

THE MARINER

2016 Summer Edition | Volume 59 · Issue 2

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



NERA NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime. Anywhere.



Coast Guard Enlisted Person
of the Year, MKC Wilton
“Butch” Terry (center)
page 21



IN MEMORIAM



EOC (SCW) Nick DeFeis, NERA Past President

October 17, 1932 – February 28, 2016

Sadly, Nick DeFeis passed away after a short illness on February 28, 2016. Nick is survived by his wife Jeanne, his daughter Angela and his grandchildren Max, Alexandra and Nicholas. He was predeceased by his son Nicholas. Nick was truly a good man and a true asset to NERA and will be sorely missed.

Nick was a life member of NERA and held numerous positions at both the National and Chapter level. On the National level he served as President (2003–2005), Vice President (2002–2003), Secretary (2001–2002), Awards Chair (1999–2000), Scholarship Chair (1999–2001), Scholarship Director (2000–2003) and Florida State Director (1998–2000). On the Chapter level he served as President (1988–1991) and Vice President (1987–1988) of the Chief John Tiso Chapter, NY ; as Secretary/Treasurer (1999–2000), Editor of Orlando Newsletter (1999–2001) and President (2000–2004) of the Orlando “76” Chapter, FL. His wife Jeanne is also a life member of NERA and had served as Secretary of the Orlando “76” Chapter.

Chief DeFeis had a varied military career. He served in the US Army (1950–1953), including as a combat Medic in Korea from 1950 to 1952; the US Coast Guard (1955–1958); US Air Force Reserve (1958–1964); and US Army Reserve (1974–1979). He joined the Navy Reserve in 1979 after accepting a reduction in grade from E-8 to E-6 under the APG program as an Equipment Operator. He retired in 1992 with 33 years of total military service. In addition to his NERA membership, Nick was a member of VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Plank Holder and supporter of the Navy Memorial and a Life member of Navy Seabee Veterans of America.

Nick was employed in civilian life by Coca-Cola for 25 years. He started as a Road Driver pulling double trailers, advancing to Driver Dispatcher and then as Transportation Director. He coordinated routing, pick-up and deliveries with production plants on the east coast.

Our sincere condolences to Nick's wife and family. Nick was an extraordinary man and the NERA community is deeply mourning his passing. Fair winds and following seas, our friend.



NERA Conference Update

Please note that the NERA Conference scheduled for October 2016 has been cancelled. Considering this is not an election year, NERA Executive Council voted to focus its time and resources on celebrating the 60th Anniversary Conference in fall 2017.

Details to follow shortly.

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
National Headquarters
6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2189

Office: 703-534-1329
Toll-free: 800-776-9020
Web: www.nera.org
Email: members@nera.org

National President
Stephen R. Sandy, USNR (Ret.)
301-219-2647
president@nera.org

National Vice President
ETI(SS) Chuck Cox, USNR
732-599-3049
vp@nera.org

National Secretary
YNC Marianne Mosher, USN (Ret.)
secretary@nera.org

National Treasurer
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.),
(H) 215-547-7004
treasurer@nera.org

National Counselor
YNC Deborah "Debbie" Fallon,
USNR, (Ret.)
603-858-4144
nc@nera.org

Past National President
ABHCS Eugene "Geno" P. Koelker, USNR
(Ret.)
815-209-5391
pnpp@nera.org

Executive Director
OSC Michael P. Hughes, USNR (Ret.)
443-812-9591
neraexec@nera.org

Editor-in Chief
Yvette B. Purtill
ypurtill@nera.org

Managing Editor
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.)
(H) 215-547-7004
marineditor@nera.org

Printing
Mercury
240-631-1389

Design
Karen Durland
kdurland@gmail.com

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Cover: Left to right: Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson; Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year—Reserve Component newly promoted MKC Wilton "Butch" Terry; NERA President, Steve Sandy

The Mariner, an official publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, is devoted to the interests and mutual benefit of its members. Regular Membership is open to all enlisted personnel of the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve; others may join as Associate Members. Annual dues in the amount of \$3.75 per member is set aside to defray the cost of publishing The Mariner. Single domestic subscription price is \$15 per year. Persons eligible for Regular Membership are not required to pay subscription rates. Articles, letters, and photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor via e-mail to: marineditor@nera.org or NERA Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. Credit will be given for materials used. Letters may be condensed for publication. Articles and letters appearing in The Mariner do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the National Executive Council of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association or the Editor, nor are they to be interpreted as official policy of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The Mariner (ISSN 0164-3029) is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: members@nera.org.



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Stephen Sandy
National President

Shipmates,

I recently had the honor of attending both the 2015 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) and Coast Guard's Enlisted Persons of the Year (EPOY) ceremonies. These banquets and awards ceremonies recognize the outstanding achievements of the best of the best. These men and woman not only excel in their civilian jobs but also are excelling

in supporting the Navy or Coast Guard Reserve. Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell expressed it well when he said "This year's group of Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year finalists was also exemplary in their professional civilian jobs as well as being advocates and volunteers in their communities. Again, five finalists representing nine thousand first classes - this truly was the cream of the crop and the most challenging and tightest competition I've ever been involved with."

cut out for the military, so seeing these EPOY and RSOY winners, it should remind all of us how difficult being a Reservist can be.

NERA is honored to attend and support these award ceremonies and support the men and women making more out of less. These ceremonies help reinforce the value and goals of honor, respect and patriotic devotion that NERA and the military honors. By being a member of NERA, you too help support these younger Reservists.

NERA wants to honor these patriotic men and women in the Reservists by supporting their benefits, defending them before Congress, and fighting unjust laws. For example, did you know that under current law, 63,000 military widows are penalized \$15,000 a year because military service caused their service member's death? It is called the "widow's tax" and the law requires deduction of the VA annuity for the service-caused death from the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity purchased by the retiring service members. Congress had good intentions and tried

Defense spending will be shrinking to 15 percent within the next few years and the American military is still expected to be every ready.

Defense spending will be shrinking to 15 percent within the next few years and the American military is still expected to be every ready. I am always surprised how these young men and woman are doing so much more with less. They have less time, less money, less training, and less benefits. Yet honor, respect and devotion to duty is at an all-time high. These Navy and Coast Guard Reservists renew my hope for the younger generation and makes me feel extremely patriotic. You need that special person who can balance patriotism, devotion and honor in both their civilian and military lives. Not everyone is

to partially compensate for this inequity. They enacted a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) (currently \$270 monthly, rising to \$310 next year), with the hope eventually phasing out this widow tax altogether. Unfortunately, the SSIA will expire October 1, 2017 for lack of funding. It is these kind of unjust laws that NERA and The Military Coalition are fighting. So don't forget to spread the word about NERA and have everyone join our organization.

—Steve

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it."

