

John D. Wood WOODPILE Summer 2006

Navy Enlisted Reserve Association's mission is to promote and maintain national security by ensuring a strong and well trained Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps

RAYS RANT

We need your support at the next NERA meeting. Please mark the upcoming Chapter Meeting schedule in your calendars and come join us.

We are updating our records. If you cannot attend the Chapter Meeting, please email me to update your contact information. You can email me at raynavy@comcast.net. We would also like updates on your career, where you are, what you are doing, etc. to include in the newsletter.

A get-together/reunion night is being discussed. Anyone who can help us organize this event please contact me. We want to identify, invite and get to know all our shipmates in the area.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TREASURERS REPORT

SK1 Alonzo Key	(Abbreviated report)
PS1 Todd Montgomery	@\$900 in checking, and 2
YN1 Kimberly Brown	CD's of \$1,000 each
QM1 Jason Martin	Complete Report
HM2 Scott Smith	submitted at every Chapter
MR2 Robin Moorer	Meeting and available upon
OS2 Raymond Beckman	request by any member

SPECIAL NOTES

RMCM (ret) Ray Burgett - Special thanks to JD Wood chapter for the flowers and to everyone who attended the wake and/or funeral of my dad, who passed away on 24 April.

Fred Conklin-Please remember my dad in your prayers, he is battling prostate cancer.

ITCSAID

Very soon the FY07 Chief selections will be known. There is nothing more motivated than a newly selected United States Navy Chief Petty Officer.

It is necessary for the Navy to keep a constant focus on the process of leadership building and continuity. The selection process is a regeneration process necessary to sustain the mission of the Navy.

JD Woods Chapter/NERA is constantly looking for motivated leaders as well. Come get involved and help us continue to support all of our family - Active, Reserve, Retired

SCHEDULE

May 31, 1900
Officers
Navco Pizza

June 13, 1900
NOSC Mobile

July 11, 1900
NOSC Mobile

August 8, 1900
NOCS Mobile

National
Conference
October 18-22
North
Charleston
www.nera.org

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President

Neely D. Clinton CM1 (ret)
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Vice President

Ray Burgett RMCM (ret)
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Secretary

ITC Beth Day
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Treasurer

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Chaplain

Tom Christian MS2 (ret)

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

NAVY newsstand <http://www.news.navy.mil>
Story Number: NNS060526-2f
Release Date: 5/28/2006 12:01:00 PM

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- On this Memorial Day, we again pause to remember and to honor those who dedicated their lives to the service of others.



From the first citizen soldiers who stood fast to defend their homes at Lexington and Concord, to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines securing our liberty and our way of life today, our country has been truly blessed by those who stepped forward to say, 'send me.'

Theirs is a noble calling that founded a nation, drove back the forces of Fascism, Communism, and terrorism, and made historic advances in the cause of human freedom.

Their service strengthens our will to persevere through every challenge. They remind us of what it means to be an American.

So to all of those serving our country today, know that we are deeply grateful to you and to your families. May God bless you. And May God bless our wonderful country.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

FALLEN HEROES
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2, 468
www.fallenheroesmemorial.com

A VETERAN OF TWO WARS SHIP SURRENDERS TO SEA

Larry Wheeler/Pensacola News Journal
Published - May, 18, 2006

A U.S. Navy warship
Whose service stretched
from the Korean to the
Vietnam wars
surrendered to the sea
Wednesday after
Explosive charges sent the vessel to the bottom of the Gulf of
Mexico.



Contrary to Navy engineers' predictions of a sinking lasting as long as five hours, the decommissioned aircraft carrier Oriskany went down in just 36 minutes.



The dramatic conclusion came less than 48 hours after the carrier was towed from its berth at Pensacola Naval Air Station and then anchored on the site

with its bow facing due south. Hundreds of veterans and onlookers watched the spectacle Wednesday morning from the decks of dozens of charter boats and pleasure craft that trekked to the site of the sinking, about 24 miles south of Pensacola and 212 feet deep.

The process began under blue skies and a bright sun at approximately 10:25 a.m. when a blast from deep in the hull of the ship erupted through the open gaps in the hangar bay. Bright orange flames flashed, followed by a deep boom that was heard and felt a mile away. Acrid brown smoke obscured parts of the ship for several minutes. Once the smoke cleared, it was obvious the old flattop was going down far faster than expected.

Within 30 minutes, the ship listed hard to port, its fantail already in the water and hurricane bow pointed skyward. In just a few dramatic moments, the vertical control tower submerged and then the tip of the bow slipped from sight. Water around the vessel bubbled and frothed as air continued to escape from the sinking ship.



The Oriskany is the first of what Navy officials hope will be many obsolete ships turned over to coastal states for reefing to enhance the marine environment and to boost local economies through increased spending on sports fishing and recreational diving.

At 888 feet long, the ship is believed to be the world's largest man-made artificial reef. The sinking marked the first time the Navy intentionally scuttled such a large vessel so close to shore to be a reef.

REVIEWING MILITARY COMPENSATION

NAVY newsstand <http://www.news.navy.mil>
Story Number: NNS060526-2:
Release Date: 5/27/2006 12:01:00 PM

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- A yearlong review of total military compensation could eventually result in streamlined allowances and a fundamental shift in thinking on how the uniformed services pay members and retirees.

The war on terrorism "focuses our efforts in ensuring we do the right things by the folks we are deploying," retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jan D. "Denny" Eakle said in an interview May 24. Eakle heads the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, which got under way April 1. This review will focus on five main areas:

Ensuring the compensation system supports an adequate supply of military personnel with the abilities and experience to meet national security objectives; maintaining quality of life for military personnel and their families; re-evaluating special and incentive pays to enhance service flexibility; assessing the need for more flexible recruiting and retention authorities; and reviewing the retirement system.

One of the most dramatic issues being looked at has to do with how the department figures active versus retired pay. "Today we have a compensation system that provides an awful lot of deferred compensation, compensation to those who have served, those who are retirees," Eakle said. She noted that employees are "vested" in their retirement programs at five years in most civilian corporations. However, military retirees generally must serve 20 years before being eligible for any percentage of retired pay.

"The balance between the deferred compensation and the current compensation, the compensation being paid to those who are currently in places in harm's way, is very different than you would see in other compensation systems," Eakle said. "I believe that the war on terror has focused our efforts on making sure that we are taking care of today's servicemen and women."

The recently concluded Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation recommended in February that members be vested at 10 rather than 20 years and that retirement payments be graduated ranging from 25 percent of base pay at 10 years to 100 percent of base pay at 40 years. The group also recommended that the government contribute 5 to 10 percent of base pay to military members Thrift Savings Plans, as is the case for federal civilians.

"No current retiree or current military member would be affected by the changes...we may recommend," she said. "But you could end up with a system where there would be less in the retired pay because we would bring it forward and pay it to the individual while they are serving."