



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



February 27, 2009

## **Navy Reserve – Providing Critical Operational Support**

*"SOUTHCOM could not as effectively execute the Maritime Strategy in the Western Hemisphere without the outstanding support we receive from the Navy Reserve... We rely on international and interagency cooperation, and that means having our reserve military embedded with our active duty, civil service and multinational personnel. The reservists' experiences bring a unique perspective to every mission."*

**– Adm. James Stavridis Commander, U.S. Southern Command**

In the 94 years since Congress established the Navy Reserve, it has never been more relevant and fully integrated with the U.S. Navy than it is today. Today's Navy Reserve is composed of 11,500 Full-Time Support and more than 55,800 Selected Reserve Sailors. Embodying the vision, "Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere," the Navy Reserve is serving in every theater, rate and designator, and provides critical operational support to fleet and combatant commands.

### **Supporting the Maritime Strategy at home and around the world**

- Reserve Forces fill multiple key positions at security cooperation offices in U.S. Southern Command's area of focus. From oversight of humanitarian assistance initiatives in Ecuador, to foreign military sales programs in Chile, to post-hurricane disaster assistance in Haiti, Reserve Sailors help create conditions for prosperity and lasting democratic institutions in Central and South America and the Caribbean.
- Reserve Forces make up 51 percent of the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command. NECC fulfills their Maritime Security missions around the world with Active, Reserve and blended units.
- Reserve Sailors are ready and on call to respond to Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response missions in their hometowns, across the country or across the globe. From Hurricane Katrina to the tsunami in Indonesia to the Navy's partnership missions, Reserve Sailors have directly contributed to the Navy's mission.
- Reserve SeaBees fill one of four requirements for deployed construction battalions around the world, serving as goodwill ambassadors, completing community relations projects, and repairing and constructing medical facilities and schools. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27, with 609 Reserve Sailors, is deployed to Iraq.

### **Supporting the War on Terror and current operations**

- Reserve Sailors fill 48 percent of all Individual Augmentee (IA) billets in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, ranging from explosive ordnance disposal, medical, special operations, customs inspections, intelligence, riverine squadrons, training, airborne electronic countermeasures and much more. Today, there are 5,617 Reserve Sailors on the ground in theater.
- Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 209 maintains the same carrier qualifications and training and readiness rates as the three Active Component VAQ squadrons. They also mobilized for two months last year, deploying 188 Reserve personnel to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, flying more than 900 hours and executing 249 combat sorties in support of coalition operations.
- Last year, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 84 flew more than 1,400 hours in direct support of Joint special operations forces – 50 percent of their missions were direct action involvement with the enemy.

### **Key Messages**

- The Navy Reserve maintains unsurpassed individual, command, and force readiness, and is ready to surge forward – anytime, anywhere.
- Serving alongside active component Sailors, Reserve Sailors deliver timely, cost-effective operational capabilities.
- The Navy Reserve gives Sailors options to achieve a true life-work balance while they "Stay Navy" and continue serving.

### **Facts & Figures**

- The Navy Reserve was established by Congress on Mar. 3, 1915. Its forerunner, the Naval Militia, dates from 1888.
- More than 2 million Sailors—four out of every five Sailors during World War II—were Naval Reservists.
- Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 54,300 Reserve Sailors have been called to active duty to serve as IAs or in units, including 8,515 serving twice.