

# THE MARINER

2011 Spring Edition

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Liberia: Just prior to their first successful boat launch, members of the newly formed Liberian Coast Guard ("LCG") posed for a group photo with U.S. Coast Guard Commander Jennifer Ketchum. The LCG was activated at Liberia's 53rd Annual Armed Forces Day in Monrovia on February 11, 2010. All members of the LCG had to first be members of the Armed Forces of Liberia ("AFL") and completed basic training. The AFL is a force of approximately 2,000 soldiers, screened from 40,000 applicants. The Coast Guard was manned from within that pool with 400 applicants showing interest in only 50 slots.

Nicole Dalrymple

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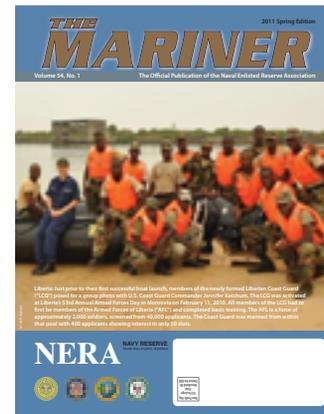
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# THE MARINER

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# President's Message



by National President Nick Marine



Ray Robson

Every February marks the Annual National Salute for Hospitalized Veteran's at your local VA hospital. This year, I visited the VA medical center located in Decatur, Georgia and it turned out to be a great event. I was accompanied by Chet and Erin Burks, Master Chief Kevin "Doc" Johnson, PNC William Anderson, EOC Tony Little, ITC Ron Underwood, Master Chief John Hood, Janice Hood and Nick Burks. If you would like to attend next year, or would like information to host your own event, any chapter or member interested can contact NERA Deputy - Mike Hughes.

Thank you to all NERA chapter members who attended! A special THANK YOU goes out to Nick Burks who made this event possible by sending out emails, making phone calls and initiating correspondence needed for 290+ Greater Atlanta Chapter members. Nick Burks is not only a great American but a high school senior who wanted to get more involved with local veterans organizations and he made us all proud!

Another Bravo-Zulu, to the students of Dodgen Middle School located in Marietta, GA. The students created handwritten cards, letters and even poems for the veterans. This seemingly simple act really meant a great deal to these veterans. Each year

Mr. Duda's social studies class collects Valentine's Day cards from his students which were greatly enjoyed by all of the veterans we visited!

On another note, due to the many military funerals around the U.S., many VTU, IRR, Gray Area and retirees have volunteered to assist the active duty component in handling the thousands of military funerals being held each day. In the past, drilling reservists, VTU, IRR, and retirees stepped forward to provide personal service. I personally know of an IRR Chief that has performed over 200 funerals to date here in the South.

Due to funding constraints this program has recently been closed to these members. Since this budget cut has occurred, I'm hearing about funerals being conducted without any Navy representation at many sites around

the U.S. The Navy is sending active duty sailors to distant locations that could easily be serviced by drilling reservists and retirees near the local NOSC's. This does not appear to be cost effective. We need to take a lesson from our fellow Marine's who honor their people from cradle to grave!

Please contact me with specific details concerning your area of the Country. NERA will be working closely with FORCE Master Chief Ronney Wright and all NOSC CMC's to ensure no military family is forgotten. Funerals are unexpected and can occur at any time, but with that being said isn't that who we are?

NAVY RESERVE Ready now. Anytime, Anywhere!

More Later, NERA Nick

"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great

enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt Speech

The Sorbonne, Paris, April 23, 1910

# Vice President's Message

by National Vice President Geno Koelker

Ahoy Shipmates,

Chaos! Chaos! Chaos! We turn on the news, open the paper, or read a magazine and it seems as if that is all that is happening everywhere. Certainly in the Middle East; how about what's happening in the middle of the U.S., in the state of Wisconsin?

Stability. This would seem to be the opposite -- where there is calm, order, and comfort.

Right now, we, (those serving and those who have served) in the military are being looked to for stability, both at home and abroad. Some people thrive in the chaotic environment while most would prefer to have the comfort of stability. Why are we looked to for stability while others don't know where to turn? Is it simply because of our training and planning? Our military leaders face these issues constantly. All the planning in the world cannot stop the chaos. However, our leaders know that through training, they can rely on the men and women of our military, who are the best at bringing stability back from chaos.

It has to be on the minds of everyone how the events in Bahrain and elsewhere will or can affect our 5th fleet, and how it might affect the rest of us. As reservists, are we possibly facing a recall or how many reserve commands have personnel already in theater? Why would NERA, and similar organizations, be concerned or even give this consideration. Why? The answer is stability.

Our military leaders in Washington D.C. have to be concerned with the overall situation and with everyone involved. However, they cannot concentrate on individuals or specific procedures. This is passed down the line to the commands and organizations. We are the ones that are concerned with individuals, and the situations and circumstances which affect them.

While our reservists are using their training and integrating with our active brothers

and sisters to deal with the chaos that might be at hand, they (our members) are looking to us, NERA, to provide the stability needed so they can accomplish what needs to be done. We provide the stability to make sure that they are mobilized, or demobilized, trained, and properly equipped based on the regulations and procedures that prior planning has put into place and practice. We all know operational priorities can change things at the time of chaos. However, we also expect that stability is needed to effectively handle situations.

NERA provides stability for a member or their family. They have the ability to make a call to NERA's office or to a staff member. Individuals join our organization to have their concerns or issues addressed, particularly during a time of chaos. This also applies long after retiring. Issues that might not seem chaotic to some can be very un-stabilizing to others. This is only one of the many reasons to join NERA. Usually, most of us have that 20/20 hindsight, afterwards. This is all the more reason for our members, who understand the stability of belonging to NERA, to pass that word to the rest of their shipmates. We, at NERA, attempt to put the word out at the NOSC's but cannot be as effective as our members who are there. As a shipmate, take on the leadership role. Let your shipmates know the issues that affect them. Through this, we will be able to maintain the stability required for all.

Wishing you all a safe day, free of chaos.  
Your V.P., Geno



# Tips & Clips

by Past National President Joanne Elliott



Ray Robson

## STOP LOSS POLICY

I received an email from a member regarding the Military's Stop Loss Policy. When I reviewed the Bill itself, there was no mention of specific periods between September 2001 and September 2009 that Stop Loss applied. It only states that it was the entire period between September of 2001 and September of 2009.