—Mark Twain



Mike Hughes
NERA
Executive Director

Representing NERA

As of this writing, we have just completed this year's round of the Navy Sailor of the Year (SOY) and Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) ceremonies and announcements. NERA is a proud co-sponsor of these events again this year. President Steve Sandy and I attended the Navy Reserve SOY ceremony on April 4 and the CG EPOY on April 28. Delores Rucker and I attended the Navy Master Chief of the Navy (MCPON) BBQ picnic for the four Navy SOYs on May 11, in addition to the Recognition and Promotion ceremony on May 12. Further information on those honored is covered in other articles in this issue. In reviewing the biographies on the 5 finalists for the Reserve SOY and the 2 CG petty officers, active duty and reserve, and the final 4 selectees of the NAVY SOYs, including the Reserve SOY, I can only conclude that our Navy and Coast Guard sailors are in competent and reliable hands for the future with such outstanding personnel as these members. They are remarkable people, as well as proven leaders. We all should be proud of them.

Our new web site is up and running, except for a few glitches in releasing the membership data to the chapters. We hope you like the new site and get a chance to check out all the new features. I'm sure there will be a few other glitches as we iron out the kinks over a

few months. If you are having any issues with the site, please contact our Office Manager Jennifer Abbott. Politely explain your problem and she'll try to work it out for you.

We are still in need of donations to do repairs and maintenance at national headquarters (e.g., roof, soffits, gutters and front and rear entrances.) NERA is a 501 (c) 19 not-for-profit military association and is tax deductible for contributions. So, we would gladly take your donation and put it to good use.

I know our Vice President Chuck Cox and National Counselor Debbie Fallon are working hard recruiting new members. NERA, as well as many military organizations, are seeing a slow decline in membership and also a decline in new members. Let NERA be the exception to the rule. Please make a concerted effort to recruit at least one new member, either an associate member or a current or retired Reservist. If even half our current members recruit at least one person we would have a tremendous increase. Our members are our strength and the backbone of our influence in fighting for your continued compensation and benefits.

If you have suggestions on issues you feel NERA should address email me at neraexec@nera.org or call me at 443-812-9591.

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Chuck Cox
NERA
Vice President

Dear Shipmates:

Remember that phrase: "The Golden Years"? No one ever mentioned how you would need gold to enjoy them! Instead, we need to rely on Social Security and Medicare to keep us afloat. As I approach the magic age of eligibility for Medicare, I'm finding it a little difficult to navigate the waters. I'm sure many of you have experienced this as well. Perhaps some of you can share your stories with us so we can be sure we don't make costly mistakes.

As a person retiring from a school system, I've found that my Tricare benefits are not primary for me. That is the opposite of what it

medical offices often lead to a dead end or even to contradictory information. However, I found that both the TRICARE website (<http://www.tricare.mil/>) and the USAA website (usaa.com- click the advice tab) can help clarify the process for retired military personnel.

Perhaps my situation is more complex because I am fortunate enough to have the option to pay for health benefits from my employer, to also have coverage as a spouse and to have the additional Tricare and Medicare plans. Figuring out what comes first, when to enroll, whose plan is most

Retirement can be a great joy if you can figure out how to spend time without spending money. ~Author Unknown

is like for most employed people with health insurance. Your own insurance should be primary for yourself and your spouse's insurance is secondary. Not so with Tricare.

Upon reaching the age of 65, we are all eligible for Medicare. What happens if you are still working? Do you start using Medicare or continue with the medical benefits plan you have been enrolled in? Do you have to sign up for Parts A and B?

Phone calls to various agencies and even

beneficial and how to determine if I've done the paperwork in a timely manner pretty much adds up to a part-time job. No wonder I have to retire!

As you can see, this is a complex process so if you can help your fellow Veterans keep their heads above water, please contact me at vp@nera.org. I'd be happy to share any tips in a future column.

Enjoy the summer,
Chuck

Visit our newly redesigned website!
www.nera.org



Debbie Fallon
NERA
Executive Counselor

Hello NERA Members,

I received a call from a NERA Life Member asking why his period of service was not listed on page 10, Survivor's Pension article of the 2016 Spring Edition of *The Mariner*. This page had the general program requirements for surviving spouses and children of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. The caller specifically wanted to know why the Lebanon/Grenada "Operation Urgent Fury" from 24 August 1982 to 21 July 1984 and the Panama "Operation Just Cause" from 20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990 was not listed. Since I did not have the answer immediately, I told him I would do some research and get back to him.

After researching the benefits information on the Veterans Benefits Administration website (<http://www.va.gov>), I discovered that to be eligible a deceased veteran who entered the service on or before 7 September 1980 must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a wartime period. I further learned that Congress has not established formal periods of war for participation in U.S. operations in

either Lebanon/Grenada or Panama. Service in these theaters alone does not qualify as wartime service. I returned this Life Member's call and explained the situation. Unfortunately it was not the answer the gentleman was looking for, however I am glad I was able to assist him. As your National Counselor of NERA, I enjoy hearing from you and learning about what issues are affecting you.

NERA is always trying to monitor what is happening with Reservists. I would like to ask all members what events or issues you would like NERA to address. Topics could include problems with your benefits, how to work with NOSC's (reserve centers) on completing Service to the Reservists recommendations, how to create a chapter newsletter or Facebook page, or even how to right and submit C&BL amendments and resolutions. What would you like to see? I would love to hear your feedback.

In closing, I look forward to hearing from you and don't hesitate to contact with me with any questions.

Debbie Fallon

Deborah "Debbie" Fallon, YNC (ret)
National Counselor
(603) 858-4144
NC@NERA.ORG or debbiefallon@msn.com

**If you have additional questions, contact
Debbie Fallon at 603-858-4144 or NC@nera.org.**

Help NERA Go Paperless

The electronic version of the *Mariner* is sent via email or instantly available for download at nera.org. If you want to go paperless, just email jabbott@nera.org and say you want the electronic version of the *Mariner*.

If you would like to help defray the costs of the *Mariner* and its postage, please feel free to donate to NERA. (Even \$15 can help someone keep their printed *Mariner*.)

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NERA loves feedback. Keep them coming by emailing us at members@nera.org.

Subject: Retirement Pay and Medical Benefits for Military Retirees

Date: May 1, 2016 at 9:00:10 PM EDT

To: members@nera.org, magazine@legion.org

I'm a member of the American Legion and a life member of Naval Reserve Enlisted Association. In a year and half, I will turn 60. At that time, I will start collecting reserve retirement pay and Tricare medical benefits. When enlisting way back when, we were told that we would get medical benefits after retirement (this included both active and reserve personnel.) Now all we keep hearing is the government never said such things. It angers me that Congress can say the country can't afford it. Correct me but I think our retirement

pay and medical benefits should be for life. Everyone knows how hard they Congress serves us: things like going down the street and making fund raising calls instead of trying to get this country straightened out. When there's a crisis somewhere in the world, what is the first thing congress wants to do? Dispatch the military forces. To sum it up, leave our benefits alone and tell Congress to get theirs heads out of you know where and do the job we sent them to Washington to do and EARN their benefits!

