



U.S. COAST GUARD

# RESERVIST



VOLUME 56

ISSUE 4-09

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE



# RFRS

*Reserve Force Readiness System  
The Blueprint for a 21st Century Reserve*

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**A**t the beginning of 2009, I said the year had started out like a whirlwind. Well, the whirlwind continues, and this issue is a reflection of all that's been happening of late.

First, how do you like our RFRS blueprint cover? RFRS, also known as the Reserve Force Readiness System, is part of the Coast Guard's overall Modernization effort. It is an organizational change in the Coast Guard's Reserve program that will be phased in over the next few years. Full Time Support billets funded by the Reserve Training Appropriation are placed within the Coast Guard's new organizational structure to optimize the Coast Guard's employment of its 8,100 reservists and sustain the reservists' readiness. Give the story a glean and let us know what you think (Page 20).

Congratulations to MST2 James Wilkinson and AMT2 Stephen Sanders, this year's national Reserve and Active Duty Enlisted Persons of the Year! See Page 11 for a story on these two outstanding Coasties!

If you are a Port Security Specialist, please note the PS-ME lateral article on Page 13. We'll have a lot more to share on the PS-ME lateral/rating in the next issue as well.

Kudos to PSU 305 and PSU 307. PSU 305 returned May 31 from a six-month deployment to Cuba, while PSU 307 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the unit's commissioning. Our District spotlight series continues its trip around the nation with the focus on the Fifth District this issue. Meanwhile, within the "Fabulous Fifth's" geographic boundaries, Training Center Yorktown, Va. is gearing up for its 50th anniversary in July. Several activities are planned to celebrate this milestone. See the Bulletin Board on Page 35.

Finally, we remember RADM Bennett S. "Bud" Sparks who passed away May 22, 2009. He served in the CGR from 1942 until his retirement in 1989. I had the pleasure of personally interviewing RADM Sparks when I was a petty officer in the early 1990s. As the years passed, he would occasionally drop me a letter or word of encouragement. During the CGR's 60th anniversary in 2001, he shared with our readers that if he had one word he would use to describe his five-decade career in the Coast Guard, it would be "opportunity." He was truly an officer and a gentleman, and an In Memorium for him is published on Pages 32-33. A photo from his funeral service on June 13, 2009 graces Pages 6-7 and our back cover as a final farewell and salute from the U.S. Coast Guard he loved so much. Farewell, RADM Sparks — you will be missed!

- ED



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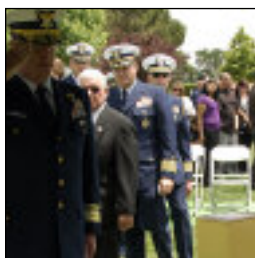
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The latest on the Reserve Force Readiness System, the blueprint for the 21st century Coast Guard Reserve.



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## Presidential Inaugural

I enjoyed the coverage of PSU309's trip to the Presidential Inauguration (RESERVIST, Issue 2-09). I am glad the Coast Guard was well represented.

The article brought back still vivid memories of the Academy's participation in President Eisenhower's inauguration in January 1953. We took the train down from New London in sleeper cars, arriving in D.C. in the middle of the night. After a stand-up breakfast and lunch in the railroad yard, we formed up in ranks at noon, stood there until stepping off at 1500 to lead the parade's Third Division down Pennsylvania Avenue from the U.S. Capitol. We passed by the presidential reviewing stand at the White House just before dark. A few blocks later, we loaded our M-1's, drill belts, bayonets and white leggings on to a Coast Guard-manned truck and had liberty until midnight, when we were due back at the train. Watch sweaters were worn under our white shirts — no topcoats, nor scarves. We looked sharp and out shown our brethren from Annapolis. Thence, back to New London in time for reveille, breakfast and class at 0800! Some pix are in our Class of '54 yearbook.

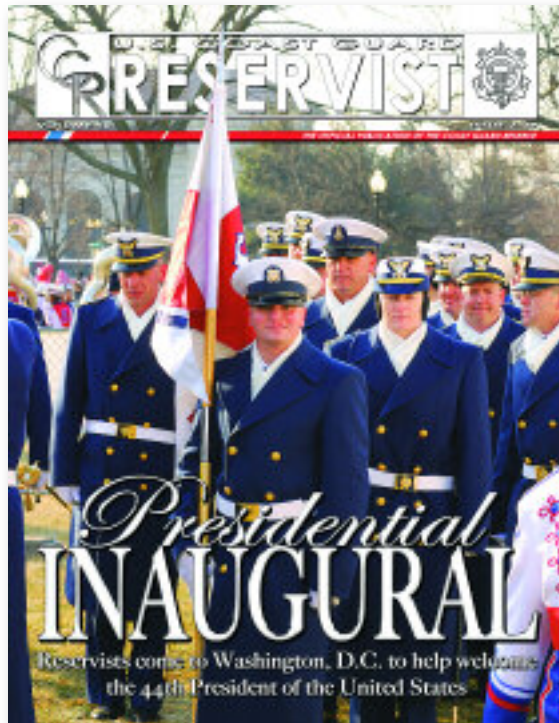
If I may be so bold to mention: PSU 309's white drill belts would look much 'sharper' if they were cinched up tight (coats must be carefully reefed), kept horizontal, and positioned so as to cover the two gold buttons at waist level. It also would provide welcome support to the sacroiliac! Maybe for the next parade ... Semper Paratus!

— **CAPT L. D. Levine, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Coast Guard Academy Class of '54**

## Full-Time Support Ad

As a retired Coast Guard member and one now in the Auxiliary, I find myself having to comment on the "Full-Time Support" ad/recognition in THE RESERVIST (Issue 2-09, Page 23). Under this banner, you say "Team Coast Guard" and mention the Coast Guard Active, Reserve, and Civilian members. I feel that the Auxiliary should also have been noted.

The Auxiliary has members who work every day with the Coast Guard. We have had flotillas and divisions take over the full-time operation of SAR stations when the regular complement has been called to other duties. We have a cadre of members that aid the regular forces in teaching the LAMS class to both active and reserve members. We have members who conduct SAR patrols, do harbor checks, and other operations



that aid the regular and reserve forces.

Do we do it on a full-time basis? Admittedly, no. As volunteers, we could work every day but still not be considered "full-time." There are others amongst our ranks who have paid jobs as we are not fully retired. Yet, we provide support to the full-time members, thus without much of a stretch, we do provide full-time support. I offer this comment not looking for a retraction and an apology but rather in the hope that in future recognition pieces, the work of the Auxiliary can be recognized as well.

— **LCDR George D. Bond, II,**  
**USCG(Ret.)**  
**Stafford, Va.**

**Ed's note:** *Thanks for your letter and for several others we received in regards to this topic. The Full-Time Support Ad in Issue 2-09 was*

*meant to raise awareness of those who work full-time in Reserve funded billets exclusively in support of the Reserve — like Active Duty, Reserve Program Administrators and civilians — it was not meant to exclude our auxiliariats. You are correct in referring to "Team Coast Guard" as inclusive of the Auxiliary. We apologize for the confusion and should have used a different sub-header than "Team Coast Guard."*

## National Ensign and USCG Uniform

I have a question concerning the national ensign patch that cannot be worn on our uniforms. Do you know the reason we are not allowed to wear this patch? The U.S. Army has this patch and it is part of their uniforms. I believe this would be a great patriotic symbol of our great nation and our service.

Thanks

— **BM2 Craig Carlan, USCGR**  
**USCG Station Brunswick, Ga.**

**Ed's note:** *According to Mr. Carol Brewton, USCG Uniform Program Manager, the national ensign patch has been discussed in several uniform boards. Currently, the U.S. Army is the only service that wears the U.S. flag. The flag is attached to the uniform via a large hook and loop (brand name Velcro) patch. This is done to remove the ensign during washing; however, lint tends to catch in the hook and loop causing a problem. The ensign cannot be permanently attached because it will become discolored/faded during washing and would not bring honor to "Old Glory." Another big reason for not wearing the ensign on the Coast Guard ODU's is that the rolling up of the sleeves presents a problem.*



## Officer Temporary vs. Permanent Ranks

What determines temporary and permanent ranks with their longevity and tenure explanations with regards to flag officers? For example, President Dwight Eisenhower held the permanent rank of colonel, but temporary rank of general. Does this continue to exist until an official congressional affirmation, or whenever some other time intervals and sanctions occur?

— **CWO4 Jay Enginger, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Versailles, Ind.**

**Ed's note:** *Good question! The president still has the authority of temporary appointments to officers to any grade in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps during a time of war or national emergency. This is not authorized for Coast Guard officers at any rank. However, temporary commissions for the Coast Guard are used to allow high performing active duty warrant and enlisted members to become regular commissioned officers, and may revert to their permanent status. The Coast Guard Reserve does not have temporary officers.*

## Retirees and THE RESERVIST

Once we retire, do we receive THE RESERVIST anymore by mail? I usually go online, but have found out that some retirees get the magazine in the mail. Thanks!

— **PS1 Frank Larder, USCGR (Ret.)**  
**Tampa, Fla.**

**Ed's note:** *This is a common question we receive all the time at THE RESERVIST. Yes, retirees do receive THE RESERVIST, but can stop receiving it for a variety of reasons. The main one is not informing the Coast Guard about a change of address, and the magazine not being forwarded to your new address. Information on change of address is found on Page 2.*

## Armed Services and Lengths of Service

It's my understanding that if you serve 30 years (from pay base date) in the Coast Guard/Reserve, you have to retire if you can't get a waiver. But in all the other Reserve services you can stay until you are 60 years of age no matter how many years you have. Why aren't all the Armed Services the same?

— **PS1 Charles Weaver, USCGR**  
**MSU Wilmington, N.C.**

**Ed's note:** *Yes, you are correct, if you are not granted a waiver to go beyond 30 years of service you must either request RET-1 status (receiving pay and entitlements), RET-2 status (awaiting pay and entitlements), placement in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), or if no action is taken, you will be involuntarily placed in the Inactive Status List (ISL). Each military service uses different workforce policies for force shaping purposes. The Navy, for example, still uses High Year Tenure (HYT) where members who do not advance per their policy guidelines are placed in an IRR status, but authorized to drill for points only until age 60. Following 9/11, the CG implemented a blanket 30-year waiver where members were authorized to remain in drilling status because of the uncertainty of the impact a long conflict would have on retention and the expectation of growth. Once the affects were realized, the five-year phased out plan was implemented to return to normal policy and manage the advancement opportunities for junior personnel.*

## Plans for CWO5s in Coast Guard?

The Coast Guard's implementation of pay grades E-8 and E-9 occurred during my active duty with the service. In recent years, military-wide pay charts have contained pay grade W-5 for warrant officers. Has the Coast Guard implemented pay grade W-5? If not, are there plans to do so?

— **LCDR Edward W. Sampt, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Kensington, Conn.**

**Ed's note:** *No, the Coast Guard has not implemented W-5 for warrant officers and has no plans to do so at this time.*

## Where Are They Now?

A few years ago, THE RESERVIST used to publish an article titled "Where Are They Now?" Well, I was going through some old Coast Guard records of mine and I ran across the enclosed photo (published below) of five members of my command who were promoted to senior chief petty officers. These chiefs, as I recall, were the first five to be promoted to that grade back in 1971, and all from the PSU in Milwaukee, Wis.

In 1972, I was recalled back to active duty in Washington, D.C. and sort of lost track of these chiefs. These five chiefs were truly the cream of professionalism, and represented the Coast Guard Reserve in the highest manner. It would be most interesting to know where they are now and I'm sure they all would be delighted to renew old friendships.

— **LCDR James M. Shackett, USCGR(Ret.)**  
**Frederick, Md.**




**Ed's note:** *Thanks' for sharing a great photo from the CGR of yesteryear! In the photo above, left to right are: CAPT George Brigham of D9, LCDR James Shackett, SCPO Robert Callies, SCPO Richard Simon, SCPO Stanley Gumm, SCPO Donald Kimpel, and SCPO Merlin Peters. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of those in the photo, please contact the editor at: [TheReservist@uscg.mil](mailto:TheReservist@uscg.mil) or 202-475-5457. Thank you!*

## Correction

MCPO Phillip Wright's retirement photo information in Issue 2-09 (Page 54) stated he retired with 32 years service. He actually retired with more than 42 years service, July 19, 1966-July 21, 2008. Our apologies MCPO Wright — we just hope none of our elementary school math teachers are reading.





RADM Michael R. Seward, Pacific Area, USCGR, salutes as he pays his last tribute to RADM Bennett “Bud” Sparks during a memorial service at Shiloh District Cemetery, Windsor, Calif. June 13, 2009. RDML Dan May, left, and RADM Tim Riker, USCGR(Ret.) await their turn behind RADM Seward, while RADM G. Robert Merrilees, USCGR(Ret.) looks on from the right. RADM Sparks served in the Coast Guard Reserve for 47 years before retiring in 1989. For an “In Memorium” for RADM Sparks, see Page 32.

Photo by PA3 Levi Read, D11 Public Affairs





Enjoying a light-hearted moment at PSU 307's reunion are, l to r: CDR Michael Grassino, MCPO-CGRF Jeff Smith, CDR Craig Veley, CAPT Jeff Bauer, and CAPT Paul Crissy (at podium). Grassino, Bauer, and Crissy served as commanding officers of the unit during its first 10 years. Read the full story on page 18.  
Photo by PA1 Judy Silverstein, USCGR





By  
**RADM**  
**Michael R. Seward,**  
**USCGR**

**Deputy Commander**  
**for Mobilization &**  
**Reserve Affairs,**  
**USCG Pacific Area**

## Post 9-11 Training Challenges

**T**here is no denying that the events of 9-11, our plank-owner status in the Department of Homeland Security, and our service's greater focus on maritime security, have revolutionized the competencies required to perform our missions. And, in our Reserve Force, this presents significant challenges in obtaining and maintaining qualifications to work alongside our active-duty shipmates. In my travels throughout PACAREA, I have discussed these challenges and offer the following observations:

- **Accountability:** FORCECOM is now focusing on Reserve training and overall unit readiness, including Reserve qualifications and competencies that will be measured equally with active-duty requirements. This is truly one of the needed major benefits of Modernization. Because these readiness measurements reflect a command's overall readiness posture, I expect the Coast Guard will see proper focus on Reserve training materialize at all levels within the service as we have seen in the Deployable Operations Group (DOG) units.
 

