs Staff



By
Louis M. Farrell
 Captain, USCGR
 Chief, Office of
 Reserve Affairs

Six months have passed since I reported as Chief of Reserve Affairs. Based on what I have observed, and more importantly, based on the direction RADM Papp has set for the Reserve Program, five priorities are on my plate to accomplish during the time I am blessed to remain in this position. While none of these initiatives are easy, there has never been a better time, a better environment with such dedicated people, to pursue dramatic improvements to our Reserve force. I look forward over the coming months to working with you on these and other important issues. Here they are:

While we will maintain our current strength of 8,100 through fiscal year 2005, we anticipate being funded to increase our strength beginning in fiscal year 2006, followed by incremental growth in subsequent years. To ensure we maintain our current numbers and are able to immediately grow at the beginning of fiscal year 2006, we have worked carefully with the Recruiting Command to maintain adequate numbers of recruiters and, for the first time ever, have developed "Reserve recruiting missions," or targets for key recruiting offices throughout the nation. The recruiters funded by the Reserve program will be recruiting reservists, and there will be no slowing down or stopping Reserve recruitment.

1. **RSAT Implementation**
2. **Maintain a fully ready Reserve force**
3. **Position the Program for future growth**
4. **Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) Study**
5. **Improve the diversity of the Selected Reserve and RPA Corps**

1.

RSAT Implementation: Fully and completely implement the 84 action items contained in the report of the Reserve Strategic Assessment Team (RSAT). This comprehensive study identified numerous problems or gaps in the current policy and processes that govern support to Coast Guard Reservists, including during times of mobilization and demobilization. Proper implementation of these action items during the next three years will greatly improve the support you receive.

4.

Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) Study: This six-month, comprehensive review of every aspect of the officer corps charged with administering the Coast Guard Reserve program will recommend substantial changes that will better position these dedicated officers to accomplish their primary mission: assure the Reserve force is optimally positioned to meet its commitments.

2.

Maintain a fully ready Reserve force: While our Selected Reserve strength will remain at 8,100 for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, we anticipate beginning a period of growth in fiscal year 2006. However, we will maintain a fully trained, fully qualified, and fully supported Reserve force, whatever size the funding permits. Our plan is to not reduce the number of drills, ADT days, or other types of training and support to fund an increase in our numbers. Instead, we will seek additional funding for any strength increases.

5.

Improve the impact that diversity has on the Selected Reserve and RPA Corps: The Coast Guard Reserve program, including the RPA Corps, has a major challenge in terms of building a diverse workforce. Our data demonstrates the essential need to improve not only the number of minorities and women into the Selected Reserve and the RPA Corps, but to also ensure that we have the pool of talent to promote as role models. To compete for all of the best people available, we have to be the "employer of choice." We are working closely with the Commandant's Workforce Policy Advisor, Mr. David Benton, who also serves as the Reserve Policy Advisor, to develop and implement a strategic diversity initiative during the next three years that will address this need for increased diversity.

3.

Position the Program for future growth: Recent mobilizations have clearly shown a need for a larger Reserve force.

2004 ROA Mid-Winter Convention



The Coast Guard Reserve was well represented at the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C. Jan. 25-28. Clockwise from below: LT Phillip Snodgrass, third from right, receives a plaque from VADM Thad Allen, Coast Guard Chief of Staff, at the Coast Guard Congressional Reception Jan. 26 at ROA Headquarters. Snodgrass family members, left to right, Cadet Michael Snodgrass, U.S. Military Academy, brother; Col. Philip Snodgrass, Sr., U.S. Army (Ret.), father; VADM Allen, LT Snodgrass, Nancy Snodgrass, wife; Mary Snodgrass, mother. • There have been 77 national presidents of the ROA during the organization's 82-year history; three have been Coast Guard Reservists, shown left to right: RADM Bennett "Bud" Sparks, 1982-83; RADM Robert "Bob" Merrilees, 2003-04; and CAPT Ralph Diverio, 1988-89. • MCPO Gary Sherrill and LT Tom Sullard stand in front of the Coast Guard Reserve booth at the ROA Exhibit Center. This year's USCG theme was "USCG, Ordinary People, Extraordinary Service, The Shield of Freedom."

Photo by CWO2 Ed Kruska, USCGR



Photo by Mike James, ROA



Photo by CWO2 Ed Kruska, USCGR

Team Coast Guard Racing Shows off its New Wheels



RADM Ken Venuto, left, poses with Terry, Bobby and Justin Labonte, the 2004 NASCAR Busch Grand National Series Drivers for Team Coast Guard Racing, next to their Coast Guard sponsored NASCAR Feb. 11 in the Infield Media Center at Daytona International Speedway in Florida. RADM Venuto, the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for human resources, unveiled the car and announced that the three members of the famed Labonte racecar driving family will serve as national spokesmen for the Coast Guard's "You're in Command" boating safety awareness initiative.

USCG photo by LT Ronald Mench

Joint Service “Heroes of TRICARE”

When it comes to outreach efforts, few people have assisted as many individuals as CWO3 Mike Brzezicki, USCG, and CMSgt Mac Sanders, USAF, of DoD Health Services Region 4 Lead Agent Office at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Brzezicki and Sanders delivered 215 briefs to more than 17,000 Active Duty, Reserve component, retirees and family members and logged over 90,000 miles during their outreach efforts. They personally briefed, authored, and conducted training programs for newly assigned Naval Reserve commanding officers and senior enlisted advisors. The effectiveness of this program prompted the Naval Reserve Command to adopt the program for its preparation of leaders on health care issues. In addition, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) adopted their regional training approach for their Next Generation Training.

There are excellent indications, however, that their outreach efforts have improved customer understanding and satisfaction, while reducing beneficiary issues and complaints. In one thank you letter it was noted that they “communicated everything in simple terms and always went after the relevant topics for military member seeking TRICARE services.” In another, “The knowledge and education that [they] provided to the diverse audience was invaluable and will allow beneficiaries ... to make a more educated decision on the TRICARE plan that they chose for their families.” After one year conducting this outreach, the Region 4 Lead Agent office had a 60 percent decrease in beneficiary complaints.

Their training outreach programs proved valuable during the activation/deactivation of National Guard and reserve



CWO3 Mike Brzezicki, USCG, left, and CMSgt Mac Sanders, USAF, are two of the “Heroes of TRICARE!”

units during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Brzezicki and Sanders scheduled and conducted more than 50 health care briefings to Reserve component unit activations and thousands of beneficiaries. They ensured the new active duty members and families understood their medical/dental benefits and enrollment procedures. This dynamic duo is an excellent example of going the extra mile. From developing training programs to driving countless hours to deliver briefings and educating thousands, Brzezicki and Sanders are proven “Heroes of TRICARE!”



New Recruit for a New Year!

LCDR Michael A. Hart, USCGR(Ret.), right, administers the oath to his nephew, William J. Henderson in October at Miami Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). Henderson enlisted via the Coast Guard Delayed Enlistment Program and returned to the MEPS in January to ship out for basic training at Cape May. Miami MEPS is one of 65 entrance processing stations across the country and is the only one commanded by a Coast Guard officer.

Reserve Chief Petty Officers Academy Graduations

CPO Academy Reserve Class XV

Reserve Class XV of the Chief Petty Officers Academy graduated May 22, 2003 at the Leadership Development Center, New London, Conn. Front row, l to r: TCC Leslie Donovan, ATCS Leslie C Walter, instructor; HSCS Robert Berry, instructor; PSCS Ciro Sinagra, instructor; MCPO Sandra O'Toole, school chief, MKC Ed Lewis, instructor; TCC Patricia Geistfeld, BMC Lisa Pliko (McCawley), BMC Danny Galindo. Middle row, l to r: CPO Robert Acton PSC Blevin Davis, CPO Ronald Gresak, MSTC Patrick McGovern, PSC Tom Richards, YNC Tina Sporkin, CPO Paulette Johnson, TTC Roy Cook, MSTC John Arbogast, SKC Wayne Muller, QMC Andrew Naddonly III, PSC Randolph Sherman, MKC Scott Huff, PSC Charles Ferrante. Back row, l to r: BMC Gary Kmetty, class president; MKC James Schipper, MKC Daniel Carroll Jr., IVC Larry Powalisz, MKC Terry McNabb, TTC Wayne Schoenlein, MSTC Michael Schmidt, QMC Jack Warner, TCC Mike Boyles. Not shown, MSTC Mark Stephens, instructor.

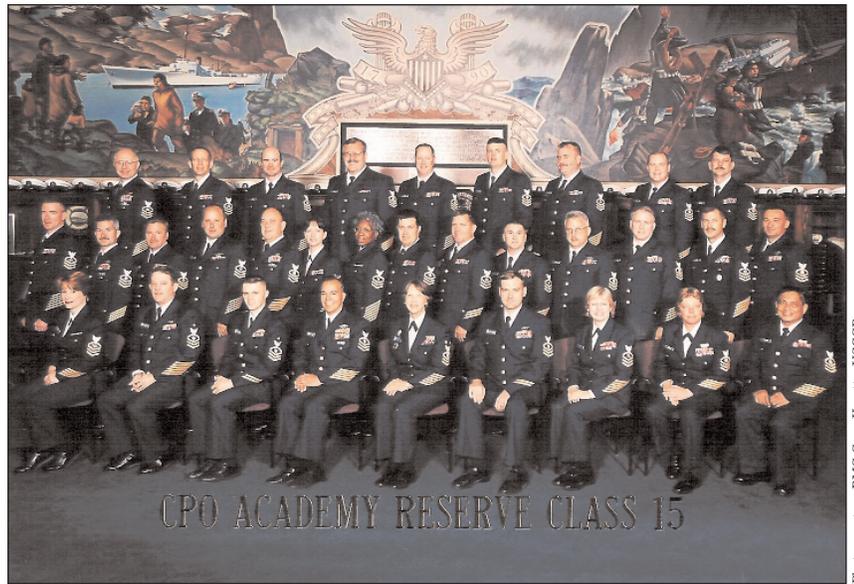


Photo courtesy BMC Gary Kmetty, USCGR

CPO Academy Reserve Class XVI

Reserve Class XVI of the Chief Petty Officers Academy graduated June 19, 2003 at the Leadership Development Center, New London, Conn. Front row, l to r: EMC Steven Tanaka, YNC Barbara Bebout, MSTCS Mark Stevens, instructor; AMTCS Leslie "Chuck" Walter, instructor; YNCM Sandra O'Toole, school chief; MKC Edward Lewis, instructor; HSCS Robert Berry, instructor; CPO Michael Pallon, instructor; YNC Lynda Kennedy, YNC Jo-Ann Sheppard Yost. Second row, l to r: TCC Robert Murray, BMC Ron Foster, MKC Robert Delgado, SKC N. David Outten, MSTC Robert Morton, Sr., IVC Cleta Frederking; TCC Corey Clinton, IVC Bruce Pharis, MKC Christopher Sekerka, class president; PSC Mike Frank, Sr., IVC Dennis Genco, MKC Kurt Lautenschlager, BMC Bill Wilkinson, PSC Robert Lang, GMC Martin Geil. Back row, l to r: MKC Craig Wetzel, IVC Leo Tydings, BMC David Considine, PSC Peter Urbadowicz, TCC James Coffey, TCC Daniel Facemire, BMC David Wright, MKC Robert Goldeberg, MKC Charlie Keegan, MSTC Mark Manthei, PSC Bruce Wright. Not pictured: PSCS Ciro Sinagra, instructor.

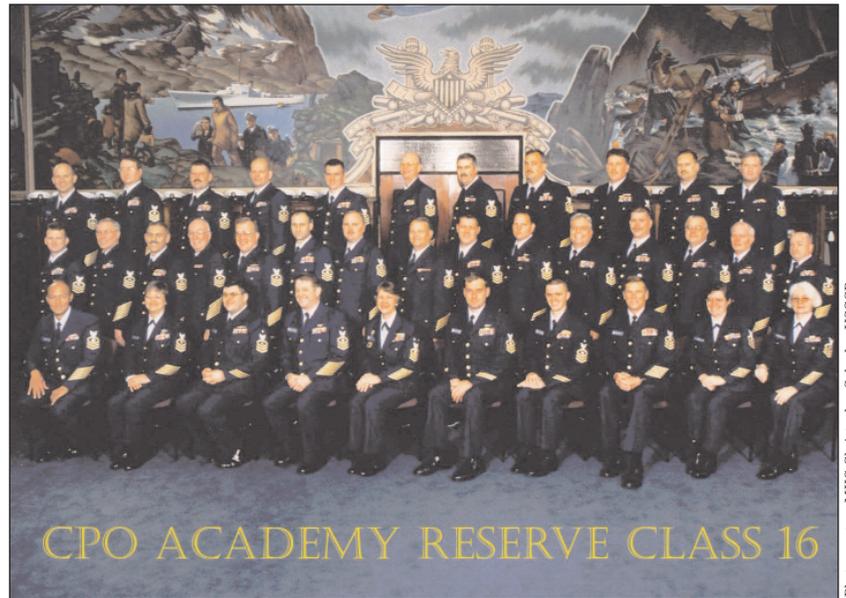


Photo courtesy MKC Christopher Sekerka, USCGR

CPO Academy Reserve Class XVII

Reserve Class XVII of the Chief Petty Officers Academy graduated July 24, 2003 at TRACEN Petaluma, Calif. Front row, l to r: YNC Roberta Grant, YNC Gail Torres, SKC Mary Fowlkes, PSC Doug Adams, ETC Hugo Escudero, PSC Andrew Hearing, BMC Terry Hoyer, class president; PSC Richard Sharpless, MSTC Robert Eboli, OSC Andrew Herman, MSTC William Allyn, PSC Larry Cannan, IVC Mark Moss. Second row, l to r: PSC Raymond Spann, MKC Dan Jensen, BMC Joseph Katchko III, OSC S. Walker, PSC William Chappelle, PSC Jimmy Taylor, MKC John Wolf, PSC James Aziz, YNC Keith Thompson, FSC Thomas Spivey. Back row, l to r: MSTC Dennis Dodge, ETC Stephen Dixon, IVC Kevin Walsh, MKC Dennis Dunn, MSTC Don Ball, PSC Frank Maggelet, PSC Brian Drousseau, IVC Daniel Bradford.



