

THE **MARINER**

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NERA

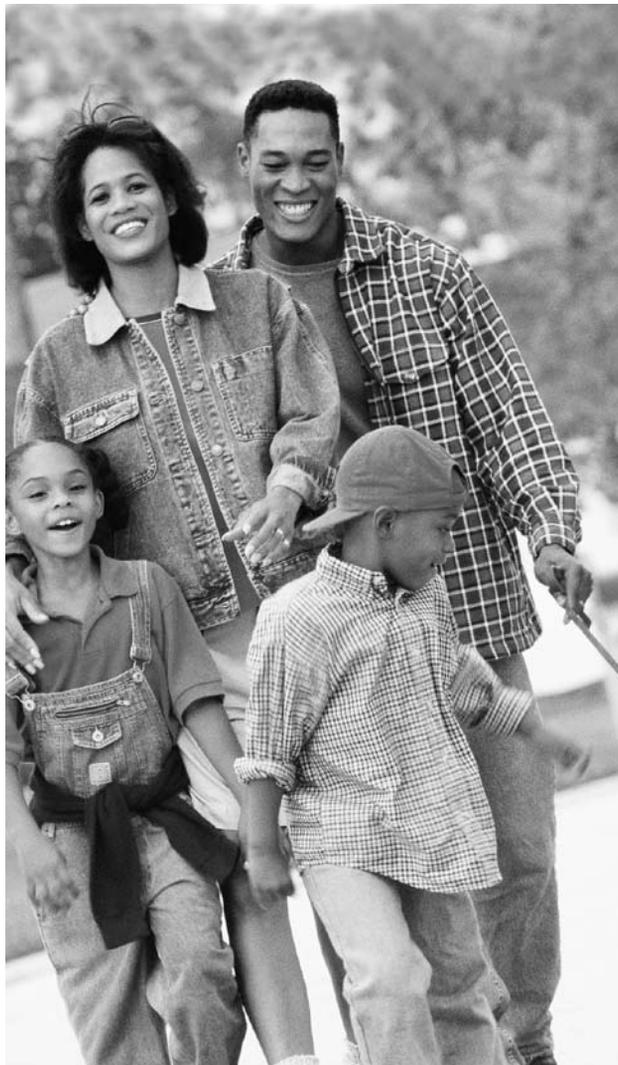


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THE MARINER

"Not For Self But For Country"



VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (Dec. 7, 2007) Members of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association of Tidewater salute during the national anthem at a memorial ceremony held on board Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek commemorating the 66th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Tyler Jones

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Top Right: One of nine USCG MSST RBSs (25 foot SAFE boats) from the San Francisco and LA/LB units, present for Fleet Week October 6, 2007 maintain the security zone and escort corridors for the Parade of Ships entering at the Golden Gate Bridge as one of the Canadian ships arrives. Photo: Linda Vetter, USCG Auxiliary.

Top Left: BM1 Bryan Hoffman leads Coast guard PSU 313 back to their home port in Tacoma, WA. Photo: PA3 David R. Marin, D13 Public Affairs.

Bottom Right: Photo information unknown, taken by British troops in the Persian Gulf. Submitted by John M. Duran YN2

The Mariner, 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 entitled to published subscription rates. Articles, letters, and jpeg photos for *The Mariner* should be submitted to the Managing Editor/DED via e-mail to: NERADEPUTY@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, or 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. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA e-mail: NERADEPUTY@NERA.ORG



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By National President Joanne Elliott

It's hard to believe that it is already March and we are almost halfway through this administration. We have made giant strides this past year and our team is top notch. We will continue to improve the website and will be soliciting our membership for anyone who will be interested in working with the website project. The fact that we have had such a great response to our email blasts with respect to the Scholarship and Mariner Committees shows that there are many of you out there who are willing and able to step up to the plate to ensure the continued survival of NERA.

As of this issue, you will see yet again a new look for the Mariner. HMCM (FMF) Ron Naida from OHSU Great Lakes has assumed the position of Editor. His staff now comprises of MC1 Brian Brannon, IT1 Alan Glenn, ENS Jon Burrow, Chris Riddell, Bob Hansen, Bill Severns, PC1 Robert Legnaioli, SK1(AW) Steve Lipscomb, Jennifer Smith, Allen Vandeweghe, and C.E. McPherson. This group will now bring the Mariner even further into the 21st Century and will be able to reach out worldwide for pertinent stories and informative information for our membership.

We have also added a new Scholarship Committee, spearheaded by Ward Wollesen. The other members are Lisa Cockerham, Forrest Croom, Ralph Hensley, John Skahill and David Nelson. Thank you all for volunteering and for your valuable expertise.

We are still receiving calls from many reservists who are encountering difficulties wading through the myriad of issues surrounding demobilization and with medical issues, including continuity of care and the differences between med hold, Line of Duty, Physical Evaluation Boards,



Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth D. Black pays close attention as Force Master Chief David R. Pennington discusses several points about full-time service with members of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) and reservists at Navy Operational Support Center Atlanta. Pennington was part of a panel discussion during NERA's 50th Annual National Conference. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Anthony Dallas

Medical Evaluation Boards, TRICARE problems, pay problems, incapacitation pay issues, etc. Although many find their way to our doorstep, we are concerned that there are many more individuals who need our help. If you are or have been in contact with anyone (or if you are having problems), please contact me directly or call Steve Sandy at the office so we may help you.

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Conference Scheduled for October 15-19.
More information in upcoming issues.

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FROM THE VP



As you may already know, new legislation went into effect late last year expanding the TRICARE coverage available to National Guard and Reservists. This greatly impacts you and your family because it means TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) is now available year-round to eligible National Guard and Reservists (except those eligible for FEHBP). That means some NERA members will no longer be dependent on the Reservist's mobilization status or access to an employee-sponsored health insurance plan.

This recent good news goes far in illustrating exactly how the collective power of one can make a meaningful difference for everyone. Several military associations pooled their lobbying power to encourage Capitol Hill to pass this legislation. The result is a great example of what can happen when we take advantage of our collective strength.

The same thing can be said of NERA members and those of us who work for your best interests. Our connection to each other creates more than a unique bond. Our strength in numbers also lends to unique purchasing power that you get to enjoy as part of your membership benefits.

For example, even though the new TRICARE pays a generous cost of medical bills outside the military system, NERA realizes your share of the cost might still be substantial if you don't carry secondary coverage. That's why we worked closely with our life insurance partner, USBA, to develop the NERA/USBA TRICARE Supplement Plan. This product is designed to enhance your current TRS coverage by providing reimbursement of eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses for insured NERA members. And – thanks to NERA's own "power of one" – it offers very attractive "group policy" pricing you might not be able to find on your own.

What is the NERA/USBA TRICARE Supplement? This supplement enhances your current TRICARE Reserve Select coverage by providing reimbursement of eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses for insured NERA members and their families who are covered by TRS.

Who is eligible? All qualified NERA members, their spouses and children who are eligible for TRS. Children must be under age 21 or under 23 years old if a full-time student. Members must be covered by this supplement in order to enroll spouses or children. (Note: NERA Retirees, ages 60 thru 64 DO NOT qualify for TRS or the TRS supplement but they DO qualify for TRICARE Standard and the USBA TRICARE Standard Supplement available to NERA members.)

Take a look at USBA's ad on page 2 for more plan details. You can also visit the NERA/USBA website at (www.usba.com/nera) to learn more about TRICARE products available to NERA members. Or finally you can call USBA directly at 1-800-368-7039 to speak to a NERA-dedicated product specialist.

I'm very excited about the changes to TRICARE as well as this new product we've developed on behalf of our members. That's because your financial protection is an important item on my list of concerns for the well-being of NERA members. And remember, every time you take advantage of one of these special offerings, you're also helping keep Association costs down for everyone. That makes it easier for us to apply more of our resources to other areas of concern that matter most to you. More next Quarter!

Nick Marine

"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean, or skinny and mean. They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat."

-RAdm. "Jay" R. Stark, US Navy; 10 November 1995.



Letters

■ A NOTE FROM BAGHDAD



Thank you very much for your selecting me as the NERA Member of the Quarter! The article in The Mariner magazine was awesome!

I just wanted to send a note from Baghdad and let everyone know we are doing fine here. You do not realize how important it is to have family and friends back home supporting us and thinking about ways to help make things a little easier for. Please continue to 'get the word out' and tell our story, tell it from the perspective of the service member on the ground.

