

I - Introduction

An Abstract

Coping with the Darkness of Operational Reserve Forces and Their Family Member's Uncertainty

By now it is no secret that Operational Reserve Forces (ORF) have been deeply impacted by current war operations stretching back to 2001. From all indications, the roles of the ORF are not going to diminish regardless of the policy changes of the nation's present day war situations. ORF will be utilized not only to fill the void of recent policy surge mandates, but also to fill critical billets within the Sea Services of the 5000 additional Marines Congress has now approved.

Thus begging the question – “What of the Reserve Forces”? How are they and their family members coping with the ongoing deployments, loss of income, and the ever increasing pressures to balance family, work, community involvement and growing reserve responsibilities? Reserve members have been killed (Marine Reserve – 120, Navy Reserve – 13) wounded (Navy – 539, Marines – 7,753) (these numbers are as of March 2007). Consequently, what plans are underway to assist Operational Forces to promote quality ministry, spiritual readiness, and sustaining family members of ORF in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism? Can we say with an honest assessment that we will not leave a Marine/Sailor, Coast Guardsman and their family members behind?

As members of the Reserve Support Unit/Deployment Processing Command, the Religious Ministry Team has come to view this as a critical billet, particularly as we see gaps in the system as it applies to Reservists.

It is crucial to put into place a systematic substantive infrastructure for the ORF and their family members to reference without bureaucratic resistance. To do otherwise, could have catastrophic results thereby disabling potentially healthy recovery plans for Reservists, their family members, and their given community.

Once a health care system of clarity is put into place that's efficiently structured and professionally managed, then future redeployments, family reunions, and reintegration situations will prove “normalcy is not a bad thing”.

Equally important is that Body-Mind-Spirit will truly be one. And the Sea Services will be unquestionably better Mission Capable.

II - We Are Not Weekend Warriors

SECNAV: "Reservists Are a Great Asset to the Navy"

LOS ANGELES (NNS) -- Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson toured the Naval Marine Reserve Center (NAVMARCORESCEN) Los Angeles as part of his seven-day tour of California and Hawaii. He addressed an audience of 600, including Reservists, Sea Cadets and dependents of mobilized forces, May 17.

"Reservists will continue to play an important role in the future of the military."

"We want to make sure we have gainful jobs for everyone, active and Reserves and that we have gainful training environment and opportunities. I admire each of you for making the decision to join the Reserves. I hope you, like I, will continue to gain great pride and satisfaction, and honor by serving our country. "

Defense Link Speech, Press Availability with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice As Delivered by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

I am recommending to him a total increase in the two services of 92,000 soldiers and Marines over the next five years – 65,000 soldiers and 27,000 Marines. The emphasis will be on increasing combat capability.

First, the mobilization of ground reserve forces going forward will be managed on a unit instead of an individual basis. This change will allow us to achieve greater unit cohesion and predictability in how reserve units train and deploy.

Second, from this point forward, members of the Reserves will be involuntarily mobilized for a maximum of one year at a time, in contrast to the current practice of 16 to 24 months.

However, today's global demands will require a number of selected guard and reserve units to be remobilized sooner than this standard. Our intention is that such exceptions be temporary. Mobilizing select guard and reserve units before this five year period is complete will allow us to move closer to relieving the stress on the total force.

VADM Cotton: IA duty won't decrease soon

Navy reservists can expect a steady rate of individual augmentee assignments in spite of the projected increase in the Army's size.

That rate should be about 6,000 individual augmentee assignments per year, Cotton said — about half the 12,000 individual augmentee billets assigned to the Navy — in the short term.

"It depends," Cotton said, when asked how Army and Marine troop increases will affect individual augmentee assignments in the longer term. "The growth isn't going to happen right away. If the Army recruits 7,000 per year and the Marine Corps recruits 5,000 per year, it's going to take five, six or seven years to get the numbers they need. For the foreseeable future, if we continue at the current level of involvement, we are going to be steady state. So our message for the next five years is: be ready."

Cotton said the Navy has mobilized about 42,000 reservists and another 3,000 full-time support personnel since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. About 6,000 of these reservists have deployed more than once. Another 28,000 reservists have not been mobilized.

"We have about 28,000 that have not been [tapped], and our annual requirement is about 9,000. I tell the selected reservist to look to the right and look to the left. One of the three of you is going to get a call this year."

II - We Are Not Weekend Warriors cont.