Photo by MSTC Dennis Dodge

Pitt's 2003 Regatta Draws Large Crowd, Reservists Assist



PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Coast Guard Reservists from MSO Pittsburgh joined with local and state agencies to ensure a safe Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta during summer 2003.

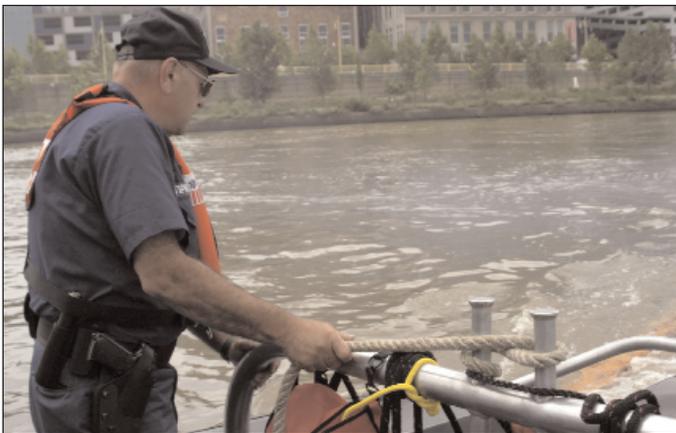
The event is the largest inland regatta in the country, attracting more than 400,000 people and takes place at the meeting point of the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers in downtown Pittsburgh. Coast Guard boat crews enforced multiple river closures for Formula 2 and Formula 3 powerboat races, a water-ski show, and nightly fireworks. Crews also removed some heavy debris from the race course on the rain-swollen Allegheny River.

“We towed one log that was about 30 feet long,” said MK1 Fred Stipkovits, USCGR, a coxswain from MSO Pittsburgh.

The Coast Guard and Pittsburgh River Rescue units also stood by to assist any unlucky mariners during the annual “Anything that Floats” race. Participants designed and sailed imaginative craft of dubious seaworthiness down a quarter mile stretch of the Allegheny. Fortunately, none of the vessels required assistance.

This year’s regatta is set for Aug. 5-8. Check the Web site for updates later this spring at: www.threeriversregatta.com

— Story and photos by PA1 Megan Casey, USCGR, D8



Clockwise from top: MSO Pittsburgh enforces a security zone in front of Heinz Field during the Three Rivers Regatta. The event, billed as the largest inland regatta in the country, required multiple river closures each day. • MSO Pittsburgh personnel monitor the progress of the Shiner family’s dinosaur raft during the 26th Three Rivers Regatta’s “Anything that

floats” race. • Coast Guardsmen from MSO Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh River Rescue stand by to assist the Pittsburgh Fab & Machine entry; “Jefferson Airplane” during the “Anything that Floats” race. • MK1 Fred Stipkovits tows a log before it becomes a hazard to Formula 2 speedboaters during the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta.

Meet the Reserve Policy Advisor

Mr. David Benton serves as Workforce Policy Advisor to the Commandant and as the Coast Guard Reserve's Policy Advisor. His role is to increase diversity awareness and to build a greater diversity of talent and skill in the Reserve. He also provides diversity consultation to the Reserve leadership (flag officers, managers, supervisors and ultimately to all Reserve members). Benton can be contacted by writing: Commandant (G-WT), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001; E-mail: dbenton@comdt.uscg.mil; Phone: 202-267-6240.



Mr. David Benton

The Uniform Guy

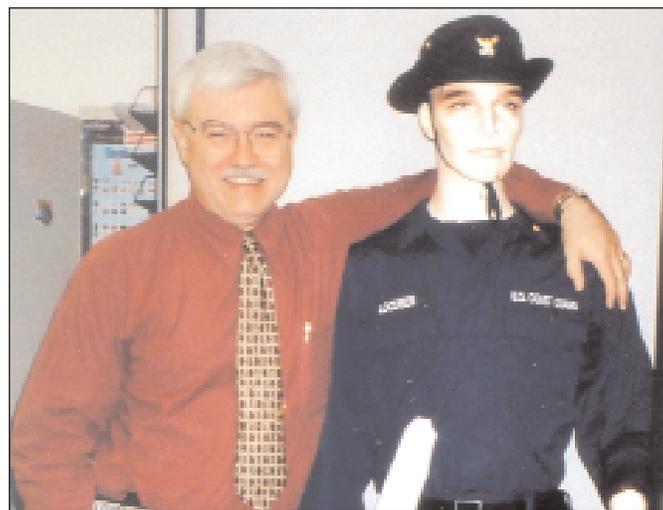


Photo courtesy CWO4 Sandie Robillard, USCG

Mr. Robert Gitschier, also known as "The Uniform Guy," served as Chief, HQ Uniforms Division for 15 years. He recently departed for another position and was honored Feb. 12 at HQ. Gitschier is a retired CWO.

Not Just Hangin' Around

PS3 Steven W. Bell rappels off of containers while attending Non-Compliant Boarding training at TACLET South in Miami. Bell is a reservist attached to MSST 91101 in Seattle.



Photo by PSC David Larkin, USCGR

Chicago Tall Ship Festival

Reservist BMC Gary Kmetty of Station Calumet Harbor signals to recreational boaters in Chicago Harbor to moor up and prepare for a boarding. The boaters were in violation of speeding in a "no wake" zone in the harbor during Chicago's Tall Ship Festival. Reservists from Stations Wilmette and Calumet Harbors and MSO Chicago played critical roles enforcing safety and security zones during the largest Tall Ships festival ever on the Great Lakes last summer.



Photo by PA2 Alan Haraf, USCGR



Photo by PSCS Brad Blatchley, USCGR

New CO at HDCU 201

RADM Duncan Smith, center, is flanked by CAPT John J.P. Madeira, Jr., left, Harbor Defense Command Unit 201 incoming CO, left, and CAPT Joann Spangenberg, right, the unit's outgoing CO. RADM Smith was the ceremonial guest speaker at the Nov. 16 event in Newport, R.I.



Photo by OS3 Reggie Outlaw, PSU 305

New CO at PSU 305

CAPT Robert Grabb, right, gives his farewell speech at the PSU 305 change of command at Fort Eustis, Va. Dec. 13. Sitting, left to right: RADM Duncan Smith III, Deputy for Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs, Atlantic Area; CDR Kurt Hinrichs, incoming commanding officer of PSU 305; LCDR Karl Leonard, executive officer of PSU 305; and PSCM Wayne Miesen, PSU 305 Command Master Chief.

Reservists Reflect On Mobilization After 9-11

By Army Maj. G. P. Mirabella,
U.S. Transportation Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The two and one-half years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the subsequent war on terrorism, has seen profound changes on both the civilian population of the United States, and on its military. The nation's military reservists have a special perspective on these changes, having a foot in both worlds.

The reservists who support the United States Transportation Command, located at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, recall how the tragedy of 9-11 affected themselves and the command.

"I was at work," said Susan L. Shaw, of O'Fallon, Ill., of the day of the attacks. After the first plane hit the World Trade Center, it became clear to her; "I knew it was terrorism." As a Tech. Sgt. in the Air Force Reserve, she knew something else; "I immediately let them know that I might be called up."

"I was on my way to a conference in Jefferson City, Mo, with one of my teachers," said Army Reserve Lt. Col. Ted Hodgson, Business Department Chair at Hazelwood Central High School in Mo., "and we had stopped to get a cup of coffee. This is when the first plane hit. We started to go on the trip when we heard the second plane had hit. I told my partner that we needed to head back because this was a terrorist attack and I would probably be needed."

Hodgson and Shaw were correct. Like many of their fellow members of USTRANSCOM's Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, they were recalled to active duty.

USTRANSCOM provides air, land, and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and times of war. That means if the military needs people, equipment or supplies moved, it's USTRANSCOM that moves it. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Department of Defense civilian personnel staff the command.

The JTRU, the first Department of Defense-authorized "joint" reserve unit, provides USTRANSCOM with the highly skilled personnel it needs from the Reserve components of all the services.

The "citizen soldiers" of the JTRU have long been a part of USTRANSCOM's daily operations, even in times of relative peace, according to the JTRU commander, Brig. Gen. Robert P. Meyer, Ohio Air National Guard. Meyer said even the activation of unit members is nothing new for the JTRU.

"Since Desert Storm," he explained, "when the unit stood up, there have been many times when our people have been brought onto active duty to support USTRANSCOM during critical operations – Bosnia, Haiti, and others. But *Operation Noble Eagle* [the military's role in Homeland Defense] and *Enduring Freedom* [the global war on terrorism] have really challenged both the JTRU and individual unit members. It's not just the number of individuals being activated, but also the length of the tours, usually one year."

So far, nearly 100 USTRANSCOM reservists have been mobilized to support *Operation Noble Eagle* and *Operation Enduring Freedom*. While some of these individuals have already been demobilized, and others are preparing to be, still others are preparing for activation.

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2001, reservists had provided USTRANSCOM with 13,948 man days of support. Man days are the number of days of duty individual reservists serve. In the current fiscal year, more than 45,000 man days have been served, according to Navy Reserve CAPT Paula Bozdech-Veater, Acting Chief, Reserve Affairs at

USTRANSCOM, herself a mobilized reservist.

Some activated JTRU members work in USTRANSCOM's Global Patient Movement Requirements Center, which is the Department of Defense single manager for movement of military patients. The GPMRC's mission includes the evacuation of wounded personnel out of Afghanistan on C-130, C-17 and C-141 cargo aircraft, as well as a few of the GPMRC's fleet of specially outfitted C-9A aircraft.

Still others are posted to locations such as United States Central Command in Florida, serving as Liaison Officers between the war fighters of USCENTCOM and USTRANSCOM, which supports their efforts.

However most of the mobilized JTRU members, like Hodgson, work at Scott Air Force Base. As a Joint Mobility Operations Officer in USTRANSCOM's Movement Control Center, he is responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and monitoring global strategic transportation operations.

CAPT Paul Wells, Army Reserve, of Springfield, Ill, also at Scott, monitors the security and availability of the computer and communications systems used by Hodgson and others at USTRANSCOM to perform their jobs.

However, even duty at a relatively safe and comfortable duty station such as Scott AFB can present a hardship, since many JTRU members travel great distances to be a part of the unit – some from as far away as Alabama. This separation from home and loved ones compounded the impact of mobilization for reservists, many of whom also took large pay cuts when they moved from full time civilian to full-time military.

"Though I had no doubts," said Wells, "at activation, my wife doubted her ability to be, in effect, a single, working parent with two small children. Not surprisingly to me, she succeeded wonderfully."

"This said," added the Fort Madison, Iowa, native, "I think she is still anxious to get me home."

Others, like LCDR Kenneth Hines, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, of Columbia, Mo., worried about the civilian jobs they left behind. Hines said he felt badly about leaving the Columbia Fire Department, where he is assistant fire chief, shorthanded because seasoned fire officers are hard to replace. However, he feels his work at USTRANSCOM is important, and necessary.

"It would be tough to sit at home, seeing other military members being called up and contributing, and not be included," Hines said.

Despite the hardships caused by activation, Meyer said, "Many of our mobilized unit members have agreed to extend their tour for another year. As a commander and an American, I can't help but feel proud of that."

The events of Sept. 11, and their call to active duty, have significantly changed the lives of the mobilized reservists.

"It made me realize all the more that life, and relationships we develop and maintain in this life, are not only precious," said Wells, "but also not guaranteed."

As members of the nation's armed forces, though, the reservists are trained to find positive lessons that can be applied in the future. For Hodgson, it was simple, "Be trained to do your job."

