

THE NAVY RESERVE

A strong Naval Reserve is essential, because it means a strong Navy. The Naval Reserve is our trained civilian navy, ready, able, and willing to defend our country and suppress her enemies should the need arise again.

—Rear Admiral Felix Johnson, 26 October 1946

We cannot be the Navy we are today without our Reserve component.

—Admiral Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

Representing 20 percent of the total Navy force, the Navy Reserve plays a larger and more critical role than ever in the Navy's routine operations. Today the Navy Reserve is an important component of the Navy's balanced and affordable force. Every Navy officer should have a basic understanding of the organization and role the Navy Reserve plays in meeting peacetime commitments and wartime requirements.

History of the Navy Reserve

The U.S. Navy Reserve was officially established on 3 March 1915, although historians trace the advent of the Reserve to colonial days and the Revolutionary War. Predecessors of the citizen-sailors of today include the members of naval militias in Massachusetts (1888) and then New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island (1889). In 1891 the Office of Naval Militia was established in the Navy Department. Six years later, sixteen states had naval militia whose personnel served with the Regular Navy during the Spanish-American War.

The Division of Naval Affairs replaced the Office of Naval Militia in the Navy Department by 1914. During World War I, approximately 30,000 reserve officers and 300,000 reserve enlisted members served on active duty at sea and ashore.

In the period between World War I and II, there were no Ready Reserve units as we know them today, and no reserve officers on extended active duty. Reserve officers trained during voluntary two-week active-duty tours on combatant ships or at shore stations. Just prior to World War II, some junior officers went on active duty following their graduation from NROTC, so that in the opening days of the war a few members of the Reserve were serving in fleet units. After Pearl Harbor, larger numbers of reservists helped man and command the Navy's ships, submarines, and aircraft; by the end of the war, four out of five Navy personnel were reservists. Many reservists remained in the Navy after the war, either on extended active duty as reservists or as members of the Regular Navy. Shortly after the end of the war, the Navy set up the framework for the modern-day Navy Reserve by establishing the Naval Air Reserve Training Command and the Naval Surface Reserve Training Command.

During the Korean War, many reservists returned to active duty for the duration of the war. During the conflict in Vietnam, the President decided not to call up the Reserve, except for selected air and Seabee units, but to use the draft to obtain extra manpower. This decision resulted in the widespread perception that the Reserve had become largely irrelevant to the national defense.

In the early 1970s, in response to a Reserve force that had fallen far behind the active forces in its training and equipment readiness, the "Total Force" concept was born. This plan recognized that the Navy Reserve was likely to be an important part of any response to a future national emergency, and that modern equipment and training were essential to ensure the Navy Reserve could rapidly and seamlessly integrate into the fleet.

During the 1980s the Department of Defense introduced a "horizontal integration" strategy, which assigned reservists to train with the active commands they would serve with in time of national emergency. During this period the Navy Reserve increased in size and received the most modern equipment, including F-14 Tomcat and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, HH-60 Seahawk helicopters, and FFG-7-class-guided missile frigates. Horizontal integration remains a key feature of today's Navy Reserve training and mobilization strategy.

The first major test of the "Total Force" concept came during the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Operations of 1990–91. A large-scale call-up of some 22,000 medical, logistics, Seabee, and other reserve personnel demonstrated that the reserve forces could indeed be rapidly mobilized and deployed in response to a crisis situation.

Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, more than 20,000 Navy Reservists were mobilized to take part in Operations Noble Eagle (DoD support

to homeland security), Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. In 2005 Congress officially redesignated the Naval Reserve as the Navy Reserve.

Components of the Reserve

In 2010 the Navy Reserve consisted of approximately 690,000 personnel in three components: the Ready Reserve, which is the primary source of personnel for mobilization, the Standby Reserve, consisting of individuals who have a temporary disability or hardship and those who hold key defense related civilian jobs, and the Retired Reserve. The majority of reservists are in the latter two components, which are at a lower level of readiness, and subject to being called for active duty only in the event of a declared war or other national emergency. Without the concurrence of Congress, the President may order members of the Ready Reserve to active-duty status during war or national emergency.

All individuals obligated to serve in the Navy Reserve are initially assigned to the Ready Reserve, and most remain in the Ready Reserve for the remainder of their service obligation. There are three groups in the Ready Reserve: the Selected Reserve (SELRES), Full Time Support (FTS), and the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

SELRES members hold valid mobilization billets and drill for pay. The First Call program provides an expedited mechanism to activate a small number of SELRES members with critical skills, such as crisis action team members, in the early stages of developing crises. SELRES members who elect to fill First Call billets can expect to report to their assigned duty stations within one to seven days of notification and serve on active-duty status in the training and administration of the Navy Reserve Force program.