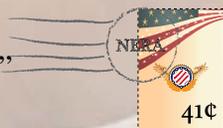
The days are long and the mission is difficult, but that comes with the job of being American Service Members.

It is extremely difficult to be away from home, family, friends for such a long time and live/work in such a dangerous environment. The only thing that keeps most of us going is thoughts of returning home.

Thanks again and please contact me anytime to receive updates from 'Down Range.'

v/r,
Jon Burrow
NERA Life Member

Ensign, USN "Mustang by Merit"
MNSTC-I DoIA (Phoenix Base)
APO, AE 09348



■ EXTRA SUPPORT

I understand that NERA is fast using its assets and could use some extra help financially from the Life Members.

I joined NERA in the early 1980s as a Navy Reservist on Temporary Active Duty (TEMAC) at Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters in Arlington, Va. I was on active duty as a TEMAC from 1981-1990.

I went on the retired pay list in May 2007 with enough retirement points to equal almost 15 years on active duty.

The benefits I now enjoy as a retiree I am finding to be a big asset.

Years of hard work on the part of NERA and other organizations are the reason Reservists have the benefits we have today.

I would urge all sea service reservists, young and old, active, inactive and retired to join NERA as a way to preserve current and future military benefits.

Last year when I was preparing to submit paperwork for retired pay, I called NERA, spoke with Steve Sandy, and had questions answered and received other valuable information as well. NERA membership is well worth the annual dues or Life Member dues. We should all remember there is no free lunch and do more to support NERA financially.

I made a small donation beyond my Life Members dues several years ago and feel I need to do more for NERA since NERA has done so much for me since I first joined the Naval Reserve in 1966.

Sincerely,
Richard W. Lewis
SK1, USN, RET
Life Member #919



Executive Director's Message

It was announced at the Navy Reserve's 93rd Birthday Celebration that Master Chief Ronney Wright has been selected to become the 13th Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve. The change of office will take place in June. Congratulations Master Chief!

The president has signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law. There is a matrix available on the NERA website that outlines the provisions in this Act. DOD has proposed fee hikes for TRICARE in the fiscal 2009 budget; NERA and The Military Coalition (TMC) are on record opposing these hikes.

The past three months have been amazing; our Life Members are responding to the Life Benefactor program. We sent out an email blast asking for volunteers for the Scholarship Committee and you responded. We asked for your help staffing the Mariner and the response was overwhelming. We

needed assistance with the regional and national conferences and again our members came through. Each time we ask, someone steps forward. Due to the tremendous response, not everyone could be selected. Thank you to those of you who were not selected; there will be more opportunities so please try again. We have many upcoming openings; there is the Membership Committee, the National Conference 2009, and working parties at National Headquarters to name a few. We would like to increase our involvement with Welcome Home receptions and assistance programs for the families of those deployed. These will offer many opportunities for you to help. I encourage you to lend a hand anywhere you see a need. We look forward to you joining the team.

The calendar on the website is a work in progress. If you see an event you would like to attend on behalf of NERA or you are coming to DC for a visit, let me know and I'll try to keep you busy or just show you how beautiful Washington is. The Scholarship season is here, so let's get the word out. Thanks to the sponsorship of USAA in addition to the help of our NERA family, we will offer our members six scholarships totaling sixteen thousand dollars. The committee, chaired by Ward Wollesen, has worked hard to tailor this program to better serve our Reserve community and their families.

Anyone can lead the self-motivated sailor. It's those who take the "screw up" and mentor, motivate, and encourage them, so they develop confidence and pride in themselves and become successful – those are the true leaders.



Naval Station, Naples, Italy- Information Technician 3rd Class Mark Olsen takes advantage of the good weather while studying for an Italian II course he is taking through University of Maryland, Europe. Many Sailors in Naples enroll in college courses to further their education while assigned to shore duty. University of Maryland, City College of Chicago, Oklahoma State University and other schools offer a wide range of college degree programs in Europe. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Heather Warick.

The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his.
--George Patton--

Steve Sandy



Medical Care for Wounded Warriors



By Navy Reserve Force Master Chief (SW) Dave Pennington



I want to start out by thanking the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) for lobbying in behalf of our Sailors and I especially appreciate the opportunity to participate in your guest column. Often associations across all service components express an interest in repre-

senting the Active, Reserve and Retired members of the military in various capacities yet they may not be in tune to the changes, direction and current focus of the leadership in some very dynamic times. So it then becomes hard to get on message. NERA has always attempted to “get on message” by pulsing and listening to the leadership and assisting vice impeding progress on behalf of Sailors. I am especially appreciative of this chance to chime in on this very important topic of care for our Wounded Warriors, the Limited Duty Program (LIMDU) and the Medical Hold Program (MEDHOLD).

In a Strategic Reserve Force during a cold war we were a “force in waiting” and did not have the potential for significant numbers in the LIMDU/MEDHOLD Program. Since 911 we have mobilized almost 50,000 Sailors in support of this Global War on Terror and the Navy has made incredible strides to ensure each and every Sailor is evaluated and medically treated after returning home. By Navy Reserve Force Master Chief (SW) Dave Pennington Spring 2008 THE MARINER Many of you know that the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) has created an entire code (Pers- 95) consisting of professionals who are trained to assist our Sailors who are on LIMDU or MEDHOLD and have questions. Before I go any further in this article I want to give you the points of contact for Pers-95 because this is “one stop shopping” at its finest and these leaders are committed to getting to the bottom of any and every situation and/or circumstance you can imagine.

Points Of Contact:

-Pers-95 Director LOD/MEDHOLD/MRR Division And Medical Status Review Officer, CAPT Jim Townsend, (901) 874-4280/ DSN 882 or email at medhold@navy.mil.

-Pers-95 Head MEDHOLD Branch And Senior Medical Officer, CAPT Louis Tripoli (Mc), (901) 874-4202 / DSN 882.

-Pers-95 Head LOD/MRR Branch, HMCM (AW/SW) Kurt Lewis, (901) 874-4503 / DSN 882.

Additionally, the CNP recently published NAVADMIN 056/08 with the subject line being “RESERVE COMPONENT MEDICAL HOLD SCREENING AND ASSIGNMENT” and this is a “must read” for anyone interested in how the process works. It is a testimony to the effort that Navy Leadership is taking to meet the complexities of this topic and ensure we communicate the way ahead.

It can be a complicated thing to get your head around and each case is different. I have learned not to “second guess” any situation – leave it to the professionals. When there is any doubt about a particular situation, a Line Of Duty Benefits Program will investigate and make



final determination to a Physicians Fit for Duty determination.

In closing, the systems are in place. In a total force I must say that the Active Component and Reserve Component all play by the same rules with regards to LIMDU and MEDHOLD. It has been a steep learning curve for our Reserve Component but between the CNP’s NAVADMIN and Pers-95 we have the information and guidance there for your use.

Over 50,000 Navy Reserve Sailors mobilized. Less than 3 percent processed for MEDHOLD and/or LIMDU. Over 6000 mobilized during this writing and we have 220 on MEDHOLD (right at 3 percent). These are relatively low numbers when compared to the Army and Marine Corps (and the numbers of those wounded warriors receiving life threatening battle injuries in the Navy Reserve Component are not comparable) but let there be no doubt. Each and every Sailor is important and will receive due process to get a “fit for duty” or appropriate medical severance under current standards afforded by law.

My prayers are with those who are working through the LIMDU/MEDHOLD process. See you on the deck plates.



From Bagdad to Beaumont, Coast Guard Reservists Are Quietly Making A Difference

MCPO-CGRF Jeffrey D. Smith

Chief Warrant Officer Jack Brown was at his desk in the U. S. Embassy in Baghdad when the mortar rounds landed. The Coast Guard Reservist from Fairfax, Virginia, who was serving as the assistant to the DHS attaché, instinctively called on his experience as a firefighter and first-responder and immediately render assistance to those wounded in the attack. During another assault CWO Brown witnessed a trailer on fire and entered the burning building without regard to his own safety. Despite the smoke and fire that filled the trailer he calmly escorted the people to safety then secured the electrical power to prevent further injuries or damage. On yet another occasion, CWO Brown protected the Iraqi Director of Customs with his own body during a rocket attack outside of the embassy compound and safely led the General to the safety of a fortified bunker. For his actions Chief Warrant Officer Brown was awarded the Bronze Star Medal -- only the second Bronze Star issued "by the USCG" for this conflict.