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Questions? Please contact Debbie Fallon at (603) 858-4144 or e-mail nc@nera.org.

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Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

Tips and Clips for Summer 2016

Rapids Site Locator

If you need to find the PSD nearest to you, copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site?execution=e3s1>.

Military One Source

Here is a good link for Space A travel as well as other information. http://www.militaryone-source.mil/mwr?content_id=268596.

Space-A Travel

www.spaceA.net helps fellow military (Active Duty, Dependents and Retirees) and other Uniformed Service members understand Space Available (Space-A) travel on DoD (military) aircraft. Visit their website at www.spaceA.net or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spaceA.net/> for more information.

RAO Volunteers Needed

Courtesy Retired Activities Office (Published in *Shift Colors* Winter Spring 2016)

The Navy Retired Activities Program has offices worldwide that are manned by volunteer retirees from all services. Retired Activities Office (RAO) volunteers assist the retired community by serving as a point of contact between retirees and military agencies, local and at the headquarters level. RAO volunteers provide follow-up service and liaison support to survivors of retirees and their family members to ensure they are aware of all entitlements. Additionally, RAO volunteers assist in conducting retiree annual seminars/appreciation days sponsored by their installation. The dedication and commitment of all RAO volunteers is invaluable and without their support the program would not survive.

As volunteers retire, sometimes after serving more than 20 years on the RAO staff, some of the locations are now low on staff and have been forced to significantly decrease the number of hours they are able to provide service to the retired community and their family members. The Navy is aggressively recruiting retirees from the local community and is looking for military retirees who are willing and able to donate three to four hours during the work-week. All RAOs operate during weekdays (times and days varies per location). Volunteers will receive on-the-job training and experience the satisfaction of serving our country in a different capacity. For more information contact Navy Retired Activities Office at (901) 874-6723/6949.



NERA.ORG

Check out nera.org. Browse the new site or login to review your membership status.

(For returning members: just use your email address as your username and click forgot password.)

What to do if your myPay Account is Inactive: Tips to Use When Making a Bank Account Change

Courtesy DFAS (Reprinted from Winter/Spring *Shift Colors*: <http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil>)

Follow the steps below to avoid missing or incorrect payments. If you've switched your bank account, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service needs to have your pay deposited to your new account. You can make the change online or by mail. Either way, use these tips to avoid disruptions in your pay: Only close your old bank account **AFTER** you have received one monthly payment to your NEW account. Please allow 30 to 45 days for your change to be processed and your retired pay account to be updated with your new banking information.

myPay The quickest and easiest way to change your direct deposit bank account is through **myPay** because it is the official online account management system for military members and retirees. Login at www.mypay.dfas.mil and click "Direct Deposit" on the Main Menu.

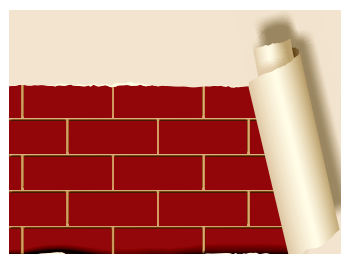
Mail If you can't use **myPay**, complete a FMS 2231, direct deposit enrollment form <http://www.dfas.mil/retired-military/forms.html>, and send it to:

Retirees:

Defense Finance & Accounting Service
US Military Annuity Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
Fax: 800-469-6559

Annuityants:

Defense Finance & Accounting Service
US Military Annuity Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131
Fax: 800-982-8459



NERA Memorial Walk

Pave the way for NERA's future by naming a brick today!

Become a part of history by purchasing a brick on the NERA Memorial Walk. NERA has a long history of protecting the rights and benefits of the enlisted reserves. You can help continue this tradition by purchasing a brick. Your brick can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or a significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100 and will be custom engraved to your specification and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA headquarters.



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

Phase 1: Will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole.

Phase 2: Construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA HQ.

Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Abbott, jabbott@nera.org or (703) 534-1329.



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Spring Mariner 2016

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.)

NDAA for 2017

As of this writing the current pressing and most important issue legislatively is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2017.

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) has marked up a bill, H.R. 4909, and sent it to the floor for consideration. There are currently over 300 amendments proposed to this bill in the House and it is expected to come to a vote in the House. Some key provisions of the HASC proposals are:

- Rejects the Administration's 2017 increase proposals for TRICARE fees increases, pharmacy co-pay increases for retirees under 65 years of age and starting enrollment fees for Tricare for Life (TFL).
- New TRICARE enrollment fees for active duty personnel starting Jan. 1, 2018.
- New TRICARE Standard enrollment fees of \$100 for an individual and \$200 for families starting in 2020. This is dependent on the Comptroller General certifying quality of care improvements.
- TRICARE for those under 65 is reorganized into Prime (an HMO program) and Standard (including TRR, TRS & TYA).
- Provides for a 2.1% military pay increase to match Economic Cost Index increases for civilian workers. This is above the Administration's proposed 1.6% pay raise and would start to reduce the 3.1 % discrepancy between military and private sector pay.

- Extends the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance for widows and widowers, which was to expire at the end of FY 2017, until the end of FY 2018.
- Changes the law on military divorce to require former spouse awards to be based on the service member's grade and years of service at the time of divorce, not time of retirement.
- Provides for a pilot program for certain selected commissaries to use variable pricing models and private label products on a trial basis.

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) has completed their mark-up on a similar bill, but has yet to release it to the floor or released a copy of the bill for review as of this writing. The SASC has released a limited summary of some of their provisions which included a 1.6% military pay raise, .5% below the projected increase for civilian workers and that proposed by the HASC and it permanently extends the authority for the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance for widows and widowers whereas the HASC only extends it one year.

We expect numerous differences between the President's proposed DoD authorization and those of both the House and Senate. It is likely to be a long and contentious process for the House and Senate to iron out their differences through a Conference Committee and then vote and enact this legislation before we know exactly what's coming. We will continue to follow this, along with our partner organizations on The Military Coalition, and advocate for our members' compensation and benefits.

Veteran Status

We are puzzled as to what happened to the legislation that passed both the House and Senate. It was referred to a

Conference Committee to iron out some differences, but apparently there was a deadlock on the committee and they

could not come to an agreement. We suspect it included the issue of whether it would be codified in Title 38 as was in the House version, or just a “sense of Congress” as in the Senate version. Anyway, it has been reintroduced as part of

the NDAA for 2017 and as stand-alone legislation in both the House and Senate. We’ll just have to keep advocating for the status and wait and see what transpires. We do know there is growing support for some action this year.

