



U.S. COAST GUARD



Homeland Security

Flag Voice 286

Quick Links

[Human Resources Home](#)

[Be a Part of the Coast Guard:](#)

- »» [Military Careers](#)
- »» [Civilian Opportunities](#)
- »» [Learn about the Reserve](#)
- »» [Coast Guard Academy](#)

[Flag Voice](#)

»» [Biography of the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources](#)

[Future Force](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Other Links

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)

[Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)

[Coast Guard Retirees](#)

[Coast Guard News and Information](#)

[Military Locator](#)

RESERVE POLICY STATEMENT

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. This policy statement also provides a guiding framework for our training (primarily through augmentation) and employment (through mobilization) of Reservists. It makes clear that bringing Reservists to peak readiness is an all-hands evolution that requires a continuum of effort.

Foremost, we must make sure that all Coast Guard Reservists 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, which historically has been called “augmentation training”. Today, this effort is simply termed “augmentation.” For Reservists, training performed at active duty commands during inactive duty for training (IDT) drills and annual active duty for training (ADT) is the means by which they learn and hone their competencies. Contingency assignments dictate the skills required for mobilization. Yet, it’s the day-to-day operations (through 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.

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 (often called the Supported Command) where the need is greater than in our own AOR.

Therefore, regardless of where Reservists mobilize, it is their permanent command (often referred to as the Supporting Commander) 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. You have a key part in helping in their qualification and certification processes.

The Commandant 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 they report for duty. In addition to completing all scheduled drills and active duty for training, Reservists may have to do some off-duty study to reinforce what they’ve learned at their unit.

In the policy statement, the Commandant uses the term “*unity of effort*” - each of us must do our share to make this strategic vision a reality. Working together as a team – Active Duty, Reserve, Auxiliary and Civilian – we can ensure a better Coast Guard and a more secure America.

Official copies of the Reserve Policy Statement were recently mailed to all Coast Guard units. For additional information, please see ALCOAST 044/06.

RADM Kenneth J. Venuto
Ken Venuto

This page is maintained by [Coast Guard Human Resources](#)

[Coast Guard Home Page](#)

[Customer Accessibility](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Questions/comments about US Coast Guard](#)

Last modified: undefined NaN, NaN