By placing Full-Time Support personnel in sectors, Modernization is applying more direct resources to facilitate Reserve training where 70 percent of our Reserve Force is assigned. Deck-plate leadership, %coupled with well-articulated training plans and additional resources, where required, will ensure that commands are trained and ready across their entire workforce.
- **Resources:** Reservists add immense value for augmentation or immediate utilization upon mobilization when they are qualified to perform the daily duties where they are assigned, on par with their active duty peers. For some competencies, reservists need more than 12 days active duty for training and 48 drills to achieve qualification. We need to address this issue post 9/11.
- **Organization:** Qualifying people in new skills and maintaining currency requires significant planning. Long-range training plans that take into account individual development plans and unit workload stand the best chance of getting reservists qualified. Long-range planning generates immediate results and is the hallmark of a good command.
- **Leadership:** Getting reservists qualified is a team effort. Deck-plate leadership, both active and reserve, must work together to ensure that focused training is the priority. Commands that nurture this relationship achieve the best training results.

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*“...our service's greater focus on maritime security, have revolutionized the competencies required to perform our missions. And, in our Reserve Force, this presents significant challenges in obtaining and maintaining qualifications to work alongside our active-duty shipmates.”*

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## 2008 USCG Enlisted Persons of the Year

### Wilkinson, Sanders Named National Reserve-Active Enlisted Person of Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — MST2 James K. Wilkinson has been selected as national Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, while AMT2 Stephen M. Sanders has been selected as the Active Duty Enlisted Person of the Year. These two top Coast Guard members were honored in the nation's capital the week of June 8.

MST2 Wilkinson, stationed at Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach, is responsible for managing and leading a team consisting of two relatively junior MST3s in the inspection of hazardous material containers and shore side facilities for compliance with regulatory requirements. He is also responsible for overseeing all readiness issues, training and administrative processes related to his weekend team. During 2008, Wilkinson was single-handedly responsible for the successful qualification of 11 people, including three Coast Guard Auxiliarists as harbor safety officers, five hazardous material and container inspectors and four facility security assistants. This resulted in a 100 percent qualification rate. During one routine inspection in fall 2008, he identified a container that turned out to be a shipment of undeclared hazardous materials. As a result, the container was removed from service.

He organized three community blood drives with the American Red Cross in 2008 and is also an assistant scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop. Wilkinson, an engineering geologist with the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substance Control, regularly makes presentations at various schools about geology and environmental sciences.

"I am both flattered and extremely honored to receive this award," said Wilkinson. "I must say, I feel a little guilty receiving an award for something I enjoy doing so much and for which I've received so much help to accomplish. This award goes beyond just me — I am truly blessed to work with a fantastic group of people. Everything I have done has been with the help of great team members, an extremely supportive command, and a very patient and understanding family."

AMT2 Sanders, of Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., demonstrated responsibility far beyond expectation for his pay grade. He initiated and oversaw a \$45,000 renovation to spaces and tools for the air station corrosion and metal shops. These modernizations improved the quality and efficiency of composite



Photo courtesy MST2 James K. Wilkinson

***MST2 James K. Wilkinson, stationed at Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach, has been selected as the 2008 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.***

and metal repairs and significantly reduced respiratory hazards to our members. A consistent innovator, Sanders worked exhaustively to fabricate repairs to the aft cruch pad on CG6511, a major maintenance evolution normally only undertaken during depot-level maintenance. Faced with a technically complex and time-consuming task, he completed the repair and provided the quality assurance division with an outstanding product. He took extra time to photograph and document every step in the complex structural repair. A presentation was developed from his materials that are now used for training members in fabrication and repair procedures. Additionally, Sanders spearheaded a winter coat drive campaign in 2008 that saw donations increase by more than six percent, enabling the unit to deliver more than 130 winter clothing items to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission.

"It's pretty humbling, this is the award other people get, not me," said Sanders.

Wilkinson and Sanders were selected from 27 nominees nationwide. They were honored the week of June 8 in Washington, D.C., with a ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters June 10, the highlight of the week's events. For more info, see ALCOAST 273/09.

The Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year predecessor program began in 1984 and was originally called the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association's Outstanding Enlisted Coast Guard Reservist. NERA still honors the Reserve winner at their annual conference each fall. In 1995, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard's Office became the program administrator and it was renamed the Enlisted Person of the Year Program.

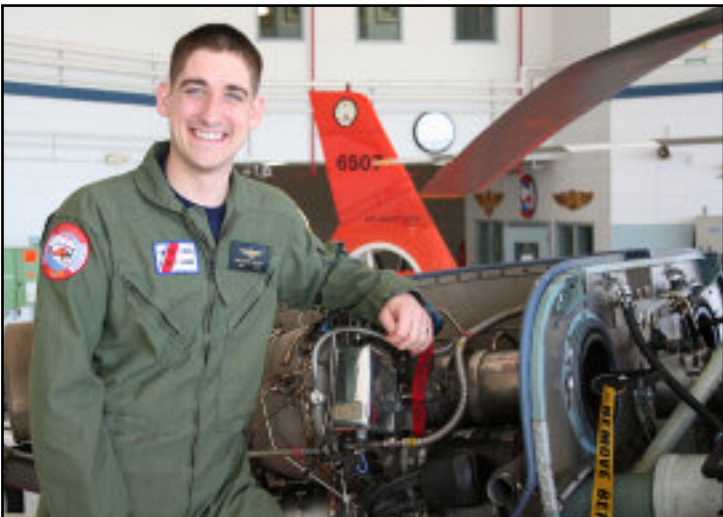


Photo courtesy AMT2 Stephen M. Sanders

***AMT2 Stephen M. Sanders, stationed at Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., has been selected as the 2008 Active Duty Enlisted Person of the Year.***

## Farewell...

*RDML Dan May, USCG Director of Reserve & Training, left, presents the Distinguished Public Service Award on behalf of the Commandant to Mr. Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, April 8, 2009, at a farewell ceremony for Hall at the Pentagon. Hall served six and a half year as ASD(RA), the longest in the position's 25-year history.*



Photo courtesy LTC Matthew Leonard, OSD(RA)

## When Not In Uniform...

*LCDR Wilbur A. Velarde, right, shakes hands with Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut during Velarde's courtesy visit to his congressman during March 2009. Velarde's civilian employment is currently with the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service at the U.S. Consulate General Ciudad Jurarez (Mexico). He serves with the USCGR at the Office of International Affairs and Foreign Policy.*



Photo courtesy LCDR Wilbur A. Velarde, USCGR

## CG Caucus Breakfast

*USCG Commandant ADM Thad Allen, left, poses with Fleet Reserve Association's National Executive Director Joe Barnes at the 2009 USCG Caucus Breakfast. FRA hosted its 11th annual USCG Caucus Breakfast June 3, an event sponsored by the association to spotlight the Coast Guard's tremendous service to our nation and promote dialogue between members of Congress, staff personnel, and key Coast Guard leaders. The caucus is a bipartisan group that shares a common interest in the varied missions of the Coast Guard and is co-chaired by three members of Congress who served in the Coast Guard: Rep. Howard Coble (N.C.), Rep. Gene Taylor (Miss.), and Rep. William Delahunt (Mass.). .*



Photo courtesy FRA, Photos by Chris Slawinski.

# PS to ME Rating Lateral Process

In June 2008, the Commandant announced the Port Security Specialist (PS) rating would integrate into the Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) rating when it stood up on Jan. 1, 2010 (All Hands Message dated 232106Z JUN 08).

The ME implementation team has designed a lateral process to the ME rating for current PSs and for reservists from other ratings who seek to lateral to the ME rating. The key principle is that every PS member, whether electing to lateral into the new ME rating or into another rating, must take positive action to initiate their lateral. The key deadline date for each member to initiate their lateral to the ME rating or to another rating will be approximately July 9, 2009. The lateral application process will close on Oct. 2, 2009.

To provide reservists advance notice of the lateral options and processes available to them regarding the ME rating, please see ALCOAST 348/09. The message will also include options for PSs who do not wish to lateral to the ME rating. An ALCOAST message will follow in July to provide additional ME lateral information to both active duty and reserve members.

All PS rated reservists will be required to submit a lateral application package no later than Oct. 2, 2009. However, all members are encouraged to submit their package as early as possible once the lateral message is released in July. PSs are highly encouraged to apply for an additional rate separately. Reservists not presently in the PS rating but who want to lateral to the ME rating will need to submit lateral packages. Forthcoming messages will describe the specific format, dates, and requirements for submitting these lateral applications.

The ME implementation team is standardizing the process by creating a unique lateral request form. It is worth noting that lateral approvals will take into account the work-force needs of all ratings. Lateral decisions will be published in November 2009 after reviewing individual credentials and ensuring the vitality of the Coast Guard work force.

Reserve members who may not meet all eligibility criteria for the ME rating, but who are otherwise deemed to be a good

fit for the rating, may be designated as a provisional ME. Provisional status is only applicable for reserve members. Those individuals will have a maximum of three years to complete all eligibility criteria. During this time, provisional

lateral candidates will have their progress checked periodically by the ME Rating Force Master Chief (RFMC) and Personnel Service Center Reserve Personnel Management Division (PSC-rpm).

PSs who do not lateral to the ME rating, or are not selected for provisional ME status, must consider other ratings for which they may be qualified.

Those members are encouraged to contact the appropriate RFMC for more information on

lateral options. Current RFMC force notes are also an excellent source of information. They can be found at the MCPOCG's Web site at: [www.uscg.mil/comdt/mcpocg/](http://www.uscg.mil/comdt/mcpocg/) (click on Rating Force Notes in menu on left).

In the interim, all PSs are encouraged to prepare for and participate in the upcoming October 2009 Reserve Servicewide Examination (set for Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, see ALCGRSV 014/09). Specific requirements and advancement processes for the ME rating will be detailed in an upcoming message.

It is also worth noting that there are some PSs who are presently in Deployable Specialized Force (DSF) billets who have remaining obligated tour-lengths (bonus recipients, etc.). Regardless of whether those reservists lateral to ME or to any other rate, they will remain in an ME billet at the DSF until their tour-length obligation has been satisfied.

Finally, as part of the Coast Guard's commitment to legacy PS personnel, PSCM Thomas McCook will relieve PS Rating Force Master Chief MECM Sam Allred, who is retiring this summer. MCPO McCook will serve full-time along side MECM Gordon Muise to facilitate the transition process. Questions should be directed to MECM Sam Allred, 202-372-1004, [William.B.Allred@uscg.mil](mailto:William.B.Allred@uscg.mil) (up until mid-July). After that, please contact MCPO McCook, [Thomas.M.McCook@uscg.mil](mailto:Thomas.M.McCook@uscg.mil); or MCPO Muise, [Gordon.J.Muise@uscg.mil](mailto:Gordon.J.Muise@uscg.mil).

— *By LTJG Patrick O'Donnell, CG-1311*



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## Stratton-Faurie Leadership Award Recipients

WASHINGTON, D.C. — LCDR Tina Pena, of Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 CAPT Dorothy Stratton Leadership Award while MST1 Vivian Eddy of MSU Cleveland has been selected as the winner of the 2009 MCPO Pearl Faurie Leadership Award.

Also nominated for the Stratton Award were LT Kimberly Andersen, MSST Seattle; and LT Page Switzer, NESU Boston. For the Faurie Award, HSCS Pamela Robins, TRACEN Yorktown, and YN2 Sagrario Medrano, SFO Valdez were also nominated.

These awards were established in 2001 and are named in honor of women who embraced the challenges presented by the admission of women into the Coast Guard. CAPT Dorothy Stratton was the first Director of the Women's Reserve (SPARs) during World War II. MCPO Faurie was the first woman to achieve the rank of E-9 on Jan. 1, 1964.

The awards was presented in Washington, D.C. on June 18, 2009 during the 22nd annual Women's Leadership Symposium. ALCOAST 292/09 announced the award winners.

# MOBEX 2009 Tests Sector Seattle's Integration of Total Force



Photo courtesy LTJG Christine Rostowfske, Sector Seattle

*Operations group on scene at the Port of Everett, Wash.*

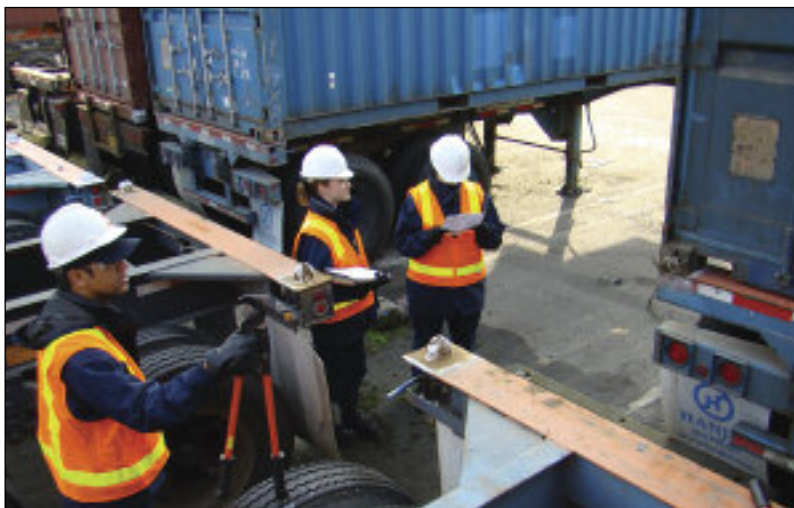
SEATTLE — Sector Seattle took another step recently to enhance operational readiness when it held a Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) in cooperation with Washington State Ferries and regulated facilities.

The MOBEX simulated a targeted rise in the Maritime Security Level (MARSEC) based on a simulated threat to the energy and maritime transportation sectors of Puget Sound. The purpose of the exercise was to test the integration of Reserve, Active Duty, and Auxiliary as they responded to a security level increase. The MOBEX also tested the newly established Sector Seattle Watch Quarter and Station Bill (WQSB), which assigns every member of the Sector a role in the event of an emergency.

According to CDR Len Tumbarello, Sector Seattle Deputy Commander, "This was a total team effort that operationally tested our newly formulated WQSB, the early notification alert system, and better prepared us as a unit to render the best response to a Level III contingency."

The MOBEX included over 400 Coast Guard members (Auxiliary, Reserve, and Active Duty), seven Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels, and 20 members from industry. Participants were spread over 13 venues as they responded to the simulated increase in MARSEC level.

Photo courtesy LTJG Christine Rostowfske, Sector Seattle



*MST3 Michael Kaleiohi, ENS Amanda Pistole and MST1 Rachel Lynn inspect containers during MOBEX 2009.*

Observers from regulated industry and the Coast Guard's Thirteenth District were part of the exercise evaluation team. While this exercise took place on a single day, the planning and preparation spanned months.