Wells echoed that feeling, saying, "Be prepared," and then added, "My observation is that the JTRU learned a lot this past year about what and how to mobilize reservists and how to deal with their personnel needs while on Active Duty."

Mobile Support Unit

Keeps Cutters Running During Operation Iraqi Freedom
Story and Photo by PA1 John Gaffney, USCG



Members of the Mobile Support Unit gather for a group photo prior to returning to the United States. Clockwise from top left: CWO Brance McCune, CWO Bill Smith, CPO Lester Bellerive, Jr., DC1 Patrick McGill, and SKI Yvonne Goad. Not pictured: EM1 James Watson.

While other Coast Guard Reserve units were receiving international attention for their roles during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, members of the Mobile Support Unit (MSU) of the Engineering Logistics Center of Baltimore were working quietly behind the scenes to keep the deployed 110-foot patrol boats of Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in the fight.

The MSU is a reserve unit specially organized to provide maintenance and logistics support for deployed patrol boats. Previous deployments have taken unit members to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Key West, Fla., but the deployment in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom* was the largest in the unit's history. Six members deployed to the Arabian Gulf to form a critical portion of the maintenance and logistics support staff for Patrol Forces Southwest Asia. Meanwhile, members back in the United States forwarded repair parts and maintenance supplies to the deployed elements, even driving parts from Baltimore down to Norfolk and putting them on Navy flights heading to theater when they were urgently needed.

MSU member CWO Brance McCune served as Engineering Officer for Patrol Forces Southwest Asia from its inception in Portsmouth, Va. He guided the maintenance effort through the preparation phase, the deployment of cutters to theater onboard a commercial heavy lift vessel, the offloading in theater, preparation for the initial missions, and the cycle of recurring maintenance as the cutters rotated into port. The

maintenance crews worked hard and it showed.

"I am proudest of the fact that the patrol boats never missed a scheduled mission during the war because of an engineering casualty," said McCune.

CWO Bill Smith attained his rank while in theater. His promotion from storekeeper first class was made all the sweeter with the success of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia and the Mobile Support Unit during the conflict.

"I didn't volunteer for this deployment, I was selected and directed," said Smith. "I was told the storekeepers had to come, but I was glad I came and would do it again in a heartbeat."

In fact, he found he liked working for Patrol Forces Southwest Asia better than his civilian employment.

CPO Lester S. Bellerive, Jr. did not volunteer either. He served as operations supervisor for the support staff and marveled at the obstacles and difficulties the Mobile Support Unit personnel overcame.

"Dealing with the local people was the greatest hardship; the language barrier was very difficult," said Bellerive.

DC1 Patrick McGill volunteered for the deployment out of a desire to contribute. As he was preparing to depart for home at the end of his tour, he noted, "I'm glad I volunteered as I gained great experience and the MSU will be improved as a result."

SKI Yvonne Goad also was advanced while in theater. She found life in theater to be a little lonely as she was one of only

two females deployed to the Arabian Gulf; the other female was the commanding officer of a patrol boat and was underway most of the time.

Additionally, EM1 James Watson advanced while deployed.

“He was one of the hardest working guys I’ve ever seen in my life,” said McCune. “On top of that, he’s got a heart the size of Texas.” Watson’s 10 years Navy experience served him well as he taught other unit members how to wear body armor and raise camouflage netting along with other tactical skills.

Members of the MSU, along with the rest of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia, maintained a torrid pace following arrival in theater. After getting off a jetliner following a 23-hour flight, seven time zones earlier than they started, they went right to work offloading the patrol boats from the motor vessel *Industrial Challenger*. Then they thrashed continuously for four days to get the boats ready for their first patrol.

As the boats disappeared over the horizon, members of the MSU joined the effort to construct a secure compound from which to operate. Trailers were set up and organized; barricades, fencing and countless sandbags were placed; and offices were established. That meant moving furniture, installing phones, linking computers and procuring office supplies. Additionally, around the clock security was established and MSU personnel joined the “one in three” watch rotation in addition to working in their regular specialties.

There were some scary moments, particularly just prior to the outset of combat operations as there were numerous bitter anti-war demonstrations in the vicinity, and according to McCune, “we always seemed to get caught in the area with the protesters.” Someone detonated a propane tank in the area and ratcheted up tensions even further.

If tensions weren’t enough, dealing with local bureaucracies proved maddening. It took up to two months to get a security pass to drive on the pier where the cutters moored. Even worse, it was difficult to get an authoritative answer as to what documentation was required to enter the pier area. After one exchange with a security guard, McCune found himself looking at the business end of an assault rifle.

The mission proved so compelling, everyone put aside their frustrations and “turned to” when big jobs needed to be completed in a hurry. In fact, it wasn’t uncommon to see warrant officers and chiefs turning wrenches alongside the petty officers when there was a scramble to get a cutter ready for its next trip.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was a tapestry of achievement for the cutters of Patrol Forces Southwest Asia. Prior to the commencement of combat operations, they shut down waterborne smuggling of Iraqi oil. When combat kicked off, they were ready; covering Navy SEALs as they stormed Iraqi offshore oil terminals, providing security for landing craft making the amphibious assault across the Khawr ‘Abd Allah against Iraq’s Al Faw Peninsula, and guarding minesweepers as they cleared mines from the Khawr ‘Abd Allah. They were first on scene following the tragic mid-air collision of two British helicopters. They took prisoners of war and helped seize Iraqi mine-laying tugs. Later, the cutters escorted ships carrying the first loads of humanitarian aid to Umm Qasr and aggressively patrolled throughout Iraqi waters, preventing piracy from taking root and keeping the offshore oil terminals safe. They deterred officials of the Saddam Hussein regime from fleeing by water and confiscated illegal weapons. They controlled the flow of waterborne commerce into Iraq once ports were reopened and kept the channels clear.

Through it all, patrol hours mounted. After just a few months, the total hours operating equaled the normal figure for an entire year. But the boats kept running because members of the MSU kept the parts coming and the wrenches turning.

In Iraq, The Search Continues

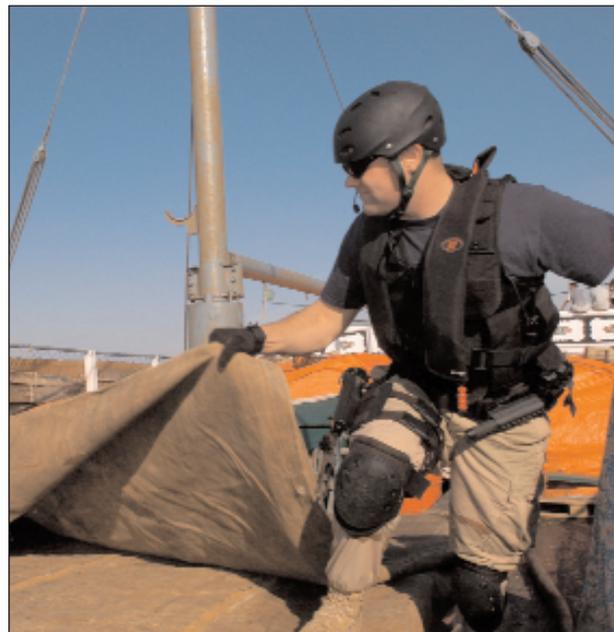


Photo by PAI Matthew Belson, USCGR

MK3 John Shaw, 24, searches a cargo hold for illegal goods Jan. 5 as part of a boarding team from the CGC Adak. The Coast Guard deployed four 110-foot patrol boats to the region to support U.S. Navy 5th Fleet and coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Maritime Interception Operations to stop illegal oil smuggling and to search for terrorists.

War on Terrorism News Briefs

MSST 91105 commissioned

Marine Safety and Security Team (MSST) 91105, Alameda, Calif., was placed in commission status Dec. 18, 2003. LCDR Michael A. Barody is the new unit’s first commanding officer.

Coast Guard Reservist Recalls

As of Feb. 17, 2004, **1,165** Coast Guard Ready Reservists remained on involuntary active duty under Title 10 recall orders. The Atlantic Area contributed **935**, while the Pacific Area provided **230**. During the 2003 recall, numbers peaked at 4,428 in April 2003.

Citizen-Sailors

QUESTION:

What does a chicken farmer from South Carolina, a legislative assistant from Washington, D.C. and an engineer who works on the B-2 Stealth bomber from Dayton, Ohio have in common?

ANSWER:

They're all Coast Guard Reservists and are part of this, the 10th annual Citizen-Sailor issue, which showcases the wide diversity of civilian skills of our reservists. We salute all of you and thank you for sharing your stories.

MKC Tyrone Blitch Chicken Farmer Holly Hill, S.C.



When MKC Tyrone Blitch dons his Coast Guard working blue uniform, he undergoes a transformation — of sorts. Though he professes a strong devotion to his 75-acre farm in Holly Hill, S.C., he has strong ties to Coast Guard Group Charleston, too.

“I’ve always enjoyed farming and chickens are the best crop,” said Blitch, passing around photographs of his white-feathered flock.

For the past several years, Blitch, his wife Barbara and son Bryan, 11, have been raising chickens...100,000 of them. They belong to Goldkist, a co-operative of 2,400 farmers.

“When you eat chicken at Wendy’s, Chick-Fil-A, or Publix Supermarkets, you’re probably eating some of the chickens I raise,” said Blitch, smiling.

But Blitch also has another passion. As a reserve coxswain for Group Charleston, he says he’s proud to serve his country. He says it’s in his blood.

“I joined the Coast Guard in 1985, and my father was also a Chief in the Coast Guard,” he said, proudly. When Blitch joined, he was a lab manager for Southeastern Chemical. In 1986, he found himself assigned to a small boat crew. A coxswain on small boats since 1992, he’s been assigned to a 27-foot Utility Boat Medium for the past two years. As part of *Operation Liberty Shield*, he and his crew provide security escorts within the port of Charleston. A bustling military outload port, Blitch says he’s proud of his crew who often work weeks without a single day off.

“The camaraderie has made the assignment worthwhile,” he said. He’s worked with longtime friend, PS3 Eddie Page, for more than 12 years. “I’ve made some good friends in the Coast Guard.”

Blitch still juggles both his civilian job and his active duty recall job, frequently driving 70 minutes home and skipping sleep to repair something on his farm. Then he drives back to Charleston to work a midnight shift.

Being a chicken farmer is all consuming, he says. “A typical day includes paperwork, checking the condition of the chickens, making sure the auto feeders are working, and dealing with all sorts of environmental issues. I report to five environmental agencies,” he said. His working farm is also populated by 15 cows and 50 goats.

Working on the water, he says, provides a nice respite from farm work.

“It’s relaxing in a way — it gives you a chance to refresh, a chance to pause and think outside the box. Besides, it’s good to serve your country. I like that.”

— By PA3 Judy L. Silverstein, USCGR

BM3 Lawrence N. Clark Myrtle Beach Fire Department Myrtle Beach, S.C.



BM3 Lawrence Clark, right, with his firefighter “brothers.”

Although he says it took him the better part of 10 years to obtain his lifelong dream of becoming a fireman, BM3 Lawrence N. Clark knows that his Coast Guard experience was a key factor in getting hired by the Myrtle Beach Fire Department.

“At the age of 29, I’m very proud to follow in

the footsteps of my dad and grandfather in choosing a fire department career,” said Clark. “I’m assigned to our Heavy Rescue at Station #1 which is the busiest in the city.”

Since Myrtle Beach is a vacation destination, the five fire stations handle over 10,000 calls each year. A typical day may include responding to structure fires, auto accidents, hazardous material incidents and medical calls. In between calls, its lots of training, apparatus cleaning, station maintenance and public education. No, not much time to play cards here!

“I work 24 hours and have 48 hours off,” said Clark. “Unlike most jobs, the pay is secondary for me. The real reward is knowing at the end of your shift that you have made a difference by serving the public.”

ENS James W. Fitzgerald Chicago Fire Department Chicago, Ill.



In November 2001, then PS2 Fitzgerald was part of the “Citizen-Sailor Firefighters” issue. He is glad to be back “in print” and has had an interesting year. Last year, he deployed with PSU 309 to Italy and Kuwait, then came back home to attend Reserve Officer Candidate School.

“I am a full time Chicago Firefighter Paramedic, and am assigned to Tower Ladder 10 in the Cabrini Green housing projects in Chicago’s near northwest side,” said Fitzgerald. “At one time, this Tower Ladder was the busiest in the city covering the entire north side. Right now our area for covering a fire is very large covering almost the entire north shore of Chicago.”

Long before Fitzgerald was on the job, this Tower Ladder was the first on the scene of the Paxton Hotel fire, making countless rescues while Engine 4 out of his firehouse performed a very aggressive attack, but never did beat the fire.

“I have been on the Chicago Fire Department now over four years,” said Fitzgerald, assigned to Coast Guard Group Grand Haven, Mich. “I am glad to be a part of the best profession in the world.”

