



NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION

John D. Wood Chapter 201.066

P.O. Box 16932 • Mobile, Alabama • 36616

The Wood-Pile

April 2004

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Upcoming Events Calendar

- April** Keep America Beautiful Month
- April 1st** Rate of Chief Petty Officer established in 1893
- April 11th** Easter Sunday
- April 25th** 1830, Chapter Meeting, Anchor & Shield Club
- April 3/4** NMCRC Mobile Drill
- April 17/18** MIUW Drill
- April 22nd** Earth Day

Upcoming Meeting Agenda

- 1830** Call to Order/Colors/Roll Call
- 1835** Minutes/Treasurer's Report
- 1900** Fundraising Discussion
- 1930** Membership Discussion
- 2000** Unfinished/New Business
- 2010** Good & Welfare
- 2015** Adjournment/Fellowship

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Saturday, May 29, 2004.

For more information, visit

www.wiimemorial.com

or www.nera.org



DoD Temporarily Extends TRICARE Eligibility Following Active Duty to 180 Days

www.tricare.org

March 17, 2004 No. 04-07

Under the National Defense Authorization Act and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004, TRICARE eligibility for some active duty and Reserve Component members separating from active duty service is temporarily extended under the Department of Defense Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) from 60 or 120 days to 180 days.

The enhanced TRICARE provision, which began Nov. 6, 2003, and ends Dec. 31, 2004, is the first of three temporary programs the TRICARE program is implementing this spring under its "Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program," to enhance access to care for active and Reserve Component sponsors separating from active military service and their family members. The only change to TAMP is the temporary extension for the eligibility period.

"We are pleased to implement these new benefits for separating service members and their families in order to assist the transition to civilian life," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "TRICARE and contractor staff are working to make this temporary benefit work as smoothly as possible," he said.

(Continued on next page)

Message from the President

Participation in meetings continues to be strong. We appreciate Chief Day and PO Conklin consistently participating and **challenge our enlisted shipmates drilling in Mobile to get involved.** We are discussing republishing the popular cookbook published by the some time ago. We hope to finalize a marketing plan by close of next business. We will be asking membership to pre-order this great item. It will help us continue our civic involvement.

Congratulations to our areas newest Senior Chiefs:
BMCS Chuck Scarborough
CMCS Patterson
HMCS Joe Prati
SWCS James Odom

NERA Scholarship

Dear Applicant,

What would you say if I told you that you could have a chance at NERA's \$3000 Scholarship, as well as, the USNRSF \$2500 Scholarship with the same application?

Applicants who submit an application to NERA for the USNRSF Scholarship and are not NERA members may have their application considered for the NERA Scholarship by joining NERA today.

Scholarships are sponsored by NERA and USAA to recognize the contributions by Naval, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reservists and their families to the readiness of the fighting force of the United States. It is the intent of the program that scholarships funded through the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and USAA contributions are awarded annually. NERA wishes to thank USAA for their generosity in assisting with the funding of the Scholarships.

www.nera.org

NMCRC Sailors Recognized

JD Wood is proud to sponsor the SOY/SOQ at NMCRC Mobile. FTS & SELRES 03 SOY and 4th Quarter SOQ 03, SOQ were presented by CDR Riehm February 28th.



(L-R) **BU1 Gordon Deese**, 4th Qtr 03 Reserve SOQ; **ET1 Patrick Kichler**, 03 Reserve Sailor of the Year; **HM1 David Cochennic**, 03 FTS Sailor of the Year.



Volunteer Mobile
Heart of Gold Awards
www.volunteermobile.org

The Heart of Gold Awards established in 2001 by the Board of Directors of Volunteer Mobile recognizes outstanding volunteers in our community. They are presented to individuals and groups who have performed outstanding service in Mobile County.

Six awards are given. Four individual or group volunteers are recognized for their efforts in focus area categories: Education, Health and Welfare, Culture and Arts, and Civic Betterment. In addition, the Youth award is presented to a volunteer age 18 and under and the Group Award is presented to a group of two or more volunteers who work together to meet a need in our community.