Veterans First Act

This is proposed legislation which is gathering increased support in both the House and Senate. It deals with personnel and accountability matters in the Department of Veterans Affairs. It establishes an Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection headed by a Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate. This act would specify required training requirements for senior VA officials and supervisors and provides authority for removal of poor or non-performing executives and employees under certain conditions. It provides several enhancements and additions to the policies and benefits for health care caregivers

and patient advocacy. These are all proposals that NERA supports and we will follow this closely as it goes through the inevitable additions, deletions and changes in the legislative process.

These are but a few of the many legislative issues we continue to follow and advocate for and against on behalf of our members. If you have specific issues you feel we should report on please let me know and I’ll endeavor to do so. Please contact me on email at neraexec@nera.org or phone me at 1-443-812-9591.

NERA’s NAVY Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin

The US Navy Reserve has been ready to answer our nation’s call for 100 years. The mission of the Navy Reserve is to deliver operational capability and strategic depth to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces. On March 3, 2015 the US Navy Reserve celebrated its centennial anniversary and NERA wanted to commemorate this special occasion with these coins.

If you would like to purchase a coin for \$10.00 (\$2.00 shipping), see below. (Discounts for orders of 10 or more).

Choose one of these payment options:

- 1 Send a check to NERA**, 6703 Farragut Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042 (Write Coin in memo)
- 2 Pay by Credit Card** by calling NERA at (800)-776-9020.
- 3 Pay online at nera.org**. Click Giving and Support, and click Products.





Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team Gets Its Game on with Reserve, Active Duty Olympics

By PAC Susan Blake, 8TH District External Affairs

The Gulf Strike Team (GST) in Mobile, Ala., has a huge responsibility maintaining a highly trained cadre of Coast Guard professionals. One of three special teams that make up the National Strike Force, must be *Semper Paratus*. At all times, they must deploy to all-hazards and anywhere they are needed.

This year, they stepped up their game with the first GST Olympics, aimed at challenging and honing the teams'

skills during this competitive incident response simulation. Reserve and active-duty personnel played out their roles in various real-time scenarios in this all-day event. "It's truly amazing to see the active and reserve cadres work side by side in a simulated response scenario. It ensures us all that we will be beyond prepared should a major incident require our technical expertise with additional reserve support," reported Lt. Cmdr. Ron Terrell, Senior Reserve Officer for the Gulf Strike Team.



Reservist BMC John Bagby, safety officer for the GST Olympics, observes members donning Level A personal protective equipment in Mobile, Ala., on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2015. Reservists and active-duty personnel from the GST competed in this timed exercise. (Photo by Lt. Clinton Arnold)



Reservist MK3 Kenneth Neese dons a Level A suit during the GST Olympics in Mobile, Ala., on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2015. Reservist and active-duty GST personnel participated in this all-day event at Sector Mobile. (Photo by Lt. Clinton Arnold)

“It is essential to have an integrated, trained and ready Reserve contingent at the GST as we have relied upon them to serve in critical roles during both natural and man-made disasters.”

Exercises included donning Level A personal protective equipment, the highest level of personal protection, conducting a patient rescue in a smoke filled environment and containing a simulated chemical spill. “These events not only exercise personnel, but they also exercise National Strike Force doctrine. It is a great way to ensure active duty and reserve members are knowledgeable of, and conforming to, standard operating procedures,” said Lt. Cmdr. Joel Ferguson, executive officer for the Gulf Strike Team.

Strike Team reservists play a vital role as the force multiplier for active-duty personnel in preparing and responding to oil discharges, hazardous substance releases,

weapons of mass destruction events and other natural and manmade incidents that greatly impact the public. “It is essential to have an integrated, trained and ready Reserve contingent at the GST as we have relied upon them to serve in critical roles during both natural and man-made disasters. The GST Olympics event helped strengthen our team spirit, reinforce essential response skills, and foster the close camaraderie that is so important to this response organization,” said Cmdr. Kevin Lynn, commanding officer for the Gulf Strike Team. It is the responsibility of the GST to respond to incidents in the Coast Guard’s 5th, 7th and 8th Districts. In addition, the GST has international responsibilities for South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