**CWO2 Louis Warren,
MKCM Thomas Morris,
BMCS Joseph MacDonald,
BM3 James Hinson
Disney World
Orlando, Fla.**



Now he works in the metal shop doing maintenance and welding for many of Disney's rides and attractions. Morris actually joined the CGR when a Disney co-worker, Randy Buss, got him interested in enlisting back in 1981.

"He pointed me in the direction of the Coast Guard Reserve and I've been drilling at Cape Canaveral ever since," said Morris, who is currently on active duty in Miami.

BMCS Joseph MacDonald, a retired Detroit policeman, is in Disney's security department — a challenging job considering the thousands of people who come to the theme park each day. He's

currently on active duty at Group Mayport.

All four were activated following Sept. 11 and served together at Station Port Canaveral, Fla.

"Disney was very supportive of our Reserve duty with the Coast Guard," said Warren. "They gave us a big celebration when we arrived back at work after we were released from active duty."

Four Coast Guard Reservists work at Disney World but their jobs are anything but Mickey Mouse! CWO2 Louis "Eddie" Warren and BM3 James Hinson both work in the Information Technology area.

"We keep about 300 servers up and running that are needed by the park," said Warren, who has worked at Disney four years.

Hinson started with Disney eight years ago as a lifeguard. Now he works with wireless data communications in the Food and Beverages Division. Meanwhile, MKCM Tom Morris has worked at the Magic Kingdom for nearly 30 years, and works in the maintenance division along with 800 other employees.

"I've done many different jobs in the maintenance area," said Morris. "I've done maintenance on Disney's watercraft and worked 14 years at Epcot Center.

**PSC Gary A. Foote
Mount Lebanon Cemetery
Glendale, Queens, N.Y.**

In September 1994, PSC Gary Foote was included in the first annual citizen-sailor issue while serving as an inspector with the New York Police Department. His duties with the USCGR were that of Chief of Field Services of the Governors Island Police Department. Things have changed! The Coast Guard no longer occupies Governors Island and the chief has been retired from the NYPD for three years. His new position is that of Director of Operations for Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Glendale, Queens. In that position, he is responsible for overseeing all field functions on 85 acres with 87,000 burials. The cemetery was founded in 1915 and in recent times, has

about 500 burials per year. Forty seasonal employees tend to the grounds from spring to fall.

"The job is rewarding and surprisingly similar to both the Coast Guard and police department in that we provide a necessary service to people at a time of need," said Foote.

As a reservist, he is assigned to the Regional Exam Center, part of Activities New York.



**CWO Rodger Guest
Bedford Police
Department
Bedford, N.Y.**

During Tropical Storm *Floyd* a few years ago, CWO Rodger Guest of the Bedford, N.Y. Police Department responded to a call where a residence had partially collapsed and

shifted on its foundation due to fallen trees and a mudslide. Two residents were trapped in the basement, which was rapidly filling with storm water and had already risen above waist level. Upon arrival, Guest found all normal entryways to the basement blocked. After locating a small opening in the foundation, he crawled under a porch and began to break away stone and mortar. Assisted by local firefighters, Guest made an opening large enough to pull the homeowners to safety. Guest's efficient response was instrumental in saving the trapped residents.

LTJG Jim Dolbow Military Legislative Assistant Washington, D.C.



LTJG Jim Dolbow may be the highest ranking Coast Guard Reserve officer on Capitol Hill, and is probably the only congressional staff member currently serving in the Coast Guard Reserve. Dolbow is a military legislative assistant for Rep. John Hostettler (IN-08). Washington politics interested him even before he could vote. "I was probably the only fourth or fifth-grader who watched presidential news conferences," said Dolbow.

One of Dolbow's

earliest political memories is President Reagan's victory in the 1980 presidential election. He followed Reagan's career closely throughout the 1980s and met him in 1997 after sending the former president a letter.

Dolbow graduated from Marymount University with a degree in political science in 1993. He worked on Orson Swindle's unsuccessful campaigns in Hawaii in 1994 and 1996, then worked for Reps. Steve Stockman (R-Texas), Dave Weldon (R-Fla.) and for Rep. Jim Ryun (R-Kan). He has been a military legislative assistant for Hostettler since 2000, where he advises the congressman on defense, foreign affairs, and intelligence issues.

"I've been a political junkie for a long time," said Dolbow.

In June 2002, he earned a master's degree from the U.S. Naval War College in national security and strategic studies. The next month, he was in the Coast Guard Reserve and was promoted to lieutenant junior grade on Jan. 31, 2004. Last spring, he was called to active duty during *Operation Noble Eagle* at Activities Baltimore.

"Fortunately, nothing happened on our watch," said Dolbow.

But if the call comes again, Dolbow is ready for the call and his bags are packed.

Ed's note: Four members of the 108th Congress have served in the Coast Guard: Senator Frank H. Murkowski (R-Alaska); Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.); Rep. Gene Taylor (D-Miss.); Rep. William D. Delahunt (D-Mass.).

PA1 Larry D. House Gwinnett County Fire & Emergency Service Atlanta, Ga.

"You guys do a great and dangerous job," is something PA1 Larry House hears quite often from citizens. This 20-plus year veteran of the Coast Guard, and member of Atlanta's Electronic Media Development Detachment at Fort Gillem in Forest Park Ga., wears two uniforms. He is a Coast Guard Reservist and a firefighter for the Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services of metropolitan Atlanta.

The Atlanta Reserve unit is a detachment of Coast Guard Reserve Training Center at Yorktown. As a reservist, House helps create electronic courses and video for computer and online training modules. You may have seen this part time actor and photojournalist in some training videos. When not in his Coast Guard uniform, House is a firefighter...an Emergency Medical Technician and a Hazardous Material Technician.

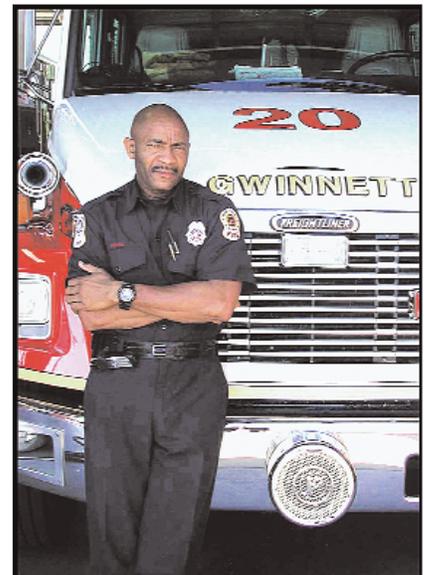
House considers fire fighting his vocation. Being a firefighter has always been a desire above everything else, except maybe being an astronaut.

"Before I became a firefighter I had a number of jobs," said House. "I've always believed that as long as I had all my working body parts and a stable mind, I could always

earn a decent living. My primary concern while working my pre-fire department positions was feeling good about what I was doing. And I have always felt good about what I have been doing in the Coast Guard."

House joined the Coast Guard because he felt this service was small enough that any significant contributions he made during his career would be appreciated. He also stated he joined the Reserve after leaving active duty because he liked being part of an organization with an obvious relevance during peacetime.

"My employers and my country have always gotten a dedicated worker and dependable person who takes his work seriously," said House. "Hopefully I have earned the respect of my peers."



IVCS Brendan Kerin Tukwila Police Department Tukwila, Washington

Thanks to a dedicated law enforcement officer and Coast Guard Reservist, more than 5,000 students in Washington State have been warned of the dangers of drugs and gang violence. Since 1987, IVCS Brendan Kerin has taught a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in 15 different schools to students in fourth grade through high school and is currently teaching the curriculum to students in the White River School District. The D.A.R.E. program involves a 17-week curriculum that informs kids about alternatives and resistance to drugs and gang activities.

In the civilian world, Kerin is a police officer in Tukwila, Wash. He heard about the D.A.R.E. program from a video presented by the Los Angeles Police Department 17 years ago.

"I saw the video, got excited about it, and wanted to do it," said Kerin.

He was one of the first 30 officers trained as D.A.R.E. instructors in the state of Washington and is currently one of the few Coast Guard members teaching the program. While most D.A.R.E. instructors are paid for their time, Kerin teaches on a voluntary basis on his own time.

"When I first saw the D.A.R.E. program, I fell in love with it," said Kerin, who would like to teach at least three more years. "I haven't been burned out yet. What we do is provide tools for them for the future so they can make decisions based on fact instead of relying on what their peers might say."



According to Kerin, the D.A.R.E. Program hasn't changed a lot in its 19 years of service, mainly because it continues to show an effect. The average age of drug users is going up, indicating that the younger children who are getting the education are starting to avoid drugs.

"That shows you that anti-drug education is working," said Kerin. "The kids are getting the message."

As a reservist, Kerin is an IVCS attached to the Coast Guard Investigative Services Northwest office, where he assists in long-term drug enforcement operations. He has participated in over 100 drug-related arrests and hundreds of DWI arrests through his law enforcement career.

"I'm very goal oriented," said Kerin. "I relay a lot of that to the kids in class to reaffirm their hope for the future."

— By PA2 Jamie Bigelow, USCG, Reprinted from *The Reservist*, November 2000 (with updates)

BM1 Eric Koch Deputy Sheriff, Emmet Co. Sheriff Dept. Petoskey, Michigan

BM1 Eric Koch is a deputy sheriff with the Emmet County Sheriff Department in Petoskey, Mich. where he serves on marine and snowmobile patrol.



"I currently hold the department record for the most DUI arrests in the recreational law enforcement division," said Koch. "Using my skills learned in the USCG, I totally revamped the marine division and established an effective ice rescue program."

Koch serves the Coast Guard at Station Charlevoix, located in the northwest part of Michigan's lower peninsula.

CDR Andrew McKinley Reynoldsburg Division of Police Reynoldsburg, Ohio

CDR McKinley is a sergeant with the Reynoldsburg Division of Police, a suburb of Columbus, Ohio, where he has worked for the last 12 years. He is assigned to supervise the day shift patrol section and is also a supervisor on the S.W.A.T team.



This last year, he was on Title 10 recall orders and served as executive officer for PSU 309 deployed to Kuwait. This is his fourth time he deployed to the Middle East, having participated in *Desert Storm* in 1990, *Bright Star* in 1999, *Operation Southern Watch* in 2001, and now *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

CAPT Ned K. Kulp, USCGR(Ret.) Manufacturer's Marketing Rep Chalfont, Pa.

The word "retired" may follow CAPT Ned Kulp's name for the record, but this enthusiastic 76-year-old Pennsylvanian obviously doesn't know what the word means. As a marketing rep, you may find him energetically talking up a new wine or novelty item he markets, some of them through the Coast Guard Exchange System. Want some Coast Guard hot sauce, chili, or barbecue sauce that'll "put your taste buds in distress?"

He's involved in several charities, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society and another called Americans for Native Americans (a charitable group that helps the Navajos in the southwest). In late 2003, he became a Pennsylvania representative of the fledgling USCG Flags Across America program that honors Coast Guard veterans. Active in Boy Scouting for years, this father of four recalls helping feed 3,500 scouts at the International Jamboree, Farragut State Park on Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho years ago. And he was way ahead of his time in one very important area of national security, penning several articles on terrorism in the 1980s. He continues to contribute to the terrorism dialogue, and was published in ROA's *Officer* magazine and other publications in the post-9/11 era.

Born in Montgomery County, Pa. (just north of Philadelphia), Kulp went into the Maritime Service and later the Merchant Marine in 1945 for about 18 months, serving as a mess boy and ordinary seaman, sailing mostly in the North Atlantic. After graduating from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., his nautical background led him into the Coast Guard Reserve where he proudly served 33 years. Kulp recalls three major highlights of his CGR career: developing a course of study for senior reserve officers for mobilization readiness in the 1980s, coordinating a two-week training cruise for his Reserve unit in Philadelphia aboard a Navy destroyer to Halifax in the 1950s, and representing the Coast Guard on the West African Training cruise.

"...and I would join the Peace Corps if I could," said Kulp. He's serious!

For now, he'll stick with marketing, supporting the Coast Guard, and staying abreast of his family with Suzy, and staying active as long as the good Lord allows.



LTJG Eric Mills Patent Attorney Durham, N.C.

In his civilian life, LTJG Eric Mills is a patent attorney with the firm of Jenkins, Wilson, & Taylor in Durham, N.C. As a patent attorney, he works to secure patent, trademark, copyright and

other intellectual property rights for university and corporate clients around the world. When switching to his Coast Guard role, LTJG Mills works in the Group Operations Center of Group Fort Macon and also serves as a Legal Assistance Officer. His past experience includes underway time on the *CGC Staten Island*, Station Fort Macon small boat assets, and six months active duty during the recent mobilization.

BM3 Robert Phillips Institutional Bond Trader/Sales Jersey City, N.J.