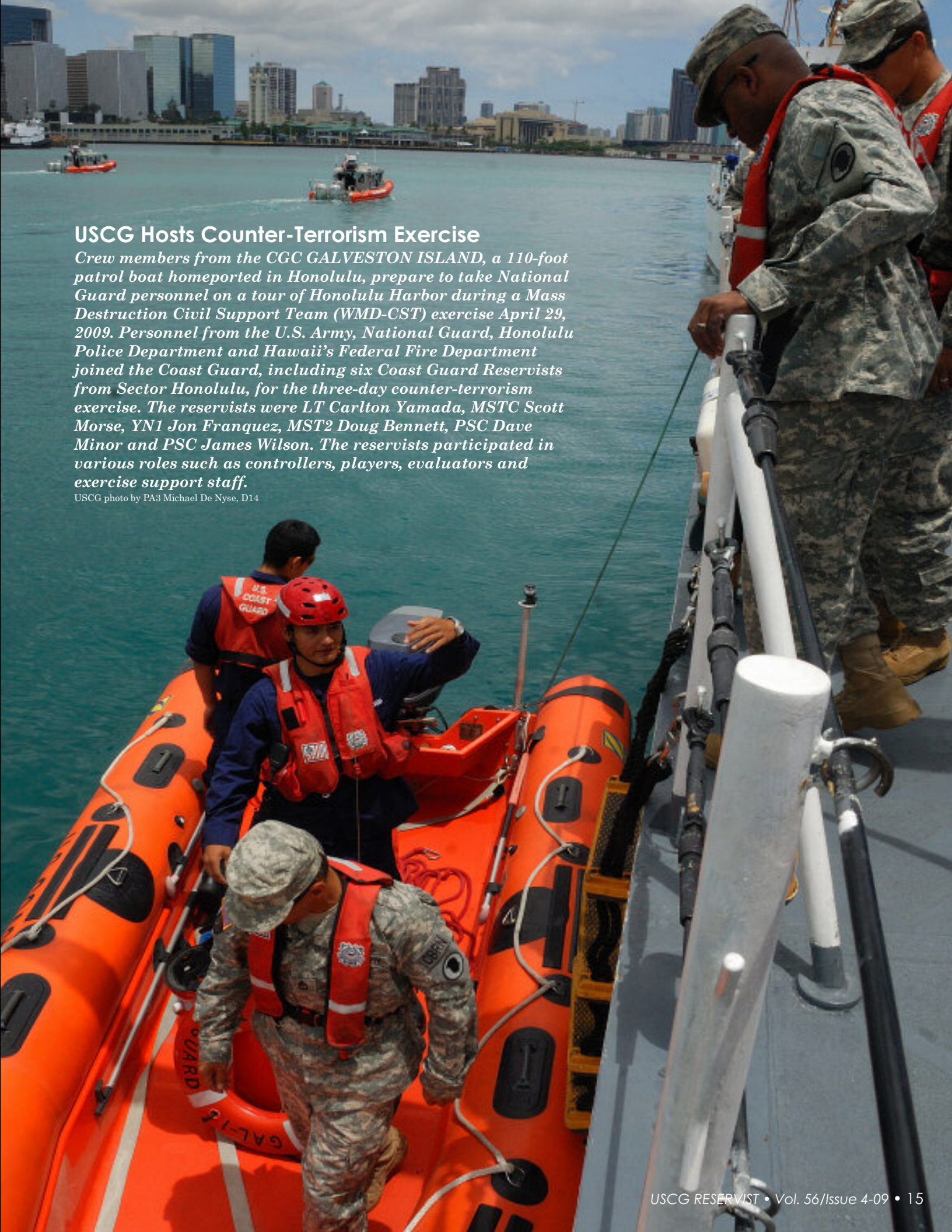
MOBEX 2009 was an innovative endeavor of unprecedented scale that incorporated numerous challenges that prompted Sector Seattle to elevate training and personnel readiness standards. To that end, Sector Seattle deepened its use of the Incident Command System (ICS). The Incident Command Post was positioned at the sector. The operations groups deployed to staging areas throughout the Puget Sound, testing communications capabilities and the chain of command. The sector also showcased the Emergency Notification System (ENS) to instantly contact members by e-mail and text message to

relay crucial mobilization information to all hands.

"The exercise was an excellent opportunity to reinforce our strengths and, more importantly, identify areas to improve," said MST3 Justin Chartier.

RADM John Currier, D13 Commander, praised the unit's "initiative and the tremendous planning that laid the foundation for this exercise. The scale of this effort clearly honed Sector Seattle's mission edge."

— *By LCDR Elizabeth Watson, USCGR*



## USCG Hosts Counter-Terrorism Exercise

*Crew members from the CGC GALVESTON ISLAND, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Honolulu, prepare to take National Guard personnel on a tour of Honolulu Harbor during a Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) exercise April 29, 2009. Personnel from the U.S. Army, National Guard, Honolulu Police Department and Hawaii's Federal Fire Department joined the Coast Guard, including six Coast Guard Reservists from Sector Honolulu, for the three-day counter-terrorism exercise. The reservists were LT Carlton Yamada, MSTC Scott Morse, YN1 Jon Franquez, MST2 Doug Bennett, PSC Dave Minor and PSC James Wilson. The reservists participated in various roles such as controllers, players, evaluators and exercise support staff.*

USCG photo by PA3 Michael De Nyse, D14

# Coast Guard, Marines Practice Joint Operations

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — There is no greater honor or award than the Medal of Honor. The medal is awarded to a select few service members for extraordinary heroism. One Coast Guardsman holds the honor, earned at Guadalcanal during World War II.

The story behind this Medal of Honor recipient mirrored a joint training exercise at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay recently between the Coast Guardsmen of Port Security Unit (PSU) 305 and the Marine Corps Security Force Company stationed here.

On September 27, 1942, Coast Guard Signalman 1st Class Douglas A. Munro led a detachment of 10 boats to insert a group of Marines into battle. Conditions for the Marines quickly worsened and they needed to be evacuated from the position.

Munro volunteered to lead the extraction mission and brought the rescue boats in under heavy fire. He placed his boat in the direct line of enemy fire to protect the Marines — many of whom were wounded — as they entered the boats. Munro was mortally wounded as some of the last boats were leaving, but survived long enough to know his mission was accomplished.

Munro earned the gratitude and respect of the Marines he helped rescue that day and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, as well as the Purple Heart, for his actions.

Coast Guard and Marine Corps forces at GTMO conducted a training exercise, April 8, using Coast Guard transportable port security boats to insert and extract Marines from a coastal range.

“The Coast Guard has a history of providing amphibious landing vehicles to the Marine Corps and the Army,” said Coast Guard LT Adrian Bellin, PSU 305 assistant operations officer.

The exercise was beneficial because it provided an opportunity to practice individual and unit movements and tactics, as well as allowed for two services to integrate and train together, furthering the support of the security mission for the



JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Sg. Blair Heusdens

***A Coast Guard transportable port security boat brings Marines to an insertion point during a joint training exercise at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, April 8, 2009. Coast Guardsmen from PSU 305 and Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company participated in an integrated insertion and extraction exercise.***

naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

“The exercise showed that two separate elements, with a little planning, could get together and make a joint operation a success,” said Coast Guard LTJG Micah Deyoung, PSU 305 communications officer.

Upon insertion, the Marines conducted live-fire maneuvers at Granadillo Range with M-16 and M-240 rifles. The Marines simulated a casualty, which the Coast Guard responded to and evacuated across the bay to the naval hospital. The exercise called for the evacuation of the Marines due to increased hostilities and the Coast Guard tactically extracted the Marines from the situation.

“The Coast Guard proved to be a professional force and got us where we needed to go,” said Marine Corps Capt. Adam Stiles, platoon commander of the 5th Platoon of the Marine Corps Security Force Company.

Communication was key to the success of the mission. Whether between separate services on land or those on water, communication was critical for the safety of all involved and the completion of the exercise. Multiple planning meetings prior to the exercise allowed each entity to become familiar with the terminology and tactics of all involved.

“We are always working with the naval station and the Marine Corps to further develop force protection for the base and the JTF,” Bellin said.

For more information about Joint Task Force Guantanamo, visit the Web site [www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil). For more info on SM1 Douglas Munro, the Coast Guard’s only Medal of Honor recipient, see the November 1999 RESERVIST, available in the magazine’s back issues archive at [www.uscg.mil/reserve](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve).



JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens

***Marines waded through water after exiting a transportable port security boat at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, April 8, 2009. Coast Guardsmen from PSU 305 and Marines from the Marine Corps Security Force Company participated in an integrated insertion and extraction exercise.***

— ***By Staff Sgt. Blair Heusdens, U.S. Army  
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs***





## Welcome Home PSU 305

### Coast Guard unit returns from Guantanamo Bay

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305 returned home to Fort Eustis, Va., May 31 from a six-month deployment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Family members and friends waited excitedly as two large, white buses transported the 83 Coast Guardsmen to the PSU just after 2 p.m. Sunday, May 31. They were greeted by their wives, husbands, children, and friends before gathering at 3 p.m. to be recognized for their achievements during the deployment with advancements, promotions, and awards.

The members of PSU 305 performed anti-terrorism and force protection missions, including patrolling the waterways around U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and providing internal security during

commissions, the legal hearings for detainees, at the Expeditionary Legal Complex at the station.

To fulfill this important mission, many sacrificed time with their families, missed birthdays, school plays, and other events. Some even missed the birth of their children while away.

“I’m ecstatic,” said MK3 Isaac Blakely, of PSU 305. “I’m happy to be home. I’ve been waiting for this for six months. The crowd was amazing to see when we pulled up in the bus. I’m so thrilled to be back.”

“I’m very proud, excited, elated - I’m just very happy they’re home from Guantanamo Bay,” said Katie Webster, sister of EM3 Matthew and FS2 David Webster, both of whom were deployed with the PSU. “Just to have them home — it’s a comfort.”

— *By D5 Public Affairs*

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***BM2 David Bangitt, with Port Security Unit 305, embraces his daughters after returning home from a six-month deployment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the unit's homecoming at Fort Eustis, Va., Sunday, May 31. Photo by PA2 John D. Miller, USCGR***

## PSU 307 Reunion

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — For Port Security Unit 307, a recent reunion gathering celebrated a history-making decade marked by deployments as well as personal achievements and milestones.

For PSU 307, an array of challenging assignments at home and abroad included repeated deployments to Guantanamo Bay, six-month missions outside the United States, and numerous post 9/11 assignments from New York City to Boston and Bahrain. Unit members certainly earned the “World Tour” T-shirts (designed by HSC Patrick Wiles) donned at the 10-year anniversary celebration May 16, 2009. The celebration included attendance by MCPO-CGRF Jeffrey Smith along with all three commanding officers to date, a formal ceremony, dinner at the Red Tail Lounge at Air Station Clearwater and a trip to the newly-opened and impressive Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, Fla.

Swapping stories, trading addresses and proffering advice, alumni and current unit members mingled, reminisced and smiled throughout the weekend gathering. Future plans include producing a Web site documenting the unit’s impressive history and another reunion in five years. On a more reflective note, they also know the list of places where



Photo by PAI Judy Silverstein, USCGR

**MCPOCG-RF Jeff Smith, second from left, stands with all of the commanding officers in the history of PSU 307, CDR Michael Grassino, CAPT Jeff Bauer, CAPT Paul Crissy and CDR Craig Veley, at PSU 307’s 10-year anniversary ceremony May 16.**

the unit has served will only grow longer during the next decade.

For more information and to join the contact list, contact LCDR Steve Bosau at: [Steven.J.Bosau@uscg.mil](mailto:Steven.J.Bosau@uscg.mil).



Photo by Officer Andrew Latendresse, North Las Vegas Police Department

## Law Enforcement Memorial Run

**LTJG Brian Godkin of PSU 311, passes the baton to the U.S. Marshal running team during Nevada’s annual law enforcement Olympic-type run from Las Vegas to Carson City to honor the state’s fallen officers May 1. Godkin, a reservist, is also a police officer employed by the North Las Vegas Police Department.**

## The Tour de Cure

**The Tour de Cure, a fund-raising cycling event to benefit the American Diabetes Association, was held at Hickory Hill High School in Chesapeake, Va. April 18. This year’s event had over 600 riders and raised nearly \$200,000, with Coasties helping out, of course! Left to right: CDR Bill Lane, GM1 Richard Young, SK1 Sean Rogers, LCDR Dave Strickland, USCGR(Ret.); and CDR George Bonner.**



USCGR photo courtesy LCDR Dave Strickland, USCGR(Ret.)

## Coast Guardsman Recognized Posthumously

DULUTH, Minn. — More than 40 years after a Coast Guardsman perished in Lake Superior trying to save three teenage boys, his children were presented with the Coast Guard Medal on his behalf.

BM1 Edgar Culbertson lost his life in Duluth during a rescue attempt to save three brothers who also perished in Lake Superior April 30, 1967. On that day, referred to by locals as black Sunday, tornadoes in southern Minnesota resulted in 13 deaths and Duluth found itself at the brunt of the storm with 20-foot waves on Lake Superior, gale force winds gusting to 45 mph with the lake temperature at 36 degrees.

During the storm, three teenage brothers had been seen running along the jetty by the North Breakwater Duluth Entry Light. A witness had seen one of the boys knocked into the water by a huge wave and the other two disappeared as well, presumed clinging to the light on the end of the pier.

A three-person rescue crew from Lifeboat Station Duluth consisting of BM1 Edgar Culbertson, BM2 Richard Callahan and FN Ronald Prei tethered themselves with a rope, spaced 25-feet apart and set out to find the missing boys. The rescue crew made it to the light but there were no signs of the boys. They were never found. On the way back from the light, a huge wave knocked Culbertson off his feet and over the sea wall onto the rocks killing him. For their heroic actions, the three



men were awarded the Coast Guard Medal. Culbertson's medal was presented posthumously to his parents.

Recently uncovered documents from the National Archives indicate that Culbertson had law enforcement training making him eligible to be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., in May 2010. Culbertson had served on both active duty during the Korean War and in the Reserve after the war.

On the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, April 30, 2009, Culbertson was memorialized during a service held in Duluth. His adult children were presented with replacement Coast Guard Medals along with the Fraternal Order of Police Medal of Valor for a fallen law enforcement officer. Also present was Coast Guard Fireman Ronald Prei, the lone survivor who met the Culbertson family for the first time. The cold, damp and foggy day of the memorial service in Duluth was a fitting background for the ceremony adjacent the

always unpredictable Lake Superior.