We have nominated LCDR Dobson, C.O. of the Dunlap Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps in the Civic Betterment, individual category.

LCDR Dobson is a quiet, unassuming yet charismatic leader who has quietly mentored our youth contributing immensely to their individual successes.

He retired from the Navy in 1986 after 42 years (active/reserve combined). Among the many awards he received; Asia Occupation Service, American Theater, Pacific Theater, Philippine Liberation, China Service, Meritorious Service, Navy Achievement and took part in the Okinawa Invasion during World War II.

He co-founded the Dunlap Division August 9, 1966. This year marks his 38th year with the program and his 36th year as its Commanding Officer. He is a Blue Crew Member of the USS LST Ship Memorial and has worked exceptionally hard with its restoration effort.

He has integrated Cadet training with restoration of the memorial creating incredible training opportunities while at the same time exposing them to our areas finest veterans and providing much needed assistance to the restoration effort.

Additionally he is involved with the City of Mobile's Pioneers Living Memorial Park at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park; helping plant 67 live oak trees, representing the 67 counties in Alabama planted in memory of those who have died in military service and in honor of all veterans.

The USNCC is focused on developing good citizens making former Cadet tracking impractical, however former Dunlap Cadets have graduated every military academy and the role he served to those who have gone on to become productive good members of society is immeasurable.

LCDR Dobson has dedicated his life to defending freedom around the world and serves as an exemplary role model mentoring and motivating our youth to becoming good citizens with sound moral character.

All nominees will be recognized and the six winners announced at the Heart of Gold Luncheon, April 22, 2004.

(Continued from first page)

Eligible sponsors and family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Former active duty sponsors and family members eligible for the transitional program may enroll in TRICARE Prime in locations where TRICARE Prime is available, or they may use the TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard benefits. Under TAMP, active duty sponsors and family members are not eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote.

Former active duty and Reserve Component members who are eligible for transitional benefits may receive dental care at military dental treatment facilities on a space-available basis only. Family members are not eligible for dental care at these facilities. Civilian dental care is not a covered benefit for sponsors or family members under the transitional program. Certain members of the Reserve Component and their family members may, however, receive dental care by enrolling in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). To determine eligibility and get additional information, contact the TDP administrator, United Concordia Companies, Inc. at (800) 866-8499 or at www.ucci.com.

The sponsor's Service branch determines whether the sponsor and family members are eligible for transitional benefits. Active duty and Reserve Component sponsors who are separating from active duty and need to verify eligibility for transitional TRICARE benefits for themselves and family members are encouraged to contact their nearest Service personnel office for assistance. DEERS eligibility may be verified by contacting the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552.

On Jan. 1, 2005, TRICARE eligibility under the transitional program for active and Reserve Component sponsors who separate from active duty and have fewer than six years of total active federal service and their family members returns to 60 days upon the sponsor's separation. TRICARE eligibility for active and Reserve Component sponsors who separate from active duty and have six years or more of total active federal service and their family members returns to 120 days upon separation of the sponsor.

Sponsors and family members who need help understanding their TRICARE benefits or processing TRICARE claims, may contact their regional TRICARE beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator for assistance. A list of BCAC names and telephone numbers for assistance is available at www.tricare.osd.mil/bcacdirectory.cfm. Additional information on TRICARE and the Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil and the Reserve Component Web site at www.defenselink.mil/ra. A list of frequently asked questions is available

Still on Call 58 Northeast Reservists Remain Forward Deployed

NNS040324-02

Release Date: 3/25/2004 2:58:00 AM

By Journalist 1st Class (SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) –
Of the 2,052 Northeast

Reservists mobilized since January 2001, currently only 58 personnel remain on active duty. Even though these 58 people represent a small portion of the service members that were activated, they are still doing very big things in the far reaches of the world.

At Kuwait Naval Base, members of the Atlantic Ordnance Command (AOC) are working with Marines to fight the global war on terrorism. Their deployment started Valentine's Day, and the operational tempo of handling 627 pallets of ammunition didn't let up for the first three weeks. "It was high tempo right when we got here," Gunner's Mate 1st Class Gregory Pee said. "It seemed like the days started at 0500 and we ran for the next 36 hours."