Back in September 1996, BM3 Robert Phillips was featured on the front cover of *The Reservist* for the third annual citizen-sailor issue. At that time, he was single, working for the New York Stock Exchange, and drilling at Fort Totten, N.Y. with the NORCREW. He kept drilling until February 2001 when he went into the Individual Ready Reserve, changed jobs and began attending night school.

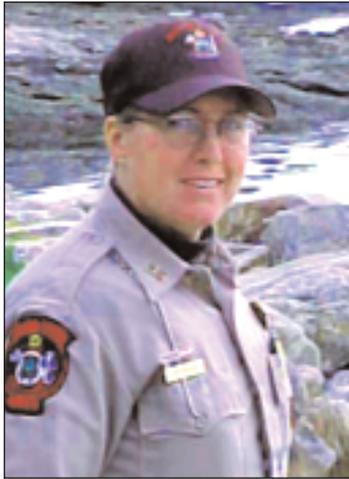
"I recall my drills fondly, and credit my USCG training for getting me through Sept. 11, 2001," said Phillips. "I was at work in the North Tower when the first plane hit, and spent several harrowing hours after trying to survive and then get home. It was all business that day, just like my USCG mentors had drilled into me: maintain your composure, stay sharp, work

with your shipmates, help everyone you can. Some lessons never leave you, and may even save your life one day!"

Phillips' life has changed drastically since Sept. 11, 2001. His company moved to New Jersey after their offices were lost at the World Trade Center.

"It feels like a lifetime ago that I was drilling in the CGR, was single and had nothing to do on the weekends," said Phillips. "Now my weekends consist of being the family man and keeping up with my three-year-old daughter's busy social schedule."





BM1 Jodi Mosher Maine Marine Patrol Officer Georgetown, Maine

BM1 Jodi Mosher has been employed by the State of Maine's Department of Marine Resources for the past eight years. There are only 36 marine patrol officers in the state and she is one of them — and the only woman.

"My patrol area is from Georgetown to Waterville and I'm the only marine patrol officer for the entire area," said Mosher.

Not only does she have state authority but also is contracted as a federal agent for the National Marine Fisheries agency. Her job responsibilities are dealing with commercial harvesters, recreational activities, coordinating search and rescue operations, investigations, boating accidents, drug interdiction, homeland security and working with other agencies. Mosher also works with the community in the "Officer Salty" program as an instructor for local schools. The program teaches children the importance of marine life pertaining to commercial and conservation interests.

Mosher has served in the Coast Guard 20 years, 10 years active duty. She is currently stationed at Portsmouth Harbor, N.H.



LT John B. Mower Programs Manager, Floresta USA, Inc. San Diego, Calif.

When LT John Mower was a seaman serving aboard the *CGC Tahoma* out of New Bedford, Mass., part of the mission was intercepting Haitian immigrants — an issue that left a lasting impression. That, combined with the *Exxon Valdez* incident in 1989 further bolstered Mower's desire to go to college. In 1995, he graduated from UCLA

with a degree in geography and environmental studies.

With that background, he began working with a San Diego based non-profit organization, Floresta, USA, Inc. in 1997. His work with Floresta took him to Haiti twice a year as he was a programs manager for a community development project in southern Haiti. Now, he's serving on Extended Active Duty at MSO San Diego but still volunteers at Floresta.

"I found it very interesting that I worked to help Haitians to live better lives, to care for their land, and to have opportunities to earn an income and not have to flee their homes," said Mower.

For more info, go to Floresta's Web site: www.floresta.org

CDR Nathaniel J. Orr, USCGR(Ret.) Anderson & Carr, Inc. West Palm Beach, Fla.

The day CDR Nathaniel J. Orr graduated from Stetson University in 1948, he moved to West Palm Beach and went to work for Anderson & Carr, Inc., a real estate and appraisal firm. He has been working at the same job at the same location for the past 55 years! Orr purchased the company in 1965, recently sold it to two of his associates, but still works full time with no current plans to retire. He retired as an O-5 with over 40 years service in the Coast Guard Reserve.

"I doubt if many other reservists have been in the same job this long and are still working at the same one," said Orr.



CAPT John Pitta, USCGR(Ret.) Director of Security, Los Angeles Dodgers Dodgertown, Fla.

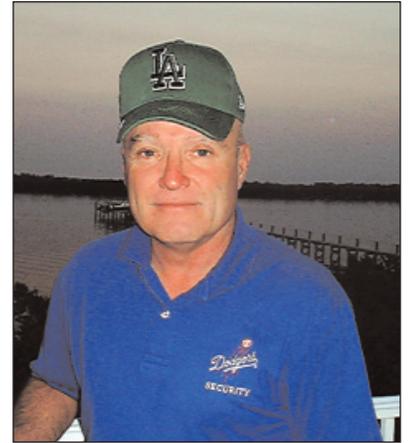
After retiring from both his federal law enforcement and Coast Guard Reserve jobs, CAPT Pitta moved to Vero Beach, Fla. That's when the real fun began! He is now the

Director of Security for the Los Angeles Dodgers in Florida.

"I am responsible for Dodgertown, which consists of the Spring Training Camp, conference center, and the various other activities we host at our facility," said Pitta. "Since I have been here, I have met numerous Coasties. I have about 55 people in my security force."

Pitta says it's a dream job and that the facility is rated the number one Spring Training Facility in the USA!

"There's nothing bad to say about this," said Pitta. "This is truly a dream job for a kid from Brooklyn."



BM3 David L. Sousa Rochester Institute of Technology Warwick, R.I.

How is it possible for BM3 David Sousa to live in Rhode Island but attend school in Rochester, N.Y.? The answer — distance learning. He's a member of MSO Providence and college student who attends the Rochester Institute of Technology for Safety Technology and Industrial

Environmental Management via the internet.

"I have really enjoyed attending the college's distance education program," said Sousa. "They are very good to both active duty and reservists and my experiences with the school to date have been great. I was the first member of the Coast Guard to enroll in this program from what they told me. The training I've received has really helped me in the "M" field and helps me in my drills. There's a lot of crossover and so it's a win-win situation. Distance learning is good for me because I can learn at my own pace. The school has been great as far as supporting my needs and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to get more environmental or safety training.

Web site for his school is: www.rit.edu/%7E700www/

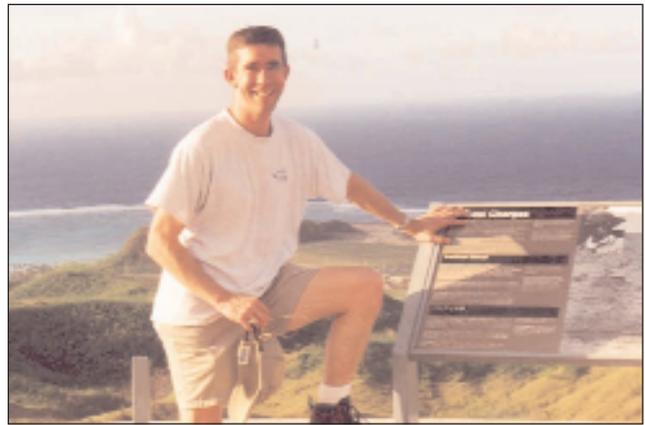
CAPT John S. Welch Systems Integration Engineer, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, U.S. Air Force Dayton, Ohio

When CAPT John Welch isn't busy running the Coast Guard Element at the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., he is busy with his civilian job as a Systems Integration Engineer for the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He is currently working on several system upgrades to the B-2 Stealth Bomber. As a Systems Integrator on this highly complex aircraft, he is responsible for ensuring that all new weapon systems, electronics and software work together. Since leaving the active duty Coast Guard in 1987, CAPT Welch has worked on several other aircraft, including Air Force One.



LCDR David L. Teska U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Kansas City, Mo.

LCDR David L. Teska joined the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in September 2000. In fact, Sept. 11, 2001 was his first anniversary! He works in the Response and Recovery Division at FEMA Region VII in Kansas City, Mo., where he assists local and state governments in repairing or replacing public infrastructure (roads, bridges, public buildings, etc.) damaged by natural and man-made disasters. He's deployed to five disasters: an snow emergency declaration in New Hampshire, a flood in Iowa, an ice storm in Missouri, and flooding in Missouri. He spent 30 days on Guam after Super



Typhoon Pongsona (pong-sung-wuh) struck the island in early December 2002 (see photo, shown is Guam's Asan Beach, one of two landing sites used by the U.S. in July 1944 to retake the island from the Japanese).

He lives in Lawrence, Kan., with his wife, Kristy, and their children, Stephen, 3, and daughter Laura, a newborn born on Aug. 4, 2003 (Coast Guard Day). He is assigned to D8 (planning and readiness branch) as an assistant planning officer.

LCDR Roy Yarbrough, USCGR(Ret.) Program Director, Sport Management Studies, California University California, Pa.

LCDR Roy Yarbrough is the Program Director of Sport Management Studies and an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Science and Sport Studies at California University of Pennsylvania, California, Pa. He has been a faculty member since the fall 1999 and is responsible for directing the Sport Management Studies program.

Dr. Yarbrough's involvement and success in sports began when in 1970 he became an AAU-All American in track and field through the sport of race walking. He was then sanctioned by the U.S. Coast Guard to compete on the U.S. Olympic Track Team.

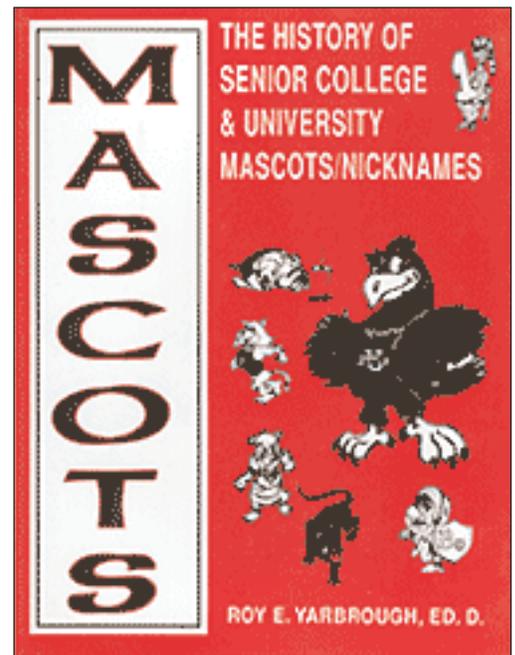
Yarbrough has been actively involved in Sport Management since 1986 when he co-developed Sport Management Studies at Liberty University to be one of four nationally certified programs. He is a National Instructor for the American Sports Education Program and a Certified Recreational Sport Specialist. Since 1989, he has served as the National Historian for the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association. He has been an active member in the North American Society for Sport Management since 1988.

He has been associated with the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (NISOA) since 1976 and is on the

National Academy staff as a physical fitness advisor and National Clinician. Yarbrough serves on the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) National Staff as a physical fitness advisor and a referee instructor. This federation governs professional and Olympic soccer teams. In 1990, Roy had the honor of being inducted into

the USA Soccer Hall of Fame. He has researched and written a book entitled *Mascots: The History of Senior College & University Mascot Nicknames* (www.sportsbooksempire.com)

Yarbrough recently retired from the Coast Guard Reserve as a lieutenant commander serving his country for 26 years. One tour of duty included the assignment as operations officer for Western Alaska during the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill cleanup. For eight years, he served on the summer orientation staff at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy training incoming cadets in the area of physical fitness.





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SUITE 610
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Citizen-Sailors Who Made a Difference

YN2 Olivia J. Hooker, First African-American SPAR

By PA1 Elizabeth Neely, USCGR
Reprinted from June 1994 Reservist (with updates)

Among those who answered the call to serve the nation 60 years ago was Dr. Olivia Hooker, now 89, the first black woman to enlist in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs). Hooker was a graduate of Ohio State University and already teaching in Columbus, Ohio, during World War II. However, with the push to integrate the maritime services, she was encouraged to apply for admission to the Coast Guard by her friend, Alex Haley, who then served as a ship's cook aboard the *CGC Mendota*. She applied and was admitted to the Coast Guard in March 1945, one of five black enlisted women in the SPARs.

Enlisting wasn't exactly easy, however. She was eager to join the war effort and applied to the Navy's WAVES but was rejected. She went to the Coast Guard, where a recruiter tried to discourage her by portraying military life as dull, dreary work. One Coast Guard officer, trying to discourage her from enlisting, told her a "wild story" about a ship blowing up offshore and women having to bring in body parts.

"I said that if other women can do it, I'm sure I can too," said Hooker. Undeterred, Hooker enlisted in the Coast Guard. Although stationed on the homefront, at times, the war seemed not so distant. While at Yeoman School, her class received daily reports about the war effort.

"There was panic, pandemonium and sadness," recalled Hooker. "It just made me feel that I had to do more to contribute."

Upon completing Basic Training and Yeoman School, Yeoman Second Class Hooker worked at the Separation Center in Boston. She remembers vividly one young man.