This member stated that he was mobilized between 2005 and 2006 and that before his orders ended, his enlistment expired. He was told that he was being involuntarily extended beyond his EOS because of his critical rate. After he returned, he tried to apply for stop loss, but was told that the Stop Loss Policy only applied to specific windows of time and that he was not covered. When I pulled up the MILPERSMAN 7220-410 CH-31, 26 MAR2010, it became even more confusing. In the Purpose paragraph, it states that "Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay compensates members, who, at any time during the period beginning on September 11, 2001 and ending on September, 30, 2009, served on active duty (ACDU) while the member's enlistment or period of obligated service was involuntarily extended due to the provision of law commonly referred to as "Stop Loss Authority", or similarly, whose eligibility for retirement/transfer to the Fleet Reserve was suspended due to application of "Stop Loss Authority."

Under the Eligibility paragraph, it states "... who at any time during the period on or after September 11, 2001 and ending before or on September 30, 2009..."

Then in a sub-paragraph, it states that the periods are 10/10/2001 to 12/31/2002 and 4/3/2003 to 9/15/2003.

When I contacted someone at N10, I was told that the dates for the Marine Corps were Jan. 7, 2003-Sept. 30, 2003 and the Air Force was Oct. 21, 2001-Jan 31, 2003 and May 2, 2003-Dec 31, 2003. I could not find definite dates for the Army. In his speech on Sep. 15, 2010, (<http://www.defense.gov/home/fea->

[tures/2010/0710\\_stoploss/](http://www.defense.gov/home/fea-)), President Obama stated "As your commander in chief, I'm here to tell you that this is no gimmick or trick. You worked hard. You earned this money. It doesn't matter whether you were Active or Reserve, whether you're a veteran who experienced "stop loss" or the survivor of a servicemember who did — if your service was extended, you're eligible." Secretary Gates also spoke to this issue on October 5, 2010. In his speech, he urged servicemembers whose military service was involuntarily extended between 2001 and 2009 under the so-called "Stop Loss" program to claim the special pay to which they're entitled before the Dec. 3 deadline. In a message aired on the Pentagon Channel, Secretary Gates said: "As secretary of defense, one of my responsibilities is to make sure members of the armed forces receive the benefits they have earned." So it seems that even though Congress passed a bill stating that the period covered was from 2001 to 2009, the military has the right to specify certain periods. If you or someone else you know were extended beyond your enlistment involuntarily and are now prevented from obtaining payment because the period falls outside of the military's specified dates, I would suggest you speak with your Congressmen/women. I don't understand why the military can approve it for two short periods and then continue the practice without compensating those that fall outside of their short window. Maybe someone out there can help me understand. Standing by for enlightenment and comments.

## TRICARE PHARMACY

TRICARE is encouraging beneficiaries, especially those taking long-term medications, to get their prescriptions delivered to their doorsteps.

Read more at <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=61211>.

## Reunion News

The 20th Reunion of Fleet Hospital 15 Saudi Arabia, will be held at Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center in Gettysburg, Pa. on Sept. 2,3 & 4th, 2011. Contact is: Chaplain Ted Bowers, 11 McClellan Drive, East Berlin, Pa. 17316, 717-259-1047, [tolobo@comcast.net](mailto:tolobo@comcast.net)

# Tips & Clips

## WARNING TO VETERANS

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. Websites with the name “vaservices” immediately after the “www” ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the real VA website ends in .gov. If approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have. If you have not dealt with the VA previously and in person, then you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email. VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. General Counsel requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty  
Staff Attorney  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of General Counsel (022G2)  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

## OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPLETE ENLISTMENTS

If you are considering transferring to another branch of the service to complete your 20 years, you might want to consider the following options:

- **BLUE TO GREEN.** In a climate where Sailors may

face separation due to high year tenure or Perform-to-Serve/Fleet Rating Identification Engine, Navy leadership is reminding Sailors in 2011 that Operation Blue to Green could keep them serving. “Sailors should be aware of all avenues to stay in the military,” said Capt. Hank Roux, head enlisted community management. According to the Army’s Operation Blue to Green website, the program allows highly qualified Sailors the opportunity to continue in military service, maintain benefits and gain new training.

Benefits of transitioning to the Army via Blue to Green include:

- E-1 through E-5 will retain their grade and date of rank.
- Rates that convert into an Army military occupational specialty (MOS) will only need to attend Basic Combat Training.
- Retraining into another MOS may be possible.

“Of course we want all of our Sailors to stay Navy, whether that is active, full time support or Reserve component, but if a Sailor’s facing separation, Blue to Green is a great option for them,” Roux said. In fiscal year 2010, only 43 Sailors took advantage of the program. To qualify, Sailors must be physically fit, meet the Army’s height and weight standards, have a minimum of three years time in service and have an approved Request for Conditional Release (DD Form 368). For more information, speak with your career counselor, review SECNAVINST 1000.7F, MILPERSMAN 1300-081 and the Army’s Operation Blue to Green website at <http://www.goarmy.com/benefits/additional-incentives/blue-to-green.html>.

- **COAST GUARD.** If an applicant is enlisting or re-enlisting in pay grade E-4 or above, he or she may not have more than 10 years of prior active service or 14 years combined active and reserve service. This restriction does not apply to Coast Guard members re-enlisting within 24 hours of their release. For more information go to <http://www.gocoastguard.com>.

- **AIR NATIONAL GUARD:** The Air National Guard will accept inner service transfers, as well as former members of the Reserves. Navy members must secure a conditional release from their gaining commands. For more information go to your local recruiting center.

If a leave and/or transit period of time was not captured on an evaluation and a continuity gap exist due

# Tips & Clips

to this error, the member or the command who made the discrepancy, may prepare an Administrative Change Request, changing block 14 of the report that failed to factor this time, using the format in exhibit 15-1, on page 15-5 of BUPERSINST 1610.10B.

## HOMES FOR VETS IN LONG ISLAND

New York Senator Kemp Hannon is informing Iraq and Afghanistan veterans about an affordable housing opportunity. Long Island Home Builders Care (LIHBC), a not-for-profit arm of the Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI), will be building four homes for veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan. With construction underway, the first home can be customized to the special

needs of the Veteran and his or her family. Veterans interested in applying for the home should write to Lois Fricke, Long Island Home Builders Care, 1757-8 Veterans Memorial Highway, Islandia, New York, 11749, or call 631-232-2345. Please include information on tour of duty and present status. To learn more about your state's benefits, visit the Military.com State Veteran's Benefits Directory.

## AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

On January 24, 2011, the Committee of VA Affairs issued an updated list of ships for those vets affected by Agent Orange. For a complete list of those ships, contact the VA or email me and I will email you a copy. •



Joanne Elliott

Left: Force Wright Presenting Honorary Master Chief Certificate to VADM Debbink

Below: Force Wright pinning VADM Debbink



Joanne Elliott

Left: Pres. Marine and Exec. Dir. Sandy with FORCE Master Chiefs.