Cotton said reservists can expect a mobilization-to-demobilization ratio of 1-to-5, meaning that a six-month deployment overseas would earn a sailor about 30 months at home. But since most Army units mobilize for 12 months, sailors who fill their jobs also will serve 12 months and will get five years at home.

Cotton said the individual augmentee assignments will pay dividends in the Navy of the future.

“As Navy reservists go ashore in some pretty demanding missions, they are coming back with a whole new appreciation of joint warfare, joint command and control, joint ops,” he said. “If we were deployed at sea 1,000 miles off the coast, these are things we would have never been into.

Changing Face of War Means Morphing Guard, Reserve

The days of the weekend warrior are over, a top defense official said here yesterday.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said the country has entered the era of an operational reserve force vs. a strategic one.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 500,000 reserve component service members have been mobilized, Hall said. Mobilized guardsmen and reservists currently number 130,000.

The Guard and Reserve become less attractive if a military employee has to worry about possibly losing out on a job opportunity because of service. And the loss of income because of mobilization also can be worrisome.

Weekend Warrior No More, Reserve Marines drop stigma

Nowadays, a typical reserve Marine no longer goes by “weekend warrior,” a term derived from reservists who typically trained two days a month, and two weeks a year.

Litto, and thousands like him, have whirled into fast-paced lifestyles as a result of the Corps’ high operational tempo

Reserve Marines can be found in some of the most dangerous hotspots in Iraq. When mobilized to active duty to the Al Anbar province in 2005, Marines from Ohio’s 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, took perhaps the heaviest toll of any unit: 48 Marines and sailors killed in action.

He sees reserve Marines bearing the same conviction as those on active duty.

“‘Weekend warrior’ is an old-fashioned statement,” he said. “I think it is an old term; it doesn’t apply anymore.”

Marine Corps Reserve Contributions to the Global War on Terrorism

In 2004, the Marine Corps Reserve proved its importance to the Marine Corps—and to the security of the United

States—both at home and in foreign lands, with more than 11,000 Reserve Marines on active duty fighting the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

GWOT for instance: One hundred percent of the Marine Corps’ Civil Affairs capabilities are in the Reserve. These Civil Affairs Group Marines have been absolutely critical to our success in OEF, OIF, Bosnia, and Kosovo. Marine Reserves are often uniquely suited to perform Civil Affairs responsibilities due to the experience they bring from their civilian occupations. Reserve Intelligence Marines participated in both OIF and OEF extensively. The Reserve Ground Sensor Platoon (GSP) supported the homeland defense mission by augmenting five Joint Task Force missions in various border regions of the United States. The platoon was tasked with guarding against drug smuggling operations, as well as illegal immigrants and suspected terrorists attempting to enter the country. Additionally, GSP augmented Task Force Tarawa and the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (II MEB), conducting perimeter security operations during OIF.

II - We Are Not Weekend Warriors cont.

National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet

Summary

Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq

Reserve Component 22,273

Navy Reserve 639

Marine Reserve 1,004

Active Component 106,296

Navy 3,553

Marines 21,554

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Composition of U. S. Forces in Afghanistan by Component

72% Active Component

24% National Guard

4% Reserve

Source: Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan

Reserve Component

Navy Reserve 19

Marine Reserve 2

Active Component

Navy 926

Marines 243

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

Between September 2001 and November 30, 2006, 181,437 Reserves have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, January 2007.

III - Service Member Families-What Do They Face?

Fleet and Family Support Center Hosts Individual Augmentee Forum

Family members, parents, ombudsmen and various commands with Sailors deployed as IA's shared their challenges, received resources and were able to connect with other IA family members.

The forum's featured speaker, Capt. Jeff McKenzie, commanding officer of Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), established Oct. 10, talked about the importance of keeping IAs and their families informed.

"Our mission applies to the uniformed member but that is only half of our mission. The other half is to make sure the support is there for the families," said McKenzie.

Families left the forum with their concerns and questions answered, and the opportunity to volunteer in the recently established Individual Augmentee Family Readiness Group.

NECC integrates all war fighting requirements for expeditionary combat and combat support elements. This transformation allows for standardized training, manning and equipping of Sailors who will participate in the global war on terrorism as part of the joint force. It also results in more capable, responsive and effective expeditionary Sailors.