"I was helping process this young man out of the Coast Guard," said Hooker. "He seemed so nervous, scared and upset, and I asked what was troubling him."

The young man's unit had come under heavy fire during the landing at Normandy. Perhaps out of fear or an instinct to survive, he laid under a pile of bodies for 24 hours or longer until he was found alive. Adding further trauma, during the return to England, his ship was strafed by German aircraft.

"He made the war seem very real to me," Hooker said.

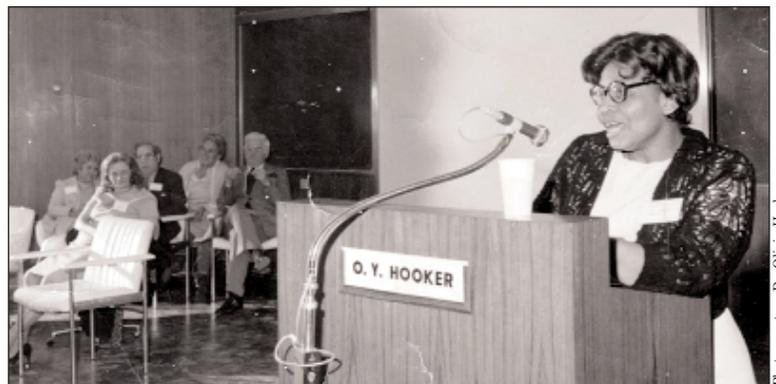
Upon discharge from the Coast Guard in 1946, Hooker used her GI Bill to continue her education, earning a master's degree in psychology from Columbia University and a doctorate in psychology from the University of Rochester,

N.Y. in 1962. Now retired from the Kennedy Child Study Center and Fordham University, she also served 17 years on the Board of Terence Cardinal Cooke Services, the Visiting Nurse Services of Westchester and the now closed White Plains Early Learning Center.

Currently, she remains on the executive committee of the White Plains-Greenburgh NAACP, and the Metro-North District Lay Speaking Training Committee of the United Methodist Church. At Trinity United Methodist Church, she continues as a lay speaker, and is enthusiastically participating in the plans for the 100th anniversary of the church in May 2004. While no longer in active practice of psychology, she participates in the community school's community survey committee. She frequently evaluates young African American boys whose parents are trying to convince their local school boards that they must accommodate their curricula and teaching methods to encompass different learning styles in children from diverse cultures.

Dr. Hooker was honored at the Coast Guard Headquarters Black History Month Banquet in 1994, and attended the SPARs' 60th anniversary reunion in October 2002; both events were in Washington, D.C.

Ed's note: To contact Dr. Olivia Hooker, write: 42 Juniper Hill Road, White Plains, NY 10607; Phone: 914-949-2981; E-mail: oliviahooker@aol.com



Dr. Hooker speaking during March 1974.

Photo courtesy Dr. Olivia Hooker

Citizen-Sailors Who Made a Difference

CAPT Dorothy C. Stratton, First Director of Women's Reserve (SPARs)

By YN2 (now LT) Susan Shanahan, USCGR
Reprinted from the March 1999 Reservist (abridged)



CAPT Dorothy C. Stratton, first Director of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs), will turn 105 on March 24. Born in 1899 in Brookfield, Mo., she earned a Bachelor of Arts from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan.; a Master of Arts in psychology from the University of Chicago; and a doctorate of philosophy in student personnel administration from Columbia University.

In 1933, she joined the staff of Purdue University as Dean of Women and Associate Professor of Psychology, becoming a full professor in 1940. At Purdue, Dr. Stratton had already begun to hone the leadership skills for which she later became famous as Director of the Coast Guard SPARs. She devised an experimental curriculum for women; the experiment proved successful as undergraduate enrollment of women at Purdue increased from 600 to over 1,400.

With these successes at Purdue already behind her, the black cloud of World War II loomed ahead. In June 1942, she took a leave of absence from Purdue and joined the Women Appointed Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), otherwise known as the Naval Women's Reserve. She received her commission in the Navy as a lieutenant after completing the first WAVE indoctrination class at U.S. Naval Training Station at Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

On Nov. 23, 1942, the president signed an amendment to Public Law 773, thereby establishing the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. Stratton was sworn in as its first director, simultaneously becoming the first woman officer accepted for service in the history of the Coast Guard.

She immediately took to the task of creating another first. In a November 1942 memo to wartime Coast Guard Commandant ADM Russell R. Waesche, Stratton wrote:

"The motto of the Coast Guard is Semper Paratus — Always Ready. The initials of this motto are, of course, SPAR. Why not call the members of the Women's Reserve SPARs?...As I understand it, a spar is often a supporting beam and that is what we hope each member of the Women's Reserve will be.... I like SPARs because it really has meaning."

Promotions came quickly for LCDR Stratton. She was promoted to commander on Jan. 1, 1944, and to the rank of captain one month later. When CAPT Stratton completed her service to the Coast Guard in January 1946, then Commandant

ADM Joseph F. Farley awarded her the Legion of Merit. The accompanying citation, signed by then Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal includes the following comments:

"A brilliant organizer and administrator, CAPT Stratton demonstrated a keen understanding of the abilities of women and the tasks suited to their performance...under her inspiring leadership, the organization expanded to include approximately 1,000 officers and 10,000 enlisted women assigned to shore billets at the peak of the Coast Guard war program."

Upon receiving her award, CAPT Stratton replied, "I am glad this medal is called the Legion of Merit, for it is to the Legion that it is awarded, the Legion of 11,000 who volunteered to do a wartime job. As representative of the Legion of SPARs, I am happy to accept this award and to say how much we have appreciated the opportunity to serve in the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard utilized the highest percentage of women of any of the services. This is adequate testimony to the adaptability of the Coast Guard, and to the ability of the women who entered its service. We have liked serving in the Coast Guard and we shall always be interested in its future."

Though her brilliant career as Director of SPARs ended in 1946, it certainly didn't mean the end of her service to America. She served as the Director of Personnel for the International Monetary Fund from 1946-50, and then as National Executive Director of the Girl Scouts of America from 1950-60.

For the women who are serving in the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve today, and for those who are considering service to the Coast Guard in the future, CAPT Stratton sends her best wishes. She is grateful to have served the Coast Guard as the first Director of its Women's Reserve and is the last survivor of the original women's directors from World War II.

Happy 105th birthday CAPT Stratton! Thank you for your dedication, service, legacy to women, and to the Coast Guard and its Reserve.

Ed's note: CAPT Stratton's 105th birthday is March 24, 2004! To ensure privacy, please send birthday greetings to: CAPT Dorothy Stratton, c/o CAPT Jeanne Gleason, 5405-C Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015-2705. You may also send her an e-birthday greeting (type "Happy Birthday" in Subject Line) to: edoak@comdt.uscg.mil



PORT SECURITY UNIT (PSU) INSIGNIA

Here are the Eligibility Requirements and Qualifications for the PSU Insignia, taken directly from the Coast Guard Personnel Manual (COMDTINST M1000.6), Chapter 6.C.3. Questions can be directed to LT Dan Gray, 202-267-0450, dgray@comdt.uscg.mil

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The PSU Insignia was created to recognize the accomplishments of becoming qualified in the area of port security unit operations. The PSU Insignia will be awarded to those who have qualified in the areas of PQS/basic skills courses for PSUs, served as a member of a PSU for a given time, and demonstrated a practical application of those skills in a PSU setting. The PSU Insignia will be issued as a permanent award only.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The PSU Insignia qualification is divided into three areas based upon the date of the formal commissioning of the first PSU, May 1, 1995:
 1. Qualifications for those who served with PSUs and deployed to an in-theater operation prior to May 1, 1995:
 2. Graduate of the Camp Blanding PSU course or a member of PSU 301/302/303 and attended the *Desert Shield* or *Uphold Democracy* ramp up training at Camp Perry or the U.S. Marines Combat Skills Course at Quantico, Va., and,
 3. Successfully deployed as a member of a PSU during *Operation Desert Shield*, *Desert Storm* for a minimum of 30 days, or *Operation Uphold Democracy* for its duration.

- Qualifications for those who completed PSU Skills training but did not deploy to *Desert Shield*, *Desert Storm* or *Operation Uphold Democracy*; served with a PSU, and participated in two PSU deployment operations prior to May 1, 1995 are:
 - Graduate of the Camp Blanding PSU course or the *Desert Shield* ramp up training at Camp Perry in 1990 or the U.S. Marines combat Skills Course at Quantico, Va.; and,
 - A member of a PSU for two years prior to May 1, 1995; and,
 - Successfully completed ADT periods for at least two of the listed deployments: *Flame River 92*, *Forward Sentinel 93*, *Flame River 93*, *PSU Focus Training 94*, *Allegiant Sentry 94*, *Allegiant Sentry 95*, *Freedom Banner 95*.

- Qualifications for those who served with PSUs after May 1, 1995:
 - Completion of PSU Basic Skills formal training conducted at either an established school, by a specific port security unit, or by a PSU training team approved by Commandant (G-OPD) (e.g., Phoenix Readiness at Fort Dix, USMC Basic Training at Camp Pendleton or PSU TRADET); and,
 - A minimum two-year assignment to a PSU; and,
 - Completion of all billet assigned PQS unique to the WQSB as outlined in the Operational Logistics Support Plan for PSUs, COMDTINST 4081.8 (series) as well as mandatory all hands PQS training requirements (sections 0.1, 1.6, 3.1, 3.2, 7.1, 7.2) as outlined in the PSU Personnel Qualification Standard, COMDTINST 1540.11 (series); and
 - Fully met all overseas deployment qualification standards during the two-year period (waiverable through Area staff (AOFPP/OFT)).





In Brief

• **TRAVEL TAX BREAKS FOR RESERVISTS** — Under recently enacted legislation (PL 108-121), reservists who travel more than 100 miles to attend weekend drills without reimbursement for travel expenses are allowed to deduct travel, food and lodging expenses from federal income taxes. Previously, reservists were expected to itemize their travel mileage and expenses which had to exceed two percent of their gross income to qualify for reimbursement. However, deductions can now be claimed with no limitations on the amount that can be deducted in one year. Officials warn, though, that deductions cannot exceed the federal rate for reimbursement, which varies by location. Additionally, under the new law, reservists who do not travel 100 miles for a drill are still allowed to claim deductions if expenses exceed two percent of their income. The benefits are part of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 and apply to expenses incurred after Dec. 31, 2002.

• TAX RETURN DEADLINES / COMBAT ZONE

MEMBERS — The following applies to those members serving in a combat zone. **Federal Tax Return:** The due date for filing Federal tax returns and declaration of estimated taxes, or the payment of any tax or estimated tax, is automatically postponed without interest or penalty while a member serves in a combat zone. This includes a period of hospitalization outside the United States as a result of injury received while serving in a combat zone. Postponed tax returns must be filed within **180 days** after departure from a combat zone or release from hospitalization incident to such duty. **This relief is not available to the member's spouse.** A statement must be attached to the return indicating to the District Director the date on which combat zone service, or hospitalization outside the United States, as a result

thereof, ended. A member should promptly advise the Internal Revenue Service of combat zone status if any attempt is made to require the filing of a return or payment of tax prior to expiration of the authorized postponement. **State Tax Return:** The due date for filing State tax returns is regulated by each state. Members serving in a combat zone should contact their state Internal Revenue Service regarding the postponement of filing state tax returns while serving in a combat zone. Source: Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29a, Chapter 8, Section G, A and B.

• **COAST GUARD ESSAY CONTEST** — Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS) and the U.S. Naval Institute are sponsoring the Coast Guard Essay Contest. Topic is any subject relating to the transformation of the Coast Guard and is open to all. Maximum word length is 3,000. **Deadline is May 1, 2004.** First prize, \$2,000; second, \$1,500; third, \$750 (plus all receive a one-year membership in the Naval Institute). Winning essay will be published in the August 2004 *Proceedings* magazine. For more info, contact Naval Institute Essay & Photo Contests, 291 Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21402-5034; 410-295-1058; FAX: 410-295-1049; E-mail: bjudge@usni.org Web: www.usni.org

• **SAIL ABOARD CGC EAGLE IN 2004** — The *CGC Eagle* will sail on its annual cadet training cruise from March 30 to Aug. 31, 2004. Eagle's primary mission during this deployment is to train future Coast



Upcoming Events

MARCH 2004

• **COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE** — The 2004 campaign runs from March 1 through April 30. For info, call 1-800-881-2462; Web: www.cgmahq.org. Also, see page 25.