CWO Brown is just one of the thousands of dedicated Coast Guard Reservists who have been directly supporting the Global War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001. The men and women of the United States Coast Guard Reserve have been quietly supporting one of DoD's the most important missions -- the military out load.

As part of its support to DoD's strategic sealift efforts in the US, the USCG is responsible for assuring the safety and security of US ports and waterways and enforcing vessel cargo and waterfront facility regulations; inspecting vessels (including those of the ready reserve fleet); licensing mariners; enforcing customs laws; providing hazardous material supervision for munitions shipments; port emergency response; chairing port readiness committees at strategic ports; and establishing safety and security zones.

During military force deployment and redeployment operations, the US Coast Guard with heavy reliance on the Coast Guard Reserve assists by providing antiterrorism and force protection to strategic

sealift at US and overseas seaports of embarkation and debarkation by conducting port security and harbor defense operations. About one half of the nearly 1000 Coast Guard men and women supporting OIF/OEF in 2008 will be conducting domestic and expeditionary port security operations. This includes approximately 600 Selected Reserve (SELRES) on Title -10 recall supporting DoD military out load operations in the Ports of Charleston, SC, Jacksonville, FL, and Beaumont, TX. Their mission is to support the troops in Iraq by ensuring the supplies needed in-theatre arrive safely and on time. Additionally, members of the Coast Guard Reserve are attached to a Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron serving in the CENTCOM area of responsibility, while members of Port Security Unit 313 are providing waterside security for Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

During 2007, Coast Guard Active Duty and Reserve personnel protected, safely secured, and escorted more than 100 Military Sealift Command owned or chartered ship arrivals and departures at 20 U.S. seaports of embarkation/debarkation, moving over 6 million square feet of military essential material. At Coast Guard Sector Charleston, South Carolina the Military Out Load (MOL) Section is staffed completely by Reservists. The MOL operation recently passed a couple of significant milestones. On February 1 of this year MOL personnel completed five consecutive years of successful support to Department of Defense strategic sealift operations. During that time the Section has flawlessly completed hundreds of security escort and security zone sorties amassing an impressive 30,760 hours underway. All this was done around the clock in all types of weather conditions and in a typically quiet and professional Coast Guard manner. And, when you are talking about the movement of military munitions and hardware, quiet is exactly how you want things to be.

From small boat crews in US and foreign ports to forward deployed individual augmentees like CWO Brown, members of the United States Coast Guard Reserve are playing a specialized and indispensable role in the Global War on Terror.

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It's The Little Things That Make a Difference

الله اكبر

Jon Burrow, ENS, LDO, USN

Before deploying to Iraq all U.S. and Coalition Forces go through cultural immersion and cultural awareness training. I spent several weeks training at a U.S. Army base prior to deploying, and most of the training centered on cultural issues and situational awareness of the region. We have entered into a great undertaking here (re-building Iraq). The cultural and religious differences, coupled with lack of understanding on both sides, makes for a challenging and sometimes difficult mission.

The difference is in the details. Coalition and U.S. service members develop important relationships when they take time to learn where the Iraqis they are working with grew up, how large of a family they have, and where they have studied, etc. Think about the influences that were forced on the Iraqi people under the Ba'athist Party rule. Under the old regime and Saddam Hussein, information the Iraqi people were exposed to was completely controlled. Iraqis never had these opportunities to interact with people from the West and get to know them on a more personal level. The benefits of these interactions have significant second and third order affects. Think about the response an Iraqi man will give his family when he goes home and talks about his time spent working with the Americans. The favorable impressions that we leave on good Iraqi people will transcend to their families, clans, and tribes. It may not seem like very much at the time, but you would be surprised how fast news can travel via word of mouth; especially in areas of the world that do not have instant communication tools.

Part of our mission here in developing professional programs, systems, and creating an organizational structure to help manage and lead the new Iraqi Security Forces, involves a lot of data translation from English to Iraqi Arabic and vice versa. I spend a portion of my time assisting my Arabic

interpreter in translating the written English we use in the military and business world into something that is easily understandable to Iraqis. The phrase 'lost in translation' comes to mind. It is important to ensure our customers understand to the best of their ability the capabilities and strategies we are working to implement that will help create a long lasting and prosperous society. Again, the difference is in the details.

The Government of Iraq approved a new Iraqi flag. The Minister has directed all Government of Iraq entities to begin displaying the new flag effective February 5th, 2008. Changes to the flag include removal of the three green stars, which were symbols of the Ba'athist Party motto of unity, freedom and socialism. In addition, the Arabic script has been changed to Kufic script, which is an early form of Arabic writing originating in Iraq. I



believe one of the goals behind this design change was to help instill a sense of Iraqi pride, and to remind Iraqis of their country's long history and rich heritage. The span of time during Ba'athist Party rule is extremely short when compared to the complete history of Iraq. This is just one of the many signs of victory: Signs of a population that has decided war and conflict have become tiresome, and that hatred and indifference can be traded for cooperation and tolerance in

a spirit of cooperation. The vast majority of Iraqis want the same thing all Americans want, a guarantee that their children can live happy and safe, and have the opportunity to freely express their beliefs and lifestyle. They are an ancient and traditional culture, one that has been passed down from generation to generation, vested deeply in family and religious convictions. How many Americans can say, "My family has lived here for thousands of years"? Aside from Native Americans, none.

(ENS Jon Burrow is currently deployed to Iraq, serving with the Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq)

Once we have a war there is only one thing to do. It must be won.

For defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in war.

--Ernest Miller Hemmingway--

THE TWISTED TALE OF AGENT ORANGE

By Paul Sutton

This article is a lead up to the NERA conference, at which the author will make a presentation about defoliation in South Vietnam during the war. One of the issues that will be covered at the March 29th presentation is the matter of the exposure in those Naval personnel referred to as the “Blue Water Navy” – those Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps personnel who served off the coast of South Vietnam; but, within range and often sight of the coast whose exposure to herbicides is unique and around which veterans’ advocates are currently engaged in a battle with the federal government, culminating in a suit presently being heard in the US Court of Appeals, with a decision due in the summer of 2008. The following is taken from a scientific presentation given by the author to the first ever joint US-Vietnam Conference on the use of herbicides in Vietnam, held in March 2002, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

BACKGROUND

Much of South Vietnam is covered with very dense jungle vegetation. This dense vegetation was used as cover by the forces opposing the United States and South Vietnamese armies. One means of counteracting this tactic was the use of herbicides to kill and defoliate vegetation. Herbicides were widely used to destroy enemy cover, food crops and to clear United States base perimeters of vegetation. These chemicals were applied by airplanes (Operation Ranch Hand), helicopters, trucks, riverboats and individual backpacks.

Three million acres of South Vietnam were sprayed with 50,000 tons of Agent Orange and other herbicides, containing over 500 pounds of dioxin. Because herbicides were used in Vietnam to destroy crops and defoliate jungle cover, the military used 27 times more herbicide per unit area than most domestic applications, which are primarily used to prevent weed growth. Dioxin is the focus of veterans’ health concerns because of its toxicity. However, many different chemicals with the potential for producing health problems were used in Vietnam.

VETERAN EXPOSURES

There are a variety of means by which veterans could have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Veterans may have taken part in the actual spraying which involved airplanes, helicopters, in Vietnam river boats, trucks or backpacks. They may also have been exposed to Agent Orange by consuming contaminated food or drinking water. Veterans could have been in areas while spraying occurred or in areas that were recently sprayed and areas that were sprayed and then burned. Burning increases by 25 percent the dioxin toxicity of the Agent Orange present.

EARLY RESEARCH

Agent Orange had its genesis as a defoliant in an obscure laboratory at the University of Chicago during World War II. Working on experimental plant growth at the time, Professor E.J. Kraus, chairman of the school’s botany department, discovered that he could regulate the growth of plants through the infusion of various hormones. Among the discoveries he made was that certain broadleaf vegetation could be killed by causing the plants to experience sudden, uncontrolled growth. It was similar to giving the plants cancer by introducing specific chemicals. In some instances, deterioration of the vegetation was noticed within 24-48 hours of the application of the chemicals.

