



# U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST



VOLUME 53

ISSUE 1-04

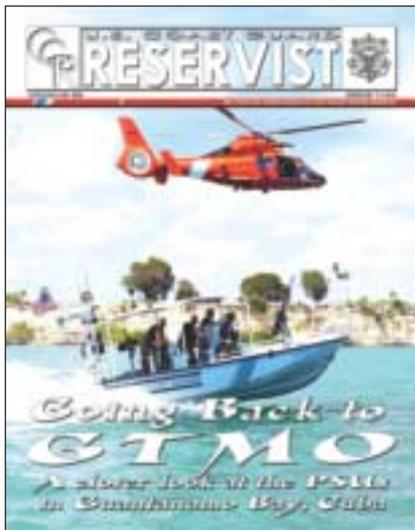
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE



## Going Back to GTMO

*A closer look at the PSUs  
in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba*

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## Reserve Awards & Revisiting GTMO

**E**ach year at this time, the Reserve program recognizes its outstanding individuals and units for their hard work during the previous year. Congratulations to LT Richard Brannon, the FY2005 Reserve Officers Association Coast Guard Reserve Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year. Brannon is a fire chief from Mobile, Ala., who worked tirelessly following Hurricane Katrina. The Waesche Award, named for our World War II Commandant, ADM Russell R. Waesche, recognizes a District and the corresponding ISC for superior readiness. This year's winner is the Ninth District and ISC Cleveland, who won for the first time since 1963. Finally, congratulations go out to PSU 307, who captured the Reserve Affairs Family Readiness Award for the second year in a row. You can read about all of these award winners in this issue. The Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year will be announced in the spring.

It has been quite a while since this magazine published some stories from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO). Joint Task Force Guantanamo was established in 2002 at COMNAV STA Guantanamo. Its mission is to detain enemy combatants and gather intelligence to help the United States and its allies fight terrorism. Approximately 2,000 U.S. service members and civilians representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are currently stationed at GTMO. Thanks to MCPO Tom Cowan of PSU 311 and the staff at JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs for their hard work on the Coast Guard-related stories and photos published herein.

Some other good stuff in this issue: new 2006 pay charts, mobilization tips, and of course, our columnists and regular departments.

I hope you find this issue both entertaining and useful. Have a great 2006!

**-Ed.**

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# THE RESERVIST MAGAZINE

Volume 53 / Issue 1-06

## 20 Revisiting GTMO

PSU 311 just returned from a six-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



### 6 Up Front

Seaplane search, grounded fishing vessel, USCG at Disney World and a Holiday boat parade.



### 15 Reserve News

Next Commandant nominated, ROA CGR OJO, Waesche Award, RAFRA, and Commission on National Guard & Reserves.



### 30 Mobilization Tips

21 tips from seasoned Coasties to avoid future mobilization madness.

### 38

5318.40	5434.50	5592.90	5592.90	5592.90
4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70	4460.70
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4651.50	4927.20	5103.60	5276.10	5454.90
4256.40	4418.40	4579.80	4649.10	4720.80
3801.30	3886.30	3861.50	4100.70	4239.00
3465.00	3544.80	3674.70	3773.10	3773.10
4228.20	4363.50	4489.40	4717.80	4902.30
3636.30	3753.30	3864.50	4071.60	4253.70
3350.40	3435.60	3516.30	3585.80	3732.60
2948.70	2978.10	2998.50	2998.50	2998.50
2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60	2526.60
2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40	2018.40
1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00	1692.00
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1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50	1273.50
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### Cha – Ching...

See what you can expect to make on your next drill period from the 2006 pay charts.

### Also in this Issue:

- 4 Letters
- 14 The View
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- 39 On Deck



**On the Cover:** A Coast Guard transportable port security boat and a Coast Guard helicopter patrol Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Original USCG photo by PA1 Patrick Montgomery. Cover designed and created by Chris Rose.

## LETTERS

### Overcoming Cultural Disconnects

While Team Coast Guard has virtually eliminated many of the barriers between reserve and active duty members, there still remains a serious gap. I am referring to active duty members' assumptions that the reserve member has access to the same information systems as the active duty member.

This time of year, it seems that a myriad of forms have to be submitted to our commands for various reasons. For example, some reserve members recently received links to forms that needed to be submitted ASAP with almost-threatening tones if non-compliance was encountered ... the trouble was, the links were CGWEB links, not available over the internet, but to WSIII users only. For some of us, we would not have access to a WSIII for another month.

When Portable Document Files (PDF) were sent, and I attempted to download on my home dial-up connection, it "locked up" my computer due to inadequate bandwidth. Now, keep in mind that we are blessed with some of the most squared-away support staff in the business, but assumptions can bite even the best at times.

My advice to reservists: notify the sending active duty members of the dead links, etc. It is purely oversight and faulty assumptions on their part. They are actually trying to keep us current on everything. Memorize a good number where you can receive/return forms by fax when the deadline is eminent.

My advice to active duty members: keep in mind what large email attachments could do to a dial-up reservist's e-mail account, remember that e-mails sent to home addresses should not include CGWEB links ... and be aware that the earliest e-mails sent to the Coast Guard address will be viewed will be at next month's drill. If it is urgent, call or fax.

Advice to both: Be patient and communicate! If the system is broken or there are cultural disconnects between the active duty and reserve, take time to address the problem at the correct level. You will improve relations and save your shipmates similar hassles at the same time.

— *MSTC Roy Barger, USCGR  
MSU Paducah, Ky.*

### ESGR, USERRA and Employers

Issue 5-05 contained information on Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). I recently went through an ordeal with my former employer, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Justice.

The representative at the Department of Labor who worked with me on my case was very thorough. However, after my case was forwarded to the Department of Justice in Washington, I received a letter stating that they would not accept my case. More disturbing was the fact that they would not give me a reason. They told me that I would have to write a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) letter requesting that information, and even then, they could not promise an answer. In my view, my employer was in violation of the USERRA, but I feel I have hit a brick wall with the entire process.

All of the information on USERRA and ESGR is good, and it provides great insight and support. But the bottom line is that I feel like



*Members of Lighthouse Maintenance Team Cape May, paint the caisson of Fourteen Foot Bank Light in Delaware Bay, Del.*

employers can do what they want when it comes to reservists, knowing full well it's improbable any charges brought against them can be proven. I would be interested in any information, and/or hearing from other reservists who may have gone through the same thing. Thanks.

— *PA1 Alan Haraf, USCGR  
Chicago, Ill.*

**Ed's note:** *If other reservists have had experiences they would like to share in regards to USERRA/ESGR and their employer, contact the editor.*

### Lighthouse Maintenance Team

Thanks for publishing the photos of Lighthouse Maintenance Team Cape May replacing "I" beams at Brandywine Shoal Light in Delaware Bay (Issue 3-05). It's important to remember that some reservists still work on resolving shore side maintenance requests, and these experiences can translate into valuable skills upon mobilization. This interesting follow-up photo (above) shows two team members painting the caisson of Fourteen Foot Bank Light.

— *DCCM Jeff Miller, USCGR  
Ship Bottom, N.J.*

### Still "Fighting" for the Coast Guard

This is in response to "Letter Made Coastie's Day," from Jennifer Davis published in Issue 7-05. I did not see the original letter that Ms. Davis referred to in her article, but I have a story that might be of interest.

A few years ago, a picture appeared in our local paper showing the Post Commander presenting five flag poles being donated from the local VFW post for a small park in my hometown. They were for the U.S. flag, and the four branches of the military: Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

I called the Post Commander and questioned him as to why the Coast Guard was not represented. His statement just about left me speechless. He said, "Well, the Coast Guard is just a lesser service."

I then wrote a letter to the editor of our local paper and pointed out to the community and to the Post Commander that the Coast Guard was the fifth branch of the military and the Coast Guard has been present in every conflict, domestic and foreign.

A short time later (in the fall), all of the flag poles were removed, which made me very angry. However, at least maybe I had gotten my point across. The next spring, the poles were returned with an additional two poles. There was one for the Coast Guard flag and one for the MIA flag. I was extremely relieved and again sent a letter to the editor thanking the Post Commander for his response.

About a year later, I was at the VFW hall for an event, and noticed that there were five flags flying in front of the hall: U.S., Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. I figured that the previous incident would have opened their eyes. There was a member of the VFW at the hall and I called his attention to the situation. Once again, there is now a Coast Guard flag flying at this VFW hall as well as the other branch flags.

— *PS1 Roger Ladegast, USCGR(Ret.)  
Montague, Mich.*

## “Adrift” Hurricane Story

I have a comment on the vivid story, “Adrift” (Issue 6-05). In 1944, I was 14 years old — too young for World War II, just right for Korea. I know exactly where I was the night of Sept. 13, 1944. My father had been drafted the previous year and was stationed as a medic at Ft. Lewis, Wash. As a result, my mother, my young sister and I had to move to public housing in our hometown of Newport, R.I.

I had joined Civil Defense as a messenger in 1942, so I was selected to stand on a street corner the night the hurricane hit so I could report on any downed power lines. It was pretty wild with only my armband and helmet for protection. I had to hang on to a street sign pole so I could stand up. Suddenly, a tree came crashing down just behind me. That was enough — I went AWOL to home.

Later, I concluded that it was a mistake to send a 14-year-old boy out in the open during a hurricane. I had already witnessed the 1938 hurricane and was destined to be in two more: 1954 and another in the 1960s. And by the way, I have lived in San Diego for 26 years now. It's nice — no hurricanes.

— *CAPT William N. Taylor,*  
*USCGR (Ret.)*  
*San Diego, Calif.*

I have a gentle note regarding the name of the radio commentator mentioned in “Adrift” published in Issue 6-05. His name was Gabriel Heatter, not Gabriel Heator as published. He probably said, “There's bad news tonight.” That was his most oft-used statement, as I heard it many times. Good article, great issue.

— *CAPT C.A. Zellner,*  
*USCGR (Ret.)*  
*Palmyra, Va.*



## Movie “Onionhead”

I suppose that I owe CDR Lewis Hayes (Letters, Issue 7-05) a minor “thank you” vis-a-vis for the making of the film “Onionhead”. I was a seaman apprentice in advanced training following graduation from boot camp (November-20 Company). The film was being shot on Government Island, Alameda, Calif.

I missed the opportunity to appear in the pulling boat scene that was filmed on land using an eight-oared retired surfboat. However, the cast and crew scarred up the gunwales I had re-stained only a few weeks previously.

I, too, “met” Andy Griffith — except that in my case, we stood next to each other in the head. Mr. Griffith was friendly, but under those circumstances, we engaged in very little actual conversation. It was a minor blip near the beginning of a 43-year (active and inactive) Coast Guard Reserve career.

— *LCDR J.L. Jackson, USCGR (Ret.)*  
*Los Angeles, Calif.*

Reading the letter to the editor from CDR Hayes about the movie “Onionhead” in Issue 7-05 issue brought back memories about being in that film. I was in boot camp at Government Island (now Coast Guard Island) in Alameda in the winter of 1957. I was a member of (Reserve 6x8) boot company India -21.

Somehow, our company was selected to appear as extras in the film. We are in the early part of the movie when Andy Griffith was in boot

camp. The scenes in the movie that were shot on the Island were near the firehouse/steam plant (a temporary static display of whale boats) and in our barracks in Building 8.

In the finished film, I can actually recognize myself in the background when Andy was rudely awakened by being hit in the backside with a paddle. Who would ever have thought that we would appear in a film at the age of 18 in our Coast Guard skivvies? The best part about the whole thing was that we got about three days off from the grind of the then, 12-week boot camp.

The stars in the film and the crew were great to be around and we hated to see them go as we had to go back to becoming Coast Guardsmen.

— *MCPO Phill Hoxie, USCGR (Ret.)*  
*Murphys, Calif.*

## Katrina “Blue” Coverage

You've done it again! Congratulations on the great issue on Hurricane Katrina (Issue 7-05). While most of us who watched the disaster in New Orleans found it a very sad experience, you gave us the correct shade of “blue” for our review.

— *CAPT Mary E. McWilliams, USCGR (Ret.)*  
*Great Neck, N.Y.*

## Thanks From the Deck Plates

I have been receiving this Reservist rag for a long time now and hope that I may use it as a forum to thank all who have made my 20-plus years in the Reserve so memorable.

I signed on in September 1984, after deciding to put my years as a sailing pirate behind me, and move on to the team that is dedicated to more humanitarian causes. I was one month shy of 36 at the time. I want to encourage all reservists to stick with it, mix humility with your strong ambition to serve, and carry our mission



onward. My first big realization that times were changing came as I fired a 60-cal machine gun at the Old Fort Ord, Calif. range as hundreds of cars filled with long-haired “Dead Heads” filed past to a rock concert at the Laguna Seca Race Track.