• **CAPT DOROTHY STRATTON'S 105TH BIRTHDAY** — You read that right! The first Director of the SPARs (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) will celebrate her 105th birthday on March 24, 2004! To ensure privacy, please send birthday greetings to: CAPT Dorothy Stratton, c/o CAPT Jeanne Gleason, 5405-C Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015-2705. You may also send her an e-birthday greeting (type "Happy Birthday" in Subject Line) to: edoak@comdt.uscg.mil

APRIL 2004

• **CWOA ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEEJTING** — April 27-29, Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact CWO4 Bob Lewis, USCG(Ret.), CWOA, c/o James Creek Marina, 200 V Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; 1-800-792-8447 or 202-554-7753; E-mail: cwoauscg@aol.com Web site: www.cwoauscg.org

MAY 2004

• **COAST GUARD INNOVATION EXPO** — May 3-6, at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, Ga. For more info, see ALCOAST 017/04 and www.ndia.org (under "Meetings & Events"), or contact CDR Jay Hawthorne, 202-267-2771 or Mr. Fred Hooghhouse, 202-267-2130; E-mail: innovation@comdt.uscg.mil

• **WWII MEMORIAL DEDICATION** — Saturday, May 29, 2004, 2 p.m. on the National Mall, Washington, D.C. "Tribute to a Generation" celebration is scheduled for May 27-30. For more info, see the WWII Memorial Web site: www.wwiimemorial.com or call 1-800-639-4992.

JUNE 2004

• **60TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY** — The 60th anniversary of D-Day is June 6, 2004. The National D-Day Memorial Web site is: www.dday.org

• **ROA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — June 8-12, Grand America and Little America Hotels, Salt Lake City, Utah. For details, contact Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002; 202-479-2200; Web: www.roa.org

• **COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY** — The 65th birthday of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is Wednesday, June 23. Auxiliary Web site: www.cgaux.org

JULY 2004

• **COAST GUARD FESTIVAL 2004** — Friday, July 30 through Sunday, Aug. 8, in Grand Haven, Mich. National Memorial Service, Friday, Aug. 6, 4 p.m. Parade and fireworks Saturday, Aug. 7. For info, contact: U.S. Coast Guard Festival, 113 N. Second St., Grand Haven, MI 49417; 1-888-207-2434; E-mail: contact@ghcgfest.org Web: www.ghcgfest.org

AUGUST 2004

• **COAST GUARD DAY 2004** — Is Wednesday, Aug. 4! What is your unit planning for the USCG's 214 birthday?

• **CPOA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — 36th annual, Aug. 23-27, Imperial Palace Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. For info, contact CPO Association, 5520-G Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151-4009; 703-941-0395; E-mail: cgcpoa@aol.com Web: www.uscgcpoa.org

Guard officers at sea. Volunteers are needed in the following ratings to augment the ship's permanent crew: BM, DC, FS, HS, IT, MK. Additionally, one CPO is needed to serve as Master At Arms. Active Duty or Reserve personnel (male or female) may apply for all or any portions of this deployment. However, preference is given to those qualified personnel who volunteer for longer periods. To sail on America's Tall Ship is a memorable experience and an opportunity to help shape and train the future leaders of the Coast Guard. Interested PACAREA personnel should contact YN1 Annable at 510-437-3517; interested LANTAREA personnel should contact CWO Hargrove at 757-628-4496. An alternate application method is to access the following CG Web site and submit a TDY application form; be sure to include CGC Eagle in the "Unit Applying for" block and be sure to include the endorsement of your Commanding Officer: <http://webapps.mlca.uscg.mil/pdiv/forceops/volunteers/default.cfm>

• **WERE YOU OVERPAID ON YOUR TRAVEL CLAIM?** — Personnel Service Center is currently auditing travel claims submitted by Title 10 Reservists to ensure per diem was not paid while a member was in a leave status. The JFTR policy prohibits the payment of member's lodging, meals, and incidental expenses on any day classified as leave. If you inadvertently failed to include leave dates on a travel claim or filled out the form incorrectly, you are encouraged to submit a supplemental travel claim to correct any over payments. It may be determined that members were overpaid and an appropriate notice and due process will be afforded to members to repay the government any monies which were erroneously paid. With the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act on Nov. 24, 2003, future recalls will enable payment of lodging but not daily per diem in a leave status. Questions should be directed to PSC's Travel Claims Assistance Team at 1-866-772-8724 or 785-339-2200; E-mail: psc-tvlcst@hrc.uscg.mil

• **SUMMERSTOCK 2004** — Summerstock is an excellent opportunity for fully qualified boat crew members to work at Coast Guard stations on the Great Lakes. It's also ideal for students and teachers seeking full-time summer employment. Summerstock point of contact is YN1



Patricia Feeney, D9(osr) at 216-902-6116; Fax: 216-902-6121; E-mail: pfeeney@d9.uscg.mil Also check the Summerstock intranet site (accessible from CG SWS only): <http://cgweb.lant.uscg.mil/d9/o/osr/summerstock.htm>

• **MTSA/ISPS OVERVIEW** — The Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) strengthens and adds additional protective layers of defense to our Nation's port security. The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code — which comes into effect on July 1, 2004 — seeks to establish an international framework of co-operation between governments, government agencies and the shipping and port industries. Information regarding the implementation of MTSA/ISPS, Coast Guard activities that will be affected, training requirements, etc. are available on the new G-MP Web site. Reservists who will be involved in MTSA/ISPS should visit the Coast Guard Port Security Directorate Web site (via CG SWS / intranet only) at: <http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-mp/g-mp.htm>

• **RESERVE CHIEFS ACADEMY 2004** — Reserve Chief Petty Officers Academy will convene May 22-June 3, 2004 at TRACEN Petaluma, Calif. *The 64 seats have been filled but applications are still being taken for the class wait list.* FAX your signed 'Short Term Training Request' (STTR Form CG-5223) to G-WTL-2, 202-267-4610. If you have questions, contact CWO Teresa Marshall at phone: 202-267-0010; or e-mail: tmarshall@comdt.uscg.mil. For details about the CPO Academy go to: www.uscg.mil/hq/tcpet/cpoa/



• **CAMP BLANDING "SURVIVORS"** — During 1990-1991, PSU training was held at Camp Blanding, Fla. in support of Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War). Approximately 450 Coast Guard Reservists went through the six-week training near Jacksonville, Fla. The current PS Force Master Chief is looking for information and photos from this training. Anyone who went through this training is requested to contact MCPO Gary Sherrill, 202-267-0776, gsherrill@comdt.uscg.mil

Reunions

APRIL 2004

• **USCG COMBAT VETERANS ASSOCIATION** — National Reunion, April 22-26, 2004 at Fort Mitchell, Ky. Make reservations directly with the Drawbridge Inn at 1-800-426-3841, tell hotel you are with the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association. For info or membership information, contact Mr. Baker W. Herbert, 6629 Oakleaf Drive, Westfield Center, OH 44251; Phone: 330-887-5539; or Mr. Ed Burke, 17728 Striley Dr., Ashton, MD 20861-9763. Phone: 301-924-3727. E-mail: uscgw64@worldnet.att.net; Web: www.coastguardcombatvets.com

• **OWENSBORO UNIT REUNION** — Saturday, April 24, 1400 (2 p.m.) Central Time. Meet at the restaurant of PS1 Bob Sheldon's, Sheldon's Country Fixings, located near Munfordville, Ky. Phone: 270-524-3100. *NOTE: The restaurant is located in a dry county, therefore, there will not be any alcohol available at this location.* Additional information contact LT Les Allen, 502-495-2457, E-mail: leswallen@bellsouth.com; CWO Radin 859-885-1236, E-mail gpradin@juno.com; PSCM Hoskins, 502-684-6113, E-mail ehoskins@owensboro.net; PSCM Kuster, 812-876-2272, E-mail dlkuster@bluemarble.net

MAY 2004

• **USCGC CAMPBELL W-32/W-909 ASSOCIATION** — 19th annual reunion, May 20-24, 2004 at Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, Valley Forge, 480 North Gulph Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406. For info, contact Gordon Bell, Vice President, 723 Spring Lane, Lansdale, PA 19446; Phone: 215-393-6195; E-mail: captbell@comcast.net or Jim Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer, 40 Lisa Lane, Uncasville, CT 06382; Phone: 860-848-1160; E-mail: jkelly3@earthlink.net

AUGUST 2004

• **USCG NATIONAL ASSOC. OF FORMER STEWARDS AND STEWARDMATES INC.** — 15th reunion, Aug. 5-8, 2004 at the Imperial Palace Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact: BMCM Robert E. Hammond, USCG(Ret.), 97 Curtis Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854; Phone: 732-752-2512; FAX: 732-752-1531; E-mail: reh004@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2004

• **CGC WESTWIND ASSOCIATION** — Third annual reunion, Sept. 17-19, 2004, Wyndham Hotel, 101 West Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201; Phone: 410-385-6700; Special room rate \$99 per night (mention Westwind Association when reserving your room with reservation deadline of Aug. 18, 2004). For more info, contact Alex Mavica, Chairman, Phone: 845-352-7040; E-mail: amavica@optonline.net

OCTOBER 2004

• **USS CENTAURUS AKA-17** — 13th Annual Reunion, Oct. 7-10, 2004, World War II Coast Guard-Manned Attack Transport, six Battle Stars and two Kamikaze Splashes, Sheraton Westport, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Kent Price, 837 Orpington Ct., St. Louis, MO 63131; Phone: 314-822-4637; E-mail: kent_p@sbcglobal.net or George E. McCabe, Jr., 116 Knotty Pine Trail, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082; Phone: 904-280-3013; E-mail: congern@bellsouth.net

Note: If your group is holding a reunion, the sooner you get word out the better. *The Reservist's* address is on page 2. Reunions are also listed on the CGR Web site at: www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reunions.htm

Medals & Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

CAPT Carl D. Brommund, COMDT (G-WTR-1)

Joint Service Commendation Medal

LT Matthew B. Ross, JIATF West
CWO3 Reece L. Lewing, RCNSC, NDU

Coast Guard Commendation Medal

CWO Robert V. Antonaccio, MSO Providence

Coast Guard Achievement Medal

CDR Susan F. Daignault, MSO Portland, Maine
CDR Thomas M. Quin, MSO Charleston
BMCS Brian J. Fleming, Group Boston
BMC Alfred F. Bell, Group Boston
MKC Mark J. Kopera, Group Buffalo
YN1 Dorothy A. Button, MSO Buffalo
MST3 Glenn M. Vincent, MSO Buffalo

Commandant's Letter of Commendation

PSCM John H. Digman, Group/MSO L.I. Sound

Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon

MSO Wilmington UTL(T) Transition Team

Reserve Good Conduct Medal

PSCM John H. Digman, Group/MSO L.I. Sound

If you received an award recently and would like to see it published, send a copy of your award citation to the editor. Address and e-mail are on page 2.



PSCM Wayne Miesen, right, accepts a unit commendation pennant on behalf of PSU 305 from RADM Duncan Smith at the unit's change of command Dec. 13 at Fort Eustis, Va. Looking on are, left to right, CAPT Robert Grabb, CDR Kurt Hinrichs and LT Victor McInnis.

Advancements

Effective Feb. 1, 2004

From Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 02-04

Boatswain's Mate (BM)

BMCM M ALLEN
BM1 J SCHADE
BM3 R SEVIGNY
BM3 S SHAFFER

Damage Controlman (DC)

DCCM M LEDOUX
DCC N SPURLOCK
DCC B BONES

Electrician's Mate (EM)

EMCM L NECKERS

Food Service Specialist (FS)

FSCM R PAYNE

Gunners' Mate (GM)

GMCM P O'KELLY

Investigator (IV)

IV1 T WOOD
IV1 M GROGAN
IV1 R FOREY
IV1 A FERRER

Port Security Specialist (PS)

PSCM W ALLRED
PS3 J KRAUS
PS3 R PILECEK

Storekeeper (SK)

SKCM L YOEST
SKCS B NEWMAN
SKC C GENTRY
SKC S DRIVER

Yeoman (YN)

YN1 T PUDER
YN1 N HAHN
YN1 A GIBSON
YN1 E LENCHANK
YN1 S DORSEY
YN3 K OCONNELL

This list is taken directly from Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 02-04, ALCGPERSOM 006/04 (R 261506Z JAN 04). Questions should be directed to YNC P. Harris; E-mail: pharris@hrsic.uscg.mil; Phone: 785-339-3410.