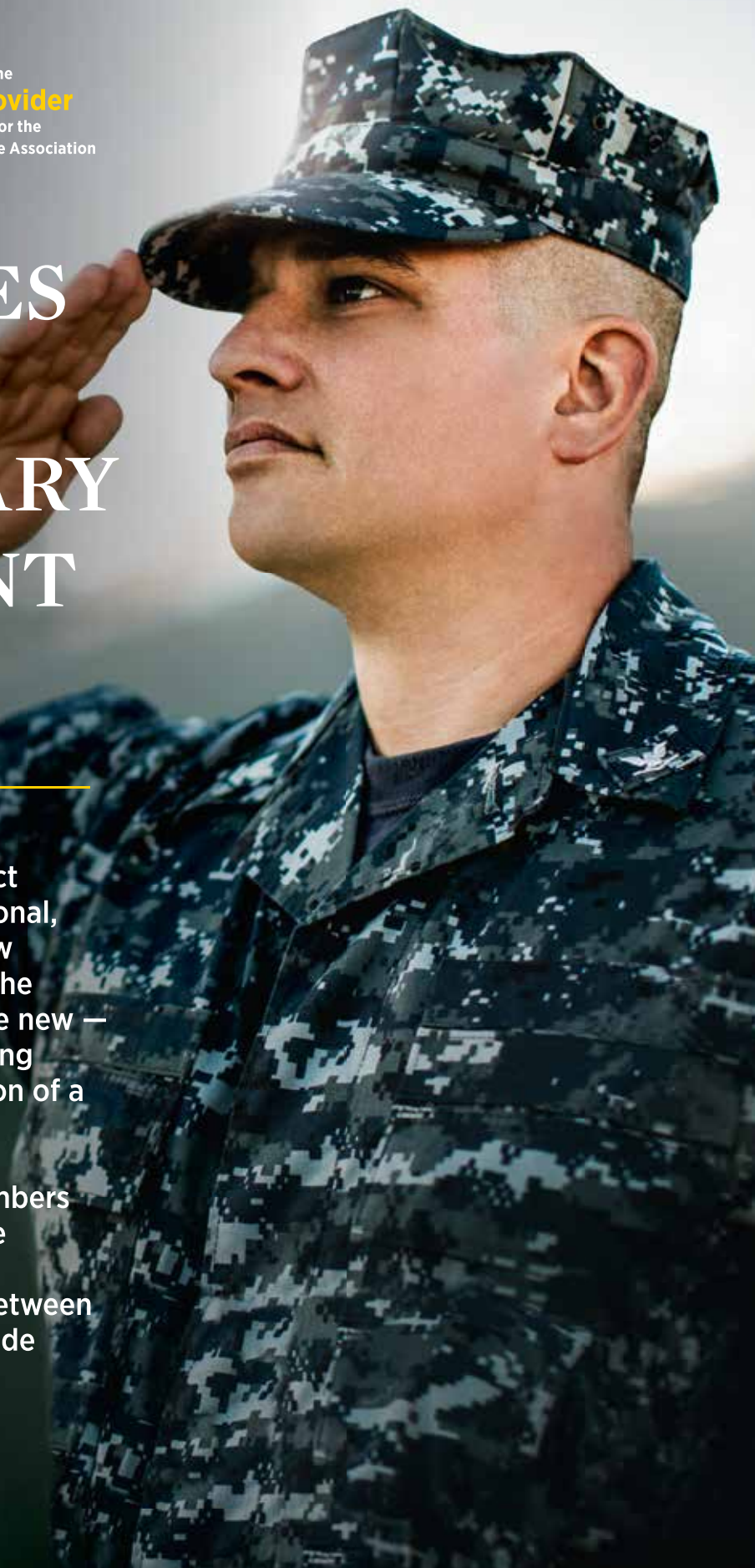


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BIG CHANGES COMING TO THE MILITARY RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

The 2016 Defense Authorization Act will transform the military's traditional, 20-year retirement system to a new blended system. The blend mixes the old — a defined pension — with the new — a new Defense Department matching contribution to the military's version of a 401(k), the Thrift Savings Plan.

What does that mean? Servicemembers will need to take a more active role in deciding how they finance their retirement, and those in the gap between the old and new plans have to decide which plan suits them better.



The blended plan begins in 2018 and will feature these changes:

➤ **Retirement pay (pension).** Servicemembers will be eligible for a retirement benefit after 20 years of service. Smaller than the current benefit, it will be calculated using a 2% multiplier instead of the current 2.5%.

➤ **Matching contributions.** Servicemembers will receive an automatic 1% Defense Department contribution to their Thrift Savings Plan after 60 days of service. At the beginning of their third year of service, servicemembers who contribute at least 5% on their own will receive up to 4% in matching TSP contributions.

➤ **Continuation pay.** After 12 years in the military, servicemembers will receive continuation pay if they commit to serving four more years. This one-time retention bonus will be worth at least two and a half months of basic pay for active duty personnel and at least half a month's basic pay for reservists. The amount could be higher for in-demand positions.

➤ **Partial lump-sum option.** Retirees can choose to receive a full retirement annuity each month, or they can opt for a smaller pension along with a lump-sum payment. Details are still being worked out, so it's unclear what this would mean from a tax standpoint.

The positives and the negatives:



The new plan will benefit a lot more servicemembers. The overhaul aims to provide some retirement funding to about 85% of servicemembers. Plus, the design should encourage servicemembers to save for retirement on their own since they'll need to make a personal contribution of 5% to get the full match. Being better prepared for retirement is always a positive.



Retirees will probably get less. Under the new system, that could equate to a six-figure difference over their lifetime. That's based on someone entering the service in 2016, opting for the new system and serving 20 years. However, it's worth noting that today less than 20% serve long enough to qualify for full military retirement.

What should you do now?

If you entered the military before 2006: Carry on. You're locked into the current retirement plan.

If you're entering service in 2018 or later: You automatically fall under the new plan. Make sure you contribute enough to your TSP to get the match and put in more if you can.

If you entered between 2006 and 2017: You'll have a choice to make in 2018 — the old plan or the new one. Crunch the numbers and consult your financial advisor. If you're committed to serving at least 20 years, opting to stay in the old system may make sense. If you're uncertain about your plans in the military or have only served a few years, the new blended plan might be best.

The DoD has already proposed significant changes to last year's law, so watch for the latest news.

Either way, retirement should be top of mind. Contributing as much as possible to your TSP will boost your efforts. If you're not contributing already, go to **myPay** to start.

How much do you need to retire?

➤ Find out at usaa.com/retirementcalculator



2015 Reserve Sailor of the Year Announced



NERA was honored to attend the 2015 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial on April 8, 2016. **Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW/EXW) Steven Butterhof**, assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 27, was announced as the RSOY during the ceremony by Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun. Butterhof was selected out of five finalists including Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Neel Chandra, assigned to Naval Reserve Cart Team III, Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Rudolph Salman, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 62, Naval Aircrewman Helicopter 1st Class Andy Anderson, assigned to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14 and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Louis Skeberis, assigned to Naval Sea Systems Command.

NERA's very own President, Stephen Sandy, presented Butterhof with his President's coin and congratulated him on this distinguished honor. NERA will present him with the NERA RSOY plaque. Both Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun and Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell lauded all five finalists during the ceremony. "These five Sailors represent the best of the best," said Braun. "They represent all the hardworking men and women out there who support the Navy Reserve in addition to their civilian jobs. We are tremendously proud of the work they do for the U.S. Navy and our nation." Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell stated "I'm particularly proud of this group because they really embrace and reflect the diversity of the Navy Reserve and the variety of different missions that we support around the Navy."

▲ 2015 Reserve Sailor of the Year candidates await the announcement of this year's selection during the Reserve Sailor of the Year ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin O'Brien/Released)



After receiving the RSOY Award, Petty Officer Butterhof said “Wow, this is a tremendous distinction. It’s been a privilege to spend this week with these outstanding Sailors sitting before you. I’m so humbled with this honor.” Each Sailor received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during the ceremony. Butterhof returned to Washington for the Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year week hosted by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy where Butterhof was meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer. The ceremony was the ending to a week of events in the capitol area including tours of the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Building, United States Navy Memorial and Navy History Museum as visits and meetings with Navy leadership.



▲ 1st Class Steven Butterhof (bottom center), takes a group selfie after the Reserve Sailor of the Year selection ceremony.

▼ 1st Class Steven Butterhof (right center), and Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun perform a traditional cake cutting. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kevin O’Brien/Released)

◀ Photos on left by ACCM Delores Rucker.





Reserve Sailor of the Year Biography

EO1(SCW/EXW) Steven W. Butterhof

EO1(SCW/EXW) Steven W. Butterhof was born in Catania, Italy and lived there until age 11. He moved to the United States when his father, a Chief Mineman, was stationed in NJ. Petty Officer Butterhof went on to graduate from Southern Regional High School. He attended Hamilton College in Clinton, NY and captained the football, indoor, and outdoor track and field teams his senior year. He graduated in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Computer Science and a B.A. in Mathematics.

Petty Officer Butterhof enlisted as an EOCN in July 2007 and reported for duty with Maritime Expeditionary Command and Control Division (MAREXC2DIV) 64 in March 2008. He was the Assistant Command Fitness Leader starting June 2008 as an EO3, and became the Assistant License Examiner upon making EO2 in June 2009. Petty Officer Butterhof was preparing for his first deployment with the command in 2010 when the mission was cancelled and MAREXC2DIV64 was disestablished due to force restructuring.