— *By PS1 Kevin Rofidal, USCGR*

**Ed's Note:** *Coast Guard Reservist PS1 Rofidal spearheaded and organized this ceremony after he read a plaque on the Duluth waterfront dedicated to BM1 Culbertson. Kudos to PS1 for remembering our service heritage.*



**BMCS Christopher Wissen, officer-in-charge of Station Duluth, right, presents the Coast Guard Medal to Casey Culbertson, left, and Cristin Culbertson Alpert, center, during a memorial service April 30 to mark the 42nd anniversary of the death of their father, BM1 Edgar Culbertson.**



# RFRS

## Reserve Force Readiness System The Blueprint for a 21st Century Reserve

### How Did It Come About?

By PSC Darren Bullock, USCGR, Sector Hampton Roads RFRS staff

Just after Sept. 11, 2001, approximately 27 percent of our Coast Guard Reservists were recalled. This service-wide surge of the Reserve component was the true test of where the Reserve program stood.

Its many professionals were willing and able to serve. But many districts and legacy groups were not certain what qualifications and certifications their reservists actually had. Many recalled reservists had to attend “ramp-up” training, lasting anywhere from two to six weeks, just to get the command certifications required to do their jobs. Many reservists were not medically or dentally qualified. As such, many reservists spent the first week or two after the call-up just trying to get their administrative readiness updated.

This systemic issue drew the attention of top leadership within the Coast Guard. It became a valuable lesson that we would not

soon forget. Although the reservists’ contribution was superb, the Coast Guard knew that it could do better. When ADM Thad Allen became Commandant in May 2006, he vowed to ensure the same problems did not repeat themselves.

He issued Commandant’s Intent Action Order #9, which directed Commandant (CG-1) to develop a Reserve component mission support system that “optimizes the organization, administration, recruiting, instruction, training, and readiness of the Coast Guard Reserve.” The Leadership Council approved the new organizational construct known as Reserve Force Readiness System, or RFRS.

#### What is RFRS?

RFRS is an organizational change in the Coast Guard that will be phased in over the next few years. Many of the full time support billets funded by the Reserve Training Appropriation will be placed

within the Coast Guard's new organizational structure to optimize the Coast Guard's employment of its 8,100 reservists and sustain the reservists' readiness. RFRS is part of the Coast Guard's overall Modernization effort.

As part of the RFRS implementation, the Commandant directed a special "roll-out" phase called Operational Testing and Refinement (OT&R). As a result, the Fifth and Seventeenth Districts were selected to conduct OT&R, beginning Feb. 16, 2009 and ending June 1, 2009. As part of this testing and refinement, we evaluated the staffing levels at districts and sectors. We learned and refined the data systems that track our readiness and qualification metrics. We built relationships with the leaders and staffs at the field commands, and resolved issues and problems that stand in the way of the valuable training that reservists need to do their jobs.

## Operational Test and Refinement

As part of OT & R, some of the things that are being evaluated are:

- Evaluate/refine functional statements;
- Measure initial effectiveness – visits, evaluation of strengths, weaknesses;
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures;
- Suggest changes to RFRS staffing standard.

**Test Question 1:** Are the pay grades and ratings assigned to the district and various sector RFRS staffs the best combination of training and administrative know-how needed to provide the tools and support the active duty commands need to provide a Ready Reserve force?

**Test Question 2:** Is the number of RFRS staff assigned to the sector the right number? Sectors within D5 received anywhere from one to five full time readiness billets to test the functionality and level of service provided to the SELRES at the sector sub-commands with varying levels of staffing.

**Test Question 3:** Where should the RFRS staff reside within the sector chain of command? One D5 Sector will test the functionality of having the RFRS staff in the logistics department. The other D5 Sectors will test the RFRS staff in the Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Department.

## RFRS Implementation Updates

We have a long way to go in fully implementing RFRS, and changes and refinements are inevitable. THE RESERVIST magazine will continue to publish RFRS updates in future issues. It's a long but exciting journey, and one that will surely make our Coast Guard Reserve Semper Paratus for the challenges that will face our service and the nation in the future.

## Chief Darren Bullock: Energy & Enthusiasm Behind RFRS Implementation

People who work with PSC Darren Bullock know him as "Bull." He and the other members of the full time Reserve Force Readiness staff assigned to Sector Hampton Roads have infused energy and enthusiasm into turning readiness metrics from red to green.

Bullock is one of the reservists serving on ADSW-RC for the Operational Test and Refinement phase of the Reserve Force Readiness System rollout. Bullock works directly for LT John Codd, a Reserve Program Administrator assigned to lead the Sector Hampton Roads RFRS staff. Bullock supervises an MKC, YN2 and a BM3. Other sectors within the Fifth District will test smaller RFRS staffs with different rating combinations.

This summer, three full time support (FTS) billets will be ordered into Sector Hampton Roads to join LT Codd and the YN2 from ISC (pf) as the permanent Sector RFRS staff. They will work within the sector's Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Division and connect directly with unit OINCs, XPOs, and unit Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisors (SERA) to ensure requirements are met and full support is given to units to meet those requirements.

To involve and inform their active duty and reserve constituents, the sector RFRS staff visited each of their subunits and communicated intentions and expectations. Reservists who were non-compliant in any of the reportable metrics were notified and given a 30-day window to correct any deficiencies.

To map their progress, the Sector RFRS staffs have taken three snapshots of the Reserve Force Readiness factors on the following dates: Feb. 16, March 1, and April 1. These metrics looked at participation, administrative readiness, and training readiness.

The new staffs are learning the data systems, understanding processes to correct deficiencies and focusing full time reserve program expertise on readiness issues. They are writing Standard Operating Procedures so that other districts and sectors can benefit.

"It has been a privilege to work on the Operational Test and Refinement of RFRS," said Bullock. "For us, it is a chance to leave a legacy in the Reserve program that will not only improve readiness and training, but also improve morale, retention rates, and professionalism across the Reserve program."



# D5 Commander: We're Paving the Way

By Nona Smith, RFRS Strategic Communications Team

Fifth District Commander RADM Fred Rosa has led the Operational Test and Refinement within D5 of the Reserve Force Readiness System since February 2009.

Three members from ISC Portsmouth (pf) have moved to the Fifth District's Plans and Force Readiness Division, forming a new branch — D5(dx). In the coming months, the full complement of the new staff will be eight members — both civilian and active duty. D5(dx) supports over 1,500 reservists.

"I am excited and very proud of the work we have done during this test phase," said Rosa.

"Standing up the Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS) staff in the sectors and district to support the operational

commanders is real integration of the Reserve. We are paving the way, establishing the right path and creating procedures that the entire Coast Guard will use to put the new Reserve Force Readiness System in place. The new D5(dx) has worked hard, not only on the procedures, but also on taking the message out to the field."

Rosa recalled the challenges in November 2002, when he reported in as D7 Chief of Staff. One of his first priorities was to prepare D7's Reserve force to handle the military out load

responsibilities.

"It was difficult in those days," said Rosa. "It took a large team and many hours to understand our capabilities and fill the gaps. It shouldn't have taken that much effort to surge the Coast Guard Reserve for a mission that has always been in the plans. As a result of that effort, and the great strides the Coast Guard has made since Sept. 11, 2001, I ask my field commanders (four sectors and two air stations), and the O-6's on my staff, to focus their thinking on 'what am I doing to make sure I am ready for a major contingency?'"

Rosa added that reservists are a big part of that equation, and there is no way to deliver a ready force for all hazards, all risks without a trained, competent and motivated Reserve force. He said that field commanders know that fully prepared reservists are their responsibility and they

know they must deliver a Ready Reserve.

"With RFRS, we are now providing the field commanders with the tools — the additional staff — but more critically, the Reserve program expertise," said Rosa. "The staff has been delivered, the functions and tasks have been developed, and the relationships between the RFRS staff and the field commanders have been established ... we now need to stay on top of it, support it and share it."



## D5(dx): RFRS' Time Has Come

By Nona Smith, RFRS Strategic Communications Team

The Reserve Force Readiness System is a concept whose time has come. That's the word according to CAPT Bradley Jacobs, Chief, Plans & Force Readiness Division (dx) for the Fifth District.

His incoming new (dx) branch chief, LCDR Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux and her team have been publishing duties, visiting stations and sectors, tracking readiness metrics and evaluating the staffing levels at each of the sectors.

An enthusiastic supporter of the new RFRS concept, Jacobs knows his staff will be providing top cover for several years to come until all of the full-time billets are established at the sectors and the RFRS processes are in place.

"Reservists are a critical element of our force," said Jacobs. "Our dx staff supports 1,500 reservists throughout this

geographic area of responsibility. Only about half of those are assigned to the district and sector chain of command. The other half is assigned to 35 other units including Headquarters, two training commands, Atlantic Area and MLC Atlantic, even at the Pentagon...."

Jacobs has already seen the benefits of a full-time staff with Reserve program expertise residing within his division, during the Operational Test and Refinement period.

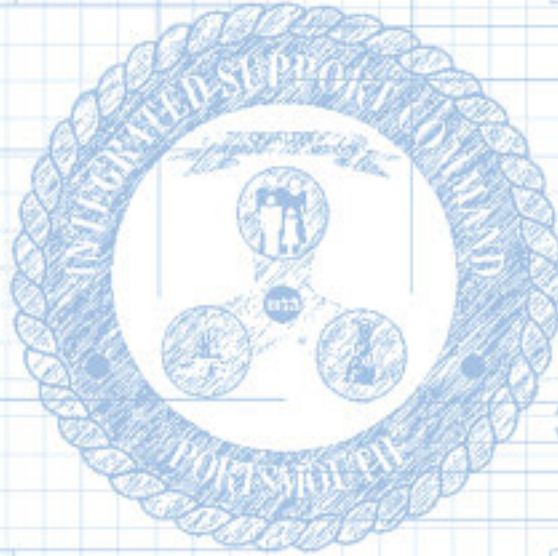
"This focused staff is dedicated to the intensive task of ensuring that qualifications and administrative readiness of the reservists are where they should be," said Jacobs. "They understand the Reserve system, can explain it to others, and have established the first in-depth soup-to-nuts system of force readiness."

# ISC Portsmouth CO: We Are On the Right Track!

By Nona Smith, RFRS Strategic Communications Team

CAPT Steven Andersen, Commanding Officer of ISC Portsmouth, traveled with LCDR Grzelak-Ledoux of ISC Portsmouth (pf) during spring 2009 to visit the sectors, lend his support, and explain the way ahead for the new Reserve management system. During the Operational Testing and Refinement phase of the new Reserve Force Readiness System, responsibilities for tracking Reserve readiness metrics moved to the field commands.

During this test phase, all of the legacy functions that are slated to move to other commands as a result of Modernization have not yet moved, such as central assignments and requests for TAD staffing for active duty commands. This means the



Integrated Support Command (pf) staff is simultaneously performing old functions, test functions, and establishing a new organization in the field. The (pf) staff enthusiastically took on this groundbreaking initiative. "We want to ensure no loss of service to the Selected Reservists or their active duty commands as we break out the functions for the station, sector and district Reserve Force Readiness staffs and test them with the first staffs," said Anderson. "We know what needs to happen, we have a plan to measure our progress and document strengths, challenges and recommendations. We can clearly

articulate gaps and take away best practices to share with other sectors and districts. I will miss the dedicated staff when they transition to district. But we are on the right track!"

## OPCOM & RFRS

By CAPT Kim Pickens, USCGR, OPCOM & RFRS Implementation Team

The key to enhanced Reserve readiness across Coast Guard units is at the field-level and throughout the chain of command. This is where nearly 70 percent of reservists drill, train, attain their qualifications, and mobilize and demobilize in support of contingencies.

The beginnings of the Reserve Force Readiness System, or RFRS, will phase-in over the next few years. This year we have identified the functions to be performed at each echelon (unit, Sector, District, and above) of the new Reserve management system and have provided training to the first wave of 75 full time Reserve Program Administrators and their staffs. Training for additional personnel will be offered later this summer.

Now when they arrive at their new positions at field commands, they will be trained and ready to provide direct support to reservists at operational commands and to the operational

commanders and supervisors charged with training them.

The ongoing Operational Testing and Refinement (OT&R) in the Fifth and Seventeenth Districts has been testing the best placement for our full-time support personnel within the Sector organization as well as evaluating the capabilities of Sectors at varying levels of full time support.

Our goal is to better understand the staffing requirements and be able to create standard functions across the Districts and Sectors. The lessons we are learning here will greatly assist other districts and sectors as they begin to stand up this year.

Each district has its own emphasis, its own focus, and its unique challenges. But where we can identify what works, where we can establish

which competency and readiness factors to measure and be able to use them to identify a ready force anywhere in the world, that's where we will have true Reserve program management.



# RFRS Implementation at Station Little Creek

## Station Oinc Discusses RFRS, Establishes SERA

By Nona Smith, RFRS Strategic Comms Team

As Officer in Charge at Station Little Creek, Va., BMCS Jeffery Ryan leads 60 active duty members, 42 reservists, plus a very active Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla of 54 members.

Station Little Creek's Ports and Waterways Coastal Security job is a 24/7 responsibility. The unit assists with escorts of high value units and has the Vessel Boarding Security Team attached that conducts security boardings on vessels entering the Chesapeake Bay bound for Hampton Roads or Baltimore. Its area of responsibility includes the busy Virginia Beach oceanfront, the popular commercial and recreational fishing waters surrounding the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, and the approaches to the Chesapeake Bay out 50 nautical miles.

Three 87-foot cutters — CGCs ALBACORE, BELUGA, and COCHITO — are home ported at Station Little Creek. The station yeoman handles over 200 personnel records, while the Station OINC is responsible for over 100 sets of marks.

As part of the Operational Testing and Refinement phase of the Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS), Ryan has participated by establishing the first Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor (SERA), a Selected Reservist named MCPO Robert Delgado. Together, they have tackled the participation, administrative readiness and training issues surrounding the 42 reservists attached, who are critical to Station Little Creek's mission.

"I have seen more progress in the last four months in bringing admin problems to a close and resolving training issues than I have in three years," said Ryan. "The readiness metrics for my reservists are moving into the green. Now, when the reservists come to the station, they can get underway, conduct boardings, or go to the range. The admin is addressed during the week by Sector Hampton Roads' full time Reserve Force Readiness staff and my Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor, Master Chief Delgado. They are working on issues during the business day so they can quickly and easily get things resolved."

Ryan added that the reservists know he is the marking official in their chain of command. He takes issues to his SERA, while the reservists take issues to their SERA.

"We had a full muster of our reservists, introduced MCPO Delgado and explained the new support they'd be getting," said Ryan. "The paper side our readiness needed the most help. It was getting in the way of training and conducting the mission. I've got great quality reservists — many travel from other states to drill here, but I can't keep them motivated with so many administrative barriers to their qualifications."