"Focus on Families – Deployment Preparations"

This includes wills, powers of attorney, Service members' Group Life Insurance, record of emergency data form and dependent care certificate. Time will go by quickly as the Sailor prepares to deploy. Children need to be deployment ready just like mom and dad. It will be hard for the children to say goodbye and you can help them develop a checklist of things to do before the parent goes on deployment. Preplanning is the key to deployment readiness. Taking care of your family matters prior to deployment can save a lot of frustration on everyone affected. TNR

Coping When a Family Member Has Been Called to War

When a family member goes to war, the impact upon those left at home can be daunting. There is often tremendous uncertainty about the dangers that exist where the loved one is being deployed and about when he or she will return. Concerns may be intensified as TV news programs emphasize threats, such as chemical or biological warfare, scud missile attack, and environmental destruction. In addition to having to adjust to the loved one's absence, the families of those who have been deployed may live in constant fear of harm to their loved one.

Navy Hotline to Assist IA Families during Deployments

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command (ECRC) headquartered at Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va., has established a hotline for active-duty and reserve Sailor's families on Individual Augmentee (IA) orders.

The toll free phone number, 877-364-4302, provides IA family members a way to find the information or resources they may need while their Sailors are deployed.

The ECRC's hotline aims to alleviate the stress IA family members may experience.

IV - Reintegration Issues

Strategies for Coping when an Employee Leaves for Extended Military Service

Employers nationwide face the ongoing possibility that one or more of their employees will be notified of deployment in the National Guard or military reserve. Because often little advance notice is provided, employers with employees actively involved in these programs will need to plan for how to handle the employee's responsibilities if he or she is called upon to leave for extended military service. It is increasingly uncertain how long any employee's deployment will last. Because federal laws state that employees returning from service must be offered their former jobs or comparable jobs, at comparable salaries, simply hiring new workers to fill in the void is not always an option – especially for a small company with only a few employees.

Military Family Relief Fund

Beginning on January 2, 2007, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) will be accepting grant applications from the families of deployed or recently deployed National Guard members and members of the Selected Reserves.

To consider and approve grant requests, a board will be established by IDVA consisting of a representative from the National Guard (both Army and Air), and the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. Additionally, three members of the IDVA Board of Commissioners will sit on the Military Family Relief Fund Board.

There are requirements:

The qualified individual or family member can only receive \$2,000 in grants from the family relief fund in any one calendar year. The Director of the Indiana Dept. of Veterans Affairs may waive the requirements for emergent cases only upon written request indicating the circumstances justifying such a waiver.

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Attn: Military Family Relief Fund
302 W. Washington St. Room E-120
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Some reservists now eligible for extra pay

Some Marine reservists called up for lengthy or repeated mobilizations could get extra pay under a new Defense Department program that kicks in this month.

The program, mandated by Congress as part of the 2006 Defense Authorization Act, is meant to make up differences in pay for heavily mobilized reservists who earn less in the military than in civilian life.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program took effect Aug. 1 and provides up to \$3,000 per month in extra pay to eligible National Guard and reserve members whose military income is at least \$50 a month less than their civilian wages.

But the eligibility rules are narrowly written, and the program is not retroactive. Moreover, its statutory authority is due to end Dec. 31, 2008.

Bottom Line:

Reintegration primarily deals with the question – what about tomorrow?

Who will be there when Johnny/Mary comes home?

Will they be able to adjust back into society?

Will society allow them a fair readjustment?

Who do they call for help, should they need it?

IV - Reintegration Issues cont.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

In partnership with DoD, VA has implemented a number of strategies to provide timely, appropriate, and seamless transition services to the most seriously injured OEF/OIF active duty service members and veterans.

We expect to add staff to 61 existing facilities to augment the services they provide. Seven of the 23 new centers will open this Calendar Year 2007.

Finally, The VA is partnering with the State VA Directors in the "State Benefits Seamless Transition Program" in which severely injured service members can release their contact information to their home State VA Office to be educated about their State Benefits.

**What of the Reserve Forces?
Coping with on going deployment for USMC and Navy Reserve components**

I

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An Abstract**

"Coping with the Darkness of Operational Reserve Forces and Their Family Member's Uncertainty"

II

We Are Not Weekend Warriors

SECNAV: Reservists are a great asset to the Navy Story Number: NNS030529-01 Release Date: 5/29/2003 8:11:00 AM by Journalist 2nd Class Margaret A. Peng, Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center Public Affairs

Defense Link Speech: Delivered by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates Press Availability with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, White House, Washington, DC, Thursday, January 11, 2007

VADM Cotton: IA duty won't decrease soon (Monday, Feb 5, 2007) By Chris Amos - Staff writer Posted: 12:31:57 EST

Changing Face of War Means Morphing Guard and Reserves by Samantha L. Quigley American Forces Press Service SAN DIEGO, Jan. 11, 2006

Weekend Warrior no more, Reserve Marines drop stigma by Sgt. Leo A. Salinas, Marine Corps News

Marines Corps Reserve Contributions to the Global War on Terrorism War fighting Concepts, Emerging & Enabling Capabilities GPO-017-126 3/15/05 4:57 PM Page 120

CRS Report for Congress: National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheets Order Code RS22451 Updated January 10, 2007 Michael Waterhouse and JoAnne O'Bryant Information Research Specialists Knowledge Services Group

III

Service Member Families-What Do They Face?