Petty Officer Butterhof reported to NMCB 23 in June 2010 and was immediately selected Battalion License Examiner by the Alfa 3. In August 2011 he was frocked to EO1 and took over as the Alpha Company Operations Leading Petty Officer (LPO) until the unit's disestablishment in September 2013. He was within one month of mobilizing with NMCB 14 in 2012 when his orders were cancelled due to NMCB 14 no longer needing Individual Augmentees.

Petty Officer Butterhof reported to NMCB 27 Detachment (Det) 2627 in October 2013 as LPO. He established D-code programs and guided 65 Sailors in the new Readiness Training Platform program. Beginning

November 2014 he was the acting Assistant Officer in Charge (AOIC) and led development of the first ever joint Company drill weekend with Det 2827. Collateral duties included D-1 Admin LPO, Funeral Details, and First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) Master-at-Arms.

He was also an active participant in Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) Baltimore CPO 365.

In May 2015, Petty Officer Butterhof was selected for deployment with NMCB 27. During homeport he was 2nd Squad Leader of 14 Sailors in Alfa Company, leading them to meet 100% of all pre-deployment requirements and conducting personal record reviews that discovered and corrected 12 missing evaluation reports for 6 Sailors. Upon arriving in country he was immediately selected by the Alfa 6 to be the Embark LPO and he volunteered to be the Det Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) Program Manager.

Petty Officer Butterhof qualified SCW in May 2013 and EXW in December 2015. He holds Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) Expeditionary Force – Combat Skills (90CS) and Disaster Preparedness Operations and Training Specialist (9598). He has one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal, one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for meritorious performance disestablishing MAREXC2DIV64 and one Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for volunteering as a boys wrestling coach. Other awards include a United States Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Good Conduct medal, two Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Rifle Sharpshooter Ribbon, and Pistol Expert Medal. He is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) from the Project Management Institute. He lives in Baltimore, MD with his wife, Tara.





Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year 2015

The 2015 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet was held on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C. The banquet and awards ceremony was held at the Bolling Club on April 28, 2016. This ceremony recognized the outstanding achievements of: **Petty Officer 1st Class Wilton S. Terry**, the 2015 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year—Reserve Component; and **Petty Officer 2nd Class Evan M. Ward**, the 2015 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year—Active-Duty Component.

NERA's Steve Sandy, National President and Michael P. Hughes, Executive Director attended the event and were able to meet these impressive Coasties. Ward and Terry were each presented the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and were meritoriously advanced to the next higher paygrade. During the ceremony, Ward was advanced from petty officer second class to petty officer first class, and Terry was advanced from petty officer first class to chief petty officer.

Terry is a machinery technician assigned to Coast Guard Port Security Unit 309 in Port Clinton, Ohio. He is from Stevensville, Mich., and is a 1988 graduate of Lakeshore High School. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1988, the Army National Guard in 1998, and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in 2000. Since then, he has spent most of his career attached to Coast Guard Port Security Unit 309 in Port Clinton, Ohio. Terry also serves as a lieutenant at Saint Joseph City Department of Public Safety, Fire Division, in Saint Joseph, Mich.

Terry is the boat support engineer and manager of PSU

309's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Program. In 2015, Terry's superb planning and logistical expertise facilitated the movement of 43,000 cubic feet of cargo across 19,000 miles of land, rail, air and sea in support of Exercises Patriot Sands 2015 and Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore 2015, the latter of which

represented the historic first ever sea-basing of a Coast Guard port security unit. Terry's meticulous administration of the unit's CBRN-E Program was evidenced by his ability to obtain no-cost training from Department of Defense CBRN-E courses. He is recognized as one of the subject-matter experts for Coast Guard expeditionary CBRN-E issues.



CG EPOY-Active Component, BM1 Evan Ward on the left and CG EPOY-Reserve Component, Wilton "Butch" Terry

"To be chosen out of over 7,000 members of the Reserve Component

is truly a great honor," Terry said. "Having spent the majority of my 20 years of service in the Coast Guard Reserve, I know the true dedication, commitment and hard work the members of the reserve community put forth.

"Members of the Coast Guard Reserve bring a special and unique value to the Coast Guard, bringing not only traditional Coast Guard training and skills but also all of the experiences and training from their respective civilian careers and life - invaluable experience, wisdom and abilities the Coast Guard can tap into."

"I am very honored and proud to represent the members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve," he said.

NERA would like to congratulate Petty Officer 1st Class Wilton S. Terry and Petty Officer 2nd Class Evan M. Ward. NERA is proud of you.



Navy Reserve Corpsmen Deploy Downrange

5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Story by Sgt. Ricardo Hurtado

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UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Southwest Asia—Reserve service members are known for leading two different lives—some are teachers, fire fighters, police officers or even doctors. However, on the weekends when it's time to put on the uniform of an Airman, Marine, Soldier or Sailor, these reservists are ready to train.

Across the nation, reserve units keep their troops ready and operating at a high level of proficiency in whatever their military occupational specialty (MOS) may be. After all, they are service members and will need to put their lives on pause to answer their nation's call to service.



U.S. Navy medical personnel treat a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 23, 2015. Canadian forces, U.S. Air Force and Army medical personnel, along with U.S. Marines and Navy corpsmen with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command, participated in the joint exercise to hone the coalition's medical response capabilities. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility with a mission spanning 20 nations. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Sgt. Rick Hurtado / Released).



U.S. Navy and Army medical personnel prepare to load a simulated casualty onto a UH-60 "Black Hawk" helicopter during a mass casualty exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 23, 2015. Canadian forces, U.S. Air Force and Army medical personnel, along with U.S. Marines and Navy corpsmen with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command, participated in the joint exercise to hone the coalition's medical response capabilities. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility with a mission spanning 20 nations. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Sgt. Rick Hurtado / Released).

For nearly nine months now, many U.S. Navy Corpsmen have pressed the pause button and temporarily left their civilian lives and jobs to put on the uniform and perform their field duties.

They are currently deployed with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Crisis Response Central Command (SPMAGTF-CR-CC) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, which focuses on defeating the Islamic State of

Iraq and Levant in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

The SPMAGTF-CR-CC's medical element is comprised of both reserve and active duty personnel. The active duty staff comes from units within the I Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Pendleton, California, and other supporting elements of the military installation. The reserve personnel belong to components across the nation. Some of those units come from 4th Marine Logistics Group and 4th Marine Division.

The medical mission for SPMAGTF-CR-CC is to provide medical care for U.S. personnel and coalition partners operating within the AOR. That support may come in the form of medical evacuations, medical augments to coalition forces in the area or routine day-to-day treatment at the aid station.

Reserve medical personnel are spread throughout the AOR, in places like Al Taqaddum and Al Asad air bases in Iraq as well as other undisclosed locations in Southwest Asia.

U.S. Navy Lt. Gregory Downey, an active duty inner care nurse with SPMAGTF-CR-CC, said that working with reservists is no different than with active-duty personnel.