ARMY EXPERIMENTS WITH DEFOLIANTS

The Army continued to experiment with 2,4-D during the 1950s, and late in the decade found a potent combination of chemicals, which quickly found its way into the Army’s chemical arsenal. Army scientists found that by mixing 2,4-D and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) and spraying it on plants, there would be an almost immediate negative effect on the foliage. What they didn’t realize, or chose to ignore, was that 2,4,5-T contained dioxin, a useless by-product of herbicide production. It would be twenty more years until concern was raised about dioxin, a chemical the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would later call “one of the most perplexing and potentially dangerous” known to man. After minimal experimentation in 1961, a variety of chemical agents was shipped to Vietnam to aid in anti-guerrilla efforts. The chemicals were to be used to destroy food sources and eliminate foliage that concealed enemy troop movements.

RAINBOW HERBICIDES

The various chemicals were labeled by color-coded stripes on the barrels, an arsenal of herbicides known by the colors of the rainbow, including Agent Blue (which contained arsenic), Agent White, Agent Purple, and the lethal combination of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T – Agent Orange.

On January 13, 1962, three U.S. Air Force C-123s left Tan Son Nhut airfield to begin Operation Hades (later called Operation Ranch Hand), the defoliation of portions of South Vietnam’s heavily forested countryside in which Viet Cong guerrillas could easily hide. By September, 1962, the spraying program had intensified, despite an early lack of success, as U.S. officials targeted the Ca Mau Peninsula, a scene of heavy communist activity. Ranch Hand aircraft sprayed more than 9,000 acres of mangrove forests there,

defoliating approximately 95 percent of the targeted area. That mission was deemed a success and full approval was given for continuation of Operation Ranch Hand as the U.S. stepped up its involvement in Vietnam.

SIX TO TWENTY-FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN RECOMMENDED

Over the next nine years, an estimated 12 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed throughout Vietnam. The U.S. military command in Vietnam insisted publicly the defoliation program was militarily successful and had little adverse impact on the economy of the villagers who came into contact with it.

Although the herbicides were widely used in the United States, they usually were heavily diluted with water or oil. In Vietnam, military applications were sprayed at the rate of three gallons per acre and contained approximately 12 pounds of 2,4-D and 13.8 pounds of 2,3,5-T. The military sprayed herbicides in Vietnam six to 25 times the rate suggested by the manufacturer.

In 1962, 15,000 gallons of herbicide were sprayed throughout Vietnam. The following year that amount nearly quadrupled, as 59,000 gallons of chemicals were poured into the forests and streams. The amounts increased significantly after that: 175,000 gallons in 1964, 621,000 gallons in 1965 and 2.28 million gallons in 1966.

AIR FORCE KNEW OF HEALTH DANGER

Scientists involved in Operation Ranch Hand and documents uncovered in the late 1980s in the National Archives present a troubling picture. There are strong indications that military officials were aware as early as 1967 of the limited effectiveness of chemical defoliation and they knew of potential long-term health risks of frequent spraying. Dr. James Clary was an Air Force scientist in Vietnam who helped write the history of Operation Ranch Hand. Clary says the Air Force knew Agent Orange was far more hazardous to the health of humans than anyone would admit at the time. "When we (military scientists) initiated the herbicide program in the 1960s," Clary wrote in a 1988 letter to a member of Congress investigating Agent Orange. "We were aware of the potential for damage due to dioxin contamination in the herbicide. We were even aware that the 'military' formulation had a higher dioxin concentration than the 'civilian' version, due to the lower

cost and speed of manufacture. However, because the material was to be used on the 'enemy,' none of us were overly concerned. We never considered a scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide. And, if we had, we would have expected our own government to give assistance to veterans so contaminated."

MIST DRIFT

One of the first defoliation efforts of Operation Ranch Hand was near a rubber plantation in January, 1962. According to an unsigned U.S. Army memorandum dated January 24, 1966, titled "Use of Herbicides in Vietnam," studies showed that within a week of spraying, the trees in the plantation "showed considerable leaf fall."

"The injury to the young rubber trees occurred even though the plantation was located some 500 yards away and upwind of the target at the time of the spray delivery." The memo went on to say that "vapors of the chemical were strong enough in concentration to cause this injury to the rubber." These vapors, "appear to come from 'mist drift' or from vaporization either in the atmosphere or after the spray has settled on the vegetation." The issue of "mist drift" continued to plague the defoliation program. How far would it drift? How fast? Wind speed and direction were of major concerns in answering these questions. Yet, there were other questions, many of which could not be answered.



What happened in humid weather?

How quickly did the chemicals diffuse in the atmosphere, or were they carried into the clouds and dropped dozens of miles away? How long would the

rainbow herbicides linger in the air or on the ground once they were sprayed? It developed that the distance was ten kilometers and more, more than six miles. In essence, troops operating more than six miles from defoliation operations could find themselves, their water and their food doused with chemical agents, including dioxin-laced Agent Orange.

DEFOLIANTS DUMPED ON PEOPLE AND INTO WATER SUPPLIES

In addition to the planned dumps of herbicides, accidental and intentional dumps of defoliants over populated areas and into the water supplies was not unusual, according to government documents.

A memorandum for the record dated October 31, 1967, and signed by Col. W.T. Moseley, chief of MACV's Chemical Operations Division, reported an emergency dump of herbicide far from the intended target. At approximately 1120 hours, October 29, 1967, aircraft #576 made an emergency dump of herbicide in Long Khanh Province due to failure of one engine and loss of power in the other. Approximately 1,000 gallons of herbicide WHITE were dumped from an altitude of 2,500 feet. No mention was made of wind speed or direction, but chemicals dropped from that height had the potential to drift a long way.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in the summer of 1968 sent a letter to the Secretaries of State and Defense urging a study to determine the ecological effects of herbicide spraying in Vietnam. That letter prompted a cable from Secretary of State Dean Rusk to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The cable, dated August 26, 1968, sought additional information but informed embassy officials of the tactic State was going to take in its reply to the AAAS. "The Department of State's proposed reply notes that the limited investigations of the ecological problem which have been conducted by agencies of the USG thus far have failed to reveal serious ecological disturbances, but acknowledges that the long-term effect of herbicides can be determined definitively only by long-term studies." Rusk suggested releasing "certain non-sensitive" portions of a study on the ecological effects of herbicide spraying in Vietnam done earlier that year by Dr. Fred H. Tschirley, then assistant chief of the Corps Protection Research Branch, Corps Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland. Tschirley went to Vietnam under the auspices of the State Department early in 1968 and returned with exactly the report the U.S. government and the chemical companies wanted.

Tschirley foresaw no long-term ecological impact on Vietnam as a result of the herbicide spraying. In addition, in his report of April 1968, later reprinted in part in the February 21, 1969 issue of Science magazine, Tschirley exonerated the chemical companies. "There is no evidence," Tschirley wrote, "to suggest that the herbicides used in Vietnam will cause toxicity problems for man or animals."

Rusk urged that Tschirley's report be made public. What Rusk did not mention was that Tschirley's report had been heavily edited, in essence changing its findings.

USE OF CHEMICALS CONTINUED IN VIETNAM

While the debate over the danger of Agent Orange and dioxin heated up in scientific circles, the U.S. Air Force continued flying defoliation sorties, and the troops on the ground continued to live in the chemical mist of the rainbow herbicides. They slept with it, drank it in their water, ate it in their food and breathed it when it dropped out of the air in a fine, white pungent mist.

Some of the troops in Vietnam used the empty Agent Orange drums for barbecue pits. Others stored watermelons and potatoes in them. Still others rigged the residue-laden drums for showers. The spraying continued unabated in 1968, even though, according to military records, it apparently was having minimal effects on the enemy. A series of memorandums uncovered in the National Archives and now declassified indicate that defoliation killed a lot of plants, but had little real effect on military operations.

ORANGE AEROSOL DISCOVERED

Meanwhile, the military continued to learn just how toxic Agent Orange could be. On October 23, 1969, an urgent message was sent from Fort Detrick, Maryland, to MACV concerning cleaning of drums containing herbicides. The message provided detailed instructions on how to clean the drums and warned that it was particularly important to clean Agent Orange drums. "Using the (Agent) Orange drums for storing petroleum products without thoroughly cleaning them can result in creation of an orange aerosol when the contaminated petroleum products are consumed in internal combustion engines. The Orange aerosol thus generated can be most devastating to vegetation in the vicinity of engines. Some critics claim that some of the damage to vegetation along Saigon streets can be attributed to this source. White and Blue residues are less of a problem in this regard since they are not volatile." Not only was Agent Orange being sprayed from aircraft, but it was unwittingly being sprayed out of the exhausts of trucks, jeeps and gasoline generators.