Hopefully though, under RFRS and the new SERA, these problems will become a thing of the past.

## Master Chief Robert T. Delgado, USCGR Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor Station Little Creek

MKCM Bob Delgado was ready to retire. He had a lifetime of service to be proud of including a tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy, service in the Naval Reserve as a Navy Seabee, and over 10 years with the Coast Guard Reserve, including a three-year assignment heading up the Engineering Department at PSU 305 at Ft. Eustis, Va

He decided to accept one more set of orders, to be the first Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor (SERA) in the Fifth District.

In April 2009, with 39 years of service, in a ceremony at Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic, where he serves as a civilian on the Advanced Ships Systems Instructional Support Team, Bob Delgado pinned on master chief.

He had interviewed for the new role of Senior Enlisted Reserve Advisor, an uncharted and untested role that meant he wouldn't be underway nor working on the boats. Instead, he would be working with the Coast Guard Business Intelligence metrics and other

administrative issues, at a very busy Coast Guard Station. He would be getting to know the issues and roadblocks that were getting in the way of the administrative and training readiness of 42 reservists.

But he isn't doing this alone.

Five people with Reserve program expertise, working full time at Sector Hampton Roads, as part of the new Reserve Force Readiness System staff, are there to help. The sector RFRS staff not only taught him the data systems, but also follow-up procedures for issues for him during the week.

"In the first 30 days of this assignment, I was on the phone daily with the sector RFRS staff, asking questions, dissecting problems," said Delgado. "The sector RFRS staff could call the medical staff during the business week, ensure that physicals and dental exams were entered in the system, etc." said Delgado.

"This took an enormous workload off of me," said BMCS Jeffery Ryan, the Station OINC. "Now the master chief and the sector RFRS staff take care of the reserve admin Monday through Friday so on Saturday and Sunday the reservists are underway!"





# FORCECOM "Open for Business"

## Reserve Force Readiness Division - FC-1 Stood Up June 1

By Nona Smith, RFRS Strategic Communications Team and LT Monique Roebuck, USCGR

The FORCECOM Reserve Force Readiness Division (FC-1) is one of the elements within FORCECOM that stood up on June 1, 2009. Meanwhile, FORCECOM was commissioned June 2, 2009 (see ALCOAST 328/09 for more information).

Currently, the complete implementation of FORCECOM and the Operations Command (OPCOM) awaits congressional approval. Until then, approximately half of FORCECOM transitioned to its new functions June 1 under the command of RADM Timothy Sullivan.

FC-1 will be led by an O-6 Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) and divided into three branches, all with Reserve program expertise. The three branches within FC-1 are FC-13 Reserve Workforce Management, FC-15 Reserve Training and Financial Management, and FC-17, Reserve Standardization, Analysis and Compliance.

The incoming members of the FC-1 senior staff have been identified, with CAPT Jeff Saine, USCGR, on an ADSW contact to start and with CAPT William "Bill" Rall, USCG, following on later this year as the FC-1 Chief. Staff position descriptions are complete, and PCS orders have been issued.

### FC-1 Successes

The FC-1 interim staff is fully functioning, and has begun the demanding task of writing doctrine to target their customers and stakeholders, including a business plan and organization manual that are nearly complete. FC-1 will be fully staffed by 2012, when additional RPA and Full Time Support (FTS) billets are filled.

FC-1's new workspaces were ready for the staff in mid-May, relocating the entire staff to Coast Guard Island in Alameda, Calif. (Building 50-1). This may seem insignificant, but given the myriad of changes currently underway due to Coast Guard Modernization, many staffs will be geographically separated during the initial transition stages until office spaces are redesigned and work locations shift. The interim FC-1 staff has visited units across the country, from Guam to Maine and from Kodiak to Key West, providing informational briefings to district and sector commanders, Senior Reserve Officers (SRO)s and crews, on RFRS initiatives and FC-1's role in the post-modern Coast Guard world. They have received overwhelming support from active duty

commanders and staff on the concept of RFRS and appropriate use of (FTS) staff. They continue to refine networks with the district (dxr) staffs in conjunction with OC-1 and are working closely with OC-1 to define roles and responsibilities for both.

### FC-1 Challenges

As with all organizational changes, Coast Guard Modernization presents many challenges. For FC-1, defining each division's "world of work," in relation to district (dxr) functions is no exception. To make this work, FORCECOM is working to develop doctrine that defines the FC-1 to district (dxr) relationship and responsibilities. This will serve as guidance for seamless transactions that will benefit the entire Coast Guard.



# D17 Tests RFRS

By LT Andrew J. Taylor, ISC Ketchikan Detachment Juneau (fot)

On Feb. 16, 2009 the Seventeenth Coast Guard District and Fifth District initiated the Operational Testing and Refinement of the Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS), prior to the planned implementation of RFRS in June 2009.

Under RFRS, ISC Force Optimization and Training functions for Reserve readiness and training shifted to districts and sectors. The D17 RFRS construct has one RPA LCDR billet and one full-time support SKI billet to manage 60 reserve billets. The D17 Reserve Management staff (dxr) and D17 Senior Reserve Officer conducted successful rollout briefs with D17 (dcs/dx), and Sectors Anchorage and Juneau on RFRS. They explained the realignment of RPA and FTS support to directly oversee the management and readiness of Reserve forces.

Additionally, emphasis was placed on aligning unit training plans with individual development plans to better forecast

future Reserve training (AFC-90) needs. As D17(dxr) fine tunes the district and sector functional duties, primary focus will be on increased customer service to our reservists and increased reserve readiness. D17 (dxr) is currently working on:

- Memo of Understanding in place with PSSU SPO for reserve orders approval authority, thereby enabling one stop shopping for reserve orders approval at D17 (dxr);
- Improve process for mobilization and demobilization;
- Improved process for contingency operations

preparedness.

Overall D17(dxr) has made significant changes and is modernizing district-level reserve systems in step with the Coast Guard strategic modernization effort and RFRS.



## MODERNIZATION

DCO

DCMS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OPCOM

FORGECOM



# HQ RFRS Implementation Team

## Small Full-Time Staff Committed to see RFRS Get Off Ground

There are more than 60 people working on the implementation team for the Reserve Force Readiness System. They include RPAs, civilian employees, active duty, and Selected Reserve members. For the majority of these team members, work on the implementation team is a voluntary collateral duty. The enormous progress made in the past year toward making RFRS a reality is testimony to their commitment to the Reserve program and their willingness to contribute extra hours.

Not everything in RFRS can be done as a part-time job, however. The implementation team is directed by a small full-time staff in the Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-131) at Coast Guard Headquarters. This Program Management Office (PMO) is headed by CAPT Frank Mullen, a SELRES officer brought on active duty specifically to lead the PMO. Mullen is on a leave of absence from Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass., where he has organized and led research and development projects for many years.

Assisting Mullen are LCDR Jim McCown and LCDR Carl Greene. McCown is an RPA with broad experience both within the Reserve program and in the operational community, most recently as supervisor of Sector Field Office Southwest Harbor, Maine. Greene joined the PMO for the summer of 2009 to help with the extra workload associated with the actual stand-up of RFRS. A SELRES officer on ADSW-RC, Greene is a construction contractor in Boston.

LT Greg Peck, another RPA and a combat veteran from a previous hitch in the Marine Corps, is the PMO's "engineer." He has tended to the details of specifying the billets to be assigned to RFRS and orchestrating the sequencing of billet



CAPT Frank Mullen leads the RFRS Implementation Team



transfers. YN2 Dana Kee, a SELRES on ADSW-RC, is in charge of document configuration control and administrative support for the PMO. Kee brings experience as an executive assistant in the scientific and engineering industries in California.

Ms. Peg Blomme maintains the RFRS program plan, an electronic file of tasks and schedules. She works closely with each of the implementation team group leaders to ensure timely execution and coordination of tasks. Blomme is a contractor with great experience in project management and quality engineering. Her part-time job is as a Coast Guard Reserve captain.

The PMO is expected to be in place until the summer of 2010, by which time nearly all of RFRS will have been established. Beyond that, direction of the system will come from the regular Reserve program staffs at Headquarters, OPCOM, and FORCECOM.

Since 2008, *THE RESERVIST* has been spotlighting each of the Coast Guard's nine districts with short, informative articles and will continue to highlight each district until we're "tour complete" in Issue 5-09 when the "First District" shall be the last featured. For now, however, the spotlight shines on D5.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, PORTSMOUTH

After exploring southeast Virginia in 1607, John Smith described the region as one of the "most pleasant places known, for large and pleasant navigable rivers," and that "heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for mans habitation."

What Smith described 400 years ago is today home to the Fifth Coast Guard District. Headquartered in Portsmouth, Va. — just down river from Smith's colony at Jamestown — it extends from New Jersey and south Pennsylvania to North Carolina, and is the guardian of 156,000 square miles of ocean, bays, rivers, wetlands and tidal marshes.

The Fifth District Commander is currently RADM Fred Rosa, but RADM Wayne Justice will assume command this summer. The Fifth District Senior Reserve Officer is CAPT Maureen Steinhouse while CAPT Francis Pelkowski serves on active duty as Acting Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs (CG-131). The Command Master Chief is MCPO Thomas Botzenhart, and his Reserve counterpart is MCPO George Williamson.

The region's accessibility to water and its pleasant weather still attract commercial and recreational boaters. Keeping them as well as the waterways safe is a multifaceted job that represents the entire scope of the Coast Guard's missions. In meeting this responsibility, the Fifth District's four sectors rival each other for versatility.

For example, the region's temperate climate encourages year-round boating and fishing, resulting in the Coast Guard's search and rescue mission becoming one of the Fifth District's prominent areas of focus. The units of Fort Macon-based Sector North Carolina alone handle an average of almost 500 such cases a year. In order to prevent emergencies and enforce boating regulations, Sector personnel also relentlessly conduct recreational and commercial vessel boardings. The Sector's cutter and small boat station crews completed 3,084 in 2008 alone.

The strategic location of the mid-Atlantic seaboard also appealed to Smith. That also has not changed. Sector Hampton Roads in particular includes a dense concentration of military installations, including the world's largest naval base. To ensure security, Portsmouth-based Sector Hampton Roads maintains a rigorous pace of law enforcement and homeland security patrols in addition to SAR cases and safety boardings. The Sector is also home to a harbor surveillance system that tracks more than 21,000 vessel movements per year.

While steeped in history, the Fifth District is also home to modern facilities for producing and distributing energy. Sector

Baltimore, for instance, has both a nuclear power plant and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in its area of responsibility. Sector units provide armed vessel escorts to tankers transiting to and from the Cove Point LNG facility in addition to ensuring that Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant is safe from waterborne threats. Moreover, similar to the other sectors in the Fifth District, Sector Baltimore personnel are always prepared to respond to environmental contingencies — from any source — in the upper Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The reason for so much ship traffic — and why the mid-Atlantic was quickly developed after its initial settlement in the 17th century — is the region's suitability for maritime trade. For example, the area of responsibility for Sector Delaware Bay, headquartered in Philadelphia, is home to the largest North American port for steel, paper and meat.

Like its counterparts within the Fifth District, Sector Delaware Bay supports and safeguards this commerce through its waterways missions, which include maintaining 915 aids to navigation and even icebreaking. The Sector also tirelessly scrutinizes the port's infrastructure and incoming cargo for potential threats or hazards. For instance, inspectors examined 1,205 intermodal containers in 2008, and conducted 438 security compliance inspections of port facilities.

Assisting the Fifth District's sectors with these missions are 22 cutters and two air stations. Air Station Atlantic City, for instance, contributes to aerial security for the National Capital Region. Both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft from Air Station Elizabeth City participate in search and rescue cases throughout the District.

In addition to their diverse missions, the 2,475 active duty, 728 reserve, 800 auxiliary and 56 civilian personnel assigned to the Fifth District also have a variety of reasons to enjoy leisure time. In fact, the same reasons that make duty in the District so varied also contribute to the quality of life there. The moderate climate, for instance, encourages outdoor sports. And in addition to these almost year-round recreational opportunities, the proximity of major cosmopolitan centers such as Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia offer a wealth of cultural opportunities for Fifth District personnel and their families.

It is doubtful that John Smith could have imagined all this when he described the region for British readers in 1607. On the other hand, his vision was in part the impetus for the growth of what the Fifth District protects — as well as enjoys — today.



— By PA2 John D. Miller,  
Fifth Coast Guard District Public Affairs

# ISC PORTSMOUTH (pf)

Welcome to the historic Hampton Roads area, whose east-west boundaries were established and have not changed since the events of 1607. Led by Captain Christopher Newport, small ships came to land on what is now known as Cape Henry and after 18 days of exploration, settled into an area off the James River, later called Jamestown. The region has seen change ever since. In 1996, when the Coast Guard Atlantic Command and Maintenance Logistics Command Atlantic left New York to settle into Hampton Roads, Integrated Support Command Portsmouth (pf) was standing up for the first time as the Coast Guard reorganized its business lines.

Today, ISC Portsmouth (pf) supports over 1,500 Coast Guard Reservists throughout its Area of Responsibility (AOR), that includes North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, New Jersey and most of Pennsylvania. Nearly half of reservists are assigned in the District and its Sectors. The remainder are assigned among a diverse customer base, including Coast Guard Headquarters, two training commands, LANTAREA and MLCA staffs, the Deployable Operations Group staff, PSU 305, and DOD liaisons with the Pentagon and Joint Forces Command. With 33 percent of LANTAREA forces within its AOR, the ISC Portsmouth (pf) work flow is anything but routine. In addition to identifying and filling a third of the LANTAREA surge requirements, ISC Portsmouth (pf) has been on the leading edge of mobilization support since the events of Sept. 11. Just when the pace began to slow to a dull roar, along came the three sisters — Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The (pf) staff was working double shifts to keep pace with the requests for forces in addition to the normal flurry of customer support.

Now with “Modernization” on the lips of every Coast Guard member, ISC Portsmouth (pf) is again on the point of the spear,

having been designated as one of two primary sites for Operational Testing and Refinement (OT&R) to integrate Reserve management functions within modernization parameters. The ISC Portsmouth (pf) staff has been heavily engaged with District Five to develop and refine crosswalk functions that will stand up within the D5 staff as well as identify and publish proposed duties that will fall on Reserve management at the Sector level. ISC Portsmouth (pf) will also implement processes to effectively track Reserve readiness matrices and continue to refine them throughout OT&R. The ISC CO, CAPT Steve Andersen and (pf) Branch Chief, LCDR Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux, have been “on the road” delivering a succinct uniform message and providing clear guidance in mapping the way ahead for Reserve management. The lessons learned will help to document a seamless transition of Reserve management functions to be used as a template for all other Force Optimization Staffs throughout the Coast Guard.