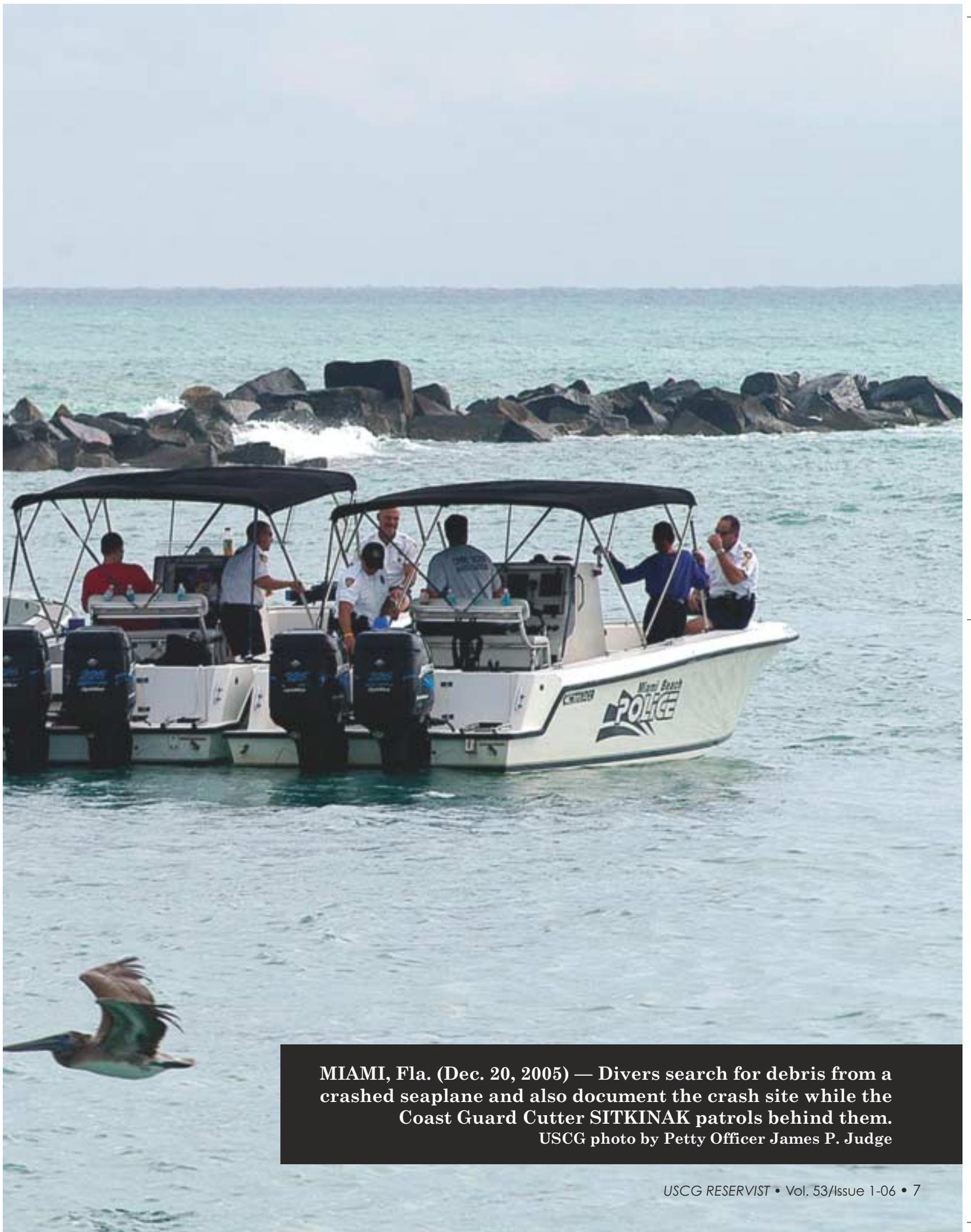
There have been times when hurdles seemed too tall, but with the help of the command (both active and reserve), and the encouragement from fellow District 11 reservists, I made my way from crew to coxswain, from third class to first. The opportunities were there for me then, and are even greater for all of you these days.

I take with me boatloads of excellent training and barge loads of good memories. It's give and take — by supporting your fellow guardsmen and command, and accepting the sacrifice of time away from your family and for yourself, you wind up with a 20-year letter that is a source of great pride for you and your family. I close in asking you all to carry on, be committed, and be safe.

— *BM1 David K. Hardy, USCGR (Ret.)*  
*Sector San Francisco, Calif.*  
*Frisco, Texas*

# U P F R O N T

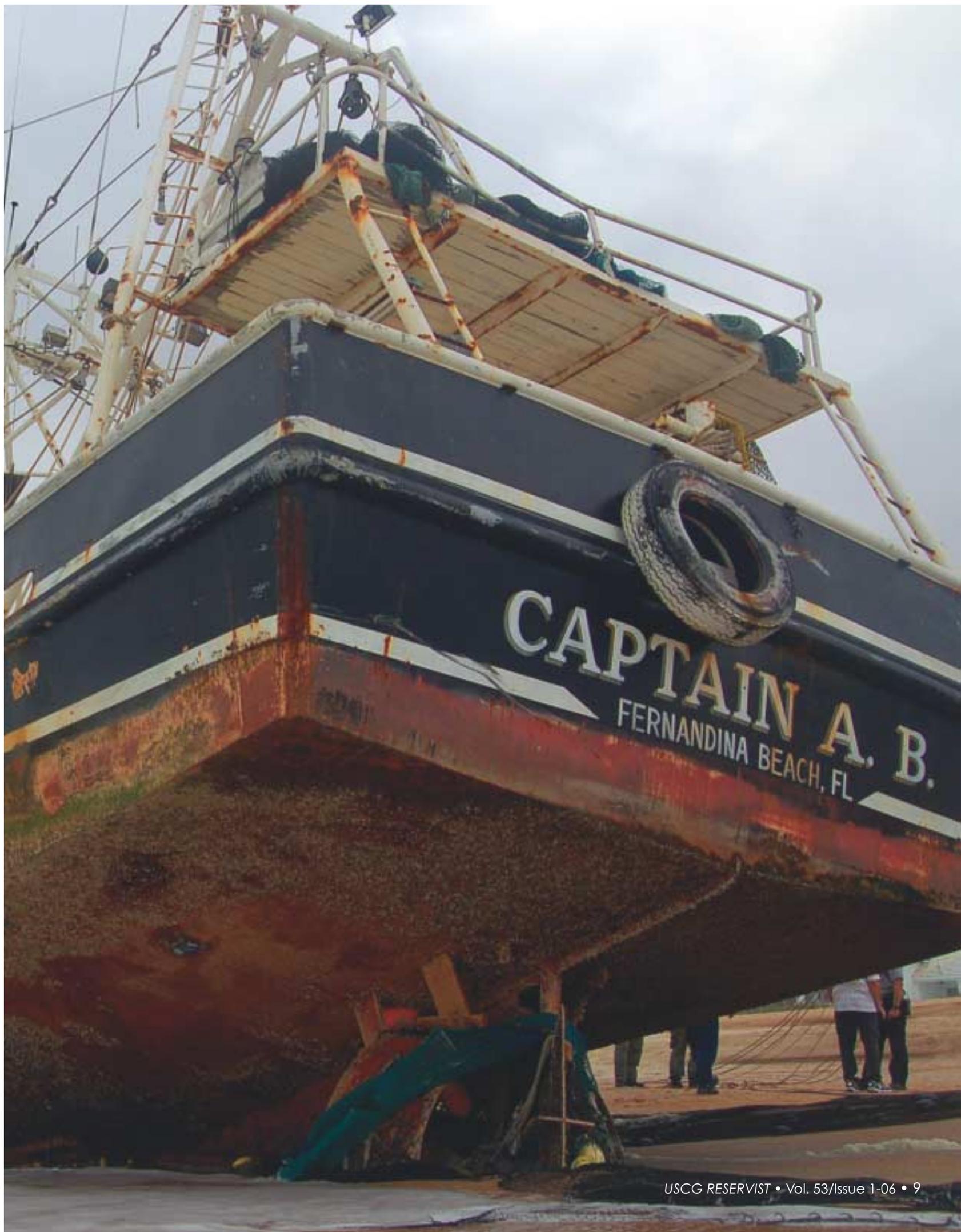




**MIAMI, Fla. (Dec. 20, 2005) — Divers search for debris from a crashed seaplane and also document the crash site while the Coast Guard Cutter SITKINAK patrols behind them. USCG photo by Petty Officer James P. Judge**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 14, 2005) — The fishing vessel CAPTAIN A.B. sits high and dry after it grounded in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., at approximately 5:30 a.m. The vessel had three people aboard when it ran hard aground just north of Guana River State Park, Fla. There were no injuries or pollution as a result of the grounding. The skipper of the CAPTAIN A.B. and a crewman were cited for falling asleep at the helm of the vessel.**  
USCG photo by PA2 Bobby Nash

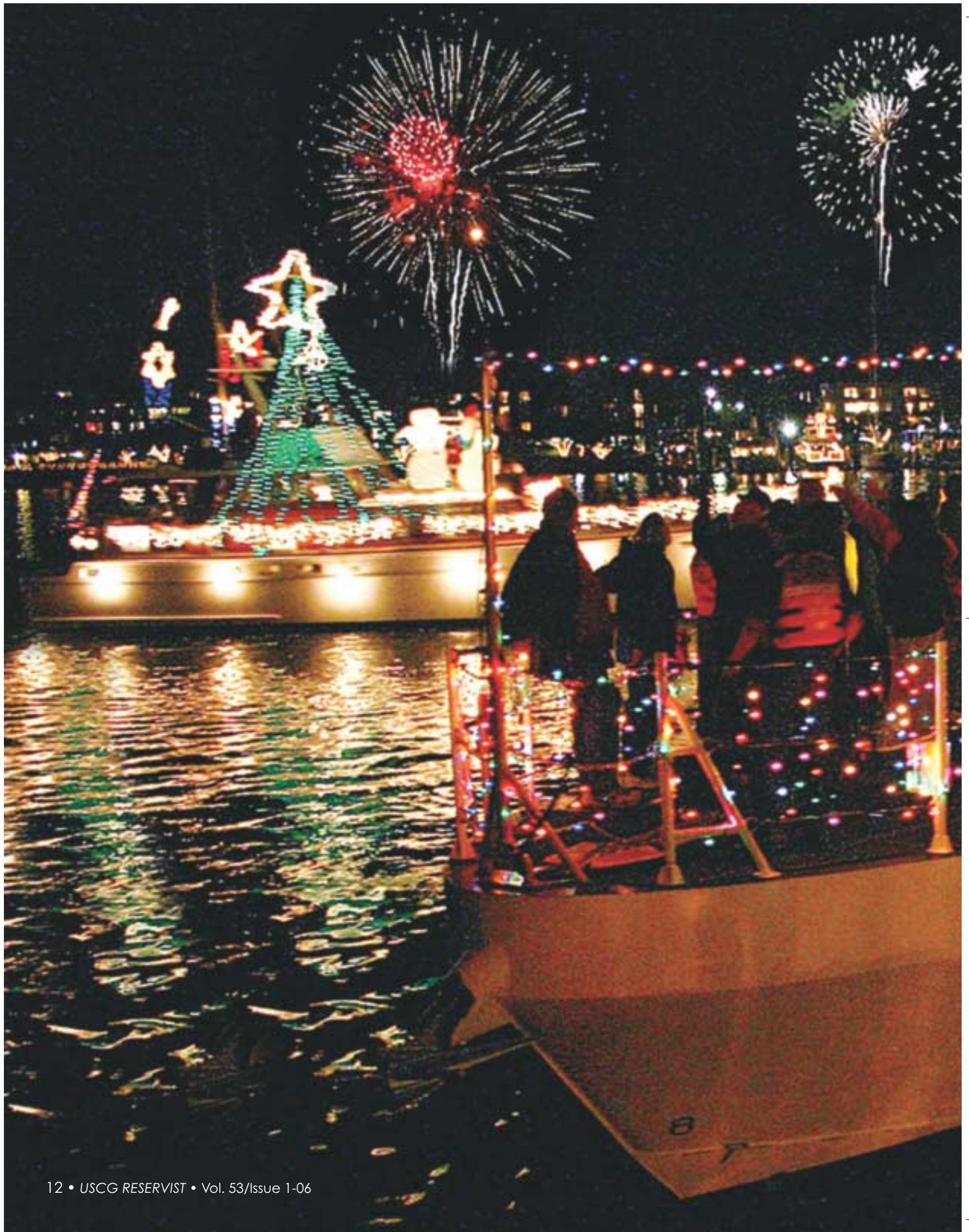


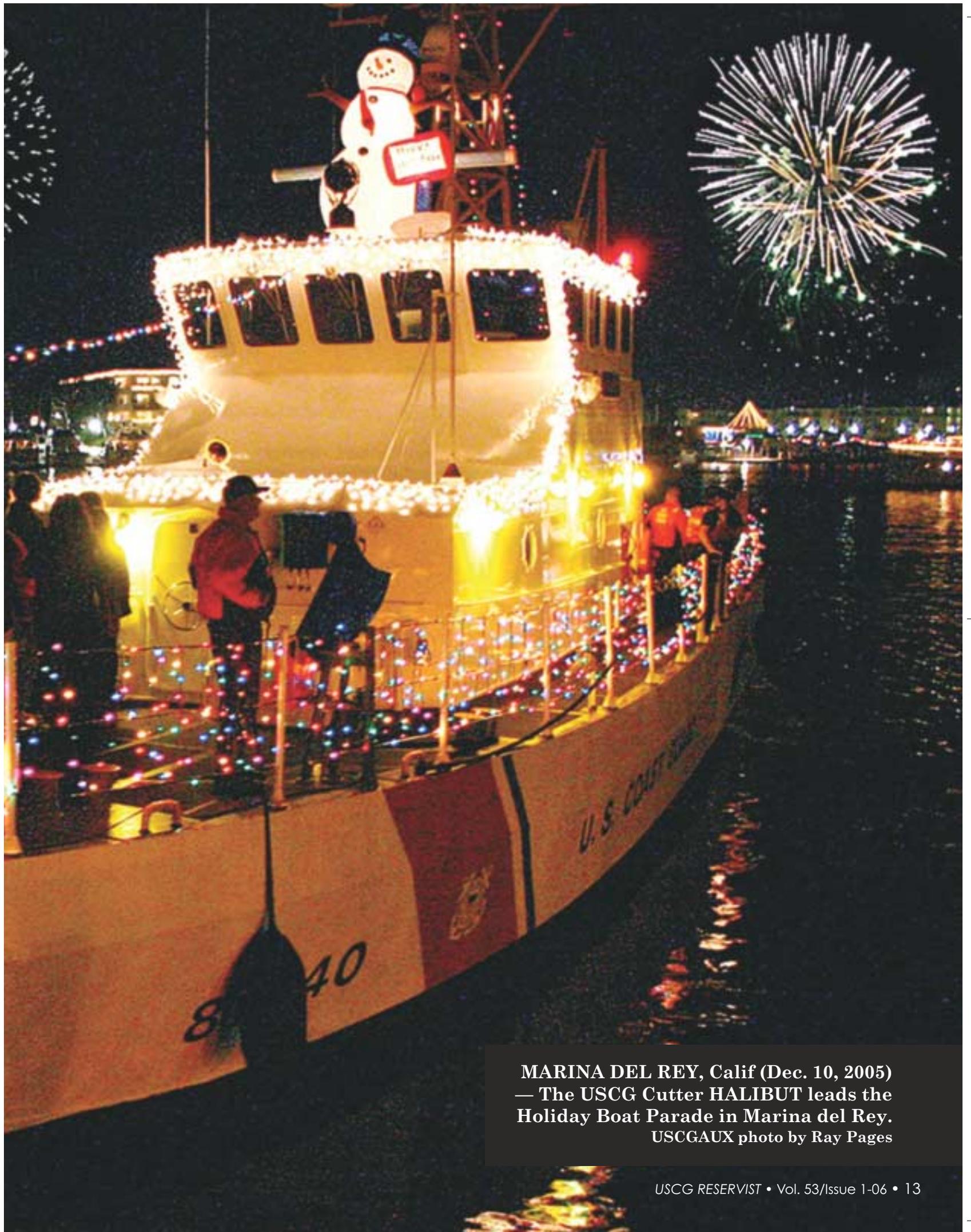




**ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 4, 2005) — Coast Guard personnel from several units in the Seventh Coast Guard District participate in the taping of a Christmas parade at Disney World that aired on Christmas Day. Disney invited all the branches of the Armed Forces to participate and be recognized for their tireless service to Americans everywhere. USCG photo by PA2 Bobby Nash**







**MARINA DEL REY, Calif (Dec. 10, 2005)**  
— The USCG Cutter HALIBUT leads the  
Holiday Boat Parade in Marina del Rey.  
USCGAUX photo by Ray Pages



By  
RADM  
Sally Brice-O'Hara,  
USCG

Director of  
Reserve & Training

***It's essential that every unit commander embed at all levels a commitment to guiding and mentoring reservists. Each member of the crew has an important role in this. It's up to you to make your shipmates who are reservists feel included.***

## Reserve Strategic Employment: Roles and Responsibilities

### Second of two parts

Last month, we took a detailed look at where the Coast Guard is heading in terms of our strategy for the Reserve Force. This month, I want to be more specific about unit and individual responsibilities that are necessary to get us there and ensure we have the right force with the right skills to meet the missions of the 21st century.