VETS BEGIN DEVELOPING HEALTH PROBLEMS

As soldiers who had served in Vietnam attempted to settle back into civilian life following their tours, some of them began to develop unusual health problems. There were skin and liver diseases and what seemed to be an abnormal number of cancers to soft tissue organs such as the lungs and stomach. There also seemed to be an unusually high number of birth defects among children born to Vietnam veterans

who had been exposed to Agent Orange. Some veterans experienced wild mood swings, while others developed a painful skin rash known as chloracne. Many of these veterans were found to have high levels of dioxin in their blood, but scientists and the U.S. government insisted there was no link between their illnesses and Agent Orange. In the mid 1970s, there was renewed interest in dioxin and its effects on human health following an industrial accident in Seveso, Italy, in which dioxin was released into the air, causing animal deaths and human sickness.

STUDIES CONTRADICTORY AND CONFUSING

By 1983, the results of studies of Agent Orange and dioxin exposure began to trickle in. They were, for the most part, contradictory and confusing. A series of studies conducted between 1974 and 1983 by Dr. Lennart Hardell, the so-called Swedish Studies, showed a link between exposure to Agent Orange and soft tissue sarcomas and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And in July 1983, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report citing "an association" between dioxin exposure and incidence of soft tissue sarcoma.

TEST RESULTS CONTINUE TO BE MIXED

Results of Agent Orange tests continued to be mixed. The results varied greatly, depending on who was doing the testing. In December, 1985, the Air Force released the third of its Operation Ranch Hand studies. It confirmed the other two: that there was no evidence that Agent Orange had any adverse effects on those who handled it during the war. "At this time, there is no evidence of increased mortality as a result of herbicide exposure among individuals who performed the Ranch Hand spray operation in Southeast Asia," the Air Force concluded.

After seven years of study, the CDC had made no progress on one of the most important and highly publicized issues of the war in Vietnam. In charge of the CDC study was Dr. Vernon Houk, director of the agency's Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control. The White House's Agent Orange Working Group was supposed to supervise the CDC study while the Pentagon's Environmental Support Group was charged with providing the CDC with records of Agent Orange spraying and troop deployment. Houk's CDC team complained throughout the study that those records were too spotty to make a scientific study of the effects of Agent Orange on soldiers.

Not so, said the Pentagon. Richard Christian, head of the Pentagon's Environmental Support Group, testified before Congress in mid-1986 that the records of troop movements and spraying were more than adequate for a scientific study. Christian's testimony was bolstered by two other sources. Retired Army Maj. Gen. John Murray had been asked by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger in early 1986 to undertake a study to determine if Pentagon records were adequate for purposes of the study. After four months, Murray also determined that the records for

a comprehensive study of Agent Orange were more than adequate.

STUDY CALLED A FRAUD

But again, there was more information available that was never presented. The Institute of Medicine in the weeks before the CDC released its results of blood tests wrote a stinging rebuke of the CDC's tests methods. It said that none of the CDC's conclusions was supported by scientific data. The CDC refused to turn this report over to the White House. "Either it was a politically rigged operation or it was a monumentally bungled operation," said Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY), chairman of the Government Operations Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee. Other information began turning up that there were concerted efforts by various agencies of the government to conceal records and information about the effects of Agent Orange. Daschle learned that there were major discrepancies between a January 1984 draft of the Air Force's Operation Ranch Hand study and the February 1984 report. According to Daschle, the draft showed there were twice as many birth defects among the children of Ranch Hand participants. "The draft also reported that the Ranch Handers were less well, than the controls by a ratio of 5 to 1," said Daschle.

But these results were deleted from the final Ranch Hand report, which said there had been no adverse effects from exposure to Agent Orange. "The Air Force deleted these findings from the final report at the suggestion of a Ranch Hand Advisory Committee set up by the White House Agent Orange Working Group," said Daschle.

Air Force scientists involved in the study said they were pressured by non-scientists within the Air Force and the White House to change the results and delete critical information for the final report. Daschle says he has even obtained two versions of the minutes of the meeting in which that pressure was applied. One confirms what the scientists told him. Another set deletes that information. "What happened there was a fraud perpetrated by people whose names we still do not know," said Daschle.

In a study released March 29, 1990, the CDC admitted that Vietnam veterans face a higher risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, but denied that it was a result of exposure to Agent Orange. It said the studies showed that Vietnam veterans do not have higher rates of soft tissue sarcomas, Hodgkin's disease, nasal cancer, nasopharyngeal cancer and liver cancer.

BIZARRE FINDING

One of the more bizarre aspects of this report from the CDC was the claim that those veterans who suffered most from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma had served on Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam. It said that those who had served in III Corps, which had some of the heaviest Agent Orange spraying of the war, seemed to be at lower risk.



Faces of NERA



Retirement Celebration for ABHC Glenn Swann
NERA Lifetime member
(NAS Atlanta) 42 years Naval of Service.
(photo left to right)
SKCS(AW) Nick Marine- SKC Penny Padour and
ABHC Glenn Swann



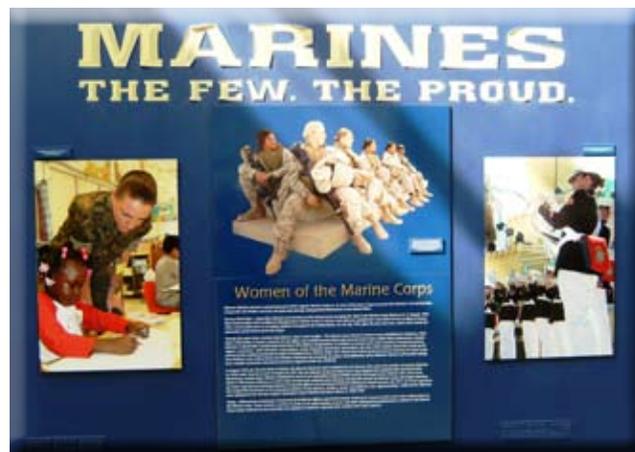
NERA Susquehanna Chapter in Williamsport, PA.
participated in Annual Memorial Day service sponsored by
Lycoming County Veteran's council May 2007.
(photo left to right) George Hurne-MRCS Robert Butters-Rear
Admiral John Christiansen-Captain Larry Young-EN1 Gene Ring and
BMC Donald Butters



WAVES Display; Women in Military Service
for America Memorial; Taken 01 March 2008
by Jennifer L. Smith



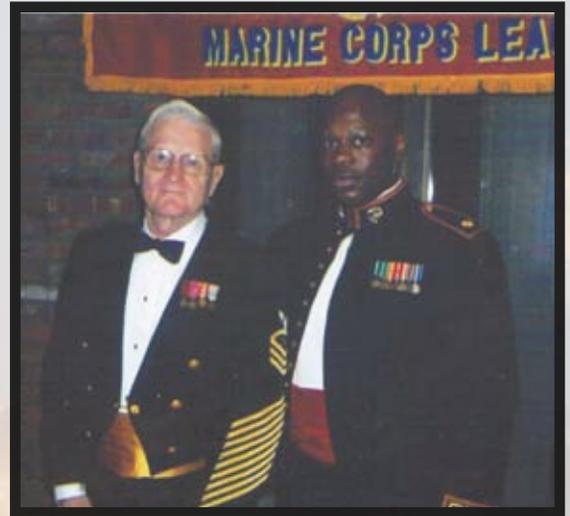
CAPT Joan F. Ludwick, USNR (right)
and colleague; Women in Military
Taken 01 March 2008 by Jennifer L. Smith



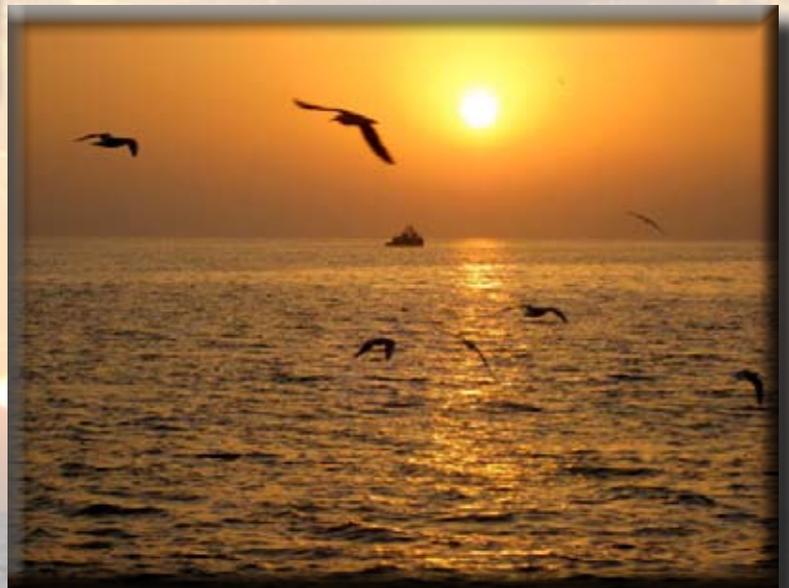
Marine Corps; Women in Military
Service for America Memorial;
Taken 01 March 2008
by Jennifer L. Smith



Faces of NERA



(Left to right)
YNC Chuck Sherrick and Major Keith Mishoe.
Photo taken on USMC's 232nd Birthday celebration
Ball in Scotch Plains, NJ.