Fleet and Family Support Center Hosts Individual Augmentee Forum Story Number: NNS061117-14 Release Date: 11/17/2006 4:17:00 PM By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Octavio N. Ortiz, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic NORFOLK, Va. (NNS)

"Focus on Families – Deployment Preparations" The Navy Reservist Magazine By Pat Nicholson, Force Family Support Program Manager 04 March 07

Coping When a Family Member Has Been Called to War by Julia Whealin, Ph.D. & Ilona Pivar, Ph.D. Reviewed/Updated Date: April 6, 2007

Navy Hotline to Assist IA Families during Deployments Story Number: NNS061107-07 Release Date: 11/7/2006 3:23:00 PM by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Katrina Parker, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

IV

Reintegration Issues

Strategies for Coping when an employee leaves for extended military service by Jeffrey Moses 11/23/2004

Military Family Relief Fund

Some Reservist now eligible for extra pay By Gordon Lubold Marine Corps Times (Aug. 14, 2006)

House Committee on Veteran Affairs: Testimony before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Statement of Michael J. Kussman, M.D., Acting Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs March 8, 2007

V

Spiritual Matters Matter

Admiral's View Story by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Michael D. Blackwell II. 04•TNR•May 07

"Chaplain Corps and RP's stand ready to assist each of and our families". Story by CMDCM Kenneth Rummel 04•TNR•May 07

Tooting Our Own Horn Story by Capt. Gregory G. Caiazzo Force Chaplain, Navy Reserve Force 06•TNR•May 07

CHAPLAIN HEALS COMBAT FEARS May 07•TNR•23

V - Spiritual Matters Matter

Admiral's View

The 240 Chaplains and 230 Religious Program Specialists (RPs) of our Reserve Component are called to serve and bring life transforming ministry to Sailors, Marines, Coastguardsmen and their families around the world.

Eighty percent of the RPs and almost 70 percent of these awesome Sailors have been mobilized for the Global War on Terror and most of them have served with Marine Corps units in theater. They are your friends and neighbors who know they are called to serve at home and called to RE-serve as RMTs to those people of God who don our countries sacred uniforms and risk all they have and all they are that we may be forever free.

Rdml Harold L. Robinson
Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters
Director of Religious Programs, Marine Force Reserve
"They brought the light of God's loving presence to the afflicted and grieved".

"Chaplain Corps and RP's stand ready to assist each of and our families".

First, please let me thank each and every one of you for your dedicated service in our great Navy. Do we look at the Navy Chaplain Corps as being those ministers that give religious services, invocations and benedictions at official functions?

If this is your understanding of our Navy Chaplains please allow me to unveil a more in-depth knowledge of the chaplain and Religious Program Specialist (RP) throughout not only the Navy but Marine Corps and Coast Guard as well. These dedicated men and women come from a variety of religious backgrounds providing assistance to our men and women in uniform, their families and communities.

The appreciation for the counsel and guidance that the chaplains and RPs have given me in my 30 years cannot be expressed merely in words. To all the chaplains and RPs, please accept our heart-felt thanks and gratitude for your dedicated service. God bless.

Tooting Our Own Horn

Our Navy Chaplain and Religious Program Specialist (RP) Team is there to do this full time. We bring a human face to the institution and provide the one place where you know you can always come for an understanding ear and a helpful hand. We're not just called to a "job" but each of us has a "vocation," a calling to serve our people no matter where we are and ever since 1775, we have been doing just that. In this present conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan our military has been tested as never before and our Navy Reserve has been called on to fully integrate into the Active Component of the Navy to bring about an honorable peace and rebuild a just society. Almost 70 percent of the Selected Reserve of the Navy Chaplain Corps have joined that quest providing the religious sacraments and ordinances of their denomination, giving counsel to wounded Marines, encouragement to Sailors and an understanding ear.

CHAPLAIN HEALS COMBAT FEARS

"A Chaplain looks at the emotional and spiritual needs of a Sailor in a manner to help them rejoin their loved ones."