With Modernization comes change. With change, some of the traditional (pf)/(FOT) roles move to new organizations, and the detailers have been busy identifying and issuing orders to the military personnel in our office. Once the dust settles, only three of the current (pf) staff will remain. LCDR Grzelak-Ledoux, LT Robert Pence, and Mr. Lehan Crane are scheduled to become part of the new District (dxr) staff. Five new active duty and civilian Reserve management personnel will be joining the (dxr) staff in the coming months. For the present time, one thing remains constant: The new (dxr) staff will still be supporting the same customers, including the 1,500 reservists for the foreseeable future, and no doubt, helping spearhead change in Reserve management as we transition into the future state of Modernization.

— *By LCDR Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux  
ISC Portsmouth(pf)*



Photo by PA1 Kip Wadlow, D5 Public Affairs

**ISC Portsmouth(pf) staff holds an honorary groundbreaking April 21, 2009, for the Reserve Force Readiness System and D5 (dxr) branch. Kneeling are LT John Codd and PSC Darren Bullock; standing are Mr. Lehan Crane, LCDR Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux, BM3 Ken Randazzo, SK2 Raegan Arnold, MKC Chris McCoy, LT Robert Pence, YN2 Eric Veling, YN2 Sarah Aldred, YN2 Jennifer Quintero, and YN2 Virginia Bockwitz.**



# USCG Liaison Officers and Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers

By **CAPT Steve Ohms, USCGR**

In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made it very clear to the Eighth District that liaison officers are vital to successful operations in a disaster. In recognition of the need, the Eighth District created a Liaison Officer (LNO) program in 2006. The Eighth District LNO program uses senior reserve officers as liaisons to the six FEMA Regions and 26 states in the district.

The key to disaster management success is having strong working relationships with the key stakeholders before the disaster. This initiative by D8 has proven successful in the 2007 response to Hurricane Dean and in 2008 for the April floods in Missouri, the June floods in Iowa as well as for Hurricanes Gustave and Ike.

The SELRES officers in D8 do this as a collateral duty and attend one workshop per year for training. This year, D8 celebrated its fourth LNO workshop by partnering with FEMA Region VI in New Orleans, La. Kansas City and FEMA Region VII hosted the workshop in 2008 because of its central location and to acknowledge that not all disasters happen on the coast.

The timing of this year's workshop on April 4-5 couldn't have been better planned as during the prior week, there was extensive flooding in North Dakota and the Coast Guard was mobilized for SAR and planning. During the 2008 Missouri floods, the Coast Guard was credited with saving 52 people. Both helicopters and Disaster Area Response Teams (DART) were deployed. For the June 2008 floods in Iowa, the Coast Guard mobilized two DARTs. As a result of this program, the Coast Guard enjoys extremely strong relationships with the FEMA regions within the Eighth District.

The concept of Liaison Officers is nothing new. For many years, there have been seven nationally funded billets for Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLO). These SELRES billets are usually filled with commanders and are coordinated by a captain. The senior EPLO is CAPT Margaret Blomme. The name EPLO is derived from a similar program that Department of Defense (DOD) uses to identify their disaster liaisons. Unlike the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard has a much more robust authority to operate in the continental United States. For example, the Coast Guard does not require permission to do SAR and within our statutory authority, we can do law enforcement missions on the navigable waters of the United States. Contrary to what might seem intuitive, the flooded streets of New Orleans or Cedar Rapids are not legally considered navigable waters.

As highlighted in the Commandant's Reserve Policy Statement, "Response to domestic disasters, both natural and man-made" is one of the three functions of the Coast Guard Reserve. The role of the Coast Guard LNO and EPLO directly support that function and make a real impact when disaster strikes.

If you are a senior officer and would like to broaden your career, consider applying for one of the EPLO billets or becoming a collateral duty Liaison Officer for your district. Not all districts have a formalized LNO program though the Seventh District has just launched an initiative similar to D8's.

*Ed's note: CAPT Ohms can be contacted at 816-823-2258 or via e-mail at: [steve.ohms@uscg.mil](mailto:steve.ohms@uscg.mil) or [steve.ohms@gsa.gov](mailto:steve.ohms@gsa.gov).*



Photo by CAPT Dan Croce, USCGR

*CDR Dave Teska, second from right, and CDR Chris Fahy, right, discuss Coast Guard roles and responsibilities lessons learned from the 2008 hurricane season with Department of Defense (DOD) EPLO counterparts. This discussion occurred during a hurricane breakout session held during the National EPLO*

*Conference in Henderson, Nev. in March 2009. Coast Guard EPLOs, while different in their mission from their DOD counterpart, share a common mission of supporting states affected by major disasters.*

# Coast Guard EPLOs: The Changing Face of Disaster Response

By CDR David L. Teska, USCGR, Commandant (CG-533)

The U.S. Coast Guard has a legacy of responding to citizens across the country affected by the trauma of a natural disaster. Its response after the massive flooding in North Dakota along the Red River in March 2009 or the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ike in September 2008 are recent examples.

A check of historical documents shows this response capability going back to the early part of the last century when the predecessor organizations of the Coast Guard responded to the worst natural disaster in the nation's history. The U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service answered the call after a devastating hurricane struck Galveston, Texas on the evening of Sept. 8, 1900 in which an estimated 8,000 people perished. Ships of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service brought in badly needed food, tents, and medical supplies to the city's survivors while the U.S. Life-Saving Service worked tirelessly to save lives.

The American public typically sees the Coast Guard response through the images of its search and rescue (SAR) and possibly marine environmental response. There is no doubt that these missions receive and deserve the attention they have garnered. But there is another slice of the disaster response/emergency management mission performed by the Coast Guard in support of federal response efforts to affected states and their communities. That component is the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO).

## EPLO's Key Mission

Members of the Coast Guard EPLO program and its staff at Commandant (CG-533) recently gathered with members of the Department of Defense (DOD) EPLO program for the annual EPLO workshop held this year in Henderson, Nev. Over 300 EPLOs and Defense Coordinating Officers (DCO) and their staffs gathered for three days of briefings, workshops, and networking on the role of EPLOs, disaster operations and special events. A theme of the EPLO repeated frequently throughout the workshop was that an EPLO's key mission is to provide support to a state operating under a presidential disaster declaration and the federal response agencies working to assist that state. Two key speakers epitomized the roles the federal government and states play in disaster response operations — Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons and National Guard Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command. Blum made history with his appointment as the first National Guard officer to serve as a Deputy Combatant Commander.

Coast Guard EPLOs, in existence since 2006, provide a critical link between the Coast Guard and federal and state responders during the response phase of disaster response operations. These Reserve officers help coordinate the delivery of Coast Guard forces to the affected area. EPLOs respond not only to disasters but also to National Special Security Events (NSSE) — a designation given to specific events that by their nature are seen as having exceptional security requirements. Coast Guard EPLOs deployed to several recent NSSEs — the 2008 Republican and Democratic Conventions in Minneapolis and Denver, respectively; the funeral for former President Gerald Ford in 2006, and this year's presidential inauguration. For the latter, a Coast Guard EPLO served in the operations center of U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Headquarters — National Capital Region, and provided key Coast Guard subject matter expertise and coordination throughout the week of inauguration activities in the nation's capital.

EPLOs remain a relatively unseen component of the Coast Guard's capability to assist federal and state disaster response efforts but the program is getting guidance with the drafting of COMDTINST 3025.1 (USCG Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer [EPLO] Program). The program is designed to have a single SELRES O-5 billet assigned to each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions. There are other disaster response, planning and liaison officer billets, both active duty and reserve, within the districts and some sectors. The seven EPLOs currently assigned are aligned with FEMA Regions I, II, III, IV, VII, IX, and X. Plans are to reprogram all EPLO billets to the districts with EPLOs dedicated to all 10 FEMA regions.

## EPLO and USCG Modernization

Under the Coast Guard's Modernization plan, program management and policy direction will remain with CG-533, but Force Command (FORCOM) and Operations Command (OPCOM) will emerge as key players in the EPLO program. FORCOM's role will be to oversee the training and qualification of EPLOs and their equipping and management of EPLO mobilization, while OPCOM will oversee the management of EPLOs across districts in order to ensure their availability as a national asset by the Coast Guard.

The concept of EPLOs has evolved in recent years as various versions of the EPLO concept have emerged across the Coast Guard. In 2006, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Eighth Coast Guard District stood up a liaison officer program of Selected Reserve officers who volunteered to take on the additional duty of serving on the Eighth District's roster of liaisons ready to deploy to State Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) and FEMA Regional Response Coordination Centers within the District's AOR. The idea has taken hold with the Seventh District taking up a similar concept (see sidebar story).

A key point to keep in mind about Coast Guard EPLOs is significant differences between them and their DOD EPLO colleagues. A major difference is that Coast Guard EPLOs are not limited by the Posse Comitatus Act, a law passed in 1878 that restricts the use of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and National Guard (Title X) for the enforcement of federal law. Congress enacted the Act to limit military involvement with civilian law enforcement activities. Coast Guard EPLOs have full law enforcement authority granted under 14 U.S.C. 89. Additionally, as an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard EPLOs are familiar with emergency management protocols such as the National Response Framework and can easily operate in Incident Command System (ICS) structure regularly used by state and local first responders. With primary missions of SAR, marine environmental protection, and maritime law enforcement, the Coast Guard is one of only a handful of federal agencies with direct "first responder" capabilities and resources.

Coast Guard EPLOs are a force multiplier. They bring senior officer experience and service familiarity, coupled with knowledge and expertise in emergency management to disaster operations and other interagency operations both in the joint world of DOD and the interagency realm coordinated by FEMA. As liaisons, they work to build the relationships and connections necessary to succeed. They are also available to expedite the delivery of Coast Guard resources to the affected communities. As the old saying goes, when a disaster happens is not the time to swap business cards.

# RADM Bennett S. "Bud" Sparks

## USCGR(Retired)

### October 10, 1925 – May 22, 2009

In May, the Commandant announced with regret the death of RADM Bennett S. "Bud" Sparks, USCGR(Ret.), on Friday, May 22, 2009 in Windsor, Calif. He was 83 years old.

Born Oct. 10, 1925 in Pittsburgh, Pa., the Sparks family ran a grocery store. After a flood, they moved to Erie, Pa. Rear Admiral Sparks joined the United States Coast Guard Reserve in December 1942, taking a train from Erie, Pa. to boot camp at Manhattan Beach, N.Y. He served in all enlisted rankings from seaman recruit/E-1 through chief petty officer/E-7 (there were no E-8/E-9 ranks until years later in the Coast Guard). He served as a combat aircrewman aboard a variety of Coast Guard aircraft, in the Pacific, Atlantic and European theaters, flying both anti-submarine and air-sea rescue missions. In 1946, he transferred to the regular Coast Guard, and in 1957, he received a field promotion to ensign. He served as both a Coast Guard and civilian aviator in Alaska from 1946 to 1957 on mapping missions for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (which became part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1970).

Following the death of his father in 1957, he moved from Maryland to Los Angeles to run the family wholesale gift business. He was one of the founding directors of the Bank of Hollywood, and the director of the Southern California Gift Show, which attracted many thousands of visitors, as well as numerous civic organizations.

From 1966 to 1989, he held nine consecutive commands: four Coast Guard units, three Coast Guard groups, and two U. S. Navy Maritime Defense Zone Sectors. He also served as district inspector for the Eleventh Coast Guard District and as Senior Coast Guard Reserve Officer for the Pacific Area in San Francisco and the Atlantic Area in New York. He commanded the United States Navy Northern California Maritime Defense Zone headquartered in San Francisco and later the Maritime Defense Zone Sector Six at the U. S. Navy Base in Charleston, S.C.

RADM Sparks' training included assignments at the Naval War College, National War College, National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and the Army War College.

Nominated by President Reagan for Flag rank in the United States Coast Guard Reserve in February 1985, he was promoted to his second star in 1987. RADM Sparks retired in July 1989.

"We were saddened with the news of the passing of RADM Bennett S.





“Bud” Sparks,” said ADM Thad Allen, Coast Guard Commandant. “Bud was a friend and mentor whose impact on the Active and Reserve Components of the Coast Guard was immense. Beginning with service in World War II, Bud rose from seaman to rear admiral and distinguished himself on active duty and as a reservist. He will be dearly missed but we will honor his legacy by aspiring to the ideals that Bud Sparks lived by — those of a Guardian.”

RADM Sparks was the first Coast Guard person to serve as president of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. In the 1980s, he served as Chief of the United States Delegation to the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. In 1990, he was appointed International Secretary General of CIOR.

During his term of office, the 870,000-member organization held its annual meeting in the United States.

He served as the National Deputy Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States in Washington D. C. from 1988 to 1991, with additional duties as Director of Administration and Director of Finance.

In 1989, he served as chairman of the Strategic Planning and Reserve Capability Study (SPARCS-89). The study posed a broader definition of the Reserve

Component’s National Security mission, served as a long-range blue print for the Coast Guard Reserve and provided the theoretical basis for Coast Guard-wide integration of Active and Reserve forces.

RADM Sparks held the Navy Distinguished Public Service Medal and twice received the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Medal. Other military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Arctic Service Medal, the Coast Guard Combat Air Crew Wings, and the Coast Guard Command Ashore Device.

A long-time member of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the NATO Grand Priory, he was promoted to Knight Commander for his services to both NATO and the Society.

A member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Windsor, Calif., his many volunteer activities included service as Chairman of the State of California Veterans’ Board, Board Member of the Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging and North Bay Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Nevada. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association, Chief Petty Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, among numerous other military organizations. In 1991, he was instrumental in the creation of the Windsor Police Department for the new city of Windsor, Calif.

In 1993, the Total Force Award was renamed the RADM Bennett S. “Bud” Sparks Total Force Award in his honor. The award is presented annually by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States to the Coast Guard unit judged to be the most supportive of a totally integrated Coast Guard force demonstrated by its effective use of Coast Guard Reservists.

“RADM Sparks was a phenomenal officer, patriot, and dutiful servant to this nation,” said RDML Dan May, Coast Guard Director of Reserve & Training (CG-13). “His significant contributions to the Coast Guard Reserve Program and the entire Coast Guard will continue to be felt for many years to come. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.”

In an article written by RADM Sparks and published in the March/April 2001

RESERVIST, he wrote: “If I had to choose one word that sums up my feeling about my more than five-decade Coast Guard career, it would have to be opportunity ... I am grateful for the opportunities afforded me by my association with our great Coast Guard. I urge each Coast Guard Reservist who reads this to seek out and utilize every opportunity the Coast Guard offers. It will be well worth your time and will benefit your Coast Guard Reserve and your nation.”