Once in a while we have a good day over here.....
Picture sent by John M Duran YN2



Members of the League Island Chapter, Philadelphia, PA, were sworn in at their annual chapter Christmas Party. Shown left to right are HMC(FMF) Charles Haig IV, past chapter President, administering the oath of office to Chapter President, YNCS William Vinglas, Vice-President, MM1 Charles White, Secretary, YNC Jeanne Lemasters, Treasurer, MLC John Zelusky and Chapter Executive Counselor, IC1(SW) Frank McCloskey.

On January 6, 2008, however, the chapter was saddened with the loss of their Chapter Executive Counselor, Frank McCloskey, due to cancer.

Diplomats are just as essential in starting a war as soldiers are in finishing it.
--Will Rogers--



TIPS & CLIPS



By Joanne Elliott
NERA President



San Diego -- Lcpl. Mario Reyes, of Chicago, Ill says a final goodbye to his family on his cellular phone prior to boarding the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4). U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Mark J. Rebilas.

FREE RIDES FOR VETS

The Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) provides free rides to medical appointments for veterans. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer go to your local VA medical center. To check for the closest center to you go to www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp and select your state. You will need to pass a physical exam, carry a valid driver's license, have a safe driving record, carry current auto insurance and attend training sessions.

DD-215 ERRORS

There was a report on Military.com that Vets are suffering from DD-214 errors. If you have demobilized over the last 5 years or if you are getting ready to demobilize, you need to review your DD-214 for any mistakes. You will need to file a DD-215 to correct any mistakes. Make sure that all your medals and prior information from mobilizations are on it and that they are correct, including the number of days of active duty. Check each box carefully to ensure that the correct social security number, your name, etc. are accurate.

CELLPHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Go to <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/about.html> to learn about how you can donate those old cell phones that you have hanging around the house. Make sure that you delete any info on the phones before you send them out.

TRICARE SHINGLES VACCINE

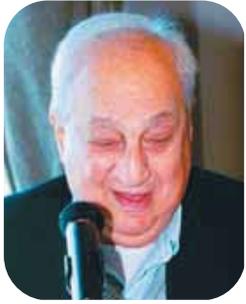
TRICARE wants beneficiaries to have a full understanding of the benefits that they have to offer. Many vaccines are a service that may be covered by Medicare as a prescription drug program (Medicare Part D), while being covered only as a TRICARE medical benefit. To view the full release, please visit: <http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=370>

*If it moves, salute it; if it doesn't move, pick it up;
and if you can't pick it up, paint it.
--Anonymous (1940's saying)—*



YEARS AGO IN NERA

By *Manny Ratner*



FORTY YEARS AGO:

Three new chapters were welcomed: Cedar Valley (36 members); Omaha Chapter (27 members); and Glass City Chapter (38 members). Dues were still \$5. The 11th National Conference was held at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Wash. DC, 18-19 October, 1968. Room rates were \$13.50/\$17. The registration fee was

\$3. NERA President, Duncan FORSYTH made the opening remarks. Speakers were CAPT George SCABOO, Assist. Dep. CNO for Naval Reserve, representing RADM Burke; CAPT Robert STANKOWSKI, representing Asst. Chief of Naval Personnel for NR; CAPT Edward FIEDLER, YNCM Don CODY, representing the Commander, Naval Training Command; and CAPT Giuseppe BELLO, representing the Chief of Naval Air Training Command. Almost two pages of the six page NERAGRAM was devoted to BUPERS Instructions with detailed info from Involuntary Call-Up to ACDU of Ready Reserves; retention in the Ready Reserves; Outfitting the members of the Navy Reserves; order to ACDU; Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act of 1940; notification of eligibility for retired pay; retirement credit for satisfactory completion of correspondence courses, etc. Portal to Portal coverage was written up in the NERAGRAM and our members were asked to help pass it in Congress by contacting their representatives and senators. A good part of the article said "Is this what you want? Do you feel you deserve this coverage? Does your Congressperson know how you feel? If not, why don't you tell them?" Despite NERA's efforts it did not pass and it took NERA several more years before coverage for traveling to and from drills, lunch hour, and complete coverage at drills was passed and you still have this protection today.

THIRTY YEARS AGO: A letter from Chief of Naval Reserve, VADM CHARBONNET stated that drilling delegates to the October NERA Conference be given excused drills from 21-22 October 1978. President CLYMER sent a letter to President CARTER that NERA had reviewed his budget presented to Congress for FY79 with great alarm as the proposed budget would cut the drill pay status of the Naval Reserve in half. With continued efforts by NERA leaders, the cuts were later rescinded. PNCM James L. STEPHENS was appointed as the National Executive Director by President CLYMER. He succeeded ENC Joe WASSON who had held the post for almost 10 years. Jim was a TAR on ACDU as the Assistant for Enlisted Plans and Policies at BUPERS. During his tenure we had our greatest growth to over 17,000 members. Our new NED wrote a complete article in regard to transferring to the retired list; the first in a series of informative articles explaining the problems concerning the benefits and retirements for Reservists. E-4 to E-6 advancement

quotas were provided as well as an article on how to write to members of Congress. The 1978 National Conference was to be held in New Orleans from 19-21 Oct at the Fountain Bay Club Hotel. NERA dues were now \$10. Congressman Bill CHAPPELL, an Associate Member of NERA, wrote a very fine letter to our NED about the Navy Reserve and its many problems. For the first time we were to have the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral HAYWARD and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Bob WALKER, who both spent the entire conference with us as well as giving formal addresses, speaking and answering questions from the over 200 delegates that attended. One evening's highlight was NERA delegates in uniform marching down one of the streets in the French Quarter led by Master Chief WALKER. This was received with much applause and recognition by the many people in the area.

TWENTY YEARS AGO. YNCM (SW) Andrew J. VARGO was now the National Executive Director and had assembled a fine group to lead and assist him in NERA matters. The March-April, 1988 issue of *The Mariner* had its two center pages devoted to a tribute to Nat LEIDERMAN, the immediate Past President who died on 25 Jan 1988. I am repeating part of a tribute that I wrote about him: "We have lost another pillar of NERA. Since joining in 1967, Nat truly lived NERA. An intense, articulate, exciting, and outspoken member, NAT often antagonized many of us, but he always fought for what was good for NERA." RADM F. Neale SMITH, Commander, Naval Reserve Force, wrote a fine article about the state of the force and brought out that the 126,000 Mobilization Ready Reserve represented about 20 percent of our active Naval Forces at that time. He wrote about the modernization of the Naval Reserve Fleet, one-fourth of our total frigate assets. When the 600 ship Navy is reached, 50 ships will be in the Reserve Force. G.O. (Sonny) MONTGOMERY, Chairman of the House Committee on Veteran Affairs, wrote a nice thank you to NERA in regard to spreading the word about the new GI Bill and appreciated our invitation to contribute to *The Mariner*. HMCM Jeffrey A. BRODY was selected to relieve Force Master Chief Larry L. SORENSON during August, 1988. Many letters were printed in *The Mariner* in regard to High Year Tenure as well as the many changes to Uniform Regulations. Past National President Jim DUFFY spoke to the Editor and had a two page interview to be continued in another issue. Sign up 3 new members and receive a year free membership. National VP and Membership Chairman Larry DiPASQUALE was promoting this to help build up our membership. The National Conference was slated for 26-29 October in Green Bay at the Oneida Roadway Inn with Chairman Tim KARNs and hosted by the Packerland Chapter with single rooms at \$49 and doubles at \$54.