Back row; L-R: Richard Johnson, Larry Sorenson, Kenneth Gallaher, Paul Gauthe, Dave Pennington.

Front row; L-R Nick Marine, Joseph Lalley, Harvey Murphy, Chris Glennon, Michael Krbec, Ronney Wright, Steve Sandy. Tom Mobley, seated.



Joanne Elliott

# Executive Director's Message

by Executive Director Steve Sandy



Remember when private pension and retirement funds were placed in secure accounts? Promised in lieu of higher wages, people earned their pension and health benefits over a 35- to 40-year career. You were proud to have worked for these companies. Fund managers invested in Blue Chip Stocks. The return on those investments paid the pensions for the retirees in perpetuity. Those accounts could never be used for any-

thing else. At least, that was the plan.

Now, instead of benefitting 40-year-career retirees, we find pension funds paying dividends and lump sums as bonuses to CEO's and board members, or for building new plants overseas. Your trust and faith, that you placed in these companies and in the Blue Chip Stocks, crumble.

The United States is facing one of the greatest crises in its history. This is not about the War on Terror or wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This crisis will require every citizen to make sacrifices. Our National Debt is 14.1 trillion dollars. An amount so staggering that you have to break it down into smaller amounts just to comprehend it, how about this ... 46 thousand dollars for every man, woman and child in this country and increasing by the minute.

The President and Congress must agree on major across-the-board budget cuts. There can be no ... Pet Projects, Pork Barrels or Favorite Sons.

Some might say this isn't my debt. I didn't spend any of that money or it did not benefit me. Aha ... but it did. You may have built a house with a subsidized loan. Maybe you bought a car with the "cash for clunkers" deal. Maybe you were the salesman. Maybe you sold your home after easy lending drove prices way up. The truth is, it doesn't matter because it's our Country and our debt; we all have a dog in this fight. Once we accept that, we can talk about a fair share, not to get, but to give. If we as Americans say we are willing to sacrifice our lives for this country. How many of us will sacrifice Money?

As the sessions of the 112th Congress commence one thing is sure ... budget cuts will be the order of business. The questions are where and how much? There's a Con-

gressional Budget Office (CBO) report floating around out there that the news services report (we know how reliable they are), that shows military pay and compensation is higher than civilian government pay.

Shortly after the November 2010 elections, Representative Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) stated that the two-year freeze on government salaries should be extended to military pay. He cited fairness and shared sacrifice as justification. After receiving some flak for his opinion, he requested a report from the CBO to compare military pay with civilian government pay. On January 20, 2011 the CBO released the report citing creative math, graphs, charts and finally a caveat at the end of the report (few people read the whole report) to explain their conclusion.

Conclusion: If you exclude the 24/7 work hours, under hazardous conditions that include being shot at, extended time away from home and family, and ignore the fact that you serve in a self-disciplining organization that can take your pay, rank, retirement, and incarcerate you for what would be considered a relatively minor offense in the civilian world, then you could justify the statement that military pay and compensation is higher than civilian government pay.

Had Congressman Hoyer stuck to his original statement and rallied the Nation with a call for his fellow Congressmen and Senators to join him and the country in the shared sacrifice ... now that would truly have been a bold act, and would have saved the CBO some man-hours. •

On March 4th NERA's President, Nick Marine, and I had the pleasure of participating in the Navy Reserve 96th Anniversary at the Navy Memorial in Washington DC. This year, the ceremony recognized the services of thirteen present and former Reserve Force Master Chiefs. •

Happy Birthday, Coast Guard Reserve! The Coast Guard Reserve, created in 1941, celebrated their 70th birthday on February 19th. For over 70 years the Coast Guard Reserve forces have answered the call to duty to stand in harm's way during armed conflicts and natural disasters. •

*Sending a congressman to Washington is like sending your child off to college with an unlimited credit card. You're not worried because he's writing home and telling you he's getting excellent grades. Then one day he shows up and tells you he's flunked out and the mailman hands you the credit card bill. You scream and yell and maybe kick his butt, but in the end ... you have to pay the bill. - The Old Master Chief*



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# NERA NEC and NCRC Registration Form

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Jerry Swift  
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Omaha NE 68112-2944

Questions:  
Call Larry at 402-680-4839  
Email: Lazer.larry1@cox.net

Call Jerry at 402-455-3765  
Email: cucmjs@cox.net

Thank You,  
Jerry Swift  
Conference Co-Chairman

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# President's FY 2012 Budget Submission

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*by Mike Hughes, Deputy Executive Director*

The President submitted his proposed FY 2012 budget to Congress on Feb. 14, 2011. Following are a few highlights that may affect NERA members and families if enacted:

## TRICARE

- Implementing a “modest increase” to TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for working age retirees (read under 65 years of age) : \$2.50 per month for individuals and \$5.00 per month for families in FY 2012 and then indexed to Medicare inflation in future years (increases do not apply to survivors or medically retired members and their beneficiaries).

- Making small adjustments to retail and mail order pharmacy co-pays to incentivize the use of generic drugs and the most efficient source to fill prescriptions. Co-pay for prescriptions filled in retail pharmacies will increase by no more than \$3.00, while the co-pay for generic drugs filled through mail order will be eliminated. There continues to be no co-pay for prescriptions filled at military treatment facilities.

Comment: While it is recognized that these are “modest” increases as stated by Sec. Gates, the proposed indexing to Medicare rates creates considerable angst about future increases for something that was originally promised to be “free health care for life” for all military retirees when enlisting. Also, Pentagon comptroller, Robert Hale, was quoted as saying: “it will keep growing”, because of the indexing, “so if you go out, you know, 10 or 20 years, it will have a major influence.” We are also concerned that once the precedent is set for premium increases, DoD will keep coming back every year for increases above the index.

## Military Pay

- Proposes a 1.6% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for military service men and women.

Comment: This is supportable as long as it isn't less than actual cost of living increases.

## Medicare Physician Reimbursement

- Proposes a permanent fix to the indexed decreases of physician reimbursements by Medicare.

Comment: This is important because TRICARE physician rates are tied to the Medicare rates. Congress has been postponing indexed decreases in these rates for a few months at a time for a couple of years. It is currently projected to decrease the reimbursements by over 30% this fall if not changed legislatively. If the decreases are not changed it is expected that many physicians will refuse to treat TRICARE or Medicare patients. This would severely restrict access for TRICARE beneficiaries.

## Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Manning Levels

- Proposes manning levels of 66,200 for the Navy Reserves and 39,600 for the Marine Corps Reserves.

Comment: These are essentially the same levels as proposed for 2011, with a slight increase of 700 for the Navy Reserves.

