

THE MARINER

2010 Winter Edition

Volume 53, No. 4

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, NERA.

Celebrating two traditions of superior service: yours and USAA's.

Inside: 5 smart tips for enjoying debt-free holidays.



USAA IS PROUD TO BE THE
EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER
OF FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE
NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION

NERA

NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.





TIPS FOR A DEBT-FREE HOLIDAY.

By **Bob Wiedower**

Like any military operation, proper planning is the key to success. Your finances should be no different. As the holidays approach, it is important to prepare for their financial impact so you can spend more time enjoying the season. Here are a few ideas that may help.

1. SAVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Many military members plan and save for large purchases like a car or a home, and you should use the same logic for holiday shopping. We know it's coming. It's the same time every year. Setting aside a little each month will make it much easier to stay out of debt at the end of the year. Often, it's the simple things that have

the biggest positive impact on our finances, so start saving now.

2. CREATE A BUDGET.

There is an old saying: "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." In other words, if you don't know your destination, then you will end up wandering aimlessly and never arrive. The same reasoning can be applied to holiday spending.



Bob Wiedower,
LtCol USMC (Ret.),
30-year MCA member

Bob Wiedower serves as the Executive Director for USAA's Wealth Management in Phoenix. He is dedicated to helping military members manage finances and plan for their future and leads a dedicated team of professionals who provide expertise in all areas of building, managing and preserving wealth.

Bob joined USAA after serving 22 years as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He holds a master's degree in business management from Troy State University, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California.

He also holds the Certified Wealth Strategist®, Chartered Financial Consultant® and Chartered Life Underwriter® designations, along with several securities registrations.

USAA Wealth Management is a service of USAA. USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates.

If you don't have a roadmap, then when the holidays roll around you're likely to spend your money aimlessly without ever knowing the true financial impact – until the bills start coming due in January.

In order to have control, you have to build a simple plan. Make a list of everyone you're going to buy a gift for this year. Determine how much you plan to spend on each person and total

Continues inside back cover →

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Service to the Reservist,
PS1 Christopher Irvin
receiving NERA plaque
from Nick Marine and
VADM Dirk Debbink.

Ray Robson

NERA

NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.



2011 Naval Enlisted Reserve Association USAA/NERA College Scholarship Program

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) 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.

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.

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.

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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: MarinerEditor1@nera.org or NERA Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. Credit will be given for materials used. Letters may be condensed for publication. Articles and letters appearing in The Mariner do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the National Executive Council of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association or the Editor, nor are they to be interpreted as official policy of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The Mariner (ISSN 0164-3029) is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Periodicals postage paid at Falls Church, VA and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: vp@nera.org.

President's Message



by National President Nick Marine



Ray Robson

Great 53rd National Conference!

Conference attendees had a chance to tour National HQ and all were very impressed. We have a quite a bit more to do, please call Steve if you would like to assist with any upcoming projects.

The Past National Presidents' luncheon was a success and it was a great honor listening to all their incredible stories. All Past National Presidents were presented with an engraved wood and brass desk clock bearing their names as well as dates they served NERA.

We had some amazing speakers this year and I would like to THANK all of them. The Principal Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, David McGinnis, told us that he was aware of the many problems facing demobilized Sailors and he has a plan in place to correct the crisis at hand. The past Force, Dave Pennington,

came out and explained Safe Harbor's Anchor Program. NERA will be active in assisting Safe Harbor to provide senior members (YOU) to our injured warriors. Please go to our website and read more about Safe Harbor.

Laurie Ott, the CSRA Executive Director of the Wounded Warrior Care Project, will be working closely with NERA and Joanne Elliott. She spoke passionately about the program which provides the support to reintegrate returning service members with their families as well as specialized training and education to help transition to the work force.

A very special THANKS to the Senior Enlisted Panel this year, FORCM Ronney Wright, MCPOCG Mark Allen and CSM John Gipe.

Congratulations to Dorothy Texidor who was awarded the 1776 Award, Chuck Sherrick for NERA's Top Recruiter Award, PS1 Christopher Irvin for the Service to the Reservist Award, and Chief Christopher Pupo as the Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Did you know that the Sheraton National Hotel is the same hotel where the 25th NERA National Conference was held? The staff, rooms and service were all exceptional. The buffet was so good that I heard that someone actually tried to request a doggie bag for the road!

We need more chapters to host confer-

ences, call Laura Martin for details, (800) 776-9020 or email lkmartin@nera.org.

We will draw the raffle winner for the 2010 Ford Hybrid Fusion on December 27, 2010, great odds of winning with only 1500 tickets being sold, get them while they last.

Finally, we now have 171 Life Benefactors to date, the program is still growing steadily.

More Later,

—NERA Nick



Ray Robson

From left to right, CSM John D. Gipe, MCPOCG-RF Mark Allen, FORCM Ronney Wright, NERA President Nick Marine.

Vice President's Message

by National Vice President Geno Koelker

Ahoy again Shipmates,

We are all glad that the elections are over and the calls and campaign rhetoric is finished for now. I am writing this prior to our conference which means I can only reflect on what is ahead, and not past. I received an e-mail from the hotel in preparation for my arrival. I have been spending time preparing for the trip, mainly getting my thoughts in order so that I don't forget what is needed; Uniforms, paperwork, general items, clothes, laptop, etc. Then I get the reminder that the articles are needed for the Mariner, ASAP.

Thoughts change course and cause one to focus on what to write. What can I say that you haven't heard before? How do I reach out to the sailors we want and need as members? How do I let the members know we are still focused on our main goals (and course) even though we are zig zagging as a ship does to avoid torpedoes. The old two step, comes to mind; two steps forward, one step back. Elections aren't on the conference's agenda, nor are any major CB&L changes, so the incentive to attend the conference isn't the priority this year. The hotel reminded me of some of the reasons we get together and what our purpose for gathering is about: "Bring people together to create the connections that seals deals, form new bonds or rekindle old friendships" describes in a few words what conferences are about. If you could not attend the conference this year, make plans for next year now, so that there is less zig zagging and more of the straight course sailing.