As I noted before, the Commandant recently signed a Reserve Policy Statement that outlines the three core strategic functions of the Coast Guard Reserve: Maritime Homeland Security; domestic and expeditionary support to national defense; and domestic, natural or man-made disaster response and recovery.

In reality, this doesn't amount to a huge sea change for the Coast Guard Reserve. The policy statement does, however, provide a guiding framework for our training and employment of reservists. It makes clear that bringing reservists to peak readiness is an all hands evolution that requires a continuum of effort. Our duties as leaders and members of the Coast Guard are very specific. "Every commander, commanding officer, officer-in-charge and program manager of units where reservists are permanently or temporarily assigned is expected to provide leadership and oversight to keep those reservists trained and accessible for mobilization." (ADM Thomas Collins)

Foremost, we must make sure that all Coast Guard men and women are ready when called up for emergency response to a homeland security contingency, war or natural or manmade disaster. We accomplish much of this preparation through on-the-job training. For reservists, IDT drills and annual ADT, collectively known as augmentation, are fundamental to learning and honing their competencies. Contingency assignments dictate the skills required for mobilization, yet it's the day-to-day operations (augmentation) at the permanent units that are the mechanism for mastering those competencies. Participation in routine missions is essential for reservists to gain experience and develop professionally, just as it is for their active duty counterparts.

So, in simplest terms, augmentation is a tool for attaining and maintaining readiness for the Reserve Force to fulfill their core strategic functions. The ability to rapidly surge capable forces to perform dangerous and difficult duties in any geographic area is one of the most basic attributes of the Coast Guard. The additional capacity we gain from our reservists when we mobilize them to an impacted region is crucial to national security and defense.

Coast Guard leaders understand that all of us contribute to the greater good of the Service through local activities. One of the best examples of this is building reserve readiness. The very individuals we work so hard to train and care for on a routine basis, may, depending on the emergency needs, depart temporarily to support another unit where the need is higher than in our own AOR.

Therefore, regardless of where reservists mobilize, it is their permanent command that ensures they are mission-ready to answer the call. It's essential that every unit commander embed at all levels a commitment to guiding and mentoring reservists. Each member of the crew has an important role in this. It's up to you to make your shipmates who are reservists feel included. This may take some extra effort on your part because they are not in the workplace on a daily basis. And you have a key part in helping in their qualification and certification processes ... whether to the advantage of your unit for daily missions or for the greater good of the Nation in times of disaster.

Responsibilities do not end at the unit level. The Commandant also stated: "Individual reservists have an equal stake in acquiring and keeping current the competencies they must bring to contingency duties." This demands each reservist's full and energetic participation every time you report for duty. In addition to completing all scheduled drills and active duty for training, you may have to do some off-duty study to reinforce what you learn in the workplace.

Although not specifically mentioned in the Commandant's policy statement, every reservist is also expected to maintain personal readiness. By this, I mean keeping physical and dental examinations current, adhering to Coast Guard weight and fitness standards, living a healthy lifestyle (good for you and the Coast Guard!) and completing the Annual Status Questionnaire, or ASQ. Family readiness is a part of this, too. Make sure you have a current will and power-of-attorney, that your dependents are enrolled in DEERS, with a current military ID card(s), and that your records are complete and up-to-date.

In the policy statement, the Commandant uses the term "unity of effort" — each of us must do our part to make this strategic vision a reality. Few other organizations afford their members as much responsibility and authority at junior levels as does the Coast Guard. Regardless of our rank, rate or pay grade, we are personally charged with stewardship of the authority and resources delegated to us. Working together as a team — active, Reserve, Auxiliary and civilian — we can ensure a better Coast Guard and a more secure America.

## VADM Thad M. Allen nominated to be our next Commandant

VADM Thad W. Allen has been nominated by President George W. Bush to be the U.S. Coast Guard's 23rd Commandant. Pending Senate approval, he will become Commandant at a change of command ceremony Thursday, May 25, at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C.

Allen has served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard and Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C. since May 2002. He is also currently the Chairman of the Department of Homeland Security's Joint Requirements Council. Following Hurricane Katrina, he served as the Principal Federal Official overseeing hurricane response and recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast region.

Prior to these assignments, he served as Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, Fifth Coast Guard District, and the U.S. Maritime Defense Zone, Atlantic Fleet. He led Atlantic forces in the Coast Guard's response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In his previous flag assignments, he commanded the Seventh Coast Guard District, and was the Director of Resources.

Allen has served in three Coast Guard cutters: ANDROSCOGGIN and GALLATIN, and had command of the medium endurance cutter CITRUS. He also served as Captain of the Port, Group Long Island Sound, Conn.; Group Atlantic city, N.J., and LORAN Station Lampang, Thailand.

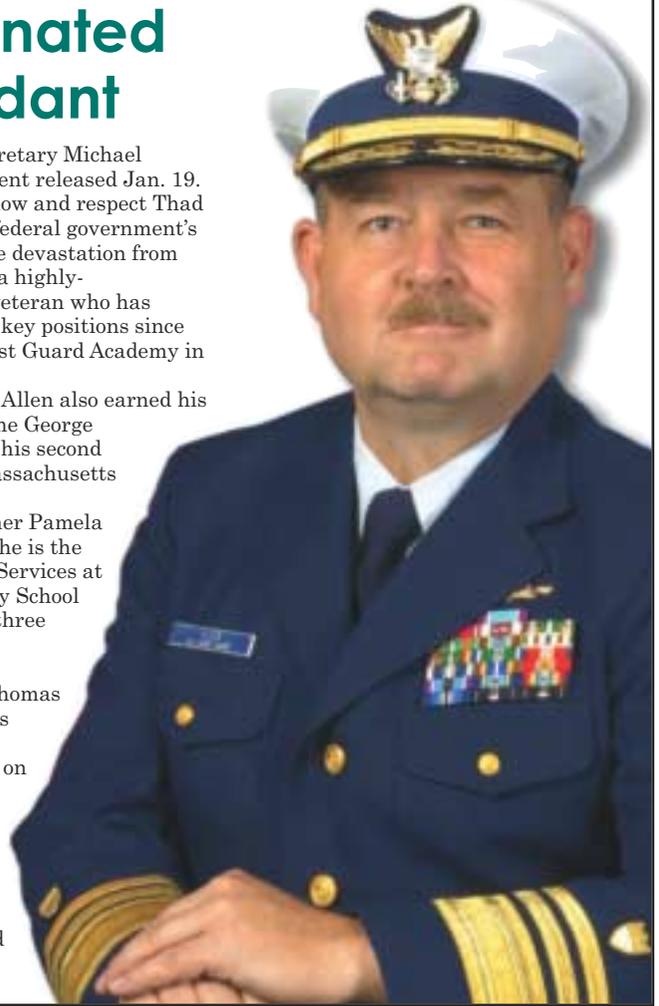
"Thad has my complete confidence and full support, and if confirmed, he will play a major role in shaping the future of this department,"

said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in a written statement released Jan. 19. "Most Americans came to know and respect Thad for his work overseeing the federal government's recovery efforts following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. Thad is a highly-accomplished Coast Guard veteran who has served our nation in several key positions since his graduation from the Coast Guard Academy in 1971."

A native of Tucson, Ariz., Allen also earned his first master's degree from The George Washington University, and his second master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is married to the former Pamela A. Hess of Champaign, Ill. She is the Assistant Dean for Student Services at the George Mason University School of Management. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

Allen will relieve ADM Thomas H. Collins, who has served as Commandant since May 30, 2002. For more information on the change of command ceremony, contact LCDR Sandra Miracle, 202-267-0477, [smiracle@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:smiracle@comdt.uscg.mil). ALCOAST 032/02 (R) 191954Z JAN 06) announced the nomination.



## 2005 Waesche Award Winners Ninth Coast Guard District, ISC Cleveland

For the first time since 1963, the Ninth Coast Guard District and Integrated Support Command Cleveland have been selected as the 2005 ADM Russell R. Waesche Award recipients. Sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association, this award recognizes Coast Guard Districts and their cognizant Integrated Support Command for superior Reserve readiness.

Selection was based on data from the Readiness Management System (RMS), Training Management Tool (TMT), Direct Access, and narratives submitted by competing Districts and ISCs. The Ninth District and ISC Cleveland are commended for their dedication to Reserve readiness. Of particular note was outstanding statistical evidence of Reserve readiness, especially in the areas of IDT/ADT participation, medical/dental readiness, and the quality of member to position match. The District and ISC also had continued progress on their three-phase readiness improvement strategy with a focus on enhancing foundational performance readiness measures, aligning contingency mobilization requirements with Reserve billets, and using existing data tools including TMT and RMS to track and measure success. They also demonstrated follow through leadership by attendance of ISC (fot) staff at unit-level "Reserve All Hands" assemblies and the designation of



active duty members as "Reserve Management Coordinators" at all major commands.

The Ninth District has approximately 7,000 active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian members. The Ninth District includes two air stations, two air facilities, five Group offices, eight Marine Safety Offices, 10 cutters and 46 small boat stations. These units are responsible for over 1,500 miles of international border and 6,700 miles of U.S. shoreline spanning eight states and all five Great Lakes. The Ninth District Commander is RADM Robert J. Papp Jr., former Director of Reserve & Training from 2002-2004.

The award will be presented to Ninth District representatives at the Coast Guard Congressional Reception held in conjunction with the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. Feb. 6.

The Waesche Award was established in 1961 in recognition of the exceptional foresight, understanding and wisdom of ADM Russell R. Waesche in conceiving, planning and developing the Reserve of the United States Coast Guard. It is presented by the Coast Guard Affairs Committee of the Reserve Officers Association, and awarded annually to a District and ISC for outstanding achievement.

## 2005 CGR Outstanding Junior Officer

### LT Richard Brannon, Gulf Strike Team

Gulf Strike Team's LT Richard Brannon is the 2005 recipient of the Coast Guard Reserve Outstanding Junior Officer award. This national award, sponsored by the Reserve Officers Association since 1983, is presented to the junior officer judged to be the most outstanding, based on exemplary performance of Coast Guard duties, civic accomplishments, demonstrated leadership ability, and notable contributions to the Coast Guard.

As a drilling reservist with the Gulf Strike Team, Brannon demonstrated these traits. Especially noteworthy was his success in increasing the number of qualified reservists and his oversight of a major preventative maintenance program performed entirely by reservists. During the response to Hurricane Katrina, he was credited with the successful staging of food and supplies to critical areas, coordinating the multi-agency response to over 500 sunken or grounded vessels, and saving the federal government over \$1 million by adroitly negotiating service contracts.

As a civilian, Brannon is a district fire chief with the Mobile, Ala. fire rescue department. He has an

outstanding record of civil service, including volunteering as a high school sports official and training volunteers to assist emergency personnel in the event of a large-scale disaster.

"I am deeply honored to receive this prestigious award," said Brannon. "However, I could not have achieved this award without the help and the dedication to duty from members of the Gulf Strike Team. It has been my sincere privilege to serve with many outstanding reservists and active duty personnel this past year, particularly in very difficult and trying circumstances. When Hurricane Katrina dealt her powerful blow to the Gulf Coast of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, the Gulf Strike Team and the whole United States Coast Guard most assuredly lived up to its motto... Semper Paratus (Always Ready)."

The award will be presented to Brannon during the ROA Mid-Winter Conference Feb. 5-8 in Washington, D.C. ALCOAST 637/05 announced the award winner. Brannon is the 23rd recipient of this award since it was established in 1983.



#### 2005 Nominees

*Congratulations to the outstanding nominees for this year's ROA OJO award:*

**LT Richard Brannon, Gulf Strike Team**

LT Todd Boze, Sector Seattle

LTJG John Hughes, PSU 308

LTJG James Trifiro, Sector Boston

ENS Jeffrey Brodeur, Sector Baltimore

ENS Mark Gray, MIFCPAC

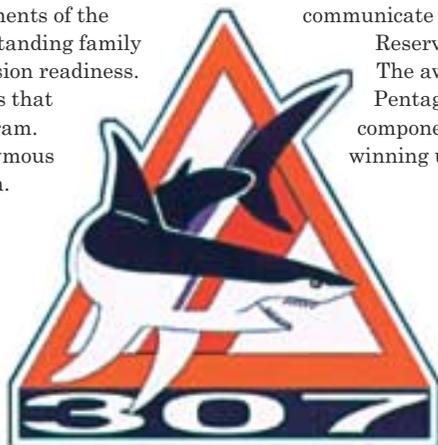
ENS Tara Hunter, Sector New Orleans

## PSU 307 Repeats as Family Readiness Award Winner

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — For the second year in a row and the fourth time in six years, Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) 307 is the winner of the Reserve Affairs Family Readiness Award (RAFRA).

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs established the RAFRA in 2001 to recognize the top unit in each of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces that has demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. The award is open to all Coast Guard units that have reservists and a family support program. Many family support programs are synonymous with having a designated unit ombudsman. However, they can take many shapes, and units are encouraged to submit theirs for consideration.

PSU 307 clearly values its family support/ombudsman program and credits it with contributing positively to both retention and readiness. The unit's efforts to minimize the impact of mobilization on families included



quickly resolving pay and benefit issues, providing routine legal assistance, holding a "family day" for members and dependents, and preparing a monthly newsletter. While deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina, they used e-mail and voice mail to communicate current information directly to the family members. These efforts to communicate to the families of members are important elements of Reserve readiness.

The award will be presented to PSU 307 on Feb. 17 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Winners from the other Reserve components will also be honored at the same ceremony. The winning unit was announced via ALCOAST 015/06.