Promotions

To Captain

(From ALCGPERSCOM 007/04, effective Feb. 1, 2004)

OLSON, KENNETH R.	CGLO CDR USSSOUTHCOM
HURLEY, JOHN P.,	ISC MIAMI

To Lieutenant

(From ALCGPERSCOM 007/04, effective Feb. 18, 2004)

COLLINS, DORIS C.,	MSO CHARLESTON
STEELE, JAMES R.,	ISC PORTSMOUTH

To Lieutenant Junior Grade

(From ALCGPERSCOM 004/04, effective Jan. 31, 2004)

OTT, MICHAEL J.,	AIR STA CAPECOD
RAYBURG, JOHNNY L.,	GP GALVESTON
DICKERSON, SHAWN E.,	CGD NINE
REILLY, GREGORY W.,	MSO PUGET SOUND
JONES, KENNETH C.,	MSO PADUCAH
MIKAN, PHILIP E.,	CGC SANIBEL
MILLER, KENNETH W.,	MSO SAN DIEGO
HILLIARD, GREGORY S.,	ICC

SMITH, THOMAS E.,	MSO NEW ORLEANS
TRIFIRO, JAMES F.,	MSO BOSTON
BRACKETT, JAMES B.,	ISC ST LOUIS
ANDERSON, CHRIS R.,	PSU 307
SIRMONS, TROY K.,	MSO SANFRANCISCO
HETHERINGTON, JASON.,	MSO PHILA
JENKINS, DAVID S.,	MSO SAN FRANCISCO
THIEL, GLENN G.,	MSO NEW ORLEANS
LAND, CAMERON D.,	MSO CHICAGO
LEROUX, ANNA E.,	MSO WILMINGTON
REMUSAT, TODD A.,	MSO SAVANNAH
DIMEO, MICHAEL A.,	ISC BOSTON
HEDRICK, CHARLES D.,	MSU GALVESTON
LINDSAY, BOBBY L.,	LO EL PASO INTEL
NOTEBOOM, ANNA N.,	PSU 305
HUGHES, JOHN D.,	MSO CORP CHRISTI
PRICE, ROBERT A.,	GP NEW ORLEANS
MARQUARDT, BRANDI E.,	STA FT LAUDERDALE
DOLBOW, JAMES E.,	GP HMPTON ROADS
VONSTEIN, MICHAEL A.,	PSU 308
STERNER, PATRICK J.,	HDCU 207

(From ALCGPERSCOM 007/04, effective Feb. 13, 2004)
 SONG, THOMAS J., SECTOR HONOLULU



Tom Gwilliam, center, is promoted to lieutenant by Director of Reserve and Training RADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., left, and CDR Steve Nye, right, at an HQ ceremony Jan. 15. A huge Red Sox and Patriots fan, Gwilliam is a reservist serving in the Reserve Policy and Programs Division (G-WTR-1).

Photo by CWO2 Ed Kruska, USCGR



CAPT Carl D. Brommund, right, receives a plaque from RADM Robert J. Papp, Jr., Director of Reserve & Training, at Brommund's retirement ceremony. A Reserve Program Administrator, Brommund served 29 years in the Coast Guard and was honored at Headquarters Jan. 8. His farewell tour was as Chief, Policy and Programs Division (G-WTR-1).

Photo by CWO2 Ed Kruska, USCGR

Retirement List

RET-1 (Retired With Pay)

JANUARY 2004

CAPT Howard E. Copeland, D5
CAPT Ronald C. Mers, D11
CAPT Howard R. North, D1
CDR Gregory G. Evans, D13
CDR James A. Kanclier, D11
CDR Patrick V. Kauffold, D9
CDR James D. Morgan, D1
LCDR Brian C. Reynolds, D13
LT Kenneth C. Baker, D8
LT Ronald J. Cornetta, D8
LT George A. Gilliam, D9

PSCM William T. Hanna, D7
MKCS Wesley F. Tyvog, D11
BMC Arthur E. Stoll, D13
BMC Frank L. Williams, D5
EMC James G. Blaine, D8
GMC Robert L. Gregory, D1
GMC David S. Monk, D8
IVC Evan J. Wright, D11
SKC Martin E. Harper, D9
YNC Linda L. Thompson, D8
BM1 Stephen A. Mullen, D1
BM1 Allan D. McCune, D11
EM1 Dennis C. Horigan, D1
HS1 Arney G. Dalton, D5
MK1 Hector L. Betancur, D1

MK1 Stanley W. Slenning, D13
PS1 Bradford E. Manning, D13
PS1 Stephen W. Raymond, D13
BM2 Joseph E. Harrington, D1
MK2 Gail K. Wagoner, D11
MK3 Jose A. Torres, D1

RET-2 (Retired Awaiting Pay)

JANUARY 2004

CWO3 Rebecca A. Post, D13
BMCM Mark S. Petrarca, D1

BMCS Dan E. Costello, D13
DCC Michael A. Meros, D1
MKC Joseph P. Breneman, D1
MSTC Lester D. Morrison, D1
DC1 Patrick D. McGill, D5
FS1 Remigio D. Delosreyes, D11
FT1 Robert S. Fenton, D11
BM2 David S. Harden, D8
BM2 Linda Nelson, D5
BM2 William W. Newton, D8
MK2 Robert Vanwyngaarden, D1
EM3 Thomas A. Allen, D5

Source: PO Bobby Dees, PSC(ras)

Taps

- **VADM Austin C. Wagner**, USCG(Ret.), Jan. 31, 2004, in Rockledge, Fla. Survived by his wife, Elaine.
- **CDR Reed L. Adams**, USCGR(Ret.), Dec. 13, 2003, in Walnut Creek, Calif. Survived by wife Evelyn M. Adams.
- **CDR Elmer L. Klein**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 10, 2004, in Santa Clara, Calif. Survived by spouse, Lou Anna Klein.
- **CDR Francis McCarthy**, USCGR(Ret.), of Plymouth, Mass., Jan. 3, 2004. Survived by wife Anne M. McCarthy. Interment Duxbury, Mass.
- **CDR Edward H. O'Keefe**, USCGR(Ret.), Sept. 1, 2003, in Pittsfield, Mass. Survived by wife Jeane O'Keefe. Interment Pittsfield, Mass.



• **LCDR Charles A. Valentino**, USCGR, 52, Jan. 22, 2004, of Chatham, N.J. He served over 34 years in the Coast Guard, enlisting in the Coast Guard Reserve in September 1969, completing boot camp and PS "A" School, rising to the rank of PS1 before attending ROCI in 1987, and commissioned an ensign. As an officer, he served at Group Rockaway, and as XO and CO of RU Sandy Hook, before returning to Governors Island as an admin and training officer in 1995. He was involved in the base closure of Governors Island and relocation to Fort Wadsworth in 1997. On Sept. 11, 2001, LCDR "V" was performing his ADT when the WTC and Pentagon were attacked. During the crisis period after 9/11, he coordinated logistical support for all CG assets that responded to New York Harbor. He was serving an EAD contract as Assistant Chief, Administrative Division, Activities New York at the time of his passing. His civilian occupation was that of fire inspector and code enforcement officer and he also served at the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, Marybeth Valentino; a son, Marcus. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to a charity of your choosing in memory of LCDR Valentino. A Mass of the Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 27 at Saint Patrick's Church, Chatham, N.J. A memorial service will

be held at the Father Capodanno Chapel, Fort Wadsworth on March 13, 11 a.m. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. Point of contact is PSCS Frank Gorman, 908-433-6147, or fgorman@actny.uscg

- **LCDR Donald G. Baker**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 26, 2004, in Albuquerque, N.M. Survived by his wife, Corinne Baker. Interment Santa Fe, N.M.
- **LCDR John Gerald Homan**, USCG, 45, Nov. 14, 2003, suddenly, at Health East Family Care, Avon, N.C. A 26-year veteran of the Coast Guard, he had served as Commander of Coast Guard Group Cape Hatteras, N.C. since July 2001. LCDR Homan enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1977 and received his commission in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, two sons and a daughter. Services were held Nov. 19, 2003 at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church, Buxton, N.C.
- **LCDR Robert R. Loeffler**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 10, 2004. Survived by wife Mary E. Loeffler.
- **LCDR Daniel E. Malone**, USCGR(Ret.), Dec. 8, 2003.
- **CWO4 Frederick C. Wheeler**, USCGR(Ret.), Dec. 17, 2003, in Riverside, Calif. Survived by wife Lucille Wheeler.
- **PSCM Robert L. Huber**, USCGR(Ret.), Dec. 16, 2003, in Ocean Pines, Md. Survived by spouse, Sandra Huber.
- **YNCS Richard A. Bowers**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 13, 2004, in Williamsville, N.Y. Survived by wife Dorothy M. Bowers. Interment Cheektowaga, N.Y.
- **PSC James H. Artis, Jr.**, USCGR(Ret.), Nov. 27, 2003, of Largo, Fla. Survived by wife Virginia Artis. Interment Clearwater, Fla.
- **YNC Frank O. Anderson, Jr.**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 15, 2004, of New Port Richey, Fla. Survived by wife, Dorothy Anderson.
- **PS1 Norman H. Hoover**, USCGR(Ret.), Jan. 24, 2004, in Charleston, W.V. Survived by his wife, Brenda Hoover. Interment Kanawha Valley Memorial Gardens, Glasgow, W.V.
- **ET2 Mark F. Mahon**, USCGR(Ret.), Dec. 31, 2003, in Tigard, Ore. Survived by wife Susan M. Mahon.

An Update from LANTAREA

Since assuming the watch as the Atlantic Area Reserve Command Master Chief in November, I have been visiting units both domestically and overseas. It is reassuring to know that such professionals stand the watch throughout the world. I am still amazed whenever I run across a shipmate at a location where you would least expect to see a familiar face. In December, I also had the privilege to attend the change of watch and retirement ceremony for the Reserve Force Master Chief. Best wishes to Master Chief and Mrs. Ingraham as they close out another chapter in their journey. I look forward to working closely with Master Chief Smith as the fourth Reserve Force Master Chief and with the exceptional cadre of Command Master Chiefs, both active and reserve. I am proud to have this opportunity to represent an enlisted work force second to none and look forward to crossing paths with as many Coasties as possible.

As I write this article, reservists continue to answer the call to duty throughout the Coast Guard. For many, this may be their third or fourth recall to active duty. Some challenges may surface from time to time as reservists transition to and from active duty. An extremely valuable resource to help with these and other challenges is your Command Chief, Senior Chief or Master Chief. For enlisted personnel, these members of the Chiefs' community are your first line advocates, and I ask that you keep them in mind and informed when routing issues and recommendations through the chain of command.

This "Silver Badge" network consists of Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs assigned the collateral duty as the senior enlisted advisor to the command. In general these individuals advise and consult with the commanding officer on the impact of existing or proposed policy changes and potential situations that can effect the morale and general well-being of Coast Guard personnel and their families. Command chiefs are critical in promoting balance between workforce needs and command goals. Accessible to all crewmembers and their dependents, command chiefs encourage communications affecting personnel and mission accomplishment. In addition, command chiefs network with other resources to resolve unit-level problems and concerns. Working separate from the chain of command, command chiefs report directly to their commanding officers. When necessary, they may communicate directly with their respective Commandant-designated Command Master Chief ("Gold Badge"). I assure you that many such professionals are dedicated to resolving issues brought to their attention. For additional information about the Command Master Chief Program refer to

Commandant Instruction 1306.1A.

In addition to the sacrifices made by the recalled member in uniform, often this is the third or fourth time families have made sacrifices to support their loved one's service to our country. Another resource critical to the success of any unit is the Ombudsman. These valuable resources are volunteer spouses designated by and responsible to the command. Ombudsmen have available to them numerous training opportunities, resources and command support to assist them in helping Coast Guard families. Spouses serving in this position assist families by passing along key information pertaining to military families, providing information about a variety of organizations and programs to assist military families and keeping families informed about unit schedules and events. The Ombudsman also serves as an advisor to the commanding officer — someone who can keep up with the concerns of families. For those seeking guidance about particular problems, the Ombudsman attempts to find the best resources possible to assist the individual or the family. I encourage everyone to seek out your Ombudsman, contact them in time of need, get on the phone tree and/or e-mail list and make sure that the Command and your Ombudsman have your correct mailing address and phone number. For more information about this invaluable program go to the Work Life web page at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wk/g-wkw/worklife/ombudsman.htm>.

I am extremely optimistic about the future of the Coast Guard and the Reserve program. Across all services, reservists are more integral to our nation's security than ever before. Remember the dedicated people that serve as Ombudsmen and Command Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Master Chiefs. As the service with the smallest Reserve force, I challenge everyone to continue demonstrating the initiative, judgment and moral courage required to perform our missions. I thank each of you and your families for your patience, dedication and sacrifice. I look forward to this tour as the Atlantic Area Reserve Command Master Chief and to being one of your representatives and advocates.

Stay safe and Semper Paratus.



**By MCPO Dennis Kirk, USCGR
Reserve Command Master Chief, LANTAREA
dkirk@cgstl.uscg.mil**



EM2-USCGR
H-LT-USCGR
PHM2-USCGR
R-COX-USCGR
DT-CPL-USA
WTI-USCG
BY-AS-USCGR
LTJG-USCGR
OCK-GM-USCGR
KSI-PFC-USA
EON-TEC5-USA

Remembering USS Serpens

Coast Guard SPAR Lorraine Dieterle places a wreath at the USS Serpens monument at snow-covered Arlington National Cemetery Jan. 29. The monument marks the cemetery's largest group burial, including 193 Coast Guardsmen. The third annual wreathlaying was sponsored by the DC CPOA and CWOA. A larger ceremony is being planned for the 60th commemoration in 2005. Serpens went down Jan. 29, 1945 at Guadalcanal. Photo by MCPO Linda Reid, USCGR

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