“RADM Sparks

embodied what is truly great about service to one’s country,” said MCPO-CGRF Jeff Smith. “He had great humility and never forgot where he came from as he progressed from enlisted to Flag rank. He was always interested and inquisitive about what was happening to the service and its people. He will be deeply missed and always fondly remembered.”

He is survived by his children, Bennett Jr. of Novato, Calif., James of Vancouver, Wash., John of Cotati, Calif., and Julieann Rosenberg of Windsor, Calif.; a sister, Doris Lederman of Bellevue, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. RADM Sparks was the devoted husband of Elizabeth “Betty” Sparks; at her death on Oct. 28, 2005, they had been married for more than 60 years. Two children, Richard and Donna, predeceased them.

A funeral service was held at Wells Fargo Center, Santa Rosa, Calif. at noon on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Interment followed at Shiloh Cemetery, Windsor, Calif.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions in his name to: The Veterans Home of California, Yountville, P.O. Box 1200, Yountville, CA 94599; Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 60, Arlington, VA 22203-1804; or the Alzheimer’s Association North Bay Chapter, 4340 Redwood Hwy., Suite D314, San Rafael, CA 94903.

Sources: ALCOAST 316/09, ALCOAST 335/09; THE RESERVIST magazine, July-August 1991, March-April 2001, CAPT Robert Pendleton, USCGR(Ret.), and the Sparks family.



Photo courtesy of Reserve Officers Association (ROA)

**Chief Sparks, center, is commissioned an ensign in October 1957 at Anacostia Naval Air Station.**



# In Brief

• **OCTOBER 2009 RESERVE SERVICEWIDE**

**EXAMINATION** — The 2009 Reserve Servicewide Exam (RSWE) is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17. All personnel intending to participate need to be aware of the requirements and their responsibility to confirm they are met. For more info, see ALCGRSV 014/09. Refer all RSWE questions to PPC(adv) at 785-339-3400 or e-mail: ppc-dg-adv@uscg.mil.

• **UNIFORM BOARD NUMBER 44** — The Office of Military Personnel (CG-122) anticipates convening the next Uniform Board on Sept. 15, 2009. Input from the field is strongly encouraged. **Suggestions or recommendations should be received by Aug. 31, 2009** in Memorandum format to Commandant (CG-122) through appropriate chains of command. For more info, see ALCOAST 222/09. Questions should be addressed to CWO2 Rockwood Ennis, 202-475-5369, Rockwood.L.Ennis@uscg.mil.

• **RESERVE MEMBERS WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS**

**SERVICE** — Effective Jan. 1, 2010, reservists requesting a waiver will have to submit requests for approval on a case by case basis. The five-year phased plan for reservists with more than 30 years service will end Dec. 31, 2009. For more info, please see ALCOAST 271/09.

• **PS TO ME RATING LATERAL PROCESS**

— The Commandant announced in a June 2008 All Hands message that the Port Security Specialist (PS) rating will integrate into the Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) rating when it is stood up on Jan. 1, 2010. The ME Implementation Team has designed a lateral process to the ME Rating for current PSs and for

reservists from other ratings who seek to lateral to the ME rating. To learn much more, see the article in this issue of THE RESERVIST



reservists from other ratings who seek to lateral to the ME rating. To learn much more, see the article in this issue of THE RESERVIST (Page 13) and ALCOAST 348/09. For more info, contact MECM Sam Allred, 202-372-1004, William.B.Allred@uscg.mil (until mid-July); after that, please contact MCPO McCook, Thomas.M.McCook@uscg.mil; or MCPO Muise, Gordon.J.Muise@uscg.mil.

• **USAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2009-10**

**ACADEMIC YEAR** — The Office of Reserve Affairs is pleased to announce that the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) is again sponsoring six (6) \$1,000 scholarships. Applicants must be Coast Guard Reserve enlisted (SELRES or IRR) or the dependent of a Coast Guard Reservist. Deadline is Aug. 7, 2009. Please see ALCOAST 322/09 for details.

• **TRICARE EARLY Identification Program Process**

**Update** — ALCOAST 330/09 clarifies early TRICARE medical and dental benefits for Reserve members and their families when the reservist is issued active duty orders for 31 days or more in support of a named contingency operation.

• **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR CG RESERVISTS**

— There are several VA Education Programs that may be available to reservists. For an outline of the programs and eligibility requirements for MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606), REAP (Chapter 1607), MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) and Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), check out the Reserve Web site at [www.uscg.mil/reserve](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve) (scroll down under “Hot Items” to read about Educational Benefits). The new post-9/11 bill becomes effective Aug. 1, 2009. If the Coast Guard approves the transfer of Chapter 33 benefits to dependents, you must be SELRES or on active duty on the day you elect the transfer. Members separated or retired from Coast Guard prior to Aug. 1, 2009 may not transfer benefits. If you have questions or need assistance, which could not be resolved with VA, please send e-mail to: [reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil](mailto:reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil). Please put your name in the Subject line, and include details of service, not school, and a contact number.

• **RPA 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**COMMEMORATIVE COIN**

— A Reserve Program Administrator (RPA) 50th anniversary coin has been produced to commemorate this historic milestone in Reserve history (shown here with CGR logo on reverse side). The cost per coin is \$10 to cover production costs and \$2 shipping/handling for up to four coins; if five or more, ask for cost estimate. If interested, contact CAPT Michael Price, 2019 Coast Guard Drive, Stafford, VA 22554, [Michael.R.Price@uscg.mil](mailto:Michael.R.Price@uscg.mil). Please make checks payable to: Michael Price. It is recommended that you order soon as the remaining quantity is limited. Once production costs are covered, any additional funds received will be donated to the Coast Guard Morale Fund.



• **RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBER WORKSHOP**

— The Procedures and Development team at Pay & Personnel Center (PPC) in Topeka, Kan. is offering a new workshop — *The Reservist!* It is open to all Coast Guard Reserve members and those assigned to assist Reserve members. Some of the topics include: Direct Access, ASQ, Direct Deposit, TSP, Reserve Bonus programs, advancement policies and procedures, your LES and Reserve Retirement Point Statements and more. For more information, go to: [www.uscg.mil/ppc/](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/), go to “Popular Searches” box on the right and click on “Workshops & Training,” then scroll to “Reserve Component Member Workshop.” Use the Quota Request Form for workshops being offered through September 2009. Travel and per diem expenses must be funded by the benefiting unit (no PPC funds available). ADT/ADT-OTD orders for reservists must be funded and approved by the servicing ISC.

• **PPC FY09 WEEKEND STAFFING**

**DATES** — If you need assistance from Pay & Personnel Center, Topeka, Kan. on the weekends, they will be open on the remaining weekend dates during Fiscal Year 2009: July 18-19, Aug. 1-2, Aug. 15-16, Sept. 12-13, Sept. 19-20. PPC’s number is 1-866-772-8724.



# Upcoming Events

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## JULY 2009

- **TRAINING CENTER YORKTOWN'S 50TH BIRTHDAY** — 2009 marks Training Center Yorktown's (formerly Reserve Training Center) 50th year! Several events are scheduled to commemorate this milestone including the unearthing of a time capsule (Friday, July 10), military ball (Thursday, July 23), and anniversary ceremony (Friday, July 24). For more info, contact LT Raymond Kingsley, Public Affairs Officer, TRACEN Yorktown, 757-856-2509, Raymond.S.Kingsley@uscg.mil.
- **COAST GUARD DAYS** — July 17-19, Port Huron, Mich. Contact the City of Port Huron, [www.porthuron.org/EventsCalendar.aspx](http://www.porthuron.org/EventsCalendar.aspx); 810-841-5507; [collinsd@porthuron.org](mailto:collinsd@porthuron.org).
- **U.S. COAST GUARD FESTIVAL** — July 24-Aug. 2, in Coast Guard City USA, Grand Haven, Mich. Parade and fireworks on Saturday, Aug. 1. For info, write: Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, 113 North Second Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417; 616-846-5940, 1-888-207-2434; E-mail: [support@coastguardfest.org](mailto:support@coastguardfest.org); Festival Web site at <http://www.coastguardfest.org/>.
- **SENIOR ENLISTED RESERVE CONFERENCE** — July 25-26 at Inverness Hotel, Denver, Colo. All E-8 and E-9 CGR Selected Reservists that are actively drilling (in a paid status), all Gold and Silver Badge CGR members (including E-7s serving as a Silver Badge), and active duty Sector Silver Badge members should consider attending. Reservations deadline is June 29. For more info, contact your local Gold/Silver Badge or YNCS Tracy Ripkey, 202-372-4532, [Tracy.A.Ripkey@uscg.mil](mailto:Tracy.A.Ripkey@uscg.mil).
- **CALLING ALL SPARS!** — Coast Guard City USA, Grand Haven, Mich. welcomes all SPARS (Women's Reserve) to the Coast Guard Festival July 31-Aug. 1. This year, a special plaque will be dedicated to the SPARs on the USCG Walk of History. For more info, contact the Coast Guard Festival at 616-846-5940, [support@coastguardfest.org](mailto:support@coastguardfest.org); [www.coastguardfest.org](http://www.coastguardfest.org)

## AUGUST 2009

- **41st USCG CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION** — Aug. 24-28, Atlantis Resort & Casino, Reno, Nev. For info, contact MCPO Tim Sheffler, Convention Chairman, 67 Flowerwood Drive, Falling Waters, WV 25419, [cpoa.conv@yahoo.com](mailto:cpoa.conv@yahoo.com) or [cgea.conv@yahoo.com](mailto:cgea.conv@yahoo.com), Web: [www.uscgcpoa.org](http://www.uscgcpoa.org).

## SEPTEMBER 2009

- **PS "A" SCHOOL DECOMMISSIONING/FINAL CLASS GRADUATION** — Friday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m., Training Center Yorktown, Va. This ceremony will mark the decommissioning and last class to graduate from the Port Security Specialist "A" School as it transitions to the new ME rating in early 2010. Current or former PS's are invited to attend this event. To RSVP and receive more information, please e-mail the Marine Safety Staff at: [TCY-PF-PSA-School@uscg.mil](mailto:TCY-PF-PSA-School@uscg.mil).
- **JOINT MILITARY SERVICES' RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY** — Saturday, Sept. 26, at Mystic Lake Casino-Hotel, Grand and Dakota Ballrooms, 2400 Mystic Lake Blvd., Prior Lake, MN 55372. Pre registration requested by Sept. 10 to be eligible for a special drawing. Cost \$27 per person. Contact Navy RAO Tuesday or Thursdays between 1000 and 1400 at 612-726-9391. Alternate contact is YN2 David M. Harms, USCGR(Ret.), 1003 W. Lyon Avenue, Lake City, MN 55041, 651-345-4431, [crookcatcher@embarqmail.com](mailto:crookcatcher@embarqmail.com).

## OCTOBER 2009

- **RESERVE SERVICEWIDE EXAMINATION COMPETITION** — Saturday, Oct. 17. All personnel intending to participate need to be aware of the requirements and their responsibility to confirm they are met. For amplified information, see ALCGRSV 014/09. Refer all RSWE questions to PPC(adv) at 785-339-3400 or e-mail: [ppc-dg-adv@uscg.mil](mailto:ppc-dg-adv@uscg.mil).

## NOVEMBER 2009

- **2009 USCG INNOVATION EXPO** — Nov. 17-19, at Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, Va. For more info, contact Mr. Fred Hooghouse, CG-0931, 202-372-4579, [Frederick.L.Hooghouse@uscg.mil](mailto:Frederick.L.Hooghouse@uscg.mil); Web: [www.uscg.mil/innovation/](http://www.uscg.mil/innovation/).

# Reunions

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## AUGUST 2009

- **PSU 302/309 REUNION** — All personnel who served in PSU 302/309 are invited to attend a reunion Saturday, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m.. This is on the weekend of the unit's Family Day, and there will also be retirement ceremonies taking place for past and present members. For more info, please contact BMCM Deb Marsh, [bravesfan309@verizon.net](mailto:bravesfan309@verizon.net), 419-352-8576.

## SEPTEMBER 2009

- **CGC UNIMAK** — Sept. 10-13, Boston, Mass. For info, go to: [www.unimak379.org](http://www.unimak379.org) and/or contact Mr. Eric S. Heald, [eric.heald@gmail.com](mailto:eric.heald@gmail.com).
- **RESERVE UNIT SAGINAW** — Fourth annual reunion, Saturday, Sept. 12, Williams Township Park pavilion, Auburn, Mich. Info: MKCM James Kozuch, 231-823-2818, [masterchiefk@charter.net](mailto:masterchiefk@charter.net).
- **CGC WESTWIND** — Sept. 11-13, Wilmington, N.C. For info, go to: [www.westwindassociation.org](http://www.westwindassociation.org) and/or contact Alex Mavica at [amavica@optonline.net](mailto:amavica@optonline.net).
- **NORTH COAST NEW YORK COAST GUARD ASSOCIATION** — Sept. 18-20, Sackets Harbor, N.Y. Seeking any Coastie who served in area Coast Guard units/cutters any year, regular, reserve, auxiliary and civilian. Contact: North Coast Guard New York Coast Guard Association, 4712 Glenwood Drive, Mantua, OH 44255, 330-274-2927, [skipper444@aol.com](mailto:skipper444@aol.com).

- **USCG COOS BAY WAVP-376 / USS COOS BAY AVP -25** — Coos Bay Reunion Association, Sept. 24-28, Baltimore, Md., 16th annual reunion of crewmembers and friends of the Coos Bay. Contact Richard Nolet - Reunion Chairman, 9906 Bellair Road, Kingsville, MD 21087; 410-529 3437; [DickyNolet@aol.com](mailto:DickyNolet@aol.com).
- **USS CENTAURUS (AKA-17)** — 18th reunion, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Mystic Hampton Inn and Suites, Mystic, Conn. Contact CDR George E. McCabe, Jr., USCGR(Ret.), 116 Knotty Pine Trail, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082; 904-280-3013, [congem@comcast.net](mailto:congem@comcast.net).

## OCTOBER 2009

- **USS JUPITER AVS-8 (AK-43)** — Oct. 8-11, Valley Forge, Pa., Crowne Plaza Hotel. Contact: Gary G Scheidt, AKCM, USN (Ret.), 770-934-5542, 404-314-5896; [gachssss@aol.com](mailto:gachssss@aol.com)
- **RESERVE UNIT PORT CANAVERAL** — Oct. 9-10, Doubletree Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Fla. For info, contact Bev Merrilees, [bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com).
- **USCG STATION / BASE BOSTON RESERVISTS** — Reserve Reunion Dinner and Dance, Saturday, Oct. 24, Base Boston All Hands Club. Contact: BMC Skip Newell, 508-238-4443, [astrokip@aol.com](mailto:astrokip@aol.com).