## Summary Comments:

These proposals are based on increases or decreases from the proposed 2011 budget, which, at the time of this writing, has yet to be passed by Congress and enacted. The government, including DoD, is operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) until March 4, 2011 at the 2010 budgeted levels. There could be more cuts and decreases if they have to continue at the 2010 levels much longer or in the unlikely event that a 2011 budget or continued CR is not enacted and the government shuts down for a time.



# 54th NERA National Conference

September 28 through  
October 2, 2011

## Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center

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Shuttle from Airport & Free Parking.

### All-Inclusive Registration

- Meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Meet and Greet Mixer on Thursday
- Awards Luncheon on Friday
- Dinner Dance on Saturday
- On-Going Hospitality Suite

Please enter number of people attending and  
multiply by amount noted

# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$165.00                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### On-Going Hospitality Suite

Donations Accepted                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Booster Roll

Minimum \$5                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Names will be listed in Conference Book  
as indicated in registration above*

Total    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First-MI-Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank (Or 'Civilian')

USN USMC USCG  
Service Branch (circle)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Home

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Office/Cell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname (For Name Tag)

\_\_\_\_\_  
NERA Chapter  
(If no chapter affiliation,  
state 'MAL')

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Name (First-MI-Last)

Yes    No

Is Spouse/Guest a NERA  
Member or Associate  
Member? (circle)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Nickname  
(for Name Tag)

## Payment Information

(Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Make checks payable to: NERA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Check Number

**Mail to:** NERA, ATTN: Laura Martin, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042  
**Please address any questions to:** Laura Martin 800/776-9020 or lkmartin@nera.org



## CHRISTMAS IN GOLD COUNTRY

*by Norma von Dohren*

When a military person serves, so does the family. This knowledge prompted us to do something for that “family.” For the past 5 years, NERA’s Gold Country Chapter has been sponsoring an “Annual Children’s Christmas Party.” This party is open to all children of the Sea Services –

Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guard, (active, reserve and deployed). We also welcome children of the Army and Air Force personnel who would like to attend.

Each year, we raise money and presents for children who sign up to attend this event. We select presents based on each child’s needs and they are wrapped and labeled with each of their names. This year we were able to reach out to 200 children. As you will note from some of the pictures, our event is well attended and very festive. For the past 5 years, our active duty Marines and Sailors set up, decorate and take down the Christmas tree, as well as setting up the tables, chairs and audio system. We also received assistance from the Kiwanis Club and Girl Scouts. Special thanks go to Lynn Johnson (Special Events Coordinator), Fred Schoppet (our Santa), who travels over 250 miles each year to this event, and Howard George (Chapter’s Public Relations Officer), whose pictures over the years have captured the faces of our military families. •





Erin Burks and a hospitalized Army veteran read a Valentine's Day card together!

Right: Chet Burks reads a Valentine's Day card to a veteran who shows his appreciation with a smile!



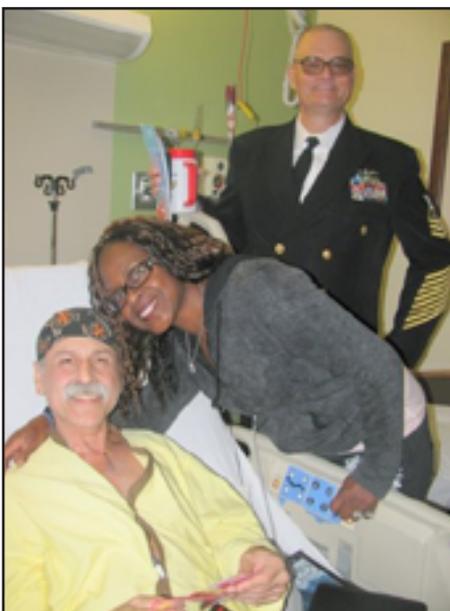
Below: NERA members help put a smile on the face of a hospitalized Army veteran. L to R: Chief Ron Underwood, NERA President, SKCS Nick Marine, Chief William Anderson and Chet Burks of Chet Burks Productions, Marietta, GA.



9th floor nurse manager, Connie Hampton (holding Valentine) and her staff take time out of their busy schedule to "ham it up" with NERA members.



Below: President Nick Marine distributes Valentines to a hospitalized sailor with the help of NERA members: Chief Anderson, Chief Underwood, and Chief Little.



Left: A very happy Navy veteran and his wife after receiving a Valentine's Day card from NERA members. That's NERA member Chief Ron Underwood beaming in the back!





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# Sexual Assault Prevention And Response (SAPR)

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by Joshua W. Mangum

Not just a name change, SAVI is now called SAPR. The Navy's Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) program has recently been changed to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR). So what's in a name change? DOD wide changes have focused on preventing and responding effectively to sexual assaults of its service members. All branches of the military and its civilian counterparts have made exceptional changes to their programs to not only respond to sexual assaults but to focus on preventing them.

## Prevent

How many times have you been with friends and witnessed something that has made you uneasy?

- Maybe it was someone trying to get another person to go home with them.
- Or someone taking advantage of a person who had too much to drink.
- Perhaps you thought, "That's none of my business"...
- Or "I'll wait for someone else to get involved"

## Do Not Ignore The Situation By Doing Nothing!

Situational awareness is key, not just on the battlefield. Recognize red flag behaviors used by sexual predators:

- Inappropriate touching
- Suggestive remarks
- Testing boundaries
- Disregarding set boundaries
- Inappropriate intimacy
- Attempts to isolate someone
- Pressuring someone to drink
- Violent behaviors
- Targeting someone who is visibly impaired

When in doubt, trust your instincts, YOU have the responsibility to intervene for your shipmate, fellow soldier or wingman. Isn't it better to be wrong about a situation than do nothing?

## How to Intervene:

- Approach in a friendly manner. Do not be hostile and avoid using violence.
- Distract the potential victim and/or the aggressor. Direct their focus elsewhere.
- Separate the potential victim from the aggressor. Let the person know your concerns and reasons for intervening. Make sure each person gets home safely.

## If You See Someone in Danger of Being Assaulted

- Take action and ask if the person needs help. Before stepping in, evaluate risk. If you both end up injured then no one else is available to assist either of you so call 911 if intervening puts you in danger.
- Do not leave. If you remain at the scene as a witness, the offender is less likely to do anything.
- If you know the offender, ask the person to leave the victim alone.

## Plan Ahead to Reduce Risk

- Use the buddy system (ALWAYS). Arrive together, check in with each other often and leave together.
- Do not be afraid to let friends know if you are worried about their safety.
- Know whom to call when a ride or cab is needed.

## Reporting

There are two types of reporting options for military personnel who have been sexually assaulted; unrestricted and restricted.



Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) ensure that effective victim response is available 24/7. SARCs manage and support all cases, oversee and train Victim Advocates (VAs), train key Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) personnel, and support prevention and awareness training at each command.

SAPR Victim advocates are trained volunteers who:

- Respond immediately to victims of sexual assault
- Provide information and explain reporting options
- Understand the military culture
- Help victims work through barriers
- Accompany victims during medical, investigative and legal procedures
- Make referrals for military and community assistance
- Help victims sort through overwhelming feelings

## Unrestricted Reporting

### Available to ALL victims

May be reported to: SAPR VA, SARC, Chain of Command, Medical personnel, NCIS/law enforcement, Chaplains, and Navy legal. Services include the following:

- Victim Advocacy
- Medical attention/forensic exam
- Counseling
- Investigation by law enforcement
- Legal services
- Military protective order/civilian restraining order
- Chaplain support

## Restricted Reporting

### Available only to military personnel

Victims MUST REPORT to one for the following:

- SAPR VA
- SARC
- Chaplain
- Medical personnel, including clinical counselors

Services include the following:

- Victim advocacy
- Medical attention/forensic exam
- Counseling
- Chaplain support

Key benefit of Restricted Reporting is that it enables the victims of sexual assault to report the crime to this select group of people without triggering a law enforcement investigation or command notification. The restricted reporting option gives the victim the opportunity and time to get information and professional advice about their rights and available services. If they choose to have



a forensic exam, they have up to one year to decide to change the restricted report to an unrestricted report, where an investigation and command notification would occur. NOTE: This type of option was not previously available to service members and has been found to be extremely effective in ensuring that victims receive the care they deserve without fear of their sexual assault becoming public knowledge until THEY decide to move to an Unrestricted Report.

### Scary statistics:

- Over 84% of sexual assaults are by someone the victim knows
- Only about 8% are from the type of serial rapist who selects victims they don't know
- 80% of sexual assaults go unreported.

This is what makes the reporting of these crimes so difficult for the victims. Review the chart below and you'll see the escalating numbers of cases per year.

Navy Reports	CY05	CY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Unrestricted Reports	355	342	280	334	405
Restricted Reports	43	144	138	155	173
Restricted Converted to Unrestricted	5	20	24	14	20

Doing the math -- That means that almost a thousand sexual assaults each year go unreported altogether and the DOD wants change, NOW. For more information go to: <http://www.sapr.navy.mil>.



Left: NERA's reps visit MCPO-CGRF - 09 FEB 11. Past National President, Joanne Elliott and Executive Director, Steve Sandy with Force Master Chief of the Coast Guard Mark Allen

Below: RADM Sandra L. Stosz, Director of Reserve and Leadership, U.S. Coast Guard with BCCM Mark Allen, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Coast Guard Commandant Adm Robert J. Papp, Jr. selected RADM Sandra Stosz to be the first female Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. RADM Stosz, a 1982 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy, is the first female Coast Guard Academy graduate to achieve the rank of flag officer and is a surface operations officer with 12 years at sea, including command of two cutters - an icebreaking tug on the Great Lakes and a medium endurance cutter that patrolled North Atlantic and Caribbean waters. The jersey barrier was painted by BM3 (Coast Guard) Jennifer Nelson from PSU-308.

Below: MCPO-CGRF Mark Allen (left) and Coast Guard Deployable Operations Group CMC Darrell Odom (right) visit CMDCM Ron Naida, USN during a recent trip to visit Coast Guard Reservists deployed to Kuwait.



# Letters

## Mariner MNM Article

All;

I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity to place an article in the "Mariner". I appreciate the hard work that was done on your end to make it happen. The article looks awesome!!! And thanks for the extra magazines. I will be sure to distribute them accordingly.

Happy New Year  
HAFND  
V/R

LCDR Tracie Mashore-Van Harn  
PAO: Midwest Navy Medicine  
Admin -O: OHSU Great Lakes Det B



# Coastie Corner

by Nicole Dalrymple, U.S. Africa Command Public Affairs

## U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVIST HELPS BUILD NEW LIBERIAN COAST GUARD

U.S. Coast Guard Commander Jennifer Ketchum arrived in Monrovia, Liberia in September 2009, jumping at the opportunity to return to West Africa. A reservist, she and her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Clement D. Ketchum, had lived and worked onboard the M/V ANASTASIS, a charity hospital ship, from 1996-2002, traveling throughout West Africa. Ketchum is filling a full-time maritime advisor billet in U.S. Africa Command's (AFRICOM) Office of Security Cooperation ("OSC") in Monrovia. The OSC is responsible for coordinating all security cooperation engagements between the U.S. military and Liberia's Ministry of National Defense. The value of a maritime advisor in the Monrovia OSC was identified in a 2008 assessment done by the U.S. Coast Guard after the government of Liberia expressed interest in reinstating its Coast Guard.

Liberia, a country slightly larger than Tennessee, has 360 miles of coastline and has been without a Coast Guard or maritime security presence for more than a decade. The country emerged from a bloody 14-year-long civil war in 2003 and its military has been completely rebuilt since via the U.S. State Department's security sector reform program, which began in 2006. The importance of establishing a Coast Guard was identified in Liberia's 2008 National Defense Act. According to Liberia's Director of the Bureau of National Fisheries, an estimated \$12 million is lost annually due to illegal fishing. Another threat is drug smugglers using West African nations as a transshipment point for \$1.8 billion in illegal narcotics and counterfeit drugs.

Ketchum will spend the next two years assisting in the equipping, training and development of the new 50-person Liberian Coast Guard, activated by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the February 11, 2010 Armed Forces Day. "This is a great job being able to see and measure success and help the Liberians," said Ketchum, who is responsible for managing the Foreign Military Financing case for the Liberian Coast Guard, which is essentially the checkbook for equipment and training. She further explained that training is being done in stages and phases that build on one another. One example was

the first successful launch of a Zodiac boat off of Bushrod Island, the historic home of the Liberian maritime forces, March 25, 2010. The boats had originally been purchased for a scout platoon of the Armed Forces of Liberia but when Ketchum saw that they weren't being used she made arrangements for the boats to be transferred to the Coast Guard.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Dickson Agbo, who is the highest enlisted member of the Coast Guard, recently attended boatswain's mate specialist training in Yorktown, VA. He was overseeing the men on March 25, 2010 as they prepared to launch the Zodiac. He explained that the goal of the day was to check the effectiveness of the boat's outboard motor in preparation for upcoming training for small boat operations. When asked about his experience in Yorktown and how it prepared him for his position, Agbo said the course gave him the basics and a clear picture of what a boatswain's mate does, and "also makes me think that 'Yes, I can do it.'"