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Navy Reserve Celebrates 93 Years of Service and Dedication

By Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Jose Lopez, Jr.
Naval Reserve Fleet Public Affairs Center,
Pacific

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy Reserve Force (NRF) celebrated 93 years of citizen Sailors supporting the fleet on March 3.

Though Congress passed legislation that officially created the NRF in 1915, its roots can be traced back to the Revolutionary War, when citizens captured the British armed schooner *Margaretta* on June 12, 1775, off the coast of Machias, Maine. This would be the first of many actions taken by local naval militias that would forge the heritage culminating in the modern Navy Reserve.

“Throughout their history, Navy Reservists have contributed significantly to our national defense and all major conflicts,” said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, in a Navy message commemorating the anniversary of the Reserves. “Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 50,000 augmentation requirements have been filled by reserve Sailors in support of combatant commands.”

Hundreds of years before the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the twin towers, citizen Sailors participated in naval conflicts against the British, in Mexico and on U.S. soil. In 1890, Capt. Alfred Thayer Mahan published “The Influence of Sea Power Upon History,” which called for the modernization of the fleet and the establishment of a reserve force. Mahan’s theories were put to the test during the Spanish-American War, when the U.S. destroyed Spain’s aging armada. A reserve force was called to patrol the coasts in case of an attempted Spanish invasion.

Many answered the call to arms, as Navy Reservists continue to do today to support the sea service’s Maritime Strategy, which calls for rapid adaptability in an ever-changing environment. The strategy has Reservists serving aboard ships, ashore, and with U.S. Army and Marine combat forces on the ground.



Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter and Vice Adm. John Cotton, commanding officer of Naval Reserve Forces, salute a wreath honoring Navy reservists during a celebration to mark the birthday of the U.S. Navy Reserve. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sally Hendricks)

Local and regional Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSC) provide training and administrative support to local Reservists and their commands to smoothly integrate them alongside their active duty counterparts when they are called to serve.

“We enable our Reserve sailors to get out to the fleet and support the fleet,” said Capt. Ken Ireland, commanding officer NOSC, North Island. “Depending on what the active component of Fleet Forces Command and others desire for their Reservists to perform, I’ve got Sailors working all spectrums of naval warfare, from flying aircraft, health units, to intelligence specialists supporting the war on terrorism.”

For 93 years, the Reserves have been called to duty and have responded with professionalism.

“With their continued readiness, response posture and relevant capabilities,” said Roughead. “Reserve component Sailors are more aligned and integrated with the fleet than ever before and enable us to accomplish our mission.”

“Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

- Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, US Navy, 16 March 1945.



Marine Marquee



Reserve Marines Help Make A Boy's Wish Become Real

By Capt. Paul L. Greenberg, Marine Forces Reserve

BROOKPARK, Ohio (Jan. 31, 2008) -- On Jan. 12, 2008, a warrior named Dontay Burton was laid to rest at the First Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. He was eight years old.

Reserve Marines from Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve here attended the funeral to pay their respects.

“All he ever wanted to be was a Marine,” said Lt. Col. Minter B. Ralston, the battalion inspector-instructor, who attended the service with Sgt. Maj. Carl L. Chapman, the battalion sergeant major.

Burton, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic Leukemia in November 2006, was inspired to be a Marine by his grandfather, retired Marine First Sgt. Freddie Crawford, according to Ralston.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation coordinated with the U.S. Marine Corps to make Burton's dream come true during his short lifetime.

On May 2, 2007, with his cancer in full remission, Burton set off from his home in Maple Hills, Ohio for Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he met up with his sponsor, Gunnery Sgt. William C. House.

House, who was an intelligence chief for 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division at the time, told a Marine Corps reporter, “Dontay is an inspiration to me and all the Marines that got to meet him during his visit to Camp Lejeune. His fighting spirit to not only live but to succeed will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

During his stay in North Carolina, Burton toured Marine Corps Air Stations New River and Cherry Point, Camp Gieger, as well as Camp Lejeune. His experiences included a ride in an M1A1 Main Battle Tank, shooting at an indoor marksmanship trainer, and “flying” in an F/A-18D Hornet Simulator.



Dontay Burton and Gunnery Sgt. William C. House watch Marines in a battalion formation run at Camp Lejeune in May 2007. During a Make-A-Wish Foundation visit in North Carolina, Burton toured Marine Corps Air Stations New River and Cherry Point, Camp Gieger, as well as Camp Lejeune. Photo by: Sgt. Salju K. Thomas

“We may grant the wishes, but we also appreciate the tremendous generosity and assistance of the Marines in giving the wish kids such a terrific experience. Everyone really goes all-out for the kids when they visit,” said Brent Goodrich, the media relations manager for Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, based in Phoenix, Ariz.

Although he fought his cancer into remission for about two years, Burton passed away on Jan. 6, 2008 in a Cleveland, Ohio hospital from complications resulting from a bacterial infection.

House, who stated that he saw Burton “as one of my kids,” drove to Ohio from his current duty assignment at Marine Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., to help comfort the family in their grief. He was not able to stay for the funeral, but dressed Burton in a small Marine Corps camouflage uniform for the burial.

Although their time together was short, it was clear that the impact made by Dontay Burton and the Make-A-Wish experience will be long lasting.

“He showed the young Marines at 8th Marine Regiment that no matter what the obstacle, it will be O.K.” explained House. “Dontay never complained. He was a grown man at heart. He taught me that adversity, no matter what form it comes in, does not have to stop or even slow us down.”



COASTIE CORNER



USCGC JUNIPER (WLB-201) Newport Rhode Island Newport County Council representatives, George Wardwell and Roy Fitzherbert present Sailor of the Quarter certificate to MK2 Daniel Doherty onboard the cutter, Thursday, 24 January 2008. The Council supports our Coast Guard community throughout the year recognizing Junior Officers, Junior Enlisted personnel of the year and quarter's through their Adopt a Ship/Station program. Annual Coast Guard Birthday events are hosted by the Council as well.

George Wardwell RMC USNR(Ret.) is the President, BMCM Edmund Couto Chapter NERA and suggests the participation and membership in multiple organizations is a

perfect opportunity to publicize NERA's purpose and to get the word out. Most Coast Guard ships and stations have a dedicated Reserve Unit to augment their normal operations.

Pictured left to right are: George Wardwell, Roy Fitzherbert, LCDR Rick Wester, USCG Commanding Officer USCGC JUNIPER (WLB-201), Sailor of the Quarter, MK2 Daniel Doherty, USCG, USCGC JUNIPER (WLB-201), and LT Andrew Wright USCG, Executive Officer, USCGC JUNIPER (WLB-201).

COAST GUARD, GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE

Petty Officer Sara Francis

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- The Coast Guard and the fishing vessel Heritage rescued the master of the fishing vessel Pacific Lady shortly after 1 a.m. this morning 70 miles southwest of Kodiak Island in Shelikof Strait.

The Coast Guard received an Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) signal registered to the 42-foot Pacific Lady out of Kodiak at about 9:30 p.m. Personnel from the Coast Guard Command Center in Juneau contacted the wife of the master, Alan Ryden, and discovered he was piloting the vessel from Sand Point to Kodiak and was the only person on board.

The Coast Guard launched a C-130 and an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Kodiak. The Coast Guard Cutter Hickory was diverted from an Aids to Navigation mission about 35 miles away from the scene.

The C-130 arrived on scene first. "We arrived on scene and it was so dark we couldn't see anything," said Lt. Steve McKechnie, aircraft commander of the C-130. "We located the flashing strobe and lit off a flare. We could still see the strobe on his gumby suit so we dropped a life raft. The weather was 45-knot winds gusting to 60, 16-foot seas and freezing spray."

The fishing vessel Heritage responded to the UMIB. "They were 11 miles away when we dropped the life raft so we worked with the Heritage to get them on scene. We had to depart due to fuel and the HH-60 took our place," said McKechnie.

The HH-60 began a search for Ryden and during that time the Heritage located two empty life rafts from the Pacific Lady and then located Ryden in the third life raft, the one dropped by the C-130.

"The Heritage did awesome," said McKechnie. "After they took the guy on board they spoke with the swimmer on the 60 and determined he was in good condition."

The Heritage is currently en route to Kodiak with an estimated arrival time of 1 a.m. Sunday. In the dark conditions the Pacific Lady was not sighted. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Kodiak will investigate the incident.



"Retreat Hell! We're just attacking in another direction."

- Attributed to Major General Oliver P. Smith, USMC, Korea, December 1950.

