THE COAST GUARD
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THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

The Commandant, Admiral BENDER, issued Commandant Notice 1100 of 22 March 1973 (ALDIST 95), to clearly state the ABSOLUTE URGENCY OF RESERVE RECRUITING:

FM COMDT COGARD

TO ALDIST (095)

FM GC

COAST GUARD RECRUITING

1. The recruiting difficulties which have followed the national policy of an all-volunteer armed force are indeed of an urgent nature and require our continued attention. The critical nature of our current situation should not be underestimated, particularly as it relates to recruiting for the Coast Guard Reserve.

2. In order to effect greater utilization of our existing resources and benefit the procurements for both Regular and Reserve Coast Guardsmen, a comprehensive program for involvement of reservists in recruiting has been undertaken. In ALDIST 64 of 23 February 1973, the Office of Reserve promulgated Augmentation-Phase II, a program for Reserve augmentation of the Coast Guard's personnel procurement effort. This expansion of our procurement effort can be achieved within the context of the "One Coast Guard" concept of augmentation which develops greater utilization of Reserve manpower.

3. To my knowledge, Reserve augmentation of the Regular Coast Guard has been highly successful. It is hoped that Augmentation-Phase II, will meet with the same degree of success. As with Augmentation-Phase I, reservists will augment the current procurement organization under the direction of the Office of Personnel. This effort will be closely coordinated and will call for the highest degree of cooperation with and between Coast Guard's recruiting organization and the Coast Guard Reserve.

4. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of maintaining the manpower levels of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve. Successful implementation of Augmentation-Phase II is a key element in meeting today's recruiting challenge.

This ALDIST can leave no doubt in the mind of any reservist that recruiting is our number one priority and must be attacked vigorously with the full energy of the entire Coast Guard Reserve.

At this time, we are not doing as well in recruiting as the Commandant and I believe we should. We of the Reserve must increase our efforts --WE MUST RECRUIT! In my messages to you concerning CHALLENGE '74, I spoke of our goals as 2,000 by 30 June; 4,000 by 31 January, 1974; and 6,000 by 30 June 1974. In the last few issues of the Reservist, in Reserve Bulletins, and by other means, we are getting you the information and material needed to recruit. We are at this time distributing an audio-visual presentation for use in Reserve recruiting.

This massive recruiting effort slowly is turning the tide. Reenlistment of first term enlistees, an important source of already trained and experienced personnel, now is approximately 20 percent. Reenlistment of personnel beyond their first enlistment is above 90 percent. This is very encouraging: keep up the good work. We are, however, still losing persons faster than we are gaining. Only the Seventh and the Fourteenth Districts are gaining. Others are approaching the "break-even point", and still others have a "long row to hoe".

I urge every member of the Reserve--in units, in the ASP and in the Retired Reserve: RECRUIT!

J.W. MOREAU

National Coast Guard Reserve Policy Board Tackles Most Crucial Problem Areas and Develops Solutions

On 4 April, Secretary of Transportation Brinegar approved the 1972 National Coast Guard Reserve Policy Board. The Board convened in December 1972 to study problems within the Reserve and to develop practical solutions for them. The senior member of the Board was Rear Admiral Arnold I. SOBEL, USCGR.

As in past years, each district had submitted a number of recommendations to the Board. This year, however, instead of dealing with each recommendation individually, the Board first defined the most important problem areas and then developed recommendations to resolve them.

The Board's recommendations were reviewed by the Chief, Office of Reserve and the Commandant, who added the official Coast Guard implementing actions where necessary. The entire package then was presented to the Secretary for final overall approval.

The complete proceedings of the Board will be published in the near future. In the interim, a synopsis of the Board's proceedings is presented here. For brevity, only the final actions to be taken are indicated.

The Policy Board reaffirmed the importance of augmentation to the Coast Guard and the Reserve. Augmentation was formally defined as "any Reserve activity that supports effective training for mobilization while meeting a stated need of an element of the Regular Coast Guard." In addition, the Regular Coast Guard will be directed to plan maximum practical utilization of reservists. Districts will be authorized to restructure their Reserve units, locations, organization, etc., in order to provide the best possible augmentation capability.

On the subject of law enforcement authority for inactive duty reservists, there is no provision in current law to authorize this. However, the matter is under consideration by the Chief Counsel, and if it finally is deemed necessary for reservists to have this authority, the Chief Counsel will seek additional legislation.

In order to provide for better augmentation, drill scheduling must be more flexible (*Editor's note: this already has been implemented*). In addition, non-consecutive ACDUTRA may be authorized, provided there is no significant additional expense. Basically, this will permit reservists to perform short periods (2 to 5 days) of ACDUTRA, rather than having to perform 13 consecutive days.