Ketchum, who joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1982 and served on active duty for 10 years before becoming a

Liberia: U.S. Coast Guard Commander Jennifer Ketchum, of the Monrovia Office of Security Cooperation, speaks with Petty Officer 2nd Class Dickson Agbo (center) and other members of the Liberian Coast Guard just prior to their first successful boat launch of a Zodiac boat. Ketchum is a U.S. Coast Guard reservist serving a two year assignment in Liberia providing assistance and guidance to the new Liberian Coast Guard. When talking about the boat launch, Ketchum said, "A lot of training has come before this and I'm just really proud of the guys today for getting out here and launching the boat."



Nicole Dalrymple

reservist, has years of experience helping students think that they can do it too. When she and her husband were on the M/V ANASTASIS as civilians from 1996-2002, Ketchum, who is also a Licensed U.S. Merchant Marine Officer, Second Mate, served as a deck officer when underway and provided maritime training when in port. She ensured that all crew members were properly trained, and she also facilitated maritime training to host nations when requested. Her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Ketchum, who is also a reservist and a Licensed U.S. Merchant Marine Officer, Master, was serving as captain of the M/V ANASTASIS. Ketchum was called back to active duty in 2002, and for three years she taught maritime policy to students from around the world at the World Maritime University in Sweden. After that she applied for the post-graduate program, earning her doctorate from Oxford in maritime education. Her dissertation examined how people learn, their capacity for training and how they apply what they have learned. When Ketchum saw the maritime advisor position in Liberia advertised to all eligible service members through U.S. Coast Guard channels, she thought it was a custom-made job.

“Everything that I’ve done set me up well for this job,” she explained, referring to her international experience and education. After applying for and interviewing for the position, she received notification that she had gotten the job.

It is all those steps that brought her to the West Africa shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean March 25, watching with pride as a small unit from the Liberian Coast Guard successfully launched the Zodiac boat. It is the same pride she felt watching the coast guard members march in formation onto Monrovia’s Barclay Training Center parade field in their new white uniforms, receiving their charge from President Sirleaf and the unit’s new guidon at Liberia’s 53rd Annual Armed Forces Day February 11. “It’s written that I’m managing a case, finances for the Liberian Coast Guard, but what it comes down to is coming out and helping out with operations like this,” Ketchum explained. “This is the first we’ve had the boat out and I’m so excited I just can’t tell you. A lot of training has come before this and I’m just really proud of the guys today for getting out here and launching the boat.”

Throughout the next three years the United States government will provide \$5 million worth of training, equipment and infrastructure to the new coast guard, according to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia. The coast guard’s base on Bushrod Island is being re-established and is undergoing improvements that are being executed and overseen by a unit of U.S. Navy Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven out of Gulfport, Miss. The team is working on three major

infrastructure construction projects valued at \$1.3 million – a pier, a boat ramp and perimeter wall, all of which are being funded by U.S. Africa Command’s Counternarcotics and Law Enforcement Division.

In addition, a U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Training Team conducted courses in Liberia in April and May. Fifteen members of the Liberian National Coast Guard participated in Africa Partnership Station aboard the USS Gunston Hall, and like Agbo, others will have the opportunity to attend schools back in the United States.

When reflecting upon the successful launch of the Zodiac boat, Ensign Charles Blawah, the training officer for the Liberian National Coast Guard, stated, “Well, it’s a lot of hard work and a lot of commitment, and we firstly want to appreciate your support [speaking to Commander Ketchum] because it is you, and the American people who have helped us to come this far.” Blawah expressed excitement and pride in being a part of the new coast guard, saying, “I hope I can achieve the mission for the Liberian people with the support of the international community.” “We have all the ingredients in place to develop a coast guard that can live up to the Armed Forces of Liberia mandate to be ‘a force for good’ and to meet President Sirleaf’s charge that the coast guard members will safeguard Liberia’s territorial waters, improving security and deterring smuggling and illegal fishing,” Ketchum said. “It’s exciting and rewarding, being a part of this great effort.” •

CMDCM Ron Naida with Outgoing MECM Robert Fowler, Command Master Chief of Coast Guard unit PSU-308 attached to CTG 56.5. At far right is CMDCM Russ Lindemann who is now the CMC of CTG 56.5.



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## Minnesota Chapter Congratulates Raffle Winner

Among the attendees at the NERA MN Chapter January 8th meeting was CMC Mitch Lueth of Fairmont, Minnesota. He is a MN Chapter member, and the lucky winner of the Ford Fusion Hybrid that was raffled off by the NERA National Office. Because Constructionman Chief Lueth is from our chapter, the chapter will receive \$500 from the national office. So it was a win win for our chapter. CMC Lueth was presented a Letter of Appreciation by Don Bauman the out going president and Roger Jacobson the incoming president.

Right: An edited copy of the letter of congratulations that was signed by PNP Don Bauman on behalf of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and Minnesota Chapter.

Below: Congratulatory letter presented to CMC Lueth by Past National President Don Bauman (left) and the newly installed Chapter President, BU1 Roger Jacobson (right).

Dear Chief Lueth,

On behalf of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and Minnesota Chapter, we congratulate you on having your name pulled for the drawing of the 2011 Ford Fusion that was raffled off at a drawing held on 27 December 2010. Of all the several thousand tickets that were sold, yours was the winning one.

...

You may not be aware that, as a result of your winning ticket being pulled, and as you are a member of Minnesota Chapter, this chapter will also receive \$500.00 from National Headquarters. For that, we thank you.

Again, my sincere CONGRATULATIONS and I know you will put the winnings to good use.

Sincerely,

Don Bauman  
President, Minnesota Chapter  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association





# Marine Marquee

**Rear Adm. Margaret G. Kibben**  
**Chaplain of the Marine Corps**  
Hometown: Warrington, Pennsylvania

On July 9, RADM Kibben became the first female chaplain of the Marine Corps. Serving on the commandant's staff in Washington, D.C., her duties include advising the commandant on the delivery of religious ministry and ensuring the Navy Chaplain Corps is manned, trained and equipped to meet religious ministry requirements throughout the Marine Corps. The Chaplain of the Marine Corps advises newly-selected commanding officers at the Commanders Course at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., discussing with them their responsibilities to ensure the free exercise of religion for their Marines.

Chaplains and religious program specialists offer four core capabilities in response to national and service regulations and requirements:

- Facilitate the religious requirements for faith groups not their own by indirect ministry (lay leaders, contracts, other chaplains).
- Provide religious and sacramental ministry to Marines of their own faith groups.
- Care for all Marines no matter whether they have any self-identified religion.
- Serve as advisers to commanding officers.