Again, I have been traveling and was at the Decatur, Illinois, NOSC, for their pre-deployment day, getting NERA's message out. This was an interesting trip for several reasons. First, there have been two NERA chapters at Decatur. The first was "Kelly Gilio" chapter, then "Central Illinois" chapter. Now, both chapters are inactive. Two steps forward, one step back. I saw the second charter certificate hanging on the passageway wall. However, when I first was there to arrange NERA's presentation, no one remembered NERA. This time I found a few senior members (drilling reservists) who were still members and had been part of the Chapter. In 1995, NERA's Illinois State Director, Mike Drelick, and I, made the trip to Decatur and signed up enough members to start the new Central Illinois chapter. Hopefully,

the new members I signed up this trip, and some of the old members, will resurrect the chapter. Another interesting fact was, as I was playing the new NERA video, stating we had gotten the Navy to remove SSN from our ID cards, the Decatur drilling reservists were showing me there NEW ID's with their SSN still on it. An inquiry about this produced a response that it was a possible software issue problem. I assure you, I will address this at the conference. The answer, if I get one, will have to wait for the next Mariner article. Two steps forward, one step back, sure gets old when you just want to go forward.

Between hearing about these issues, the demobilization of injured reservists, then separating them, sure seems as if we go backwards two steps to one step forward. This causes me to reflect on why NERA was originally established and what issues were first dealt with at the first conferences. This brings us back to the reserve centers (NOSC) and membership. As the saying goes, "History repeats itself." My goal is to do what I can to stop the step backwards and to keep going forward with the least amount of zig zagging. I'm sure that those before me were trying to do the same. That is why I need your help. I need you to go back to the NOSC, recruit new members, and let us know about what is happening out there and to give us your input and ideas. My job is to listen and try to implement the ideas and information that keeps us going forward without taking that backward step. I find it is always great to get back around the sailors. I know that we are in a struggle to get our message out, not only to them, but to our new and old members of Congress, most of who have never spent a day in uniform. They want our Military to "do more with less" and push our leaders to say "yes we can" without concerning themselves with consequences, i.e.; injured and discarded reservists. As I struggle to keep my personal life in order, this reminds me why I first joined NERA, to have an organization that would fight for me while I was busy on the deckplates, and try to right the wrongs and inadequacies (torpedoes) that are ever present.

With that, I wish you all smooth sailing and count on our members to have my "six." •

Letters

Hi Nick,

Just a short note to tell you how much I enjoyed talking with you at the conference, and to thank you again for the past Presidents luncheon you had for us, and for the nice gift you gave to all living Past Presidents. Also want to tell you that I think you are doing a outstanding job for NERA as our President.

Karen and I stopped at headquarters on our way home, and want to tell you that you and Steve did a great job repairing and remodeling the building. I'm looking forward to seeing the remodeled conference room.

Good luck to you, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Larry DiPasquale
Past National President

November 11, 2010

Thank you for your help.

I appreciate all you folks do on our behalf. I recently made E-6, for your records.

Regards,
Dan Eskew

Warning to Veterans

Provided by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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.
<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

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.

In addition, GC 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

Chief Petty Officer Brian Brannon keeps portside watch in an M-ATV (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle) during a convoy from Kandahar to assess Afghan National Police recruit training for NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan at Spin Boldak on the Afghan-Pakistan border.



Chief Petty Officer Brian Brannon, USN

Tips & Clips

by Past National President Joanne Elliott



Ray Robson

VA Aid and Attendance Program

If you are a veteran, you may be entitled to this Program.

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

1. The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, OR,
2. The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, OR,
3. The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, OR,
4. The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

5. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, OR,
6. The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling AND, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time

For more information, go to <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm#7> or call your local Veterans Affairs office.

Fannie Mae—Mortgage Help for Wounded Troops and Surviving Spouses

If you or someone you know falls into this category, call your mortgage company and request that they grant the special forbearance under Fannie Mae's unique hardship program. Fannie Mae will make funds available directly to the mortgage company for up to 6 months. For more information go to: www.KnowYourOptions.com/Military.

Updated Plan for Removal of SSN's

The decision to truncate the SSN's from military CAC cards has been postponed. Per a 05NOV2010 Memorandum, this process will begin sometime in December 2010. The delay occurred because of a concern that the removal of the SSN would have an impact on several business processes, including the administration of TRICARE medical benefits and use of the ID card in lieu of a Passport overseas, especially in theatre. Beginning at the end of 2010 and continuing through 2012, CAC cards will be replaced with a DoD Identification Number and a DoD Benefits Number. The phase in will probably start with active duty and end with dependants and retirees.

Cancer Insurance Policies

One of our members called the other day with info on a Cancer policy we carried a few years ago. He paid for and carried the policy through FRA as well as NERA. When he ultimately filed a claim, he was told he could only collect under one of them. After some haggling they reimbursed him the premiums on one policy and paid the claim on the other. If you or anyone you know have been paying premiums on multiple cancer insurance policies that were obtained through different organizations, you need to call and verify either (1) you will get paid on each of the policies; or (2) you need to cancel all but one policy and get reimbursement for the other payments. •

NERA's 53rd National Conference

by Joanne Elliott with photography by Ray Robson



FORCM Ronney Wright, MCPOCG-RF Mark Allen, and CSM John Gipe head the Senior Enlisted Panel.



Retired FORCM Dave Pennington speaks about Safe Harbor



Laurie Ott speaks about the Wounded Warrior Care Project

Geno Koelker presenting Chuck Sherrick with the Top Recruiter Award.





Mr. David McGinnis speaks on the importance of the seamless integration of active and reserve components.

Tom Bullock speaks on the importance of working in cooperation with employers to support the guard and reserve.



We had a wonderful conference in Washington, DC this year and we missed many of you. Our 54th National Conference will be in California next year, look on our website for updates and make your reservations to join us there. We are looking forward to an even closer association with the Coast Guard and Naval Reserve. Laurie Ott, the Executive Director of the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project out of Atlanta, GA gave an in-depth account of their community-based model to meet the needs of returning service members from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as their families to help them reintegrate by coordination of care, family reintegration, and providing education and training that will lead to employment. We look forward to working closely with Laurie in the future. For more information, go to: www.csrawwcp.org.