The complex administrative procedures involving augmentation were of considerable concern to the Board. In order to simplify this problem, each reservist's unit assignment orders are being changed to eliminate specific drill site locations and authorize drills "to be performed at such times, dates and locations as specified by the unit commanding officer, under the direction of the district commander." With this change, the issuance of increment drill orders will be simplified and ORTU commanding officers will prepare a monthly "Augmentation/Training Schedule" and assume complete responsibility for certification of pay and point entitlement. (*Editor's note: This already has basically been implemented--however, more details still have to be developed.*)

The Joint Travel Regulations contain authority for reservists to be reimbursed for travel to augmentation sites. However, district commanders may impose limitations or conditions on such reimbursement, such as car pools. In addition the problem of providing cash reimbursement for meals in relation to augmentation activities is under consideration. Under present law, this is not authorized.

The Board recommended that current officer promotion legislation be amended to permit retention as extra numbers of certain officers who had failed of selection for promotion. Action on this recommendation was deferred pending the completion and approval of a currently on-going officer promotion study.

Other recommendations submitted by the Board included:

--Recruiting must be vigorously pursued to maintain the strength of the Coast Guard Reserve.

--Personal grooming standards for the Reserve shall continue to be the same as those specified for Regular personnel.

--Diagonal advancements--that is, lateral changes in rating with simultaneous advancement in pay grade will be authorized on a limited basis for ratings in which advancement is non-existent. (*Editor's note: A forthcoming COMDTNOTE will clarify details and procedures for this recommendation.*)

--The requirement for both servicewide examinations and end-of-course tests will continue, since it is considered to be in the best interests of both the individuals and the Service.

--An award titled "Reservist of the Year" will be established, to recognize the most outstanding enlisted reservist in each district. The district winners will be brought to Headquarters to meet the Commandant, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, and other top Coast Guard officials.

--A "Reserve Unit Readiness Award" will be established, in the concept of the "E" awards used for refresher training. Each unit meeting a specified qualifying score would receive the award. The District Commander's Award has the added criteria that units being considered must hold the Reserve Unit Readiness Award.

--The prestige of the Commandant's Award will be upgraded by establishing a ribbon which individual reservists assigned to a winning unit would be eligible to wear.

--Reserve Program Administrators (RPAs) will be more effective in management of the Reserve program with wider operational experience. Therefore, to the extent feasible, RPAs will be assigned to operational tours with greater frequency (one tour in two, if practicable.)

--Enlisted women in the Reserve will be authorized to serve in the ratings of YN, SK, HM, DT, MU and PA. Additionally, women will be permitted to serve in other ratings to the extent that there is an existing need for such ratings in the Reserve.

--No additional enrollments will be made in the Temporary Reserve, except in time of national emergency. The current members of the Temporary Reserve will be given suitable letters of appreciation when their current enrollments expire. However, they will not be re-enrolled.

Recalled Under Involuntary Call-Up Law

Coast Guard Reservists Activated for First Time to Aid In Containing Flood-Swollen Rivers in Second District

Coast Guard reservists, called to involuntary emergency active duty for the first time, joined with Regular Coast Guard and National Guard forces in battling the swirling flood-waters of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers that covered more than seven million acres from Iowa to Louisanna early in April.

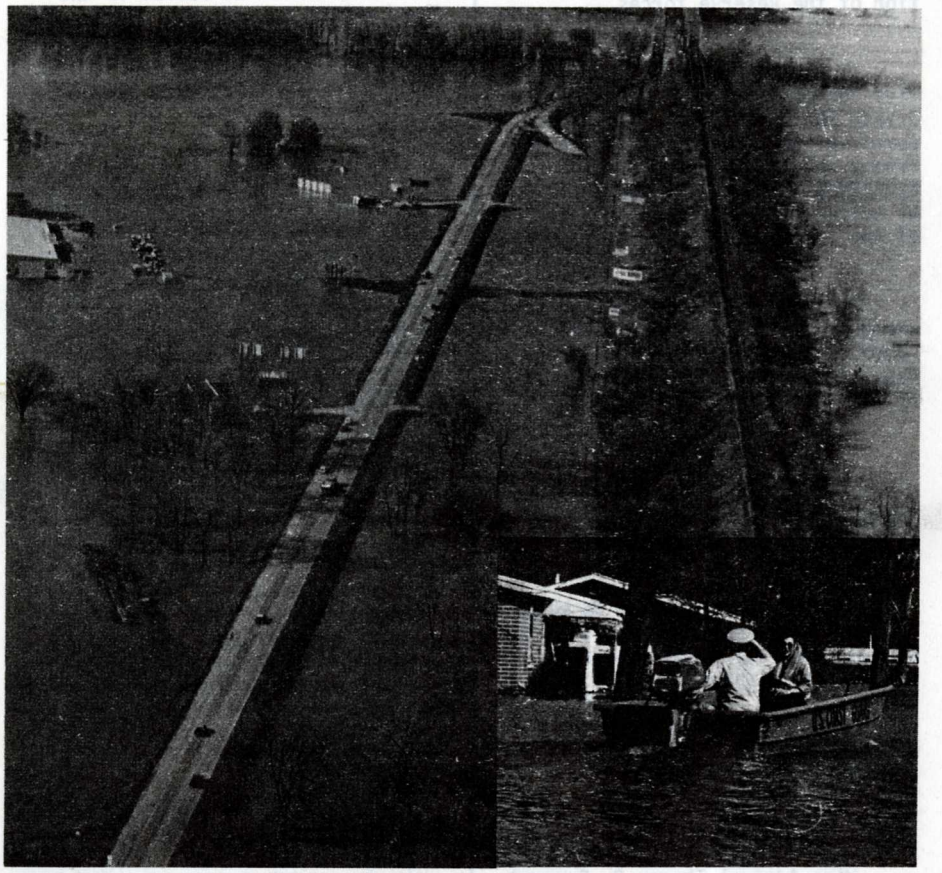
The reservists helped evacuate families from homes along the river systems, ahead of rising water that left more than 5,000 families homeless. At least 19 persons died as a result of the more than $150 million rampage of the nation's longest river.