#### Previous RAFRA winners:

2005: PSU 307, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
2004: PSU 307, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
2003: PSU 311, San Pedro, Calif.  
2002: PSU 307, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
2001: PSU 307, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
2000: PSU 309, Port Clinton, Ohio

# Commission on National Guard and Reserves Established

The FY05 Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) established the independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. In accordance with Section 513 of that Act, the Commission has been tasked with studying and making recommendations regarding Reserve and National Guard issues including structure and organization, roles and missions, manpower, training, readiness, funding, equipment, compensation, and health care, to best meet national security objectives, including homeland defense. The Commission will hold its first meeting in early 2006.

As specified in the authorizing statute, 13 Commission members have been appointed by the chairs and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the Secretary of Defense. The Commission is chaired by Arnold L. Punaro, a former Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division and Director of Reserve Affairs for the Marine Corps, and now Executive Vice President of Science Applications International Corporation. The other commissioners are William L. Ball III, Les Brownlee, Rhett B. Dawson, Larry K. Eckles, John M. Keane, Patricia L. Lewis, Dan McKinnon, Wade Rowley, James E. Sherrard III, Donald L. Stockton, E. Gordon Stump, and J. Stanton Thompson.

The 13 Commission members have served at the most senior levels of the military, the federal government, and the business sector. Their military experience covers the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. Command experience includes Active, Reserve, and National Guard forces, and government experience includes the White House, Congress, and federal and state government agencies.

The staff supporting the Commission is comprised of civilians and also detailees from all Service branches. The Coast Guard is represented by CDR Karen Lloyd, whose primary focus will be the study of manpower and personnel issues across all Service branches and Reserve components.

Throughout its history, the United States has addressed issues related to the proper roles and missions of its National Guard and Reserves — issues affecting appropriate levels of preparedness to respond to national security threats, natural disasters, and other demands, both at home and abroad; sources and levels of funding; and balance of control between federal and state authorities.

Today's Reserve structure has been shaped to a great extent by events, legislation, and policies of the last half-century, including the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952, the Total Force Policy of 1973, the Abrams Doctrine of the early 1970s, and the Total Force Policy Study Group commissioned in 1990. United States military actions in recent years — OCONUS in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and INCONUS emergency and humanitarian responses to natural disasters — have significantly increased the operational tempo of the National Guard and Reserves. Approximately 400,000 Guard and Reserve members were mobilized between the first Gulf War and 9/11. In the four years following 9/11, a total of 455,000 Guard and Reserve members were mobilized.

Taken together, these actions, combined with unprecedented homeland security commitments and continuing disaster response duties, underscore the need for an independent, comprehensive review of the current use of the Guard and Reserves and the issues affecting members. Their deployment in the aftermath of the Gulf Coast hurricanes is the most recent reminder of the range of demands they are called upon to meet.



**Arnold L. Punaro,**  
*Commission Chairman,*  
*former Director of Reserve Affairs*  
*for the Marine Corps.*

The Commission is expected to explore the following topics:

- **Roles and Missions:** What are the appropriate roles and purposes of the Guard and Reserves in meeting the national security needs of the United States?

- **Capabilities:** How can Reserve components and personnel best be used to support Armed Forces operations and achievement of national security objectives, including homeland defense, while at the same time meeting disaster response objectives?

- **Operational Support:** How effective is the Department of Defense plan to implement the new personnel accounting category which has been developed to properly account for reserve members on active duty in support of total force missions?

- **Organization and Structure:** How effective are the current organization and structure of the Guard and Reserves? Are Department of

Defense and individual service plans for the future organization and structure of the Guard and Reserves adequate?

- **Training:** Is the current organization and funding of training adequate? What changes are needed to achieve training objectives and operational readiness?

- **Readiness:** How effective are policies and programs for achieving operational readiness — troops trained and equipment on hand, maintained, and functioning — as well as personnel readiness, including medical and family readiness?

- **Personnel Compensation and Benefits:** Are compensation and benefits, including the availability of health care benefits and health insurance, appropriate and adequate? For regular and Reserve components, what are the likely effects of proposed compensation and benefit changes? What are feasible options for improving compensation and benefits, particularly in regard to cost-effectiveness and any foreseeable effects on readiness, recruitment, and retention of personnel?

- **Career Paths:** How effective are traditional military career paths? Are there alternative career paths for Reserve members that could enhance professional development and facilitate a continuum of service?

- **Funding:** How adequate is the funding provided for equipment and personnel in both active duty and reserve military personnel accounts? How can funding best be provided?

- **Other issues relevant to the Commission's purpose.**

The Commission is required to submit an interim report 90 days after its first official meeting, and a final report one year after that meeting to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the Secretary of Defense. The final report will address needed reforms in law and departmental policy respecting Reserve components and Reserve personnel.

More information about the Commission is available at its web site: [www.cngr.gov](http://www.cngr.gov).

## GRADUATIONS



Photo by Mr. Scott Prince

## REBI Class Romeo 1-06

*Reserve Enlisted Basic Indoctrination Class Romeo 1-06 graduated Oct. 14, 2005 at Training Center Cape May, N.J. and is shown here aboard CGC MAKO. Left to right:*

*Montalvo, BM3 Steve Jones, GM3 Matthew Hansbury, SN Willie Harris Jr., SN Robert Ash Jr. Company commanders, l to r: SK1 Pedro Lucena, OS1 Thomas Carella, MKCS Wayne Self.*



Photo by Mr. Loney Nimmermaker, PTC, Yorktown

## PS "A" Class 1-06

*Port Security "A" School Class 1-06 graduated Nov. 18, 2005 at Training Center Yorktown, Va. Front row, left to right: SNPS Daniel A. Dejong, Guidon, Station Wilmington, N.C.; SNPS Lee M. Mangefrida, Station Buffalo, N.Y.; SNPS David J. Morris, PSU 308; SNPS Zachary D. Griepsma, Sector Buffalo; SNPS Katherine F. Connors, Class Yeoman, PSU 309. Second row, l to r: SNPS James W. Troxell, PSU 313; SNPS Jason A. Black, PSU 307; SNPS Donald D.*

*Montijo Jr., MSO Port Arthur; SNPS Bo B. Dahlberg, PSU 312; SNPS Shawn P. Wagner, MSO Savanna, Ga.; SNPS Ariel A. Morel, PSU307; SNPS Courtney C. Greer, HDCU 205. Back row, l to r: SNPS Joel A. Babka, Class Master-at-Arms, MSO Toledo, Ohio; SNPS Thomas P. Killen Jr., Class Leader, PSU 309; SNPS Zack T. Harkness, PSU 311; SNPS Benjamin T. Blevins, PSU 308; SNPS Paul M. Demello, PSU 312; SNPS Marc D. Slagle, PSU 307.*



## Here's looking at you...

**MK3 Ryan Bailey, a member of Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) St. Petersburg, peers through a replica of a classical fourth order Fresnel lens as he makes repairs at the historic Anclote Key lighthouse in Florida. ANT St. Petersburg has maintained the light since its installation in 2003. Photo by PA2 Tasha Tully, PADET St. Petersburg**

# GOING BACK TO



Photo by CDR Bernard Moreland, PSU 311

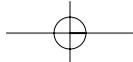


*PSU 311 coxswain PSI Keith Caires and his boat crew monitor the shore line along the Guantanamo River.*



# GTMO

Since January 2002, the Coast Guard has had a presence at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO). PSUs 305, 307, 311 and the Pacific Area PSU Detachment have all deployed to GTMO as well as Maritime Safety and Security Teams from Chesapeake, Va., Boston, New Orleans, and Miami. PSU 311's recent six-month deployment to GTMO is chronicled in the pages that follow.







*A PSU 311 boat crew patrols Guantanamo Bay. Left to right: PS3 Teresa Esparza, PS3 David Burch, coxswain; MK3 Jose Espinoza, PS2 David O'Gorman.*

## Have Mission — Will Travel

**F**rom June 1 until Dec. 8, 2005, a detachment from Port Security Unit (PSU) 311 joined Joint Task Force (JTF)

Guantanamo and became a partner with the Naval Station's Harbor Defense. The Navy and Coast Guard worked together securing Guantanamo Bay, and providing security for other JTF operations. As time permitted, PSU 311 also trained with the Marine Corps Security Company.

PSU 311's home garrison is located in San Pedro, Calif., but traveling has become the norm since the U.S. was attacked on 9/11. If PSU 311 had a business card, it might read, "Have Mission Will Travel." Not counting the response in their homeport of Los Angeles after 9/11, this was the third mobilization for the unit since 2001. PSU 311 has deployed to protect maritime and shore-side assets in Manama Harbor, Bahrain; Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait; Kuwaiti Naval Base; the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr; Iraq's Khor Al-Amaya Oil Terminal in the Northern Arabian Gulf; and now Guantanamo Bay (GTMO). PSU 311 is made up of 140 Selected Reservists and six full time active duty personnel. The PSU 311 detachment that deployed to GTMO was made up of 54 personnel.

PSUs are designed to deploy within 96 hours and establish operations within 24 hours after arrival on site. Personnel assigned to a PSU require specialized training, with an emphasis on tactical combat skills similar to the Marine Corps.

Photo by CDR Bernard Moreland, PSU 311



Photo by Spc. Timothy Book, JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

*PS1 Keith Caires disassembles and inspects a crew-served weapon for daily maintenance.*

## ARMORY: Keeping Coast Guard Armed and Trained

By Spc. Timothy Book, JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

**P**SU 311 patrols the waters of Guantanamo Bay continuously. One group that makes that possible is the Coast Guard section that works in the armory.

"This is where the magic happens," said PS1 John Thompson, Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the armory.

The primary mission for the armory is, of course, to maintain the weapons. In this environment, that can be challenging.

"Under these conditions, you really have to stay on top of the maintenance or it just isn't going to work," said Thompson. "In fact, within hours of being underway, the weapons begin to rust."

Every boat crew is responsible for cleaning their weapons. They are inspected every four hours, torn down, and thoroughly cleaned after every shift. The ammunition is also counted, inspected and cleaned every shift.

In addition, Thompson and GM3 David Hartman replace the duty weapons with weapons stored in the armory each week.

"Once we get the guns in the armory, we do a comprehensive detailed disassembly and cleaning," Thompson said. "Every part is thoroughly cleaned using a parts washer. Everything is inspected and reassembled."

Once that is done, the weapons are stored and ready for the next week's transfer. This allows a continuous flow of well-maintained weapons.

"I can say with pride that we have always met our operational requirements," said Thompson.

According to Hartman, the boat crews need to maintain their weapons throughout the week, but if anything happened [to a weapon], it can be replaced immediately.

In addition to maintaining the weapons and ammunition, Thompson and Hartman are weapons instructors. "Weapons training is done frequently because of the added complexity of firing from a moving platform," said Thompson.

"Imagine how difficult it is to change the ammo belt quickly while the boat is moving," said Thompson. "That's why we need to train often."

The unit typically goes to the range every week and conducts underway shoots every month. The unit has fired more than 40,000 rounds of ammunition in six months.

"We are very fortunate that the JTF understands the importance of ongoing training and supports us by providing us with sufficient ammunition to do that," said Thompson.

The training contributes to the overall security of GTMO personnel.

"Everybody is a shooter in this unit," Hartman said. "Everybody needs to be proficient on all the weapons systems."

Hartman and Thompson bring a wealth of experience and education to the unit. Both are former Marines, are currently in law enforcement as instructors and serve in tactical units. In addition, Hartman has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration while Thompson has a bachelor's degree in behavioral science and a master's in psychology.

The armory is an essential part of the Coast Guard's mission here, and those running it are experienced and focused.

"Mission accomplishment is paramount," said Thompson. "We cannot allow a breakdown in the mission due to a weapons failure."



*SN Christopher Renfro, left, and PS3 Carlos Riley inventory equipment in the maritime security boat house.*



Photo by CDR Bernard Moreland, PSU 311

“PSUs emphasize training petty officers in decision-making, and empowering them with the skills and confidence to repel attackers,” said CDR Bernard Moreland, PSU 311’s Commanding Officer. “The first leader to recognize an attack on the water will likely be a petty officer. He or she must react instantly and correctly; our war is fought in less than 30 seconds.”

The Coast Guard has been a part of the JTF mission since January 2002 when PSU 305 deployed for six months. However, this was the first deployment to GTMO for PSU 311. ET2 Aaron Moore deployed here as part of a detachment last year after he returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom. When asked to compare life at GTMO to conditions on the oil platform he guarded in the Northern Arabian Gulf, Moore responded, “We didn’t have toilets, showers, e-mail or MWR on the platform — life in GTMO is good!”

## Main Missions: Safety, Security, Support

**T**here were three aspects of the mission for the Coast Guard at GTMO. The first was to provide 24-hour maritime security for the JTF.

“We had boats out there every hour of every day,” said BMC Bill Edson, Boat Division chief. “They provided safety and security, as well as deterrence. Everyone knew we were out there.”

Secondly, PSU 311 provided secure and speedy transport across the bay for distinguished visitors.

“We had a lot of visits here, but we didn’t allow that to detract from the security mission,” Edson said. “Boat crews that were not on patrol

provided transportation.”

The third part of their mission was to provide support for special detainee operations. Beyond fulfilling that mission, the unit did a lot of training.

“We were able to qualify 27 crewmen and three coxswains,” Edson said. “As a reserve unit, that would have taken over two years in garrison. We did it here in less than three months.”

By far, patrolling the waters of Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) was the main mission for PSU 311.

“We were out here on the water all of the time,” said PS2 David Burch, coxswain of one of the boat crews. “It was just like standing a post, only we were on the water.”

Each boat crew consisted of a coxswain and two to three crew members. The coxswain is the driver of the boat and is in charge while the crew is responsible for weapons and other duties.

“They were my eyes, ears and nose,” said Burch. “They enabled me to concentrate solely on driving the boat.”

The crews worked 12-hour shifts, rotating through the day and night shifts.

“The challenge at night was identifying other craft,” said MK2 William Payne. “It was quieter. We had less traffic than days, but it was harder to identify other boats.”

Working the night shift did have its advantages, Payne said. “It gave us more time to do training. Plus, the training was more challenging.”

Training was a major part of the work that both shifts carried out. For example, Payne initiated a man overboard drill. A rubber bumper was thrown into the water to represent someone falling from the boat.

“Man overboard!” began the drill, and everyone went into action. PS3 Erik Jepson quickly moved to the rear of the boat to prepare a life ring and a heaving line. Meanwhile, MK3 Quinn Bowyer directed Payne to the “person” in the water. In addition to Bowyer giving bearing and range every few seconds, arm signals were used to point to the rubber bumper in the water. As they approached, Jepson threw

the line, and within seconds, the “person” was back on board.