Our former Force Master Chief Pennington also provided valuable information on the Navy Safe Harbor's Anchor Program. For more information, go to www.safeharbor.navy.mil.

Tom Bullock from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) provided updated information on the accomplishments of the ESGR's continued work in getting employers educated with the USERRA laws and coping with their employees' continued deployments. Go to www.esgr.org to get information on getting your employers to sign a "Statement of Support"

David L. McGinnis, Principal Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs spoke at length about reserve issues and stated that his office will continue to look into the current problems with mobilized and demobilized reservists, especially with respect to medical care issues.

VADM Debbink and Force Wright attended the Awards Luncheon where VADM Debbink awarded the Service to Reservist Award to PS1 Christopher Irvin, as well as the Navy Achievement Medal. PS1 Irvin also received a check for \$500 from NERA.

On Saturday morning, a Senior Enlisted Panel convened, consisting of Force Master Chief (FMF) Ronney A. Wright, Navy Reserve Force, MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen, Coast Guard Reserve Force, and Command Sergeant Major John D. Gipe, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Asst. Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. (The Marine Reserve Force Sergeant Major Kim E. Davis was unable to attend.) After each panel member gave a brief introduction, questions from the audience were presented. Questions dealt with cuts and drawdowns in the Navy Reserve; use of civilians to do jobs on Navy facilities; early retirement; inability to get current addresses to mail packages to mobilized reservist; social security numbers which are still appearing on ID cards; and the demobilization of injured reservists. •

Executive Director's Message

by Executive Director Steve Sandy



The world economy is in trouble; most nations are reducing their military and do not have the funds or the stomach for another war; a small dictatorial country is forming alliances with other despot nations supplying them with weapons of mass destruction. This country has demanded the return of long disputed territories and a reunification of their people. They have ignored numerous nonproliferation agree-

ments and their massive military buildup has occurred so rapidly or has been ignored for so long that it has caught the world by surprise. This single maniacal dictator is threatening the stability of the region and perhaps the world. A diplomat who approached this leader in the name of peace (at any cost) returned and advised the world if they acquiesce to this country's demands they would stop their aggressive posturing and we could have "Peace with Honor and Peace in Our Time."

Jimmy Carter, North Korea, Kim Jong Il in 2010? Well maybe, but it was 1938, the country was Germany, the dictator ... Adolph Hitler, and the negotiator was Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

—George Santayana

"You buy them books, send them to school, and they sit on the books to make themselves look taller."

—The Old Master Chief



Jennifer, Laura, Mike, and all who helped at National Headquarters have just wrapped up the 53rd National Conference.

Our members who have run conferences in the past know what a monumental task it is: the months, weeks, days, then hours, leading up to the opening event. Did we forget someone or something? Is there enough time in the schedule? "Oh, no! The hotel just changed the meeting rooms on us!" "Quick, reprint the programs!" One speaker will arrive early; then another called to say they'd be delayed; and then that long-awaited minute comes when it begins and everything falls into place.

The van shuttle commences and our members who arrived early attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Conference registrations followed, as well as the Thursday evening meet and greet where old friendships were renewed and new ones made.

Friday morning began with the Coast Guard Honor Guard Parading the Colors and Chuck Sherrick, opening the conference with a prayer for our troops serving throughout the world, prayed that they may serve with honor and return home safely.

During the awards lunch Friday, VADM Debbink spoke and presented the Service to the Reservist, PS1 Christopher Irvin, with his award. The Senior Enlisted Panel drew a large audience Saturday, listening aptly to FORCM Ronney Wright, MCPO-CGRF Mark Allen and CSM John Gipe.

In addition to the meetings, there was time to take in some of the sites and museums in the Washington DC area with a scheduled tour of the Smithsonian. The van with "yours truly" driving was available and made numerous trips to accommodate our guests. The dinner on Saturday in The Galaxy Room on the 14th floor was a success with some dancing afterwards.

Sunday finally rolled around and everyone breathed a sigh of relief for the completion of a yet another successful conference and a well-deserved rest.

Thanks to everyone who made this a successful conference.

—Steve Sandy

"Happy Holidays from Mary and I and all the staff at National"

VA Agent Orange (AO) Updates

by Deputy Executive Director Mike Hughes

VA Designates AO Additional Illnesses for Presumed Service Connection

VA has added 3 illnesses to the current list of diseases for which service connection is presumed for Vietnam veterans. The illnesses are B cell leukemia, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease. VA is encouraging Vietnam Veterans with these 3 diseases to file claims for compensation. If you were previously turned down for compensation for these illnesses you are encouraged to reapply. Other illnesses previously recognized under the VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

AL Amyloidosis; Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy; Chloracne or other Acneform Disease consistent with Chloracne; Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia; Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2); Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma; Porphyria Cutanea Tarda; Prostate Cancer; Respiratory Cancers (Cancer of the lung, bronchus, Larynx, or trachea); and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's Sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

Navy Vessels Designated for Presumed AO Exposure In Vietnam by VA

VA's Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has released lists of Navy vessels to regional offices to assist with development of disability claims for Vietnam shipboard veterans based on exposure to herbicides. They identified a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels that conducted operations in "brown water" rivers and deltas of Vietnam and also those vessels that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. If a veteran's service aboard one of these vessels can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development. This a combining of two separate lists released by VA C&P Service, the first in Jan. 2010 and the second in July 2010. We've been told that VA is also working on a third list of vessels. NERA continues to push for presumptive claims determination for exposure to herbicides for all "blue water" vessels that served in Vietnam and earned a

campaign ribbon, but these lists are a positive step in the right direction. Previously only those service members who could prove actual "boots on the ground" service in Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 received the presumptive consideration for AO exposure.