Once AOC personnel received the pallets, they packaged them and trucked them to the Kuwaiti International Airport for the Marines to ship out to forward-deployed ships. Everyone was working 18 to 20 hour days, putting a lot of stress on the working condition, but Lt. Nicholas Constantino tried to keep the Sailors upbeat by working a flex schedule.

"If we were ahead of the schedule, which was usually the case after the first week, we tried to split the workload," Constantino explained. "By splitting the workload, it allowed personnel to do laundry, or use the Internet café so they could email people. I also allowed Sailors to make a morale call back to the States. We also had a movie tent, and a lot of personnel brought their own DVDs that we could watch on a computer."

These Reservists and others hope to be coming home in the near future, and others may be leaving. Engineman 2nd Class Delisa Williams noted, "People are still serving, doing what they have to do. We are still out here maintaining."

No matter how many Sailors are mobilized, they are still providing presence with a purpose

www.news.navy.mil

040301-N-
0743B-145 Ash-
Shu 'aibah, Kuwait
(Mar. 1, 2004)
– Gunner's Mate
1st Class Jimmy

Seago, assigned to Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit One Zero Eight (MIUWU 108) mans an M-60 machine gun while patrolling the port of Ash-Shu 'aibah, Kuwait. MIUWU 108 is made up entirely of reserve units, providing seaboard anti-terrorism protection for the harbor. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Eric L. Beauregard (RELEASED)



A Few Minutes

(Partial meeting notes-Chapter Meeting March 25th, 2004)

Heart of Gold Award nomination has been submitted. Membership now stands at 105. Keep recruiting. ESGR deadline fast approaching-nominate now. Chapter to draft and send congratulatory letter to newly selected Senior Chiefs from our area. Chapter will create recognition program for members to be presented during their retirement ceremony. A Chapter standard "Welcome Back" letter is to be drafted by the Vice-President and a Committee formed.

NERA NOTES (March) (Partial-for all March notes visit www.nera.org)



Defense Department officials implemented a new policy March 22 allowing defense managers to hire civil-service retirees needed in critical positions without offsetting their retirement pay, which was required under a previous law. A similar provision was previously implemented for military retirees. Until enactment of this stand-alone provision, authorized by the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, DOD civil-service retirees had their pay reduced by the amount of their pension.

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2004 authorized new health benefits, some permanent and some temporary. The 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program includes three temporary Tricare benefit provisions; some are effective as of Nov. 6, 2003, and all expire Dec. 31, 2004. Total expenditures for these new provisions may not exceed the \$400 million limit established by Congress for fiscal 2004.

Additional information for Reserve component families, who have questions regarding the Tricare benefit or need assistance processing Tricare claims, are available on the Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/> and the Reserve Affairs Web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Fortunately, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), enacted in October 1994 (and significantly updated in 1996 and 1998), provides reemployment protection and other benefits for veterans and employees who perform military service. Under USERRA, if a military member leaves his civilian job for service in the uniformed services, he is entitled to return to the job, with accrued seniority, provided he meet the law's eligibility criteria. USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary service, in peacetime as well as wartime, and the law applies to virtually all civilian employers, including the Federal Government, State and local governments, and private employers, regardless of size.

The recently enacted Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA) expands and improves the former Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). The SCRA provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering, called to active duty in the military, or deployed servicemembers. It is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those deployed servicemembers.

ITc Said

There is a running joke in this area that goes, "How many times did Ray Burgett put you in". He double dipped me, although I have heard him brag it was his classic triple dip.

One of the best reasons to attend our Chapter meetings is the fellowship that is enjoyed. After this month's meeting Ray shared some of his life experience with us that were quite entertaining. One of the best reasons to attend is the exposure you will get to some old retired Master Chiefs with a lot to say such as Ray Burgett and Bill Norris.

I look forward to hearing more Sea Stories and encourage all to come listen to them with me or come to a meeting and share yours with us.