Payne also demonstrated the capabilities of the boat by performing maneuvers that can be used to prevent a would-be enemy access to assets in a port.

“It was important to practice this,” he said. “Part of our job is to protect the HVA [high value assets]. The boats were great, fast and very maneuverable.”

During the day shift, Burch also performed training drills, but most were geared toward training his crew for the coxswain position.

PS2 Greg O’Gorman and PS3 Brian Martin were crewmen and break-in coxswains. Each took turns as coxswain, which involved not just driving the boat, but directing the crew. Burch told them which drills to perform, but did not give any direction until after they finished.

“That was the best way to learn, by doing the job,” said Burch.

Outside of training, both crews had real-world duties to perform. Payne and his crew identified every craft and ensured their safety.

“The problem we saw most of the time was someone forgetting to turn on their navigation lights. But, it was important at night,” said Payne.

Burch, and his crew, escorted a Cuban barge moving through the bay.

“We had to keep the channel open to them, but we made it obvious that we were watching,” said Payne.

Patrolling the waters in GTMO kept PSU 311 busy, but it was good for the unit.

“This has been a good deployment for us,” said Payne. “We have more qualified coxswains and almost all of our crew is qualified.”

## PSU 311 Leaves “Big Footprint”

**D**uring their six-month tour, PSU 311 worked hard to make improvements for their replacement – PSU 305.

“We built a brand new shop for the engineers,” said MKCS Jeff Christensen, engineer officer. “The boat ramp was extended and a trailer with showers was added. “It was going to be the next unit that reaped the benefits, but we wanted to make this a better place for those who came after us. The previous units did the same for us.”

Christensen’s department stayed busy during the deployment. They replaced every engine on the boats.

“We would not have been able to keep up with all the little day-to-day things that came up without an experienced engineering department,” said Christensen.

*MK2 Stewart J. Yoon explains to the Marine Corps Security Force personnel the importance of being able to quickly and safely egress the aft steering compartment of a vessel.*



Photo by OS1 Brian O’Dowd, PSU 311



# Learning and Teaching

By MCPO Tom Cowan, USCGR

One of the benefits of working in a joint environment is the opportunity to learn from our sister services. While at GTMO, PSU 311 had many opportunities to observe and learn from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. MK2 Stewart Yoon from the PSU took the time to share some of his Coast Guard skills with members of the Marine Corps Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team (FAST). Yoon developed a four-hour presentation based on his boarding team experience and training from the Coast Guard's Maritime Law Enforcement Academy.

"It's alright to storm the vessel to take control but you'll need patience to do a search," instructed Yoon.

Yoon's experience as a boarding team member covered everything from searching recreational boats and fishing vessels to 800-foot container ships.

"A ship can be like an industrial complex," Yoon said. "It can be three football fields long and the equivalent of four stories high." These dimensions do not include the container levels and cargo holds. A ship of any size can have thousands of hiding places for both people and contraband. Searching a large ship which would be conducted by about 10 Coast Guard boarding team members can take 16 hours or longer.

It is common for a ship's captain to call the Coast Guard days prior to entry into a U.S. port and report evidence of a stowaway. The crew will find signs of someone living on the ship but even they can't find everyone. That is when someone with Yoon's training comes on board with a team and begins a systematic search.

"The first step after boarding is to gain access to the control points of the vessel," instructed Yoon. "You must secure the aft steering, engineering and the bridge."

During the training, Yoon placed emphasis on the unique challenges that Marines would face on board a ship. The close quarter searches are similar to the training these Marines received in urban warfare; however, there are still some important differences. Large weapons can be a hindrance in the narrow hallways. Shooting a weapon in a steel corridor raises the possibility of dangerous ricochets. Running through hatchways (narrow doorways with a high threshold) can also be a challenge with heavy weapons and body armor.

"Whether searching for people or contraband there are many places to hide on a ship," said Yoon.

Prior to boarding a search plan must be developed to divide the ship into manageable sections.

"Searching a ship is a dynamic situation; things are always changing," said Yoon.

After each cabin and workspace are searched, the doors are closed and marked to prevent someone from moving into a previously searched space. Yoon demonstrated some of the tactical movements required to conduct a successful search in small and pitch-black compartments.

Since the Coast Guard has law enforcement authority and can enforce civilian laws, Yoon covered some of the implications of dealing with the civilian sector where probable cause, reasonable suspicion and use of force have different meanings while conducting a search. While not always a consideration for the Marines, this lesson is critical during military operations other than war.

After the classroom instruction, Yoon moved the Marines to a coastal tug on Guantanamo Bay for a practical demonstration. Yoon's training provided Marines with skills they may have to use in the future when boarding vessels.





Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Todd LamMonica

*Members of PSU 311 at Camp America, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at the end of their six-month deployment.*

There were personal successes too. PS1 John Thompson, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the armory, was named JTF GTMO Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2005. Thompson and GM3 David Hartman were also awarded the Army Achievement Award for their extra work with the 118th Cavalry. Servicemember of the Quarter for the first quarter of FY06 went to PS3 Brian Martin.

"I wanted us to leave a big footprint," said MCPO Tom Cowan, the unit's Command Master Chief. "We may have been small in number, but I was confident the men and women of PSU 311 could not only fulfill the mission but could excel."

Volunteers from the unit assisted in cleaning up the graffiti on the rocks along Kittery Beach Road and above Camp America.

"That was such an eyesore," said Cowan. "I even saw a map that identified that area as Graffiti Hill."

Cowan explained that, because of the weather, plans to clean up the hill were postponed many times. Luckily, there was a two-day break with no rain which afforded the opportunity to clean up the landscape. After 100 man-hours and using more than 250 cans of paint, the hill looked much better.

"From then on, we called it Hill 311," he said.

"This has been a great opportunity," Cowan said. "The JTF and Navbase have been very supportive. We were able to get everyone in the unit qualified on M2, M60, M240, M203, M16 and M9 weapons."

This deployment wasn't all work either.

"From the beginning, I stressed good use of time," said Cowan. "We had people taking college courses, completing service qualifications, and I know of at least one guy that was studying for a contractor's license. Just about everyone in the unit focused on some form of physical fitness. I wanted them to feel they accomplished something."

Many took up diving. Everyone in the engineering department

became SCUBA certified.

"We were, of course, looking forward to returning to our families, but we were confident in our replacements," said Moreland. "PSU 305 out of Fort Eustis, Va. is a motivated, experienced unit that is prepared to dominate their mission. We wish them well."



**Editor's note:** This article was compiled from articles written by Spc. Timothy Book, JTF Staff, Spc. Seth Myers, JTF Staff, and MCPO Tom Cowan, USCGR. More information can be found at [www.jtftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jtftgmo.southcom.mil)

## Coast Guard Rotation at GTMO Since 9/11

December 2001 – June 2002: PSU 305

June 2002 – December 2002: PSU 307

December 2002 – June 2003: MSST 91102 (Chesapeake, Va.)

June 2003 – December 2003: Pacific Area PSU Detachment

December 2003 – June 2004: MSST 91110 (Boston)

June 2004 – December 2004: Pacific Area PSU Detachment

December 2004 – March 2005: MSST 91112 (New Orleans)

March 2005 – June 2005: MSST 91114 (Miami)

June 2005 – December 2005: PSU 311

December 2005 – June 2006: PSU 305

# Devotion to Duty

By MCPO Tom Cowan, USCGR,

and By Spc. Timothy Book, JTF-GTMO Public Affairs

**W**e often talk about it, memorize it, stamp it on challenge coins and frequently, we'll even write about it.

## Devotion to Duty!

It is a core value, a condition of employment for Coast Guard men and women and an admirable way to live life.

MK1 Don Fried has done just that with multiple overseas deployments. Having reached the age of 60 during his most recent deployment to Guantanamo, he will retire in early 2006. His devotion represents many in the Coast Guard who put duty above self — the men and women we count on to meet the needs of the service. Without Fried and others like them we could not live up to our motto, *Semper Paratus*.

Fried's devotion extends back to 1967 when he enlisted in the Navy. He did his first tour in Vietnam on the USS BRINKLEY BASS. On the way back to the U.S., he inquired about serving another tour, but was told there was no chance. That didn't stop Fried.

"I wrote a nice long letter stating that I wanted to be put on [river patrol boat] duty," he said. "We got back and it wasn't even two weeks later before they sent me back."

River patrol was probably a precursor to his future Coast Guard Reserve career. After leaving the Navy, Fried went on with his life



*MK1 Don Fried of PSU 311 displays an "O" (Oscar) signal flag that some shipmates gave him for his birthday.*

working and raising a family. It wasn't until 1986 that he joined the Coast Guard Reserve.

"I had this friend who was a petty officer and kept bugging me to come in as an engineer for the Coast Guard," said Fried. Eventually, he told his friend, "Well, I was an E-5 in the Navy. If I can be an E-5 in the Coast Guard, I'll do it."

In September of 1989, Fried was called to active duty again.

"They called me on a Wednesday at about 9 p.m., and said to report to Buffalo, N.Y. Saturday morning," Fried said. "Next thing I know, I'm in the Persian Gulf."

Fried and his unit were the first port security unit deployed in the Gulf War. In 2002, Fried was again called to active duty with PSU 311

and spent time at the Kuwaiti Navy Base.

"A SEAL team came in and took over the oil platforms then we secured them," said Fried. "That's where we lived for 82 days. We came back and I thought I would retire, but next thing I know, we're in Cuba."

Albert Einstein once said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." MK1 Fried has given more than his share and has made a valuable contribution to the Coast Guard. Again, quoting Einstein, "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing." MK1 Fried did not look on; he jumped in with both feet to help make the world a less dangerous place. A salute to MK1 Fried and all those like him for their time, sacrifice and Devotion to Duty.



# Joint Task Force GTMO

**U**nited States Southern Command established Joint Task Force 160/170 in 2002. It was responsible for operating the detainee detention facility and conducting interrogations to collect intelligence in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Joint Task Force 160 was established in January 2002 and was tasked with taking care of captured enemy combatants from the War on Terrorism. Joint Task Force 170 was stood up on Feb. 16, 2002, and tasked with handling interrogation operations for the Department of Defense as well as ensuring coordination among government agencies involved in the interrogation of the suspected terrorists.

On Nov. 4, 2002, a change of command ceremony for Joint Task Force 160/170 acknowledged the merger of Joint Task Forces 160 and 170 and the re-designation of the organization as JTF-GTMO. The first JTF personnel arrived on

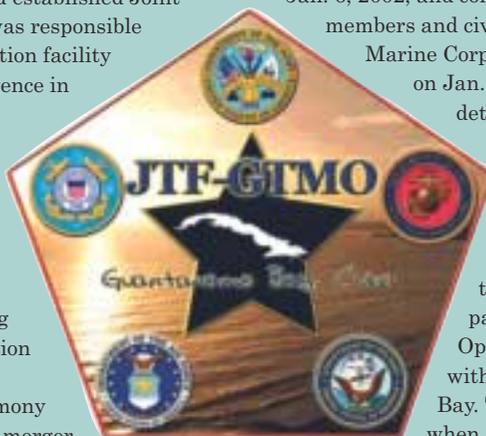
Jan. 6, 2002, and consisted of approximately 1,900 U.S. service members and civilians representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The first detainees arrived on Jan. 11, 2002, and were housed in the temporary detention facility known as Camp X-Ray.

The mission of JTF GTMO is to detain enemy combatants and gather intelligence to help the United States and its allies fight terrorism.

Joint Task Force GTMO's previous mission took place from November 1991 to June 1993 as part of Operation Safe Harbor. During that Operation, JTF-GTMO was tasked with dealing with Haitian migrant operations at Guantanamo Bay. The refugee population peaked in May 1992 when Haitian migrants numbered 13,392.

Source: JTF GTMO Web site,

[www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/dod/jtf-gtmo.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/dod/jtf-gtmo.htm)



## MOBILIZATION TIPS

# 21 Tips to Help Avoid Mobilization Madness

By LT Melissa Cohen and LTJG Greg Reilly, Commandant (CG-131)

The Title 14 recalls in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita reminded us we must be “Semper Paratus” to deploy. Most Reserve personnel mobilized were ready for the call, but unfortunately, some were not. It is a common misperception that if you have your administrative and medical issues up to date with your unit, you are fully prepared for a call-up to active duty. You are not. Here are some tips to help shipmates avoid some of the pitfalls in the event of a future recall.



## Administrative & Health Issues



- 1. Military ID:** Have a valid military ID for you and your dependents (your spouse and any children 10 to 21 years old, 23 if they are in college).
- 2. Government Credit Cards:** Have a valid government credit card and ensure that your credit limit is suitable for deployment (some credit card limits default to \$1.00 if not used during the fiscal year, so ensure yours has not defaulted).
- 3. TRICARE Benefits:** Take advantage of TRICARE benefits such as the Early TRICARE Benefit (E-ID), Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMPS), and TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Contact your local Health Benefits Advisor for more information on these programs.
- 4. Pre-Deployment Physical:** Obtain a pre-deployment physical near your home unit prior to deployment in case side effects (i.e. soreness and/or reactions from shots) affect your duty status.

## Travel Issues

- 5. Contact Your Home Command and Civilian Employer:** Inform your home command and civilian employer of your deployment and return.
- 6. Contact Your Deployment Site:** Prior to deploying, call the point of contact at your deployment site to ensure berthing and messing are available, there is space for your luggage, and they know you are coming!
- 7. Check Your Orders:** Ensure your orders support the full travel entitlements such as commercial berthing, commercial messing, rental car authorization, excess baggage, etc.
- 8. Keep Your Receipts:** Keep all your receipts for \$75.00 and over and make copies of everything!

- 9. Transferring Services:** If you are transferring a hotel room or car rental to another person or a Coast Guard contract, go to the front desk or rental facility, switch the credit card appropriately, and obtain a written final statement (receipt).
- 10. Be Ready to Move:** Be prepared to move around as needs change. Obtain orders/amendments when your plans change prior to departure ... it's easier than going back for them later.
- 11. Safety and Security Issues:** Once you arrive at your mobilization site, inquire as to the safety and security of the local area.

## Gear Issues

- 12. Have a “Go-Box” Ready:** This should contain (at a minimum), uniforms that fit, including special uniforms, toiletries, snacks, etc. Knowing that you'll be comfortably housed in a hotel is not guaranteed, so having items like body wipes and other “bivouac luxuries” is advisable. The hurricane response showed us that it's not just the PSUs that can expect to live in tents!
- 13. Transferring Equipment:** If transferring equipment, fill out a DD-1149 (“Requisition and Invoice/Shipping Document”); if the form is not available, obtain a written and signed statement from both parties.