Vessels that operated primarily or exclusively on inland waterways (any service aboard in Vietnam qualifies):

Inshore Fire Support (IFS) Division 93-USS Carronade (IFS-1), USS Clarion River (LSMR-409), USS Francis River (LSMR-525), USS White River (LSMR-536); All LST's; All LCVP's; All PCF's (aka Swift Boats);

All PBR's; All Coast Guard WPB's and WHEC's; USS Mark (AKL-1); USS Brule (AKL-28); USS Patpsco (AOG-1); USS Elkhorn (AOG-7); USS Genesee (AOG-8); USS Kishwaukee (AOG-9); USS Tombigbee (AOG-11); USS Noxubee (AOG-56); USS Okanogan (APA-210); USS Montrose (APA-212); USS Bexar (APA-237); USS Benewah (APB-35); USS Colleton (APB-36); USS Mercer (APB-39); USS Nueces (APB-40); Barracks Barge (APL-26); Barracks Barge (APL-30); USS Tutuila (ARG-4); USS Satyr (ARL-23); USS Sphinx (ARL-24); USS Askari (ARL-30); USS Indra (ARL-37); USS Krishna (ARL-38); USS Belle Grove (LSD-2); USS Comstock (LSD-19); USS Tortuga (LSD-26); USS Asheville (PG-84); USS Gallop (PG-85); USS Antelope (PG-86); USS Ready (PG-87); USS Crockett (PG-88); USS Marathon (PG-89); USS Canon (PG-90); Floating Base Platform (YRBM-17); Floating Base Platform (YRBM-18); Floating Base Platform (YRBM-20); Winnemucca (YTB-785).

Vessels that operated temporarily on Vietnam's inland waterways or docked to the shore (must have served at the specified times and places to qualify):

USS Ingersoll (DD-652), Saigon River Oct. 24-25, 1965; USS Mansfield (DD-728), Saigon River Aug. 8-19, 1967 and Dec. 21-24, 1968; USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849), Coastal inlet North of Da Nang, Jun. 2-5, 1966;

USS Basilone (DD-824), Saigon River May 24-25, 1966; USS Hamner (DD-718), Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers Aug 15 -Sept. 1, 1966;

USS Conway (DD-507) Saigon River, early Aug., 1966; USS Fiske (DD-842), Mekong River Jun. 16-21,

VA (AO) Updates, Continued from page 11

1966; USS Black (DD-666), Saigon River Jul. 13-19, 1966; USS Providence (CLG-6) Saigon River 3 days during Jan. 1964; USS Mahan (DLG-11) Saigon River Oct. 24-28, 1964; USS Okanogan (APA-220) Saigon River Jul. 22-23, 29-30 and Aug. 5-6, 1968;

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) Saigon River and Cam Ranh Bay Aug. 22-25, 1968; USS Card (ACV-11), mined, sunk & salvaged in Saigon River May, 1964; USS Maury (AGS-16), surveys of Mekong Delta and other coastal areas from Nov. 1965 through 1969; USS Henrico (APA-45), Hue River Mar. 1965 and troop landing Mar. 1967; USS Montrose (APA-212) (NERA will inquire as to why the USS Montrose is on both lists.), Song Hue River Dec. 1965, Long Tau River Mar. 1967, Cua Viet River and Dong Ha May, 1967; USS Talladega (APA-208), Saigon River Oct., 1967; USS Bolster (ARS-38), crew operated on land at times; USS Canberra (CAG-2), Saigon River Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 1966, Cua Viet River Dec. 15, 1966, Mekong Delta Ham Luong River Jan. 15, 1967; USS Sproston (DD-577), Mekong Delta and Ganh Rai Bay Jan. 1966; USS Picking (DD-685), Saigon River Nov. 16, 1965; USS Epperson (DD-719), Da Nang Pier Oct. 4, 1970; USS Southerland (DD-743), Song Nga Bay and Saigon River July, 1966; USS

John W. Thomason (DD-760), Nga Bay River during 1969; USS Buck (DD-761), Mekong River Delta and Saigon River Oct. 1968; USS Preston (DD-795), Mekong River Delta, Ganh Rai River, and Saigon River Sept. 28-29 and Dec. 27-29, 1965; USS Warrington (DD-843), Mekong River Delta Rung Sat Special Zone, North of Vung Gahn Rai Bay Mar. 1967; USS Dyess (DD-880), Saigon River and Rung Sat Special Zone June 19-July 1, 1966; USS Perkins (DD-877), Saigon River June 1969; USS Orleck (DD-886), Mekong River Delta July 1969; USS Joseph Strauss (DDG-16), Mekong River Delta and Ganh Rai Bay Nov. 7 and Dec. 7, 1968; USS Waddell (DDG-24), Cua Viet River Mar. 1967; USS Newell (DER-322), Port of Nha Trang Dec. 22-24, 1965; USS Duluth (LPD-6), Docked to pier at Da Nang Mar. and Oct. 1971; USS Cleveland (LPD-7), Cua Viet River, Dong Ha and Hue River Nov. 1967 through 1968 and Saigon River Sept. 1969; USS Dubuque (LPD-8), docked at Da Nang Mar. 15, 1970; USS Boxer (LPH-4), docked to pier at Cam Ranh bay Sept. 9, 1965; USS Carter Hall LSD-3), Cua Viet River and Dong Ha Dec. 1967. •

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

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NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

Questions can be directed to Laura Martin, lkmartin@nera.org or (703) 534-1329.

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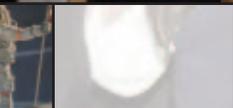
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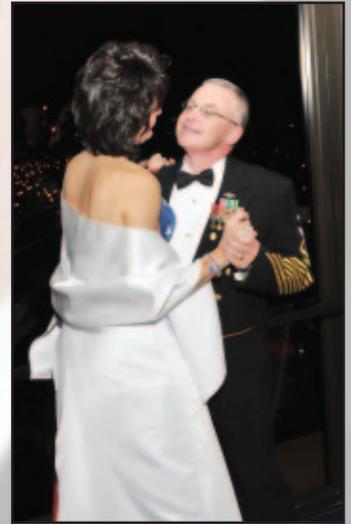


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NERA's 53rd National Conference



Dinner Dance



All Photography by Ray Robson. Left Page:

- A.** 1776 Award winner Dorothy Texidor with Nick Marine and 2009 winner George Wardwell
- B.** FORCM Ronney Wright speaks about Returning Warrior Workshops
- C.** Nick Marine welcomes John Hood and William A. Anderson
- D.** Nick Marine and VADM Dirk Debbink
- E.** Collin Younger announces USAA will sponsor an award for Coast Guard graduates
- F.** MCPOCG-RF Mark Allen and YNCM Edna Doak present REPOY Chief Christopher Pupo with gifts
- G.** Coast Guard Color Guard performing the opening ceremony
- H.** Duke and Linda Hayes look through pictures from the 25th National Conference at the Sheraton National
- I.** NERA members take a break during the conference to tour the Smithsonian
- J.** Command Sergeant Major Gipe, SEA to Secretary McCarthy spoke on the Secretary's goals and his desire to network with military associations
- K.** First-time conference attendee Lloyd Gibbs and Nick Marine
- L.** Past President wall at NERA HQ
- M.** REPOY Chief Pupo

Coastie Corner

by MCPO-CGRF Allen

NERA 53rd National Conference – Coast Guard Reserve Participates

NERA became one of my favorite organizations in The Military Coalition when I participated in my first NERA Conference, NERA's 50th National Conference, during 2007 in Charleston, SC. I immediately recognized NERA members' dedication to protection of the rights and benefits of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard members. I also came to enjoy NERA members' camaraderie and devotion to each other.

NERA members' high degree of insight into contemporary military and veterans issues becomes apparent during conferences. NERA members, many of whom are retirees or former service members, are not "living in the past" but are fighting for specific needs of current service members and veterans.

During NERA's 53rd National Conference in Washington, DC, November 2010, I especially appreciated NERA members' interest in Coast Guard heritage. They enthusiastically attended the Veterans Day Ceremony on Coast Guard Hill (Arlington National Cemetery), Colors by the CG Ceremonial Honor Guard, and the Coast Guard Band's Veterans Day Concert. They welcomed the Coast Guard Reserve's Enlisted Person of the Year for 2009, Chief Maritime Enforcement Specialist Chris Pupo, and hosted him as their

guest for the week. NERA had also honored him with an award in Washington, DC during June 2010 for his inspirational leadership, especially after volunteering for Coast Guard service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I also appreciated the opportunity NERA provided me during the 53rd Conference to speak on the Senior Enlisted Panel alongside my comrades, Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Ronney Wright and Command Sergeant Major John Gipe (Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs). I likely learned more best practices from these speakers than I shared.

MEC Christopher Pupo and MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen



Ray Robson

Coastie Corner

Among the greatest values of the Conference were the networking opportunities. Conference participants were able to learn from the mentoring of NERA's retirees and former service members. They were also able to speak directly with influential leaders such as Force Master Chief Wright and Command Sergeant Major Gipe, as well as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs David McGinnis; Vice Admiral Dirk Debbink (Chief of Navy Reserve); retired Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Dave Pennington (Anchor Program Director for Navy Safe Harbor), Chief of Employer Outreach for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Tom Bullock; and Executive Director of the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project Laurie Ott.

Perhaps most valuable to many of the Sailors, Marines, and Coasties in attendance were the professional development seminars, including Senior Enlisted Panel; issues of mobilized and demobilized reservists; Navy Reserve update; Navy Safe Harbor's Anchor Program; Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; and CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project. These seminars delivered accurate, insightful, and currently-applicable information that service members can immediately apply on the job.

I look forward to NERA's 54th Conference in California and encourage Sailors, Marines, and Coasties to participate in this opportunity to enhance their professional development. Maybe others will even be inspired to join me as NERA lifetime members.

MCPO-CGRF SITREP 1

During my first 6 months as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force (MCPO-CGRF), I have enjoyed the opportunity to travel around the Coast Guard and learn about all the great work our Coast Guard reserve and active component members are achieving in support of America. I wish to report that our Coast Guard Reservists

remain forward deployed in places such as Kuwait, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The smallest of America's seven reserve components, our Coast Guard Reserve sometimes can be thought of as delivering not capacity but capability. Our Coast Guard Reservists, like those of our sister services, remain resilient even after repeated deployments.

Recent deployments have included support to extraordinary incidents such as the Haiti earthquake and Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A major lesson learned from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was the need for a larger Coast Guard Reserve force. At a historically small size of about 7600 members, about 2500 of them deployed to Deepwater Horizon on Title 14 orders. This deployment highlighted a need for a larger force to prepare for future incidents such as oil spills, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters – in addition to support to the Department of Defense during contingencies. The need to grow the Coast Guard Reserve force has created part-time job openings for high-performing sister service active and reserve members being released from active and reserve components. (See your local Coast Guard recruiter for details.) Guidance regarding employment of our Coast Guard Reserve can be found in the Coast Guard Commandant's Reserve Policy Statement (http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/announcements/Reserve_Policy_Statement.pdf), which directs the force to maintain readiness both through training and through augmentation of regular Coast Guard units. •



Marine Marquee

by Cpl. Tyler J. Hlavac, Marine Forces Reserve

Article and Photos by Kevin A. Johnson

Mountain Men: 1/25 Marines Use Mountain Warfare Training Center to Train for Future Afghanistan Deployment



Chief Petty Officer Brian Brannon, USN

Marines with 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, spent several hours patrolling the mountains of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center June 21.

In the mountains, the temperatures vary hourly, from hot to cold, depending on the time of day. The terrain can work against Marines; the thin air and peaks tire them and provide cover and concealment for the enemy. Communications can become spotty and they never know what is exactly waiting behind the next peak or hill. These are among the many lessons the Marines of 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment learned after spending more than a week training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center as of June 21.

Mountain Warfare is a different experience for the Marines who have spent countless hours training for urban and desert combat zones and even have an Iraq tour or two under their belt. “We probably spent weeks, training practically every day for six months for MOUT (Military Operation, Urban Terrain) before we deployed to Iraq,” said fire team leader Lance Cpl. Malcolm Miller, while scanning the trees and peaks in front of him from his security position. “A lot of it (the MOUT training) can’t be used out here. In Iraq it was MOUT, MOUT, MOUT...here it’s mountains, mountains, mountains.” During their time in the mountains, the Marines conducted improvised explosive device and land navigation training as well as frequent patrols that occasionally resulted in shoot outs with mock enemy aggressors.

During the patrols the Marines experienced first-hand the physical effects of the terrain. “Elevation is a factor out here that takes time to get used to,” said 2nd

“OUT AND ABOUT” for NERA

Marine Marquee editor HMCM Kevin “Doc” Johnson attended two USMC Birthday Celebrations in the Atlanta, GA metro area between November 9, 2010 and November 10, 2010.