FTS members serve on active-duty status in the training and administration of the Navy Reserve Force program; the Canvasser Recruiter (CANREC) program includes FTS reservists temporarily recalled to active duty to serve as recruiters.

The IRR includes members of the Voluntary Training Unit (VTU) and Active Status Pool (ASP). VTU members participate in monthly drills for which they receive retirement credit but are not paid. ASP members do not participate in monthly drills but may accrue retirement credits through correspondence courses.

Drilling reservists, the IRR, and some standby reservists are considered to be on "active status." This term, not to be confused with the term "active duty," denotes personnel who are eligible to train (sometimes without pay) as well as to earn points toward retirement, and who may be considered for advancement or promotion. These are also the first reservists called to active duty upon mobilization.

Conversely, reservists who are not on "active status" may not receive drill pay, earn retirement points, or be considered for promotion.

Figure 16-1 illustrates the relationships between the various categories of the Navy Reserve.

Mission and Organization of the Navy Reserve

The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and deliver the full range of operational capabilities to the Navy and Marine Corps team as well as to Joint forces. The Navy Reserve can provide a broad range of cost-effective, adaptable military capabilities and civilian skills to fulfill mission requirements.

The Navy Reserve is commanded by a vice admiral, with a subordinate rear admiral in charge of Navy Reserve Forces Command. Types of Navy Reserve assignments include aviation, engineering, information warfare, public affairs, intelligence, special operations, surface warfare, and logistics.

Navy Reserve Participation and Administration

Retirement Point Credit. Navy Reserve officers in an active status must maintain minimum participation levels, which are measured in retirement point credits. All officers must earn fifty points per year for that year to count as a qualifying retirement year. All members receive fifteen gratuitous membership points per year; they must earn any additional points. Reservists earn one point for each day of annual training or inactive-duty training period. There are two training periods per day on a typical weekend drill, for a total of four points per drill weekend. Reservists may earn additional points for completion of correspondence courses and other professional training. Members who have completed their minimum service obligations but who are not earning sufficient points to remain in active status are transferred to the inactive component of the Standby Reserve.

Reserve retirement pay, in addition to other retirement benefits discussed in chapter 20, is collected beginning at age sixty by retired members with at least twenty creditable years of combined active duty and reserve service. The amount of retirement pay is calculated based on the member's pay grade and retirement-point total.

Transfer to the Navy Reserve from Active Duty. Many officers who leave active duty elect to retain their commissions in the Navy Reserve. In fact, acceptance of a Reserve Commission is a prerequisite for acceptance of separation pay for officers who are involuntarily discharged prior to reaching retirement eligibility.

Active Status			Inactive Status	Retired Status
READY RESERVE Ready Reserve = SELRES + FTS + IRR				
SELRES (Selected Reserve) Hold valid mobilization billets for pay	IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) IRR = VTU + ASP + MMIRRG 45% of Ready Reserve		USNR-S1 (Standby Reserve) <u>Active</u> Key Federal Employees Hardships	USNR-S2 (Standby Reserve) <u>Inactive</u> Cannot earn points or promote
	VTU (Volunteer Training Unit) Drill in a non-pay status	ASP (Active Status Pool) Non-drilling status		
FTS (Full Time Support) Reservists on active duty 365 days a year (includes CANREC)				Retired Qualified for reserve retirement or FTS retirement

Figure 16-1 Navy Reserve

CAREER PLANNING

Believe it or not, you are the largest factor in the development of your naval career. If I've learned anything over my own career it's that you must have a plan. . . .

Webster's dictionary defines the word "career" as a course or passage. You wouldn't get underway for sea without a navigational plan or conduct flight operations without a flight plan, so why make a career of the Navy without a plan? Take my advice and set aside some time in your busy schedule to plot a course for success.

—Rear Admiral J. I. Maslowski, USN

You've got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.

—Yogi Berra

Arguably, the quality of the officer corps in the Navy has never been higher than it is today. Of course, it goes almost without saying that a strong performance record is a prerequisite for success, but in today's competitive environment, being a good performer will not likely be sufficient in itself. To give yourself the best possible chance, you must aggressively manage all aspects of your career.

You should seek out the hard, operational jobs in which your outstanding performance will be noticed. A balanced career of operational, overseas, joint duty, Washington, and staff assignments will demonstrate the diversity of your talents and experiences. In determining your next career move, seek the advice of your detailer, your XO and your CO, and other senior officers whose judgment you trust. You might even want to study the biographies of senior officers in your community to find out more about their assignments and achievements as junior officers.