## Family Issues

- 14. Power of Attorney:** Set up temporary power of attorney for a family member/person you trust to give them legal authority to act on your behalf.
- 15. Current Will:** Make sure you have a will that is up to date. Make sure a family member has contact numbers to a lawyer that you have chosen and trust.
- 16. Networking:** Familiarize family members with your unit

ombudsman, chaplain and/or spouses of your shipmates. Remember, you are not the only one affected by the recall.

- 17. Financial Obligations:** Have the capability to pay your bills from far away. Several banks have a web bill pay system. Ensure it includes overdraft protection in the event your pay is disrupted. Create a list of financial obligations with contact information and bring them with you and/or leave with a family member to ensure all obligations are being met and paid.
- 18. Important Phone Numbers:** Make a list of important phone numbers such as your family doctor and leave them with a family member.

## Communication Issues

- 19. Cell Phone & Charger:** Bring a cell phone and charger if you have one; in some cases, you may be authorized reimbursement for business calls from your cell phone.
- 20. Generic E-mail Account:** Have a generic e-mail account that you can access from outside the Coast Guard intranet since it is not always available when deployed. Several Web sites offer free web-based e-mail accounts accessible from anywhere with web access.
- 21. Bring Your Laptop:** If you have a laptop or wireless Personal Data Assistant (PDA), take it! When there are only a few computers available for members to use, wireless makes everything easier.

These tips certainly aren't all-inclusive, please look at the following web sites for more detailed information:

### USCG Reserve Homepage

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html>

### Direct Access

<https://hr.direct-access.us/>

### TRICARE

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

### Mobilization and Demobilization Information and Resources Guide

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/html/mobilization.html>

### Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve

<http://www.esgr.org/>

### Armed Forces Legal Assistance Locator

<http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>



# EDUCATION BENEFITS

## New Education Benefit for Activated Reservists

A new education benefit for activated reservists makes certain individuals who were activated after Sept. 11, 2001 eligible either for education benefits or for increased benefits. The FY05 Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed into law by the president Oct. 28, 2004, created the new Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) under Chapter 1607 of Title 10 USC.

REAP provides educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the president or Congress. In order to qualify, activated reservists must be mobilized for at least 90 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation and must return to the component of the Ready Reserve from which they were mobilized (e.g. mobilized Selected Reserve members must return to the Selected Reserve, mobilized IRR members must return to either the IRR or Selected Reserve).

Benefits are based on the length of mobilization and are a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) rate (currently \$1,034 per month). Under the new program, benefits break down as follows:

1. Reservists mobilized for more than 90 days but less than one year are eligible for 40 percent of the active duty rate (maximum of \$413.60 per month for full-time study).
2. Reservists mobilized for 365-729 days are eligible for 60 percent (maximum of \$620.40 per month).
3. Reservists mobilized for more than two years are eligible for 80 percent (maximum of \$827.20 per month).

Reservists may use the Chapter 1607 benefits as long as they remain within the Reserve component. However, benefits must be terminated if a reservist leaves the Reserve, participates in an ROTC program under Title 10 Section 2107, or upon demobilization, enters a lower status of Ready Reserve (i.e. Selected Reserve to IRR).

The total number of months this benefit can be used cannot exceed 36 (however, the number is 48 months if used in conjunction with other programs (MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR)). Reservists can enroll in all education programs (except licensing and certification test reimbursement) that are approved for veterans under the MGIB-AD and REAP program.

For more information, see the GI Bill Veterans Affairs Web site at: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>, call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit any VA Regional Office. The Department of Veterans Affairs is working closely with Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



# BULLETIN BOARD

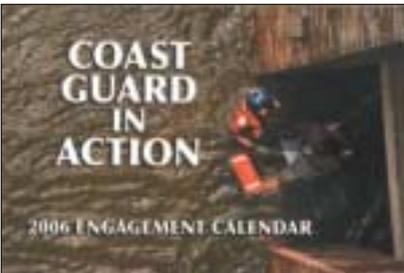
## In Brief

• **UNIFORM / SEABAG REPLACEMENT** — Coast Guard Reservists whose seabag items were lost, damaged or destroyed as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita can request replacement seabag items at no cost. This policy only applies to members who do not have any other means by which reimbursement for lost items can be obtained. Deadline for reservists to place orders is Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006 (active duty deadline remains Jan. 31, 2006). For detailed info, please see ALCOAST 633/05.

• **PS OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS (OA)** — All port security (PS) rated personnel are strongly encouraged to participate in the OA Survey that will be conducted from late February through early April. The survey will be available online via the Internet to maximize accessibility. An ALCOAST with further details will be released in the near future. Questions regarding the OA may be directed to the PS Rating Force MCPO at 202-267-0776 or email: gsherrill@comdt.uscg.mil.



• **FAMILY SGLI** — Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) is a program extended to the spouses and dependent children of members insured under the SGLI program. FSGLI provides up to a maximum of \$100,000 of insurance coverage for spouses, not to exceed the amount of SGLI the insured member has in force, and \$10,000 for dependent children. Spousal coverage is issued in increments of \$10,000. To learn more about FSGLI, call 1-800-419-1473 or check out the VA Web site: [www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/FSGLI/sglifam.htm](http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/FSGLI/sglifam.htm)



• **COAST GUARD IN ACTION CALENDAR 2006** — Coast Guard calendars for 2006 are now available. This is the 11th consecutive year that retired reservist CWO4 Tom Fletcher will offer these calendars. They can be ordered by

mail for \$12.95, plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. Discounts are given for large orders. Make checks payable to Lighthouse Enterprises, P.O. Box 1126, Arvada, CO 80001-1126; E-mail: [tfbl3925@msn.com](mailto:tfbl3925@msn.com). *This information is published as a service to our readers and does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Coast Guard or The Reservist magazine.*

• **2006 INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS (CIOR) ADVANCED MILITARY SKILLS TRAINING & COMPETITION** — Each summer, the Department of Defense conducts a Joint-Service Leader Development and Advanced Military Skills Training course for Reserve officers, cadets and midshipmen from all branches of the military at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Course dates are May 24 through June 17, 2006. Top performers will be selected to test their skills against their peers from 19 NATO countries at the 2006 Military Skills Competitions at Cesano di Roma, Italy, July 4-7, 2006. Warrant and commissioned officers up to O-4 and in excellent physical shape are encouraged to apply. Deadline for applications is March 15, 2006. For more info, visit: [www.uscior.army.mil](http://www.uscior.army.mil) or contact Lt. Col. Bob Thompson, 210-221-1547.

• **TRICARE RESERVE SELECT (TRS) PREMIUM INCREASE** — TRS premiums for 2006 have increased to \$81 per member coverage and \$253 for TRS Family member coverage. TRS is offered to reservists who serve or served continuously on active duty for at least 90 days in support of a contingency operation since Sept. 11, 2001, and who commit to continued service in the SELRES. For more info on TRS, see Issue 4-05 (page 42) and/or the TRICARE Web site: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

• **PSC HURRICANE KATRINA TRAVEL AUDIT TEAM** — The Personnel Service Center (PSC) Travel Branch has established an audit team dedicated to reviewing all evacuation and responder travel claims. Due to the uniqueness of Hurricane Katrina, the decision was made to pay all claims up front with the understanding that a complete post payment review would be done at a later date. This allowed PSC to expedite the process and provide the most prompt payment of travel entitlements to members and their dependents. The audit team will be reviewing all travel claims to ensure members were fully and accurately paid while ensuring proper documentation such as original orders, original travel claims and required receipts have been received. If a discrepancy is discovered or additional documentation is required, a member of the audit team will request necessary information from members. Customer inquiries may be directed to the PSC Customer Care Branch at 785-339-2200/toll free 1-866-772-8724; e-mail: [PSCCustomerCare@hrsic.uscg.mil](mailto:PSCCustomerCare@hrsic.uscg.mil) or by completing the web form at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/customer-service.shtm>



• **PSC TOPEKA CALL CENTER** — The Customer Care call center at PSC Topeka is now staffed two weekends a month to assist and answer questions regarding password resets, pay, travel, and user support for UTS and Direct Access. Phone support hours are 0730-1600, Central Time. The weekend schedule for FY06 is as follows: Feb. 11-12, Feb 25-26; March 11-12, March 18-19; April 22-23; May 13-14, May 20-21; June 10-11, June 17-18, July 8-9, July 15-16; Aug. 12-13; Aug. 19-20; Sept. 9-10, Sept. 16-17. Call 785-339-2200 or 1-866-772-8724, or send e-mail to: [PSCCustomerCare@HRSIC.uscg.mil](mailto:PSCCustomerCare@HRSIC.uscg.mil) or complete the online form at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/customer-service.shtm>. For retired pay issues, please continue to call 1-800-772-8724 or 785-339-3415.

• **SUMMERSTOCK 2006** — It's time to plan ahead for summer 2006! 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. There are 34 total billets available: Sector Buffalo, 11; Sector Grand Haven, four; Sector Lake Michigan, 13; Sector Detroit, six. For more info, contact YNC Patricia Feeney, D9(dre) at 216-902-6095; Fax: 216-902-6098; E-mail: [pfeeney@d9.uscg.mil](mailto:pfeeney@d9.uscg.mil).



## Upcoming Events

### FEBRUARY 2006

- **COAST GUARD RESERVE BIRTHDAY** — It is number 65 for the Coast Guard Reserve on Sunday, Feb. 19!

### MARCH 2006

- **CAPT DOROTHY STRATTON'S 107TH BIRTHDAY** — You read that right! The first Director of the SPARs (Coast Guard Women's Reserve) will celebrate her 107th birthday on March 24, 2006! 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: stepd574@aol.com

### APRIL 2006

- **COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE** — The 2006 campaign kicks off April 1 and runs through April 30. Reservists will be contacted during the campaign. However, contributions may be made at any time. For info, call 1-800-881-2462; Web: [www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org).

- **CWOA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — April 19-22, Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Bowie, Md. Contact Ed Swift, CWOA Administrative Office, c/o James Creek Marina, 200 V St. SW, Washington, DC 20024; 202-554-7753; [cwoauscg@aol.com](mailto:cwoauscg@aol.com)



### MAY 2006

- **COMMANDANT'S CHANGE OF COMMAND** — Thursday, May 25, time to be announced, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. (next door to Coast Guard Headquarters). For info, contact the ceremony project officer, LCDR Sandra Miracle, 202-267-0477, [smiracle@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:smiracle@comdt.uscg.mil)

### JUNE 2006

- **USCG INNOVATION EXPO** — Week of June 26, 2006, in Tampa, Fla. Start making plans now to exhibit, attend or use as your 2006 conference gathering place. For info, contact Mr. Fred Hooghouse, 202-267-2130; [fhoghouse@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:fhoghouse@comdt.uscg.mil)



### JULY 2006

- **2006 COAST GUARD INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** — Start planning now!

The Headquarters' sponsored 2006 Coast Guard Invitational Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 5-8, 2006 at "The Homestead" in Hot Springs, Va., ranked among the world's finest golf and spa resorts. The tournament package includes three nights of lodging, four rounds of golf (on three different courses), and two banquets. Open to all active duty, reserve, retired, auxiliary, and civilian personnel of the Coast Guard as well as their dependents and guests. Sign-up deadline is April 28, 2006. For more info, see COMDTNOTE 1710 at [www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CN/CN\\_1710\\_2005\\_11\\_21.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CN/CN_1710_2005_11_21.pdf) or contact Dr. Mike Parnarouskis at (703) 368-7049 or via email at [mikep1121@comcast.net](mailto:mikep1121@comcast.net)



- **ROA NATIONAL CONVENTION** — July 19-22, San Antonio, Texas, Marriott Rivercenter. Contact Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave. N.E., Washington, DC 20002; 202-479-2200; Web: [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org).

- **COAST GUARD FESTIVAL** — Friday, July 28 through Sunday, Aug. 6 in Grand Haven, Mich., Coast Guard City, USA! For all current and former Coast Guard men, women, SPARs, auxiliarists, reservists and civilian employees. Parade, birthday picnic and fireworks are Saturday, Aug. 5. Reunion groups are welcomed and accommodated. For info, contact: CDR M.J. Smith, USCG(Ret.), U.S. Coast Guard Festival Inc., 113 N. Second St., Grand Haven, MI 49417; 616-846-5940; 1-888-207-2434; E-mail: [cgfexdirector@chartermi.net](mailto:cgfexdirector@chartermi.net); Web: [www.ghcgfest.org](http://www.ghcgfest.org)

## Reunions

### APRIL 2006

- **COAST GUARD RESERVE UNIT OWENSBORO REUNION 2006** — Saturday, April 29, 2006, 10 a.m. Central Time, at Oakridge Park Campground, one-half mile west of Rockport, Ind. From I-64 or I-164, go east on Route 66 toward Rockport, turn on Silverdale Road (next to Willis Used Car lot). Lunch slated for 1 p.m. For info, contact Bill Symon, 812-649-2721, 812-686-2082 (cell); Les Allen, 502-648-6900 (cell); Don Kuster, 812-327-4749 (cell); or Gene Radin, 859-885-1236, E-mail: [gpradin@juno.com](mailto:gpradin@juno.com).
- **NORTH TEXAS CG ASSOCIATION SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING / LUNCHEON** — Saturday, April 29, 2006, 12 noon, at Pappas Bar-B-Q, 2231 W. NW Highway at Lombardy, Dallas, Texas. Contact LCDR Judith Kramer, 972-291-1843, E-mail: [jkramer@swbell.net](mailto:jkramer@swbell.net).

### MAY 2006

- **FIRST CG POLAR ICEBREAKER MUSTER** — May 1-5, 2006, Laughlin, Nev., Ramada Express Hotel/Casino. For info, contact Louie LaRiccia, Icebreaker Muster Planner, E-mail: [icebreakmuster@cox.net](mailto:icebreakmuster@cox.net); Web: [www.icebreakermuster.com](http://www.icebreakermuster.com).
- **USS LEJEUNE (AP-74)** — May 24-26, 2006, Jekyll Island, Ga. For info, contact Steve Arnold, 1394 Indian Trail, Building #100, Norcross, GA 30093-2610; 770-466-2666; E-mail: [peachtreepst@mindspring.com](mailto:peachtreepst@mindspring.com).
- **RETIREMENT CEREMONY** — For CWO4 Michael McCormick, MSTCS Steve Jones, and MST2 Steve Carlson will be conducted on

Saturday, May 13, 2006 at the bell on Sector San Diego. If you would like to say farewell and join in festivities, please RSVP to CWO4 Michael McCormick, 858-270-5438; E-mail: [m2mj@cs.com](mailto:m2mj@cs.com).