On November 9, 2010, Master Chief Johnson attended a USMC Birthday Celebration and Cake Cutting at the Eagle’s Nest Community Living Center (CLC), Veterans Administration Medical Center Decatur, GA.

Marines from the Marine Logistics Group in Marietta, GA. put on a great show for the VA patients, staff and others!

Continued on page 20



Continued on page 26



left page, top—Two Marines working their way to the front of the line to receive a piece of “birthday cake.” OORAH!

left page, bottom—Marines of the 4th MLG stand beside a Community Living Center Veteran.

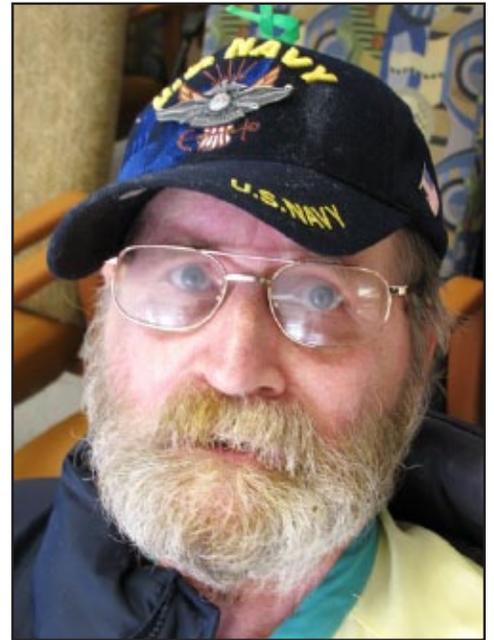
top left—Presenting the Colors

top right—Nurse Chauncey Rozier, VAMC Atlanta recreational therapist presenting a slice of birthday cake to a hospitalized Marine who is accompanied by his wife.

center right—Mr. Jim Cooper, Vietnam Veteran and Navy (FMF) Hospital Corpsman proudly displays his Navy ballcap with current FMF device.

bottom left—Marines of the 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marietta GA, stand tall behind Mrs. Mary Pittman, Chief Voluntary Services, VA Medical Center, Decatur GA. Mrs. Pittman is the proud wife of a Marine. Semper Fidelis!

bottom right—Marines of the 4th MLG (Marine Logistics Group) march in with the ceremonial cake. “Walking tall and looking good!”



Continued from page 18

And on November 10, 2010, NERA members, MGySgt Frank Goalen, USMC (ret.) and HMCM Kevin “Doc” Johnson, USNR (ret.), attended the USMC Birthday Celebration and Cake Cutting Ceremony held at VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Post 6330 in Jonesboro, GA.

MGySgt Goalen also represents the Major Stephen Pless MOH Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Griffin, GA. Master Chief Johnson represents the Sgt Rodney Maxwell Davis MOH Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Tooele, UT. •



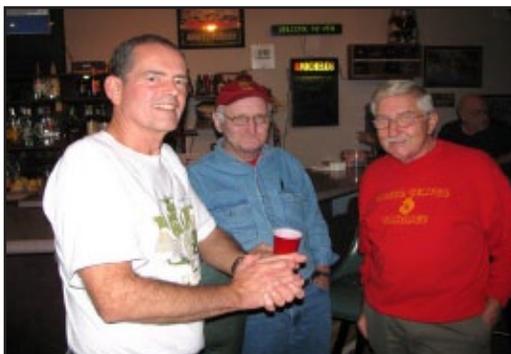
At left: Master of Ceremonies, LtCol James Dalton USMCR (ret.). Top row: Marine John Sellers; HMCM Kevin “Doc” Johnson USNR (ret.); MGySgt Frank Goalen USMC (ret.). Middle row: Marine Roscoe Foster, Commandant of the Major Pless MCL Detachment; and Marine Raak Patel. Front row: SSgt Wayne Fromdahl USMC (Iraqi Vet).



Master of Ceremonies, LtCol Dalton poses, with (left to right) Cleveland Jones USN Veteran; “Big John” Sims, Silver Star Recipient Vietnam, USMC; HMCM Kevin “Doc” Johnson; and 1stSgt Charles “Skip” Gamble, Purple Heart Recipient (with two stars) Vietnam, USMC.

All members shown, except for C. Jones, served together in the 4thFSSG (Marine Corps Reserve Unit) over 30 years ago!

Marines spanning several periods gather to share “sea stories” and enjoy camaraderie with one another.



Some of our Vietnam Veterans proudly singing the Marine Corps Hymn!



A bagpiper was on hand to play the Marine Corps Hymn.

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The Water's Like Ahead.**

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Recruit Training Command (RTC)

Great Lakes, Illinois

by Chief Intelligence Specialist (SW) Joshua W. Mangum

Recruit Training Command (RTC) is located at Great Lakes, Illinois and is the Navy's only boot camp. Each year, a team of Recruit Division Commanders (RDC's) push thousands of new recruits through the sometimes arduous transition from civilian life to that of a United States Sailor. The RDC's rely on their own naval experience to assist their recruits through that transition.

The RDC's will select a recruit from each division to serve as the division Recruit Chief Petty Officer (RPOC). The RPOC is the primary recruit assistant to the RDC's and is responsible for: maintaining good order, discipline, and security within the division at all times; ensuring compliance with standing orders and regulations; assisting RDC's with implementation of schedules; and reporting any abnormal condition to RDC's, including violations of good order, discipline, and security, when RDC's are not present. The RPOC

also marches their division to and from various training events and leads them through the Plan of Day.

Ever wonder what's changed at boot camp since you went through? Or are you thinking of signing up? Then this article is a must read!

The following interviews were conducted with Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Justin Ray Boggess and Seaman Apprentice Mason Ahmed via phone by Chief Intelligence Specialist (SW) Joshua W. Mangum.

First Class Petty Officer Fire Controlman Justin Boggess demonstrates the proper way to tie a neckerchief, for seamen recruits (from left) Jerrika Salisbury, Olivia Gabriel, Alyse Newman, Natalie Reyna, and Startesha Holmes. As a Recruit Division Commander, Boggess trains recruits during their eight weeks at boot camp. Photos by Sue Krawczyk.