Often times reserve personnel get assigned to deploy with units they have never worked with. They first meet each other during pre-deployment training and have a short amount of time to establish an effective working rhythm.

"From day one, they've been incredibly professional and engaged in doing their job the right way, and that is a testament to the reserve unit that they are with, they keep them sharp and honed and ready to deploy," said Downey. "But on the day-to-day there is no difference, these guys are always ready to go."

SPMAGTF-CR-CC has nearly 15 reserve corpsmen. In their civilian lives some of them hold jobs that relate to the medical field, such as doctors, nurses and health office managers.

Petty Officer 2nd Class C. Maxwell Eberbach, a hospitalman with SPMAGTF-CR-CC, is a reservist from Jacksonville, Florida. He is a patient care technician for a hospital and has been in the Navy for more than three years.

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Battleship New Jersey Chief Petty Officers' Exhibit

By OSC Shelby Kopp



This year the U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officers are celebrating their 123rd birthday. As a result, the CEO of the Battleship New Jersey Museum Ship asked local CPOs to build a CPO Exhibit on the ship. Our Navy Chiefs hit the deck plates running, began fundraising and volunteering personal time. They want to build an exhibit that the Navy, CPOs and our civilian community can be proud of for a long time. We encourage you to make a visit to the new Chief Petty Officer Exhibit onboard the Battleship New Jersey this summer.

The Battleship New Jersey, our nation's most decorated battleship, is an 887-foot long, 45,000-ton living window to the most important half-century in U.S. history. Moored in Camden, NJ, we are lucky to have this wonderful piece of history in our backyard. This exhibit is not only to honor past, present, and future CPO's, but also to share our history and display the proud traditions of the back bone of the Navy: our Chief Petty Officers.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be August 12, 2016. With the "Power of the Mess," we have managed to formulate this complex idea from mere scuttlebutt chatter to an amazing exhibit that we are excited to share with the public. We are also honored to announce that we will have MCPON Joe Campa and FORCM Toby Ruiz as honored guests. We are proud to showcase our history, heritage, traditions and culture.

We have received an overwhelming amount of support from numerous Chief Petty Officers in the Tri-State area. They have contributed time, donations, and sweat. We would like to extend a big thank you to the JBMDL CPOA, NSA Philadelphia, NOSC Edinburg, NOSC Rochester, NOSC Earl and Home Depot whose donations. Their efforts were instrumental in kick starting the building of this exhibit. So many CPOs from around the globe have been involved in this venture, however a special thank you to CMDMCM James Lindsey, CMDMCM

Michelle Clark and CMDRCM Jon Rainey for providing so many resources and Command support throughout this endeavor.

ISCM (IDW/SW) Josh Mangum was honored to take the lead on this project, but also to help formulate the vision for the exhibit with the greater CPO community. ISCM Mangum has been in coordination with the Battleship New Jersey's Executive Board, making connections to gather artifacts and formulated our core team to truly making this dream a reality. OSC(SW) Shelby Kopp took charge of the complex administrative side of this task, and has kept the team on schedule to meet a short deadline of less than year to open the exhibit.

OSCS (Ret) Steve DeCord is the treasurer, and his level of due diligence has been amazing and a huge asset to our team. From the beginning, he ensured our fundraising is

tracked properly to 501(c) standards or actually leading fundraising efforts himself.



Challenge coin made from teak from the Big J.

ASC Cory Lyle and AWFC (Ret) Leo Wieger created beautiful, custom challenge coins out of authentic teak decking from the Battleship New Jersey's recent overhaul as a fundraiser to get much needed cash to support the exhibit's costs. AZCM(AW/NAC) Michelle Clarke, along with Chief Lyle, established cataloging systems for all the artifacts that will be on display in the exhibit. AWFC(SNAC/AW) Jason Baldwin, our living historian, has been hard at work on the history, traditions,

and timeline for the exhibit. AMC (AW) Bill Harnisch, with the help of ADC(AW) Jessica Acosta, has utilized his master wood craftsman skills to generate the space measurements, handmade shelving, and the intricate hatbox which will be on display in the exhibit. All of the handrails

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FORCM (IDW/SW/AW) Toby A. Ruiz



MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe Campa, JR.



continued from page 25

will have fancywork by BMCS Brian Shapely and Phase II First Class Petty Officers. ISCM(SS) Mark Kochanowicz is working on the display set up for the history of the MCPON. Our audio visuals are coordinated by Ken Wilder of SSC PAC in Philadelphia. ITC Mike Bayer has developed, and continues to manage, our growing social media presence. ATC(AW) Krista Francis is in charge of both the artwork and the setup of our internal communications. ISC Jason Lane has taken the lead on fundraising. AWFC (Ret) Leo Wieger hosted an amazing and successful coin auction to raise funds for the exhibit. Chris Blaine of SSC PAC Philadelphia has both technical support for instituting various technology within the exhibit and donated personal artifacts to the exhibit.

The outpouring of support from family, friends and the greater CPO community world-wide in this effort has been incredible and we are all truly grateful. Finally, thank you to all those behind the scenes who are making this exhibit a reality. There is still more work to be done but we are ahead of schedule and hope to see you on BIG J August 12th. If you would like to join the team or donate an artifact to the exhibit please contact ISCM (IDW/SW) Josh Mangum at joshua.mangum@navy.mil.

Because this is a living exhibit we are continuously looking for donations to keep the exhibit up-to-date and appealing to a wide range of visitors to the ship. If you would like to donate to this exhibit please visit <http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/support/donate/>.





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"It is very interesting going from civilian life to being in the reserves. There are some reservists that have very different lives outside of the military," said Eberbach. "It's pretty nice because I get to live a very normal life, very well-structured life, I have a lot freedom, but when it comes to that drill weekend, you jump right back into it."

Eberbach said that even though his job in the civilian sector relates to what he does in the Navy, many things vary, such as the environment in which he provides care.

Not all reservist corpsmen have medical-related jobs. Among the deployed medical team some are private business owners, one is a computer graphic designer, another is a wedding planner and there's even have a carpenter.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Marrolleti is also from Jacksonville. He has been a carpenter for three years and has served in the Navy for eight. He spent five years in active duty and deployed to Afghanistan, where he earned a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a "V" device for valor for his actions in combat while serving with 5th Marine Regiment in 2010. Marrolleti said that working as a carpenter now is nice and he enjoys being a corpsman on the weekends.