### JUNE 2006

- **COAST GUARD INVESTIGATIVE ASSOCIATION (CGIA) REUNION 2006** — June 14-17, 2006, Homestead Studio Suites, 9701 N. Shannon Ave., Kansas City, Mo., 816-891-8500. Rate is \$74.99 per night for individual studio suites (mention you're with the CGIA group when making reservations). A \$25 registration fee will be payable upon arrival. Any and all former CG Intelligence (XI), Investigators & Special Agents, CGI & LE, CGI & CGIS, District(oil) & (ole) Branch & Asst. Branch Chiefs & staff, CGHQ(G-OIS), (G-OLE), and OPINTEL Branch and Asst. Branch Chiefs & staff, security managers and technicians, EPIC Watch Officers & Agents, and former and current CGIS members and staff (including enlisted and officer, both regular and reserve) and civilians are invited. Contact Bruce Sheils, 1869 Newport Road, Clinton, AR 72031, 501-745-8502; E-mail: [bruanhm@webtv.net](mailto:bruanhm@webtv.net); Ben Kenney, 816-223-0610; E-mail: [Ben.Kenney@bcbskc.com](mailto:Ben.Kenney@bcbskc.com).

### AUGUST 2006

- **CUTTERMAN'S ASSOCIATION REUNION** — 20th Cutterman's Association reunion, Portland, Maine, Aug. 4-6. Former shipmates from Portland cutters are encouraged to attend. Contact Wes Spletstoesser, 207-799-5475, E-mail: [wessplets@msn.com](mailto:wessplets@msn.com).

# Awards

## Defense Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Scott F. Ogan, USTRANSCOM

## Meritorious Service Medal

LCDR Jack Dunphy, WWII 60th Committee

## Coast Guard Commendation Medal

LT Michael N. StJeanos, Sector New York  
 MKCS Lawrence E. McDonnell, Sector New York  
 PSC Steven Curry, Group Astoria, Ore.  
 PSC John J. Mauriello, Sector New York  
 PS1 Timothy Thompson, Group Astoria, Ore.

## Coast Guard Achievement Medal

MK1 Alan Terry, Group Astoria, Ore.  
 PS1 Brad Rogers, Group Astoria, Ore.  
 PS1 Fred L. Taylor, Sector New York

## Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

ENS Daniel Orchard, PSU 301  
 BM2 David Baird, PSU 301  
 BM3 Matthew Twitchell, Group Astoria, Ore.

## Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon

Reserve LE team, Group Astoria, Ore.

*Note to Reservists: If you received an award you would like to see published in the magazine, send a copy of the citation to The Reservist. The magazine does not receive a list of awards from any specific source or office.*



Photo by CWO4 Bill Reetz, USCG(Ret.)

*LCDR Ed Swift, USCG(Ret.), right, holds the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association along with RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, Director of Reserve & Training. Swift is CGCVA's Past National President while Brice-O'Hara sponsored the award. The award was originally presented to CGCVA by VADM Thad Allen, Coast Guard Chief of Staff, at CGCVA's 20th anniversary convention Oct. 20 in Tampa, Fla.*



Photo courtesy LT Jeffrey Williams, USCGR, NCFRON33

*SKC Grace Taylor, USCGR, center, went through a U.S. Navy Chief's Initiation and Pinning Ceremony at Kuwait Naval Base Sept. 15. Taylor, a member of Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 33, is currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Taylor is shown here with OSCS William Wood, USN, left, and SKC Thomas Scripture, USN.*

# Advancements

## Reserve Enlisted Advancements Effective Dec. 1, 2005

From *Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 12-05, ALCGPERSCOM 109/05 (R 221351 NOV 05)*. Questions should be directed to YNC Jeff Pilkington, [jpilkington@hrsic.uscg.mil](mailto:jpilkington@hrsic.uscg.mil) or 785-339-3410.

### BOATSWAIN'S MATE(BM)

BM1 E B DAVIS  
BM1 M E NEILSON  
BM2 T E BEACH  
BM3 R K WAGNER

### GUNNER'S MATE(GM)

GM2 D F HARTMAN  
GM2 N DUARTE

### INVESTIGATOR(IV)

IV3 R E IMPERIALE

### MACHINERY TECHNICIAN(MK)

MK2 T P LEPAGE  
MK2 G A NEAR  
MK2 L J LANMAN

### MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN(MST)

MST1 N B TAONUS  
MST1 B A BRASWELL  
MST2 J C GUPPENBERGER

### OPERATIONS SPECIALIST(OS)

OSCS S A HUTCHERSON

### YEOMAN(YN)

YNC E C CURRY  
YNC S M SCAVUZZO  
YN2 P J RADLINSKI  
YN2 C M RAY  
YN3 K A PARISI

## Effective Jan. 1, 2006

From *Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 1-06, ALCGPERSCOM 114/05 (R 221408Z DEC 05)*.

### BOATSWAIN'S MATE(BM)

BMCM D R SENG  
BMCS J M TSCHANTZHahn  
BMCS E J RENKER  
BMC J D JONES  
BMC E F SORENSEN  
BMC M O MULLINS  
BMC R W ALVARICO  
BMC W A SAUNDERS  
BMC G N PAUL  
BMC J R OSTROWSKI  
BMC B L NATALE  
BMC E J DIOTALEVI  
BMC D A GIBSON  
BMC R C MILNE  
BMC J T CAVANAUGH  
BMC J B SCHRIDER  
BMC A W ELY  
BMC T M WIETECHEA  
BMC J J LUCAS  
BMC P F KEOUGH  
BMC G A ROBERTSON  
BMC J E KENNEDY  
BMC J H DIETZE  
BMC P K OSULLIVAN  
BMC K T STERLING  
BMC N A BERNICE  
BMC D T VANDERPUTTEN  
BMC B P BRAY  
BMC J L PALLAGI  
BMC M D HODGES  
BMC R F BARNES  
BMC J J GUERRIER  
BMC V A HORTON  
BMC J C COKER  
BMC K R KNUTSEN  
BMC T R FORD  
BMC R K BENTON  
BMC S J TORO  
BMC G G BRANNON  
BMC J M TEW  
BMC J C KUHN  
BMC G A FAUSNAUGH  
BMC T S STALLINGS  
BMC K L HILL  
BMC G L BURNS  
BMC M E TUCKER  
BMC J R SILVA  
BMC R L RICE

BMC D R MCGRAW  
BMC S C WILSON  
BMC J M ORTIZ  
BMC A SOJAK  
BMC I A BRYANT  
BMC W A LAKE  
BMC G J DONAHOE  
BMC C L CARTER  
BM1 J M FALLON  
BM1 E O HUBBARD  
BM2 S S BATCHELOR  
BM2 C R LOCKWOOD  
BM2 G K BUDDA

### ELECTRICIAN'S MATE(EM)

EM2 B W GREMILLION  
EM2 S O ANDREWS  
EM2 M B ELDER  
EM2 D C DAVIS  
EM2 C CAMARILLO  
EM2 K E WILSON  
EM2 J M ECKL  
EM2 K L MENTO

### ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN(ET)

ETC J M WELKER

### FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST(FS)

FS1 J E KOOKEN  
FS1 E G ANZALONE

### INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN(IT)

IT2 A O LAY  
IT2 M T SPEER  
IT2 E T VANEK  
IT2 C D GLASS  
IT2 C H MCCLURE

### INVESTIGATOR(IV)

IV1 K J STANTON  
IV1 B A VOGEL  
IV2 R M SIMMONS  
IV2 J F GRAZIANE  
IV2 L A MAISONETT  
IV2 AA ROLFE  
IV2 J Y SIDES

### MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN(MST)

MSTCM J C WILLIAMS

MSTC D M LEITINGER  
MSTC P J WYSOSKY  
MSTC D W HAMILTON  
MST1 J T HENDRIX

### OPERATIONS SPECIALIST(OS)

OSCM R A SINES  
OSCM D J WEST  
OSCS C L WINNINGHAM  
OSCS G D DAIGLE  
OS1 B J KELLY  
OS1 M A MOSER  
OS1 B D EILL  
OS1 K B WILLIAMS  
OS1 Z D GREENLEE  
OS1 R A ZUNIGA  
OS1 V R TAVITIAN

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST(PA)

PA2 S M BLAKE

### PORT SECURITY SPECIALIST(PS)

PSCS D K LARKIN  
PS2 P E CLUTE  
PS2 C M RABAGO  
PS2 T F ADAMS  
PS2 L D SIBON  
PS2 D ALEXANDER  
PS2 N G CEA  
PS2 S W DAY  
PS2 J E KARSCHNER  
PS2 P C KOESSEL  
PS2 B S CLAIR  
PS2 M W LOCKWOOD  
PS2 C R CRUZ  
PS2 S G CALABRESE  
PS2 E S RODGERS  
PS2 H L CASTLEBERRY  
PS2 D M COLEMAN  
PS2 N R SMITH  
PS2 J M HANLON

### STOREKEEPER(SK)

SK1 M D ZAMORA

### YEOMAN(YN)

YNCM F M WILLIAMS  
YNC M R BIRCHFIELD



Photo by IT1 Brent Light, Recruiting Office Houston

Carlene Curry, center, is pinned E-7(YNC) by her husband, Hal C. Curry, left, and FSC Charles Ewing Jr., right, at Recruiting Office Houston Dec. 1. Curry, who has served 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserve, had a surprise visitor at the ceremony when the first Master Chief of the Reserve Force, Forrest Croom, USCGR(Ret.), showed up to present Curry with an extra anchor to have "in Reserve."



Photo by LT Lisa Schulz, USCGR

Maria Zamora, center, advanced to SK1 on Jan. 3, 2006, at Headquarters. Pinning on the first class chevrons are YN1 Staci Kemp, left, and SK1 Michael Clarke, right. Zamora, a reservist on active duty, works in the Reserve Funds Management Division (CG-1313) at Headquarters.

# Retirements

## RET-1 (Retired With Pay)

### NOVEMBER 2005

CAPT James O. Hughes  
 LCDR Robert A. Lockhart  
 LCDR Arthur J. Smith  
 CWO4 George J. Rawlings  
 BMCS Armand H. Chagnon  
 ETC Wesley R. Hoggard  
 MSTC Yancey W. Woodward  
 PSC Dennis G. Carreira  
 PSC Kerry A. Inouye  
 BM1 Michael J. Laes  
 IV1 Joseph J. Delmarmol  
 MK1 Clifford J. Appel  
 PS1 Wayne D. Drummond  
 PS1 Richard J. Marchewka  
 GM2 Anthony W. Bloodworth  
 PS2 Robert T. Morrow

### DECEMBER 2005

CAPT Larry W. Fogerson  
 CAPT Nicholas Stramandi  
 CDR David F. Patella  
 CDR David P. Roundy  
 CWO4 Michael J. Mueller  
 CWO4 Douglas D. Smith  
 LCDR Wesley F. Wilson III  
 BMC Wayne F. Fenner  
 FSC Thomas M. Greelis  
 FSC Patrick H. Hickey  
 YNC Joseph A. Matteo  
 BM1 George E. Dooley

BM1 Thomas E. Galbraith  
 ET1 Edward L. Johnson  
 FS1 Robert J. Kelly  
 MK1 Alan J. Sinclair  
 MK1 Michael P. Yelachich  
 PS1 Wayne R. Freeman  
 PS1 Joseph C. Fritz Jr.  
 PS1 Vevert W. Tice  
 YN1 Winston R. Lyford  
 BM2 Luther C. Herring Jr.  
 BM2 Oscar Santiago  
 YN2 Christiane R. Wolff  
 BM3 Richard L. Boisvert

## RET-2 (Retired Awaiting Pay)

### JULY 2005

LCDR Linda R. Jager, D11

### NOVEMBER 2005

CDR Bruce R. Gaudette, D13  
 CWO4 Diana L. Haines, MLCPAC  
 BMCM George R. Townsend, CGPC  
 BMC James E. Guttke, PACAREA  
 FSC Henry M. Cook, TC Yorktown  
 IVC Mark L. Patton, CGIS  
 MKC Devon C. Janitz, D9  
 YNC Maureen A. Kidd, MLCLANT  
 ET1 John S. Poore, LANTAREA  
 MK1 Francis M. Pribila, CGPC  
 YN1 Kenneth L. Watson, D7

BM2 Barbara A. Hewlett, D7  
 FS2 Howard J. Williams, LANTAREA  
 HS2 Larry L. Ward, D7  
 SK2 Carmen L. Wulf, LANTAREA  
 MK3 Robert S. Baldwin, D7

### DECEMBER 2005

CAPT John D. Dwyer, PACAREA  
 ETCM George E. Smith, LANTAREA  
 MSTCM Arthur H. Isaacs, D5  
 PSCS James E. Cannon, D8  
 BMC Timothy D. Johnson, D1  
 BMC Jeffrey P. Slusarz, MLCPAC  
 GMC Ronald H. Kesler, D11  
 OSC Omar Beceiro, D7  
 PSC David H. Vanzandt, CGPC  
 YNC Ruth E. Fenton, D1  
 MK1 Timothy J. Moore, D7  
 MK1 Jeffrey K. Warrick, CGPC  
 PS1 Wayne R. Freeman, D11  
 SK1 Kelvin S. Brewley, D7  
 YN1 Christian G. Cerles, D11  
 YN1 Jonathan N. Leach, LANTAREA  
 YN1 Thomas A. Sawyer, D1  
 YN1 Robin Y. Wong, CGPC  
 DC2 Paul W. Chapman, MLCPAC  
 YN2 Frederic W. Ankersen, D7  
 YN2 Suzanne S. Bradford, CGPC

Source: Ms. Lynn Couch, Personnel Service Center (RAS)

## Taps

• **CAPT Morris O. Parker, USCGR(Ref.)**, Nov. 12, 2005, in Shreveport, La. He is survived by his spouse, Clare A. Parker, of Shreveport.

• **CDR Joseph J. Defrance, USCGR(Ref.)**, Dec. 2, 2005, in Eugene, Ore. He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia A. Dreyer. Interment Eugene, Ore.

• **CDR Grady R. Galloway, USCGR(Ref.)**, Nov. 26, 2005, at Fort Bragg, N.C. He is survived by his spouse, Irene G. Galloway. Interment Sylva, N.C.