Through the shared experiences of the two interviewees, you will see two aspects of life at boot camp and what it means to those who dedicate countless late-night work hours to make it successful.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (FC1) Boggess serves as an RDC, Ship 07, USS Chicago, Atlantic Fleet, RTC, Great Lakes, Illinois. He was born in Rome, New York and enlisted in the United States Navy in January 2001. He has a wife, Derricka, and two children, Caleb and Ryan. As a fire controlman, there isn't much shore duty available so Boggess has spent nearly seven years at sea since 2002 and served on four ships: USS Detroit, USS Cushing, USS Kitty Hawk, and USS Nimitz. Prior to RTC, his favorite duty station was Nimitz, which he referred to as "the Super Bowl Champs of the Fleet." In 2009, Boggess began his journey back to Great Lakes to become an RDC.

ISC: Why did you join the Navy?

FC1: When I joined, I wasn't focused on the training and education, but the young men and women of today join specifically for the training and education opportunities. My father retired from the Air Force and I really craved the discipline of military service, so I became the first in my family to join the Navy. I volunteered for duty as an RDC because I wanted to contribute to developing quality Sailors for the fleet.

ISC: What impact do you think you have on your recruits?

FC1: I was really surprised about the effect my appearance and attitude has on the recruits. Each recruit is going through a life-changing experience, and they often mimic everything you do. When putting on my uniform, I always think about how my RDC's appearance affected me. Coincidentally, during a Navy time-honored tradition of the urinalysis, I bumped into one of my RDCs at RTC who is now a Senior Chief. I was honored when he accepted my request to pin on my "rope" following my certification as an RDC.

ISC: Since 2001 when you enlisted, what's the biggest change in boot camp operations at RTC?

FC1: Almost everything is different, and there is a big focus on physical fitness. Perhaps the biggest change is Battle Station Twenty One 21 (BS-21). Now they are centralized in one building, racks are different (more fleet representative), each barracks has its own galley, tests are given in the individual barracks and all classes are held in the same building where the recruits sleep. We march the recruits on weekends and perform drills for Pass and Review. This often causes little time to practice, and there is no longer a service week as in years past. We also practice search and rescue for injured or

fallen Sailors utilizing realistic mannequins that actually moan, which makes the entire training event much more realistic. Another big change is that each recruit stands watches with training weapons.

ISC: So what hasn't changed?

FC1: Long hours, the fire fighting, test subjects, and naval history remain the same.

ISC: Any great sea stories for the young Sailors out there?

FC1: I was actually marked with an Unauthorized Absence (UA) once during training at the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS). While waiting outside the Master Chief's office, I read a plaque. From memory, it read, "Our business is the taking of lives. Anyone who thinks that this is an ordinary job is a thief of the food he eats, and a trespasser of the bed that he sleeps." Well, that quote really had an impact on me and the Master Chief must have noticed. He gave me about six hours of Extra Military Instruction (EMI) during which I was required to stay after class and study. I ended up being



number one in the class. Looking back, I really appreciated the fact that he didn't just give me something painful to do, rather something that would make me a better Sailor and FC.

ISC: Any words of wisdom for those thinking of joining the Navy or just starting their careers?

FC1: Realize you are serving your country, and understand what you are committing to when you enlist. It may cost you your life, so give it the seriousness it deserves.

ISC: Last question. So what are your favorite sports teams?

FC1: The Yankees and the New York Giants!

ISC: I want to thank FC1 Boggess for a great interview and special thanks to Sarah King, public affairs officer at RTC, for her support in setting everything up despite their busy schedules.

Continued on page 24

Seaman Apprentice (SA) Mason Ahmed is a recruit at Atlantic Fleet, RTC, Great Lakes, Illinois. He was born in Detroit and graduated from boot camp on Nov. 12. Ahmed enlisted at the age of 21 to become a Hospital Corpsman after working for his father's business since he was 13 years old. After high school graduation, he worked at Hungry Howie's, his father's business in Lakeland, Florida. He is one of three brothers and two sisters.

ISC: Why the Navy?

SA: I joined the Navy to build a foundation for my future, family, and because I thought it would help me become a good role model for my children (one day). Also, I was the class clown in high school and needed a push. So, one day I was talking to my cousin and he was talking about signing up and all the benefits. I thought it sounded pretty good, so I walked straight into the recruiters office, right past all the other services' desks, and enlisted.

ISC: How did your family react to your enlistment into the Navy?

SA: After I enlisted, my mom told me how she wanted to join the Navy and my stepmother's grandfather started talking to me about when he was in the Navy back in 1968. He still has his cruise book and it is in pristine condition. Both my father and mother are very proud. Even one of my brothers is considering enlisting (if baseball doesn't work out), after seeing how much it has affected me.

ISC: What has changed about you since you arrived at RTC?

SA: I used to joke too much, so people often didn't take me seriously when I needed them to. I was always able to breeze through school without truly applying myself. Things really come easy to me. But now I want to give 100 percent to help others and myself not to take everything as a game. I've learned attention to detail and was taught a lot of leadership by FC1 Boggess (his RDC). My family always said I have leadership qualities but wasn't applying them. Thanks to the RDCs and everyone giving me a chance, I've really learned how to be a leader. One thing I learned is to talk to people and not at them.

ISC: So what do you think your biggest challenge as a corpsman will be?

SA: Well, I used to be afraid of needles so that will be a challenge for me to overcome!

ISC: What did you think when you were chosen to be the Recruit Chief Petty Officer (RPOC)?

SA: I didn't even know what an RPOC was, but I basically get a schedule from the RDCs and execute the plan of the day. I ensure the division is on time, answer my Sailors' questions or find the answer for them. I lead by

example, which I've learned from FC1. I'm the first in and last out, and try to keep the division motivated. My Assistant Recruit Chief Petty Officer (AROC) really helps me out a lot and helps enforce our orders. He is a big help.

ISC: What challenges has the leadership role of RPOC presented to you?