A Special Thank You to the Life Benefactors for their continued LIFETIME support of NERA

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Benefactor Memberships

\$250.00

(Offered only to fully paid Life Members)

Sign up for a Benefactor membership by using our existing membership form today! (Check the Benefactor block). Benefactor members will have their **names engraved** on a large plaque with all other benefactors recognizing their continued LIFETIME support of NERA. This plaque will be prominently displayed at the NERA National Headquarters. Benefactor names will also be published in **every annual** National Conference book on a dedicated Benefactor page. Benefactors will receive recognition at **ALL** National Conferences during the opening ceremonies. For more info Pls contact: NERADEPUTY@NERA.ORG

Membership Application Form



Mail completed applications to:

NERA
 6703 Farragut Avenue
 Falls Church, VA 22042

Branch of Service:

- N-Navy
- M-Marine Corps
- C-Coast Guard
- O-Other

Annual Membership

- \$25=1 year
- \$47=2 years
- \$69=3 years

Lifetime Membership

- \$250 Lifetime
- \$62.50 Lifetime *Partial Pay
*Installment option to be paid within 18 months



- \$250-Life(Benefactor)
Must be LIFETIME member

Type of Service:

- A-Active Duty
- I-Inactive Duty
- R-Retired

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Name

Rate Date of Birth

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City State Zip Code

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Chapter

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Payment By: Check (enclosed) VISA MasterCard

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Expiration Date:

Signature Required:

Call NERA at (800)776-9020 for updates

Do we have your current address? If not, please use this form and send us an update.

REMEMBERTO NOTIFY NERA IF YOU MOVE. ALSO LETUS KNOW ANY CHANGES IN YOUR E-MAILADDRESS.

NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION (NERA) COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

NERA offers a College Scholarship Program for members and members of their family. This program is sponsored through substantial grant funding from USAA Insurance (www.usaa.com) and donations from NERA and its members. The program offers two \$3,000 scholarships for Regular NERA Members and four \$2,500 scholarships for any Regular or Associate NERA member or any spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of a regular NERA member. Children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23.

Scholarship applicants must submit this completed form with required documentation. Supplemental instructions are included in the NERA College Scholarship Information, which can be downloaded from the NERA website at www.nera.org. Please follow Instructions exactly. For questions, please call NERA at: 1 800-776-9020

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Date of Birth _____ Rate/Rank _____ or (Check One) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Preferred E-mail: _____

APPLICANT APPLYING AS (CHECK ONE):

Member Associate Member Spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of NERA Member

Signature NERA Sponsor _____ Print Name _____

APPLICANT-STUDENT CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE

I certify to the best of my knowledge, all responses are true and factual. I also agree that if I am selected as a recipient, any and all information submitted with this application (including photos when submitted at a later date) may be used for purposes of news and publicity by NERA and/or USAA Insurance for all current and future promotions of this program.

Applicant Signature _____ Print Name _____

If applicant is under 18, signature of Parent/Guardian _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE OR SCHOOL/ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

List the community service or school/academic activities for either high school or college or a combination of both. This includes community service, clubs, professional groups, team sports, academic groups or other organized activities. Applicant may attach a separate sheet for more space. Only list activities you have participated in the past three years.

AWARDS	TIME OF PARTICIPATION	POSITIONS, AWARDS, OFFICE HELD, "LETTERS" OR OTHER

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Applicants are required to provide the Scholarship Committee with transcripts and grade information. The last two pages of this application package contain the forms for submission of the required information. Choose the page applicable to your status:

- Graduating High School Seniors use the form marked "Request for High School Transcripts" to provide class transcripts, grade point average (GPA) and class ranking. The form requires a parent/guardian signature to release information.
- Current College Students use the form marked "Request for College/University Transcripts" to provide class transcripts and cumulative grade point average (GPA). The form requires the applicant signature to release information.

ESSAY REQUIREMENT

One 500 word essay written by the applicant is required as part of the package. Adherence to instructions will be considered when evaluating scholarship applications. The writing standards for the applicant's choice of either of the two essays below are:

1. Submit your essay on 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper
2. Double-space, 12 point typeface, Times New Roman Font.
3. Margins: 1 inch
4. Provide in the upper left portion of the front page the Applicant's first and last name.
5. If the submission contains more than one page, the Applicant's first and Last Name should be entered in the upper left corner margin, along with the page number in the format of "page __ of __".
7. Paper clip together the pages of the essay, **DO NOT STAPLE!**

Place the essay at the end of the application package (see submission instructions in the Scholarship Program information).

FIRST ESSAY CHOICE: Personal Goals and Objectives

In 500 words state your career goals and objectives for your education. Direct your comments to how you think your college education will benefit you or others in keeping with your career goals and objectives.

SECOND ESSAY CHOICE: "Why Are Reservists Important to America?"

In 500 words, answer the question.

Write only one essay of your choice and include it in your application packet.

TAPS

Last Updated: 03/11/2008

TAPS-MARINER WINTER 2007

NAME

CHAPTER

SKC DAVID J AMANN	OLIVER HAZARD PERRY
JOHN A BAUM	GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
MS1 ANTHONY V BELAUS SR	GREATER NEW YORK
CDR ARNOLD BRANDT	GREATER NEW YORK
HTC RUSSELL G CAMPBELL	HERBERT F BLACKMAN
WILLIAM A CHAMBERS	GRAND CANYON STATE
EO1 LARRY W CLIFTON	GOLDEN EMPIRE
HMC GLENN N DEMING	GREATER PITTSBURGH
RMCS RUSSELL HAUGEN	MINNESOTA
SKCS JAMES R HELFMAN	MINNESOTA
EOC ALEXANDER J HRUSA	NIAGARA FRONTIERT1
ARTHUR F HUFF	Florida State M.A.L
AD1 ALEXANDER KORMANIK	MINNESOTA
BMC THOMAS J MCAULIFFE	GREATER PITTSBURGH
IC1(SW) FRANK A MCCLOSKEY	LEAGUE ISLAND
HM1(RET) WALTER P MINNICH, III	GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
HMC FRANK H MUNGER	GERALD R FORD
PHC E D NEVILLE	LONE STAR
BM1 TOMMIE F PARKER	HAMPTON ROADS
MS1 THOMAS W PATTERSON, SR	JOE WASSON
BMC DONALD R RAUENBUHLER	GARDEN STATE
SMCM(SW) JERRY L ROBINSON	CHUMASH
HMC FRANCIS M SIVIL	EDMUND COUTO
AD1 LLOYD SNYDER	MINNESOTA
PHCS MURLYN STALVIG	MINNESOTA
AOCS THOMAS J TRAVERS	FLOYD BENNETT
ISC GERARD J VANDENHOFF	FLOYD BENNETT
DM1 CHARLES E WILDGRUBE	BAY AREA BUCCANEERS
QMCM WILLIAM M WILLIAMS	FT MCHENRY
AEC EDWIN H. STECHER	MILE HIGH CHAPTER



Bernie Fink-the Passing of a ERA

Windy City Chapter mourns the passing of a key member. Someone who never desired the limelight, never second guessed motives; his only agenda was to contribute his, and his loving wife Enid's, time and talents to NERA's success.

All of NERA owes Bernie a great debt of gratitude; Bernie and Enid accepted a challenge from Windy City Chapter for the benefit of NERA's future. An initiative of Windy City Chapter: awarding a plaque recognizing the outstanding reservist of each NPSAC (Non Prior Service Accession Course) class graduating from Great Lakes Recruit Training Command. Bernie became the face and voice of NERA among new reserve recruits. Rest assured, he skillfully walked the tightrope between acceptable public relations and the organizational

recruiting tolerance of that command.

Bernie enlisted in 1950, served during the Korean Conflict and proudly wore his uniform on every legitimate opportunity during Vietnam, a period when it was unpopular to do so.

He often reminisced of being a reservist and the chill of watching color guards pass in review during holiday parades in the 50's. Bernie lamented that today's youngsters were missing out on such pride and allegiance, and surmised it was the result of the Vietnam Conflict's civic turmoil. YN1 Fink retired in 1984 after thirty-four years of service.

Bernie was a reliable contributor in his tireless pursuit of NERA's success. He and his wife were fixtures at National and Regional conferences. We are grateful for his service to Windy City Chapter and NERA. He will be sorely missed by those of us who were privileged to call him our friend. Bernie is survived by Enid and two daughters. Many of his NERA shipmates joined with Bernie's family and friends to celebrate his life on February 4th. May he rest in peace.

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