• **CDR Samuel G. Preiss, Jr., USCGR(Ref.)**, Nov. 17, 2005, in Brunswick, Ga. Interment Winchester, Va.

• **LT Thomas P. Cloherty, USCGR**, Dec. 8, 2005, of East Orland, Maine. He is survived by his spouse, Mary C. Cloherty.



**CWO4 Angelo D. Chiapperino, USCGR(Ref.)**

• **LT Catherine Crane, USCG SPAR**, 96, Dec. 2, 2005. Born April 12, 1909, she became a teacher in New Jersey in 1933. She joined the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs) in 1943, and served as an instructor for SPAR officers. After the war, she returned to the field of education as a teacher and principal until her retirement in 1974. She donated the Central Park Rose Garden to the City of Winter Park, Fla. in 2003 in honor of her late husband Howard. A memorial service celebrating her life was held in the Rose Garden Jan. 9, 2006. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be made to the Crane Rose Garden, c/o City of Winter Park, 401 S. Park Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789.

• **CWO4 Angelo D. Chiapperino, USCGR(Ref.)**, 78, Dec. 13, 2005, of Westerleigh, N.Y. A native of the Bronx, he graduated from Wagner College, N.Y., where he majored in business administration. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, and later joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, serving 38 years before retiring in 1987. He was a firefighter for 20 years, first in

Manhattan and then in Brooklyn, N.Y. He also formed ADCO Companies, a maintenance service that he sold in 1977. He is survived by his spouse of 42 years, Caroline; three sons, Ralph, Stephen, and Angelo Jr.; two daughters, Victoria Lynn and Diane Chiapperino; two brothers, Philip and Dominic; a sister, Frances Riccio; five grandchildren. Funeral services were held Dec. 16, 2005, at Olivet Presbyterian Church, Staten Island, N.Y. Entombment at Moravian Cemetery, New Dorp, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Olivet Presbyterian Scholarship Fund, 97 Myrtle Ave., Staten Island, NY 10310.

• **CWO4 Robert A. Rogers, USCGR(Ref.),** Oct. 27, 2005, in Lewisville, N.C. He is survived by his daughter, Kathie Rogers, and son, Robert Torkova. Interment Winston-Salem, N.C.

• **PSCM Otto A. Christofferson, USCGR,** Nov. 23, 2005, at Bethesda, Md. Naval Medical Center. Survived by his spouse, Deborah; children, Matthew, Michael, Mark and Marcia Carlson. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Fort Myer Chapel, Arlington, Va. Dec. 27, 2005. Interment Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va. In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations to be made in his name to The American Cancer Society, 124 Park Street S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-0699; 703-938-5550 (for phone donations). Please indicate the donation is in memory of MCPO Otto Christofferson.



• **AMC John Lee Chassereau, USCG(Ref.),** 80, Nov. 29, 2005, of St. Petersburg, Fla. Born in Walterboro, S.C. July 4, 1925, he was a Vietnam veteran who served 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a member of the St. Petersburg Chapter of Coast Guard C.P.O.A. and National Gold Life Time member, member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Elk Lodge, Liberty Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, and also a life member of Hammerton Lodge #332 A.F.M., Tampa Consistory, Egypt Shrine Temple. As chairman of the Blackthorn Memorial Committee, he helped raise funds for Blackthorn Memorial Park on the north end of Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg, Fla. He also coordinated an annual ceremony to commemorate the Jan. 28, 1980 tragedy in which the USCG lost 23 members when CGC BLACKTHORN collided with the oil taker S.S. Capricorn. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Winifred; sons John Lee Jr. and Ray; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Services were held Dec. 2 at Liberty Baptist Church, St. Petersburg. Interment Sunnyside Cemetery, St. Petersburg, Fla. Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 4801 86th Ave., Pinellas Park, FL 33782-5716.



• **BMC Stephen J. Kenny, USCGR(Ref.),** Dec. 20, 2005, of Inverness, Fla. He is survived by his spouse, Carol Ann Kenny.

• **BM1 Edson Adams, USCGR(Ref.),** Dec. 2, 2005, in Petaluma, Calif.

• **MK1 Glenn C. Sirmans, USCGR(Ref.),** Nov. 10, 2005. He is survived by his daughter, Janelle Foushee.

• **PO3 Edna Bryan, USCG Women's Reserve (SPARs),** 84, Nov. 22, 2005, in Portland, Ore. Bryan enlisted in



the Women's Reserve in 1943, and after completing basic training in Palm Beach, Fla., was assigned to the intelligence office in Boston, and reassigned to the Seattle intelligence office in 1944. Even after her separation from the service, Bryan continued to be involved with the Coast Guard. She hosted Navy and Coast Guard crewmembers and their families at her home when their ships

were in port. In 1974, she organized former Coast Guard SPARS into a group that became known as the Northwest SPARS. In 1985, she organized the 43rd National SPAR Reunion in Portland, a three-day event attended by more than 1,000 SPARS. Bryan was awarded a Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Medal and a Certificate of Merit for her service to the Coast Guard, both as a SPAR and volunteer. She is survived by her husband, Cebert; daughter Claudette Naylor; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Services were held Dec. 2, 2005 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Portland, Ore.

• **Mary Ellen Starbird, USCGR SPAR,** 95, Aug. 24, 2005. She earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA and master's degree from the University of Southern California, and became a teacher. During World War II, she served in the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs). She was married to William B. Starbird who preceded her in death. She is survived by her sons, Thomas and Michael; many grandchildren, and extended family. A memorial service was held at the Monte Vista Grove Home in Pasadena, Calif.

• **Richard P. Sylvia,** 91, Oct. 31, 2005, of Darien, Conn., former chief of Noroton Fire Department, former editor of Fire Engineering Magazine, author and instructor. He was born Dec. 24, 1913, in New Bedford, Mass. After graduation from Dartmouth College in 1935, he began his journalistic career at the New Bedford Morning Mercury in Massachusetts, before moving on to the Bridgeport Post in Connecticut. He served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II from 1942-45. In 1958, he became a member of the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association, serving as its president in 1962 and 1963 and continuing with the organization, and then as a life member. He was appointed to the State of Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control by Governor Ella Grasso in 1975 and was re-appointed by her in 1978 and in 1981 by Governor William O'Neill. He was married to Beatrice M. Sylvia who preceded him in death in 1976. A Fireman's Funeral was held Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005, at the Edward Lawrence Funeral Home. Burial was private at the Nemasket Hill Cemetery in Middleboro, Mass. Memorial donations may be made to the Noroton Volunteer Fire Department, 1873 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820.



## A New Year: Time for Reflection and Renewal

It is often difficult to monitor and measure progress while simultaneously dealing with the day-to-day realities of transition and transformation set in motion by defining moments in history such as the events of Sept. 11, 2001. As 2005 subsides into the history books and 2006 takes shape, it seems appropriate to take some time to reflect on past events of significance, and focus on current initiatives with the potential of having a lasting impact on the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve.

First, let's take a look back. Since 9/11 there have been many post-mortems as to the impact that six years of integration, with its focus on augmentation, had on the readiness of the Coast Guard Reserve. If getting the job done constitutes a significant measure of readiness, then I would submit integration has been a success. While reservists who reported for duty, with or without orders, on 9/11 and the days following may not have possessed the "right" competencies and capabilities for that horrific contingency, they did show up with a healthy supply of core Coast Guard skills. It is my view those skills were forged on the hearth of integration.

Where integration has not met its promise is in the area of what I term "mobilization readiness knowledge and execution." By that I refer to our ability to determine with any degree of certainty how many members hold a mobilization qualification and whether or not qualification is current. In addition, six years of integration has eroded corporate knowledge of how to effectively and efficiently mobilize and de-mobilize members of the Reserve workforce. As too many of you know, re-learning this process has been frustrating and painful.

Recognition of these process gaps led to the creation of the Reserve Strategic Assessment Team (RSAT), which identified 84 areas for corrective action. Among these corrective actions was the addition of Chapter 11 to the Personnel and Pay Procedures Manual (PPPM) which now provides guidance for the mobilization and demobilization processes. Upon completion of the RSAT, the Commandant directed that a Flag level team be chartered to provide recommendations as to the strategic role of the Reserve including core competencies and capabilities.

The Reserve Strategic Employment Working Group (RSEWG) delivered its report in the fall 2005. Its recommendations, which included the first ever Reserve Policy Statement, were approved by the Commandant and will serve as the strategic blueprint for the management, training and employment of the Reserve workforce going forward. The three prioritized functions in which the Reserve component will be utilized are: 1) maritime homeland security, 2) domestic and expeditionary support to National Defense, and 3) domestic, natural or man-made, disaster response and recovery. To meet these requirements, the Reserve component will focus on six core competencies: boat operations, port security, law enforcement, expeditionary warfare, marine safety and contingency planning and response. It is essential, however, that we not overlook the Reserve-specific logistics and administration competencies, because proper support and management of the Reserve component is key to the

success of all mobilization and augmentation activities.

This brings us to current and potential future events. ALCOAST 647/05 announced the creation of a Boarding Officer Qualification Support Program designed to provide Boarding Officers (BO) and commands with additional tools to meet the qualification and recertification requirements as defined in the Maritime Law Enforcement Manual. While the immediate goal of this initiative is to develop Reserve BOs, it is envisioned that full implementation will support the entire CG workforce involved in LE activities.

In my view, this marks a significant step forward. For the first time in my memory, active duty commands will have a standard training template with which to develop and qualify reserve personnel within the member's annual training availability of 48 drills and 12 days annual IDT. I encourage all reservists working



***"I encourage each of you to seek out your own challenge and opportunity. By doing so, you will ensure we remain what I unabashedly call, the world's finest Reserve component."***

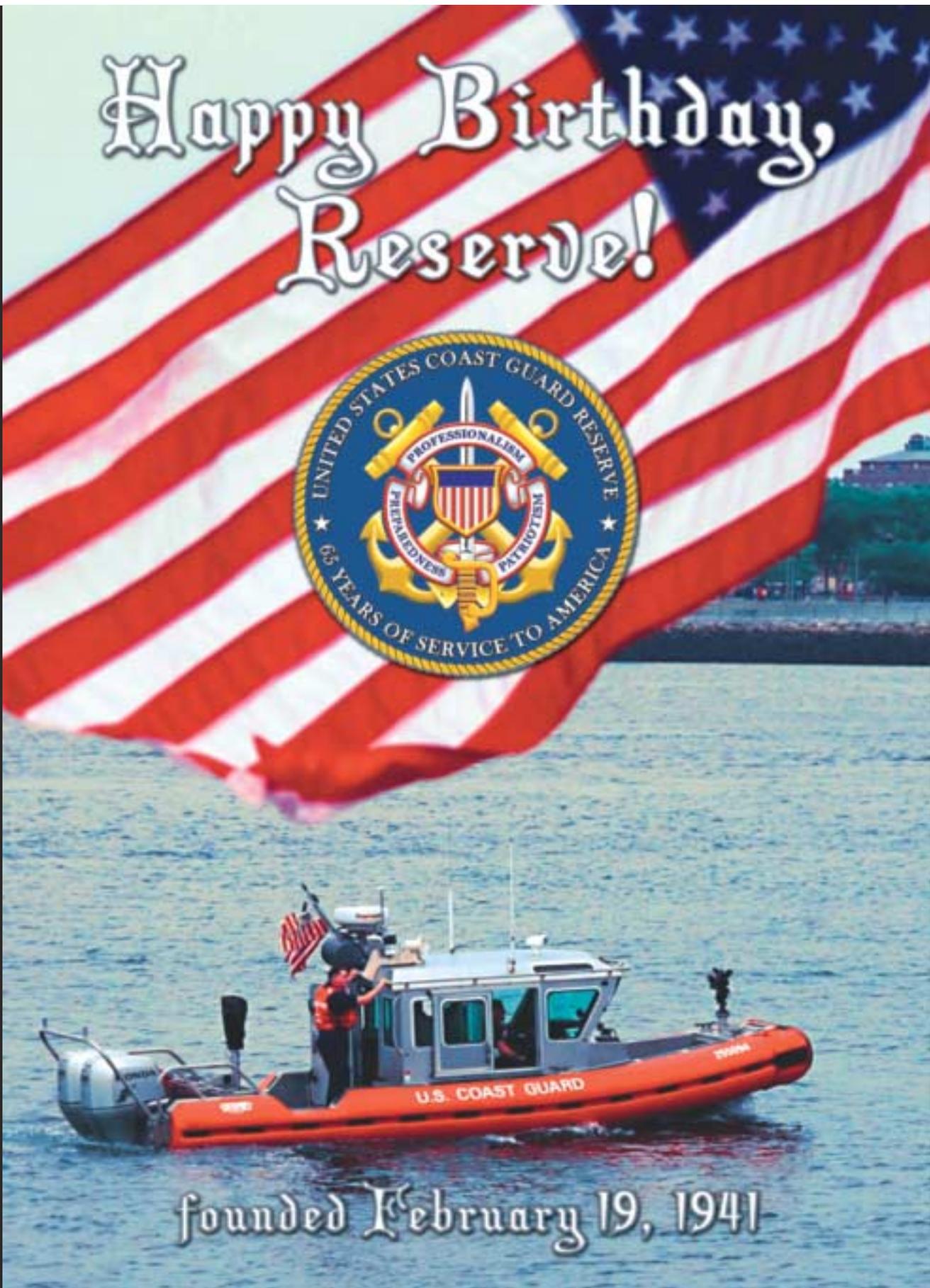
towards LE qualifications to become familiar with this program and actively approach their commands about participating in it.

It is my expectation that similar training development efforts will get underway this year to address other competencies like boat operations. The top issue I hear as I travel around our Coast Guard is, "Master Chief, there isn't enough time to get qualified or recertified." I hear this from commands and members alike. There is no question that we ask a lot of our operational personnel when it comes to attaining and maintaining proficiency in a wide array of competencies. It is likely that in the not so distant future, reserve personnel will be more "specialized" so they can focus their training availability on one or two qualifications. It may be, for example, that reserve boat operations will be base lined at the Response Boat Small (RB-S) instead of the current multi-platform requirement.

Rethinking how and to what competencies we train our Reserve workforce of the present and the future is well underway. Will we encounter a rogue wave or two and make periodic course corrections? Of course we will. That said I remain confident that we are making steady and significant progress. While the challenges in front of us are many, so are the opportunities. I encourage each of you to seek out your own challenge and opportunity. By doing so, you will ensure we remain what I unabashedly call, the world's finest Reserve component.

**By MCPO Jeffrey D. Smith, USCGR  
Master Chief of the Reserve Force  
jdsmith@comdt.uscg.mil**

# Happy Birthday, Reserve!



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