**Do you have family in the military?** My husband is a retired Marine lieutenant colonel having served the Corps 26 years. My father is a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy. Having enlisted in World War II, he joined the reserves and was later commissioned an officer. I am the seventh naval officer in my family.

**What religious denomination are you?** Presbyterian.

**What inspired you to go into religious ministries within the military?** I decided in eighth grade that I wanted to be a minister. The summer after my junior year in high school, I had the chance to visit a boyfriend who had entered the Naval Academy. I realized while visiting him that I would really like to serve in the military. It didn't take long, maybe a day, for me to realize that I could do both if I pursued being a Navy chaplain.

**Who is your role model?** Without a doubt, it is my



RADM Margaret C. Kibben, Chaplain, U.S. Navy

father. Never deterred by obstacles or setbacks, my dad is a man of incredible faith and energy. He still cycles, teaches school, goes on mission trips with his church, and he's 90!

**What has kept you in the service of our nation for more than 20 years?** I've been active duty for a little over 24 years, and each time I was asked how long I would stay in, I'd answer, "as long as the Navy likes me, and I like the Navy." I guess you could say we've liked each other for all these years. Seriously, I have not only loved this ministry but, I have always felt called to remain in this ministry. There has not been one tour that I have felt that God isn't using me in some way or another. There have been tours where that was clearer than others but overall, the opportunity to serve sailors and Marines has been one of the greatest gifts God has provided me. I have never felt called to serve him anywhere else.

**How has serving alongside Marines and sailors affected you personally in life?** Aside from marrying one? I am rewarded daily by the enthusiasm, dedication and true commitment today's Marines and sailors demonstrate in the face of extreme adversity and challenge. And I am a better person for it, as they "keep me honest" to remain on par with that same level of enthusiasm, dedication and commitment.

**How important is religion and faith to the Marine Corps?** Marines represent the essence of "Semper Fi." Obviously, that phrase is intended to mean faithful to the

Marine Corps or to the mission, but by and large, most Marines are faithful to their understanding of God. The importance of religion, however, seems to have changed with time. The underlying discussions of faith and life remain the same, but the resources today's Marines draw from have changed. When I first came in, corporate worship services or sitting in Bible studies provided the spiritual answers most were looking for. While that remains important to some, and I'd like to say many, it has become much more personal.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicide prevention continue to weigh heavily on commands Corps-wide. What can Marines do individually to encourage their peers to stay in the fight? What I believe Marines need to fight for is the preservation of their humanity and that of their fellow Marines. War attempts to rob us of that – sometimes physically, often times emotionally and spiritually. The first thing each Marine needs to realize is that the battle doesn't just take place on the battlefield, it takes place every moment that our individual and corporate sense of right and wrong is threatened. And it comes home with us. What we have experienced has now become a part of who we are, and will serve to define us for good or ill. We as a Corps, as peers and as individuals, need to take the time to look out for the scars this in-

ternal battle leaves, to acknowledge that there is no such thing as coming out of traumatic events unaffected. The strong remain strong only when they acknowledge that there are justifiably moments of weakness. It's critical that we address and not ignore the fact that there will be times when we don't have all the answers, when it's important to reach out to someone to process the thoughts and feelings we're all prone to. Only then, when we allow ourselves to consider and accept the full range of human emotions we become stronger as individuals and as a Corps.

#### **What was your favorite duty station and why?**

This is probably the most challenging question. I've loved every tour. But if I had to choose one, I would have to say that my individual augment tour in Afghanistan was the most rewarding, challenging and life-changing tour I've had. There was not one day that I was not aware of God's claim on my life and of his calling to me to serve as a chaplain. There was not one experience I had there for which I could not see how I had been prepared to serve at that time, in that place. I was and remain in awe of the devotion and dedication Marines, sailors, soldiers, airmen, guardians, and contractors commit to doing their jobs in service to their country. •

Permission to reprint: MARINES Magazine staff writer.



NERA members: Chief Tony Little and Master Chief Kevin Johnson with Marines in Macon during the Bi-Annual Sgt Rodney Davis Clean Up Project.



Master Chief Kevin "Doc" Johnson and friends during a Toys for Tots event.

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# Big Navy Comes to Camp Arifjan MCPON West Covers Hot Topics, Answers Questions

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by GSE2 (SW/AW) Eva Alvarado

Kuwait—Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West, accompanied by the Force Master Chief of the Reserve Force (FORCM) Ronney Wright, paid a visit to forward deployed Sailors from the area at an All Hands call in the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) tent, Camp Arifjan.

Sailors from various commands in Kuwait including Navy Expeditionary Logistics Group Forward (NAVELSG FWD), U.S. Navy Law and Order Detachment/Provost Marshal Office (L&O/PMO), Theater Field Confinement Facility (TFCF), Warrior Transition Program (WTP), and Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait (EMF-K) to name a few, attended the All Hands call and participated in a general Q&A session with the top Master Chiefs. MCPON West and FORCM Wright addressed “Big Navy” topics from advancement, to manning, to Expeditionary Warfare Specialist (EXW) program restrictions.

Before taking questions, MCPON West talked about the concerns that many Sailors face in our ever-evolving Navy. Included in the discussion were the various measures that the Navy is taking to raise the bar on perfor-

mance and to reduce rate and advancement stagnation in overmanned rates. Attention was on the Perform to Serve (PTS) program, High Year Tenure and Continuation Boards.

MCPON’s and FORCM Wright’s particular focus was on PTS, a program that already is in effect for active duty Sailors and will be rolling over to the Reserve Force in the near future. The program is a force shaping tool that screens reenlistments as a means to ensure quality control in manpower. It allows Sailors to convert to undermanned ratings and applies to all zone A, B, and C Sailors, E3 to E6 regardless of their intentions. This was tied heavily into the topic of advancement. “With high retention and low attrition levels, more and more people are staying in,” MCPON West said, “This is why we have new solutions like PTS and Continuation Boards. But ultimately your Navy career is in your hands. Take charge of your own career-- this is the time to buckle down and study...work hard, get your quals when you can. And stay out of trouble!”

Warfare devices was another topic that he covered in great detail. Known for previously making warfare

Sailors of the Navy Law & Order DET Kuwait pose with MCPON Rick West (F-Row, 3rd from R) and Navy Reserve FORCM Ronney Wright (F-Row, 3rd from L)



devices mandatory if stationed at a command that carries the applicable warfare program, MCPON West spent some time responding to Sailors' questions regarding the EXW program. A fairly new program that was approved in 2006, the point of contention with the EXW Program appeared to be the exclusivity of the pin; only Sailors assigned to a Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) can earn the pin. "If you open it [EXW] up to everybody, it becomes watered down," MCPON West said about the integrity of the EXW program, "besides; warfare pins aren't about how they look on your chest. It's about building basic knowledge, operational readiness and warfare capabilities. It's about being able to save the ship, your shipmate, and yourself in time of war."