Coast Guard Reserve personnel were deployed in West Alton, Arnold, South St. Louis County, Cape Girardeau and St. Genevieve, Missouri, the areas hit hardest by the flooding. Relief activities consisted of evacuations, police assistance and support activities and helping control traffic in the area to minimize wake damage.

Reservists also assisted in manning oil control booms and supervising oil clean-up after the flood waters emptied a 10,000 gallon waste oil storage pit.

Reservist-manned small boats provided transportation for National Guard security teams, who were stationed in the evacuated areas to prevent looting.

In addition to the evacuation responsibilities, reservists loaded sandbags onto Coast Guard boats, and delivered them to points along the flood-swollen rivers to shore up dikes and contain the surging waters. Reservists also manned levees, operated flood relief boats and took part in rescue operations.



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS FLOOD-RAVAGED ST. LOUIS AREA. INSERT SHOWS RESERVE-MANNED PUNT MOVING THROUGH FLOODED STREETS OF WEST ALTON.

RESERVE RESCUE TEAMS EVACUATE ONE OF MANY FAMILIES THEY AIDED DURING FLOODING.

Transportation Secretary Claude S. Brinegar authorized the call-up after receiving approval from President Nixon to activate three Second District Organized Reserve Training Units. The action was taken under a law approved last October permitting Coast Guard reservists to be involuntarily recalled to assist in operations made necessary by natural disasters or emergencies such as that created by the floods.

"A request for the action was transmitted to me by Admiral Chester R. BENDER, Commandant of the Coast Guard, after it became apparent that Regular Coast Guard personnel working in the flooded area were being overtaxed," Secretary Brinegar said in announcing the call-up.

Regular Coast Guard personnel had been working in the Missouri-Illinois flood areas since the last week in March with only short peri-

SEE 'ST. LOUIS', PAGE FOUR

Not All CGR Activities Confined to St. Louis

FROM PAGE THREE...

ods of relief prior to the activation of the Reserve forces.

"Today's action will provide relief for those Regular units and increase the capability of the Coast Guard in the flooded area," the Secretary said at the time of his announcement. "The need for additional action will depend on the progress of the floods."

The reservists were called to emergency active duty on 4 April to serve in the flood-torn areas, where Regular forces already were overtaxed by the severity of the situation.

This marked the first time the emergency call-up legislation, which is unique to the Coast Guard Reserve, had been used.

Approval was received to mobilize a unit in Peoria, Illinois, and two units in St. Louis. In all, authorization was approved to activate up to 143 reservists. However, the Second District recalled only 53 men from the two St. Louis units for duty in the St. Louis area.

Vice Admiral Thomas R. Sargent III, Vice Commandant, arrived on-scene from Washington Headquarters during the height of the crisis to survey the flood-striken areas and to assess emergency operations.

In addition to those called to emergency active duty, many reservists volunteered to assist in the flood relief operations. Those who were mobilized were screened first to eliminate any reservists already working on flood control, such as policemen and firemen.

Under the call-up legislation, which the President signed on 9 October, reservists are limited to 14 days of emergency active duty in any four-month period, or a total of 30 days in any one-year period. The emergency duty is substituted for active-duty-for-training on a day-for-day basis and those serving on emergency active duty are entitled to all benefits normally accrued by reservists on other types of duty.

In his report on the flood relief activities, RADM SILER, Commander, Second Coast Guard District, commended the reservists for their professionally outstanding and invaluable service.

"Their efforts were without exception outstanding," the admiral said of the reservists. "All reports indicate a high degree of enthusiasm and excellent esprit. Working with Regular members or as individual members, these Coast Guardsmen exhibited an unflagging zeal for the job at hand."

Not all of the Reserve activities were confined to the St. Louis area.

In Yazoo City, Mississippi, volunteer reservists joined with Regular Coast Guardsmen, National Guardsmen and civilian volunteers in flood relief operations after a dike gave way on the Yazoo River causing flooding in several areas.

At Louisville, reservists helped to man a traffic control system for towboats operating on the Ohio River. As in other parts of Western Rivers, maneuvering a towboat and a number of large barges is exceptionally difficult during flood conditions.

The Coast Guard RESERVIST

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All photographs are official Coast Guard material unless otherwise designated.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are invited to submit articles of interest to the Editor of RESERVIST for possible publication.

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