"It's easy to transition back into the role of a corpsman because I've been doing it so long, and I enjoy helping junior corpsmen, teaching them what I've learned and sharing my experiences," said Marrolleti. "Sometimes you get a little rusty on certain things like applying an IV and



U.S. Air Force medical personnel treat a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Dec. 23, 2015. Canadian forces, U.S. Air Force and Army medical personnel, along with U.S. Marines and Navy corpsmen with Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Crisis Response – Central Command, participated in the joint exercise to hone the coalition's medical response capabilities. SPMAGTF-CR-CC is currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility with a mission spanning 20 nations. (U.S. Marine Corps Photo by Sgt. Rick Hurtado / Released).

things like that, stuff that if you don't do it in a while you kind of forget, but it's just a matter of refreshing your memory and reading up on it and doing it, and it's just like riding a bicycle."

Readiness is essential around the MAGTF, and the medical team continues to maintain that level of readiness. Through mass medical evacuation exercises and basic day-to-day training, they remain relevant to the mission spanning 20 nations.

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Meet the Members

NERA is proud to honor a special member by featuring them in this Meet the Members section. This issue we feature Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen, who served as the fifth Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief and has been a loyal friend to NERA.

Tell us about yourself. Where did you grow up? Why did you enlist?

I served with my late brother-in-law, MK1 Joe DeLauter, and our Cousin BM1 Vince Staley at my first unit, Coast Guard Station Alexandria, VA. Following my initial enlistment, my brother, PS1 Dave Allen, served a distinguished 30-year Coast Guard Reserve career. Nephew MK2 Don DeLauter contributed important advancements in Coast Guard cutter engineering systems during his tour, and my nephew LT Joe DeLauter II continues his service in Coast Guard industrial engineering. All told, our family has produced eight Coast Guard members and has also sent members to the Navy, including my nephew LT Russ Allen.

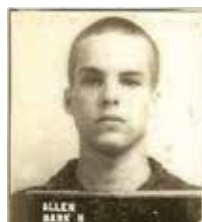
Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Beltsville, MD when it was mostly a forest peppered with farms. It is now a bustling suburbia outside of Washington, DC. I gained minor boating experience while recreational fishing and sailing as a child, but I knew nothing about the Coast Guard.

Why did you enlist?

I enlisted because I felt a patriotic desire to serve my nation as a military member. I chose the Reserve so that I could attend college full time after high school. I chose the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve because my sister's late husband, MK1 Joe DeLauter, USCGR sparked my interest. He set a shining example of a servant-leader and patriotic citizen. He visited me, following his drill weekend each month, in his dress white uniform, which impressed me. One day in about 1977, he took me to visit his unit, USCG Station Alexandria, VA. He showed me the boats, and I was hooked. My first Coast Guard love was search and rescue,

but law enforcement became my second love. I used to think that law enforcement was just about "stopping bad guys." I soon learned that it is mostly about educating the public and helping people.



What are some challenges you have faced in your career?

I share one of the biggest challenges of my career with other members of America's Guard and Reserve. We must balance the responsibilities of family, civilian employment/college, and military duty in what we call a work-life balance. Sometimes called citizen-sailors, members of our Coast Guard Reserve must somehow put family first while meeting obligations of a civilian job or college along with a military career. Our families serve too, as they learn to succeed with less of our time and attention than do their counterparts in civilian families. Our civilian employers and coworkers serve too, as they absorb our work during our absences for drill weekends and active duty that sometimes can last for years. Reservists in college must make up for missed classwork and sometimes postpone college enrollment during active duty periods. All the while, Reservists are military members. I have often reminded Reservists that they are usually paid only part time, but they are responsible as military members full time, 24/7/365. Not only are they subject to recall to active duty at any time, but they always are responsible for compliance with elements of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and always are representing the Coast Guard to the American tax payer. The above balance is impossible without the blessings of God.

Tell us about your most professionally rewarding experience?

The most professionally rewarding experience of my career by far was the opportunity to serve Coast Guard members and American tax payers as the Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief (CGRF-MC). I appreciated the opportunity to improve policy that effects our Coast Guard members, their families, and the public we serve. It meant so much

to represent the Coast Guard to sister branches of the military, to Americans at large, and to foreign nations. I felt especially honored to represent the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Mess in whose leadership I believe deeply. It was in the CGRF-MC assignment that I fully developed my appreciation of The Military Coalition (<http://www.themilitarycoalition.org>) and specifically of the importance of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association to Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reservists and families. I will remain forever grateful for the opportunity to give back to the Coast Guard that has blessed my family and me before, during, and after my 37-year career.



Worst Experience?

My worst Coast Guard experience was the EL TORO II search and rescue case in December 1993 in the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Potomac River. It was the most dangerous case of my career. Helping save 23 people that day was one of the most gratifying experiences of my career, but fighting to save the lives of severely hypothermic victims was unforgettable. Memories of the blank stare of a barely alive fisherman can lead to nightmares and sleepless nights. It was hard later to learn that three victims succumbed after my boat crew, the helicopter crew, and I had medevaced them from our deck. Another tough experience was the Air Florida Flight 90 search and rescue case in January 1982 in Washington, DC

in the Potomac River. Only five people aboard the commercial jet survived, and removing dead bodies from the frozen river in the days that followed was also an unforgettable experience. This too was the stuff of nightmares and sleepless nights.

Tell us about your life outside your career.

Simply stated, until retirement there was little life outside of the Coast Guard Reserve. By that statement, I mean that military service permeates all that we do. Most of my friends, with the exception of coworkers in my civilian career as a NASA contractor and of family friends, were and remain Coasties. Most of my volunteer work and community service was sponsored by Coast Guard organizations. Many of the running races in which I participated were sponsored by or supported the military. The military and military support organizations such as NERA offer venues for both professional and leisure activities,

and taking advantage of these offers facilitates a work-life balance. I remain connected to our Coast Guard through service on the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Board of Control. Following my retirement in 2014, I enrolled in graduate school at Drexel University and found great satisfaction in learning and growing as I pursue Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Project Management degrees.

What: Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief #5 (Retired)

Where: Fort Washington, MD (current home); Beltsville, MD (childhood home)

When: U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (1977-2014; 37 years)

Why: I enlisted in response to patriotism, my late brother-in-law's example, and boats.

How: All that I have survived, facilitated, and accomplished during my 37-year career was not only with, but because of, the amazing support of my God, wife Colleen, family, shipmates, and friends.

If you or a person you know deserves to be honored in NERA's Meet the Member, please let us know by emailing ypurtill@nera.org.



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

BMC Joseph P. Andrzejewski	West Virginia	MMC Jesse J. Hollingshead	Louisiana
DPC Robert A. Ater	Ohio	MS1 Ronald L. Laven	Arizona
MM1 Curtis R. Beers	New Jersey	GMGC Paul F. Johnson	Pennsylvania
AOC Darrell L. Bland	Mississippi	AMSC Ray C. Jones, Jr.	Pennsylvania
HTC John F. Brady, Jr.	Maryland	ISCM Phillip H. Karwowski	Massachusetts
GMCM Frank E. Cashman, Sr.	Pennsylvania	YN1 Joan J. King	Massachusetts
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