SA: I have to be on point at all times. Initially, the hardest part was getting everyone to respect me. Everyone has to get along and respect each other or we fail. I ran the division into a few walls and bleachers while marching, but we all laughed it off and have really started to gel. It helped when we excelled during some of our division inspections. It is a lot of different people coming together as one.

ISC: Soon to be HMSA Ahmed is excited to get to "A" School and become the best corpsman he can be for his Sailors and Marines. It was a real pleasure interviewing him and we wish him the best of luck on his journey! Special thanks to FC1(SW/AW) Boggess and Sarah King, RTC public affairs officer, for all the effort in setting up this interview the week of SA Ahmed's division's graduation! •



SA Ahmed

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PN2 James A. Bullard	HMC Walter E. Sack	YNC Marianne E. Mosher	ABFC Fred V. Kurtz
RMC Jerry D. Hall	SK1 Richard W. Lewis	FTGC(SW) James W. Cain	RADM Stephen T. Keith
AT1 Harold A. Hyslop	EO1 Steven L. Devereaux	MMC Larry J. Di Pasquale	CMDCM(FMF) Paul Haller
QMC C. Bruce Melcher	YNCS(SCW) Arthur A. Julian III	DPC Richard B. DuRall	ACCM Delores Rucker
YNC Joseph Michael Mauro	AMH1 David M. Drajna	ETC Robert C. Reeves	YNC Jeanne Lemasters
GSMC David L. Ingram		BU1 Thomas A. Van Hook	CAPT Ted Daywalt
MSCM(SW/SCW) David A. Nygaard		QM2 James W. Mitterer, Jr.	HMCM Harry T. Buckles
CMDCM(FMF) Ron Naida		IS1 Wayne E. Boyer	

Members in Bold are Current or Past National Presidents.

Marine Marquee, Continued from page 18

Lt. Jake Jackson, who functioned as the 3rd platoon commander during the training. “The inclines kill you, it can take an hour or so to cover 300 meters.” Jackson is one of 49 second lieutenants from The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, who are participating in the exercise while waiting for their military occupational schools to begin.

One ‘gut check’ moment during the week-long training occurred when the Marines found themselves ambushed by mock aggressors during their longest patrol to date, June 20. The Marines began the patrol under the training scenario that they were searching for a band of insurgents who had been launching attacks to discredit the local government. The Marines spent the next five hours scouring the mountains, climbing and navigating steep, rocky mountain peaks along the way to the landing zone that would serve as their final destination. During the patrol the grunts had to overcome basic problems from spotty radio communication and frequently finding themselves out of breath due to the terrain and elevation. “Out here you need to take breaks more often but in smaller intervals,” said Miller. “You need to conserve energy; use what you need to overcome the mountains but save some energy for the fight.”

After spending hours patrolling, constantly changing squad formations to adjust to the terrain, the Marines made it to the flat, open landing zone that would serve as their end point; only to be promptly ambushed by the mock aggressors who fired upon the Marines with machine gun and small arms fire from a concealed position on a hill. The infantrymen quickly returned fire and utilized boulders in the area to take cover and provided support fire for a squad of Marines who maneuvered up the hill and eliminated the aggressors. “It’s hard to see the enemy sometimes, hill fighting is all about the high ground,” said Jackson. “(During the fire fight) the Marines, due to the terrain, had to run straight up the hill to get the enemy who was fleeing, it was one of those individual gut

check moments.”

During the shoot out, the Marines found themselves relying more on their sense of hearing than sight to assess the situation and locate the enemy. “You can’t see over a hill,” said Miller. “Guys get cut off (from the rest of the platoon due to the terrain) and you often can’t physically see the enemy. You need to listen to find out where people are.” Jackson explained the main concept the Marines had gained from the mountain training. “This is the perfect place to train for Afghanistan as the terrain is so similar,” he said. “Out here, sometimes you have to climb the peaks even though you are tired. You can either let the terrain dictate your movements or not.”

The Marines of 1st Bn., 25th Marines, will continue to conduct mountain warfare training throughout the rest of exercise Javelin Thrust 2010, which is slated to end June 24th. Javelin Thrust is an annual exercise conducted by Marine Forces Reserve in several different locations in the Southwest. This year, more than 4,500 Marines from ground combat, logistical and air wing units are participating in the training, which resembles a Marine Air Ground Task Force operating in Afghanistan, in terms of both terrain and mission objectives. •



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

YNC William D. Brewer
 CUCM Martin E. Geraghty
 ENC George A. Gramlich
 Mr. Frank J. Palencar
 BTC William C. Rendall
 TMC Ted W. Rykowski
 AW2 Edgar F. Yoder

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In order to have control, you have to build a simple plan.

it up. You might be surprised at how several gifts will add up to a lot of money. If you start early enough in the year, you can divide your total budget by the number of months remaining before the holiday season. The result will show you how much you need to save each month in order to cover costs without incurring debt. That will also help spur early savings.

3. KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BUDGET.

Once you've spent the time making a budget, stick to it! Track your expenses and match them against your plan. This will serve two purposes. First, you'll be less tempted to overspend if you know it will show up in your budget. Second, it will keep wise spending habits top of mind, which stimulates creativity and thriftiness. These two factors can contribute to a less stressful and more rewarding holiday season.

Also keep in mind that most of your gift recipients will probably appreciate thoughtfulness and imagination more than the cost of the gift. Pay attention to what they

like and the things they talk about. Shop for meaning, not grandness.

One way to be sure you stick to your budget is to purchase gift cards. While this may not seem very "personal," a gift card to a sporting goods store for an outdoorsman is personal and can match your planned budget.

4. BE THRIFTY.

There are several ways you can reduce expenses. Some ideas include:

- Shop at discount/wholesale stores instead of high-end retail locations.
- Use the points on your affinity or rewards cards to purchase gifts for others.
- Shop online. Many times there are savings associated with using online stores because those retailers have no brick-and-mortar expenses. You must be alert to the shipping costs associated with online shopping; however, many times online shopping offers significantly better prices in addition to saving you time.

- Consider handcrafted or inexpensive but meaningful gifts. Wouldn't your friends and family love a framed photo from your last fun get-together?

5. USE CREDIT WISELY.

Few people can pay cash for a car or a home, and many feel they need to use credit for holiday purchases as well. If you do, do it wisely.

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