Prior to the all hands call, MCPON West and FORCM Wright attended a breakfast with a select number of Sailors from the various units in Kuwait. They also toured the L&O/PMO, TFCF, EMF-K, and



MCPON Rick West and Force Master Chief Ronney Wright enjoy a little quiet time in front of NAVELSG's armory.

NAVELSG FWD locations. This was one of MCPON West's stops during his 2011 tour through Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and 5th fleet. Every sailor hears about him and the challenges he sets forth, but it is a rare occasion for sailors to get to meet and converse with the MCPON. Sailors of Law and Order DET Kuwait took full advantage of the greatly appreciated opportunity to talk one on one with MCPON West as he encouraged questions and provided in-depth answers.

MCPON focused much of his dialogue on hot topics that will be effecting sailors around the Navy such as Perform to Serve (PTS), and over manned ratings both active and reserve, in the near future. He discussed how the PTS program has already changed the attitude of active duty members by raising the bar on what is expected of today's sailors. Additionally, he stressed that the PTS



MA2 Reed and other hard-charging Sailors are presented a MCPON coin by Rick West

program will soon be moving to the reserve side of the Navy and that reservists must prepare to compete in order to reach retirement. MCPON made it clear that the sailors who perform, on and off duty, will be those who are sought after for retention in today's Navy.

During the visit, MCPON West recognized Law and Order Petty Officers MA1 Dougherty, MA1 Troxel, MA2 Bressie, MA1 Brock, MA1 Stretch, MA2 Case, and MA2 Reed for their outstanding accomplishments and selection for Sailor of the Month and Junior Sailor of the Month. Along with the Certificate of Recognition given to these hard working sailors, West presented each one with a Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy coin, a traditional trademark recognizing excellence.

MCPON West concluded his meeting with Law and Order DET by calling MA2 Garcia front and center to lead the room in a roaring countdown of 3...2...1... HOOYA!!! For her great effort in motivating the surrounding sailors, MA2 Garcia was given a MCPON coin as well. •

MCPON West and the Sailors of Law and Order DET Kuwait are led by MA2 Garcia in a countdown of 3...2...1... HOOYA!



# Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

## LIFE BENEFACTORS

A distinguished group of NERA lifetime members whose outstanding dedication and support fortifies the legacy of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association thus inspiring future generations to absolute greatness.

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 HMCM Harry T. Buckles  
 EMC Larry M. Arnold  
 MRCM Michael A. Viens  
 STCM Jerome A. Hamling  
 FORCM Ronney Wright  
 DK1 John D. Burke  
 FTCM Dwight Lanning

Members in Bold are Current or Past National Presidents.

# Membership Application

Name		
Rate/Rank	Date of Birth	
Street Address		
City	State	Zip
E-mail Address		
Phone		
Sponsor		

## Branch of Service

- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard
- Other
- Civilian

## Membership Type

- Active
- Associate

## Dues Payment Amount

- \$30 - 1 Year
- \$57 - 2 Years
- \$84 - 3 Years
- \$300 - Life
- \$100 - Life (PayPlan)\*

\*Partial Pay Life to be paid within six months

## Duty Status

- A - Active Duty
- I - Inactive Duty (SELRES, IRR, VTU)
- R - Retired
- \$250 - Life Benefactor

Payment  Check (enclosed)  VISA  MasterCard

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Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Required

X \_\_\_\_\_

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# 2011 Naval Enlisted Reserve Association USAA/NERA College Scholarship Program

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The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) offers a College Scholarship Program for NERA members and members of their family.

## General Information

### Applications Due 3 June 2011

NERA scholarship program recognizes the service to the United States and sacrifices by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. This program is sponsored through substantial grant funding from USAA Insurance ([www.usaa.com](http://www.usaa.com)) and additional donations from NERA and its members. NERA reserves the right to modify or discontinue the scholarship program at any future date should funding not be available. The application and supplemental instructions are available online at [www.nera.org](http://www.nera.org).

## Scholarship Amounts

Two \$3,000 scholarships for Regular NERA Members. 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.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be either a NERA member, regular, or associate. NERA members may also sponsor a qualified applicant: a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild. Sponsored children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23 on 3 June 2011.

In order to qualify for the scholarship the applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing by the scholarship deadline, 3 June 2011. Members must have their dues paid up to date and new memberships must be paid in full by the scholarship deadline, 3 June 2011. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact NERA at 800 776-9020 or by email at [members@nera.org](mailto:members@nera.org).

## Scholarship Use Requirements

Scholarship applicants may be either graduating high school seniors or students already attending a college or university. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll, full-time or part-time in the fall semester immediately following award of the scholarship. Enrollment may be in any undergraduate program leading to a bachelor's degree or associate's degree at an accredited college or university.

The NERA Scholarship can be awarded in addition to any other partial scholarship, including a ROTC Scholarship. Those applicants already in possession of an appointment to a U.S. service academy or receiving a "full scholarship" to any accredited college or university are not eligible. A "full scholarship" is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees, and university-supplied dormitory room and board.

Eligible students must attend undergraduate level studies at a college, university, or junior/community college that confers a bachelor's degree or associate's degree, on a full- or part-time status as established by the school accepting the scholarship funds. Academic programs involving a second undergraduate or graduate school degree are not eligible.

## Essay Requirement:

One 500-word essay

### 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.

The application and supplemental instructions are available online at [www.nera.org](http://www.nera.org). •

# TAPS

*We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.  
We suffer for their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital  
love, companionship, and guidance. Their place will always  
remain vacant among this patriotic assembly. Amen.*

## Member

Ms. Suzette Allen  
AOCS Walter Clowney  
ENC Lewis Duke  
ETC Walter Ellis, Jr.  
Mrs. Eloise A. Estes  
SMC Roger A. Falasco  
DPCM James E. Gibbons  
OS1(SS) Thomas E. Hopely  
Ms. Eleanor M. Knecht  
MMC Elbert Kurze  
HMC Wilbur J. Meiners  
PNC Eleanore Novak  
SH1 Charles Pavlos  
EAC Kenneth R. Pennington  
HTC James Vincent

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Floyd Bennett  
Greater Richmond  
Grand River Valley  
Greater Greenville  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Greater New York  
League Island  
Greater Lehigh Valley  
League Island  
St Cloud  
Minnesota  
Ft McHenry  
West Virginia State MAL  
Packerland Branch

## NERA Memorial Walk



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" 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 Laura Martin, [lk martin@nera.org](mailto:lk martin@nera.org) or (703) 534-1329.

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



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