# Advancements

*Reserve Enlisted Advancements effective May 1, 2009 from Enlisted Reserve Advancement Announcement (ERAA) No. 005-09, ALCGRSV 017/09:*

## Boatswain's Mate (BM)

BMCS L M HITCHCOCK  
BMCS M C LEWIS  
BMC R J SMITH  
BM1 M A TREDO  
BM2 K J VIELE  
BM2 B A HANNA  
BM2 M K SPINKS  
BM2 J B COLLIS

## Gunner's Mate (GM)

GMC J P SHEEHAN

## Info Systems Tech. (IT)

ITCS R P GRESAK

## Investigator (IV)

IVCM T H LONG  
IVCS J E ENGLE  
IVC D E HICKMAN  
IVC P J GALLEY

## Machinery Technician (MK)

MK2 W C KING  
MK2 F J WOODS  
MK2 B L LOWERY

MK2 J L FINNEY

## Marine Science Technician (MST)

MSTCM R S CLAVNER  
MSTCS J F HART  
MSTC H N LANDHERR  
MSTC G P MORRIS  
MST1 M L REHBERG  
MST1 C D LEWIS  
MST2 J M OLSON  
MST2 D P CHELEMER  
MST2 J M KENT  
MST2 C M MADERA  
MST2 J N FISHER  
MST2 C G PRATT  
MST2 T K BRANDON  
MST2 J D LOGIE

## Port Security Specialist (PS)

PSCS W LASHTON  
PSC J D CALLESTO  
PSC C M GRADY

*These ERAAs, including unit designations, are available on PPC's Web site:*

*<http://cgweb.ppc.uscg.mil/adv/eraa-web.xls>. Questions should be directed to YNC Rony Harden, 785-339-3410, [rony.harden@uscg.mil](mailto:rony.harden@uscg.mil).*

# Retirements

## RET-1 (Retired With Pay)

### MAY 2006

PS1 GERARD E. BRESNAHAN

### JANUARY 2009

BM2 VERN P. TOL  
YN2 RICHARD G. CLARK

### FEBRUARY 2009

LCDR EDWARD E. MCKENZIE  
LCDR MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL  
IVCM JOE B. LINDSLY

### MARCH 2009

CAPT ROBERT K. ANDERSON  
CAPT DAVID G. O'BRIEN  
CDR JOHN E. PAQUET  
LCDR LARRY E. DUGGER  
LCDR STEPHEN E. LAWRENCE  
LCDR THOMAS M. SAMSON  
CWO4 ELMER C. ALLEN  
BMCS WILLIAM F. BUNTING  
FSC MICHAEL J. SHOVER  
HSC VICTOR S. BATTIATA  
MKC RANDALL E. JOHNSON  
PSC DALE A. PAPOTNIK  
BM1 JOHN F. RYAN

# Medals & Awards

## Meritorious Service Medal

CAPT Scott B. Beeson, Sector Charleston (MOL)

## Coast Guard Commendation Medal

LTJG Michael Doria, PSU 301  
MCPO John J. Kozeluh, MIFC LANT  
MCPO William Orton, D13  
MKC William F Brown, Sector Charleston (MOL)

## Coast Guard Achievement Medal

MKC David Haydis, Sector Rio Vista

## Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

PS2 John Overman, Sector Charleston (MOL)

## Good Conduct Medal

GMC Thomas J. Coger, Sector Charleston (MOL)  
MKC Jeffery S. Elkins, Sector Charleston (MOL)  
MKC Perry L. Sutton, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*\*  
BM1 Christopher J. Bloech, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*\*  
BM1 Donovan G. Snovel, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*\*  
MK1 Theodore B. Gittings, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*  
BM2 Jeffery M. Thor, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*\*  
GM2 Jonathan E. Bursch, Sector Charleston (MOL)\*\*

**Please note:** This awards section runs on the honor system — if you've received an award recently that you'd like to see published, send a copy of your award citation via e-mail to: [TheReservist@uscg.mil](mailto:TheReservist@uscg.mil).

\*\* Second award;

\*\*\* Third award



**Reservist BM2 Gregory Sadowski, left, receives his E-5 advancement certificate from BMCM Robert Milmo, Officer in Charge, Station Jones Beach, N.Y. at a ceremony April 1, 2009. Sadowski has been assigned to Station Jones Beach since 2001 and resides in Elizabeth, N.J.**

MK1 DOUGLAS B. WHITLEY  
 PS1 GERALD L. BROOKS  
 YN1 SUSAN J. BENNER  
 YN1 LINDA C. PHIPPS  
 BM2 CHARLES T. SEIDL  
 DC2 JOHN S. BEHR  
 IV2 HAROLD W. HANSON  
 PS2 ALVIN E. KRUSE

**RET-2**  
**(Retired Without Pay)**

**MARCH 2009**

CDR WARD G. PARKER  
 ITCS SCOTT M. BLANEY  
 MKCS ROBERT S. GOLDENBERG  
 BMC TERRY V. ANDERSON  
 PSC DAVID F. DARTENAY  
 DC1 HAROLD A. LINCOLN  
 MST1 JULIO C. DELGADO  
 MST1 JERRY L. LEMASTER  
 SK1 JOHN M. HEINZ, JR.

Source: Ms. Linda S. Frank, Pay & Personnel Center (ras)



Photo by Mr. Barbara Ndaye

*CWO2 Gloria East, left, is presented with an advance copy of her presidential inaugural story, "A Career Highlight," published in Issue 2-09 of THE RESERVIST. Presenting the advance copy to East is MCPO Mark Allen, USCGR, who was on hand for East's retirement ceremony in Harrisburg, Pa. March 14, 2009. East served 26 years total in the Coast Guard, with the first few years as a drilling reservist.*



Photo by MCPO-CGRF Bill Phillips, USCGR(Ret.)

*MCPO William "Willie" P. Orton, right, is presented with the Coast Guard Commendation Medal along with his retirement certificate by CAPT Frederick Myer, Sector Portland, Ore., center. Orton's retirement ceremony, held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 in Portland, honored him for his 32 years and five months of combined military service, with 27 of those years in the USCGR.*

*BMCM George E. Stanley is piped ashore along with his wife, Mildred, at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony April 30 at Support Center Elizabeth City, N.C. Stanley served 37 years, 41 days total in our Coast Guard, including 27 years in the CGR. Approximately 100 shipmates were present for Stanley's ceremony.*



Photo by Dave Silva



• **CAPT William R. Brinkmier, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 6, 2009, in Orange City, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Martha Brinkmier.

• **CAPT Gregory E. Shapley, USCGR(Ret.)**, Feb. 19, 2009, in Miami, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Janet Shapley.

• **CDR Vincent J. Grill, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 10, 2009, in Troy, N.Y. He is survived by his daughter, Sugi Pickard. Interment Farmingdale, N.Y.

• **CDR Roger S. Tucker, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 8, 2009, in Clearwater, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Mamie Tucker. Interment Serenity Gardens, Largo, Fla.

• **CDR Donald J. Willenborg, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 15, 2009, in Syracuse, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, April Willenborg.

• **CDR Kenneth C. Ziegfeld, USCGR(Ret.)**, Jan. 28, 2009.

• **CDR Donald R. Zuchelli, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 20, 2009, in Milford, Del. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Zuchelli.

• **LCDR Harry P. Gaines, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 8, 2009, in Fresno, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Marianne Gaines.

• **LCDR James L. Reeder, USCGR(Ret.)**, Feb. 24, 2009, in Philadelphia, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Reeder.

• **CWO4 William A. McKinney, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 3, 2009, in Ontario, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Jean McKinney; a son, Steve McKinney.

• **CWO3 Daniel F. Diveglia, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 20, 2009, in Bedford, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Donna Diveglia. Interment Bedford, Pa.

• **FICS Donald G. Chatelain, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 20, 2009, in Lake City, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Irma Chatelain.

• **YNCS Gordon L. Fisher, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 27, 2009, in Coos Bay, Ore. He is survived by his sister, Laura Fisher.

• **BMC Thomas G. Raby, USCGR(Ret.)**, May 7, 2009, in Menlo Park, Calif. He is survived by a son, Thomas Raby. Interment San Jose, Calif.

• **FSC Leroy J. Lawlor, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 10, 2009, in Port Jefferson, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Lawlor; a daughter, Joyce Lawlor. Interment Calverton, N.Y.

• **MKC Nicholas C. Liss, USCGR**, April 22, 2009, in Nesconset, N.Y. He is survived by two brothers, Anthony and Victor.

• **MKC Allen J. Thomas, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 23, 2009, in Ocala, Fla. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon Treftz. Interment Oaklawn Park Cemetery, Lake Mary, Fla.

• **MSTC Joseph W. Croghan, USCGR(Ret.)** May 1, 2009, in Arnold, Md. He is survived by his wife, Joan Croghan.

• **PSC Vincent Bratonja, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 20, 2009, of The Villages, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Bratonja; a daughter, Cathy Brennan.

• **YNC William E. Lofgren, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 3, 2009, in Dekalb, Ill. He is survived by his daughter, Roberta Burk. Interment Peoria, Ill.

• **FS1 Timothy L. Bidiman, USCGR(Ret.)**, Jan. 21, 2009, in Portland, Ore. He is survived by his wife, PS1 Carolyn C. Leone, USCGR(Ret.)

• **ET2 Thomas M. Hack, USCGR(Ret.)**, March 14, 2009, in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. He is survived by his daughter Cheryl Hack.

• **PS2 Donald F. Zabinski, USCGR(Ret.)**, April 20, 2009. He is survived by his son, Donald Zabinski.

• **Theresa Greene, USCGR (SPAR)**, 94, March 2009. Born in Queens, N.Y. in 1914, she was one of the first SPARs, also known as the Coast Guard Womens' Reserve. She did her basic training at Cedar Falls, Iowa during winter 1943 and was later assigned to the 5th District in Norfolk, Va. in the Office of the Commandant before completing her tour in June 1944. She married her husband, who had served in the Army in Norfolk, in October 1943. As a retiree, she moved to Florida and affiliated herself with the Gulf Coast Women, an all female group of veterans from various branches of the military. She is survived by a daughter, Dr. Marilyn Johnston.

**Ed's note:** *THE RESERVIST publishes "Taps" based on Personnel Casualty Reports and input received from the field.*





# Top Ten List For a Successful Career

**D**uring my 26 years in the Coast Guard, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving alongside numerous influential leaders in our Coast Guard. I want to personally say thank you to those who have assisted me during my career. Thank you for your guidance, leadership, courage, commitment, understanding and service to our great Coast Guard. You had a remarkable impact on me professionally and personally. All of you made sure that fun was a key ingredient to be successful.

My top ten list is a collection of successful choices obtainable throughout my career and I feel duty-bound to share them with you. I wish you all continued success in your Coast Guard career.

**10. Guardian Ethos:** The Guardian Ethos defines the essence of the Coast Guard and is viewed as a contract the Coast Guard and our service members make to the nation, its citizens, and with one another. The Guardian Ethos is the essence of our service — it is who we are. The Guardian Ethos is also a contract we have for protecting our shipmates as well.

**9. Networking:** Networking is a successful building block for your career. Spend time with members from different units to gain knowledge, share best practices, and build camaraderie. Networking builds strong lasting relationships.

**8. Educational Opportunities/Reading:** Educational opportunities are endless for our members. Take full advantage of these programs. Find time to read books from the Commandant's suggested reading list. Become familiar with the Reserve program by reading THE RESERVIST magazine, and surfing the Reserve web site ([www.uscg.mil/reserve](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve)).

**7. Lifestyle is Key:** Your lifestyle is key to your health and key to a successful career. Maintain a physical fitness plan, eat healthy, get the necessary medical screenings at recommended ages, and avoid risky behavior. Ensure you spend significant time with your family and/or friends to have fun.

**6. Maintain a Positive Attitude:** A positive attitude is clearly a key ingredient in a successful career. Use your motivation,

confidence and initiative to foster a positive attitude among your crew. A positive attitude is contagious, and will bring out the best in other people.

**5. Understand Chain of Command:**

The chain of command is a foundational requirement of our military organization. Understanding and knowing those that are in your chain and those that are outside of your chain are extremely important. Knowing who works for you and whom you work for will enhance productivity and mission success. Ensure you build strong working relationships with those outside of your chain of command for the success of our Coast Guard.

**4. Go Ask the Chief:** The term “Go ask the Chief” will be used much more frequently as the Coast Guard continues to modernize and change. Chiefs are the change agents and backbone of our Coast Guard. Chiefs will continue to excel and succeed in their capacity. Chiefs, more will be expected of you as we continue with our Modernization, so be ready to help our shipmates.

**3. Modernization Opportunities:** As the Coast Guard modernizes, there will be numerous opportunities available and challenges I hope you accept. If you are removed from your comfort zone, you will have an opportunity to excel at your new job, skill, or assignment. There are many great men and women in our Coast Guard who have accepted these new positions and had a significant impact on the success of our organization.

**2. Know Leadership Competencies:** Set yourself up for success by knowing the 28 leadership competencies ([www.dev.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cg133/comp.asp](http://www.dev.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cg133/comp.asp)). Surround yourself with good people and allow them to flourish. Get to know your team and their capabilities. Provide your team opportunities to succeed. By helping others, it will assist your career as well.

**1. Core Values:** Continue through your career knowing and having a deep understanding of our Core Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. Our core values will guide our conduct, decision-making and our job performance.



By  
MCPO  
George M. Williamson,  
USCGR

Fifth District Reserve Command  
Master Chief

[George.M.Williamson@uscg.mil](mailto:George.M.Williamson@uscg.mil)

*“During my 26 years in the Coast Guard, I have had the honor and pleasure of serving alongside numerous influential leaders in our Coast Guard. I want to personally say thank you to those who have assisted me during my career. Thank you for your guidance, leadership, courage, commitment, understanding and service to our great Coast Guard.”*

**Semper Paratus!**

Commanding Officer (mas)  
Personnel Service Center  
444 SE Quincy Street  
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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Family and friends await the arrival of the urn of RADM Bennett "Bud" Sparks during a memorial service held in his honor, June 13, 2009, at the Shiloh District Cemetery, Windsor, Calif. Sparks served in the Coast Guard Reserve for 47 years.  
Photo by PA3 Levi Read, D11 Public Affairs