

YOUR MISSION • YOUR VOICE

FRA *today*

*Port Security Units are a unique asset
in the U.S. Coast Guard's toolbox.*

Jack *of all* Trades

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MESOTHELIOMA



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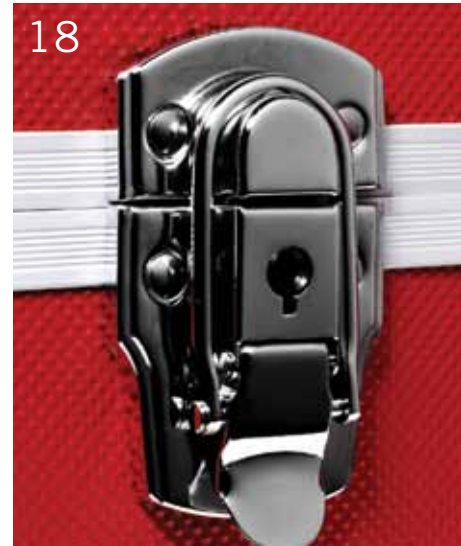
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Featured

18 USCG PORT SECURITY UNITS

Patrolling New York Harbor after 9/11, guarding oil platforms off the coast of Iraq and providing humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Haiti are all in a day's work for Coast Guard Port Security Units.



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LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

FRA IS A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR CURRENT AND FORMER ENLISTED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. NAVY, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD ON CAPITOL HILL. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FRA.ORG OR CALL 800-FRA-1924.

ON THE COVER

Port Security Units (PSUs) are the Coast Guard's deployable force protection units, ready to mobilize within 72 to 96 hours to protect U.S. assets. PSU personnel conduct patrols against threats; protect piers, harbor entrances and high-value assets; provide force protection and offer humanitarian aid and support.

Reunion Season



Eileen Murphy

IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON attending a reunion this summer or fall, please consider how many prospective FRA members will also be in attendance! FRA has published a prospective member brochure with an information request form and a "thank you for your service" reference card included. These work great for one-to-one conversations with someone you know is eligible for membership (at least one day of enlisted service in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard). You can request these brochures or other items for your reunion from Bob Washington, Outreach Manager, at 1-800-372-1924 or bobw@fra.org. Reunions are great places to recruit — if you'd like additional information or ideas for your reunion, please contact Bob!

The prospective member brochure highlights reasons to join FRA such as:

- Access to subject-matter experts for military and veterans' issues, including DoD and VA health care concerns
- A complimentary subscription to *FRA Today*, so you can keep up with the latest news and events
- *NewsBytes* — a free, weekly legislative e-mail update to let shipmates and families know about important issues (also available by phone at 1-800-372-1924, ext 112.)
- Free guides like "*Your Personal Affairs*" to help organize personal finances and "*Communicate With Your Elected Officials*," a guide for contacting members of Congress — available to members on request.
- Scholarships offered through the FRA Education Foundation
- Discounts on auto insurance, car rentals, subscriptions to *Navy* and *Marine Corps Times*, and other valuable goods and services
- Life and health insurance programs at affordable group rates

You can easily talk through benefits of membership with the prospect using this card and offer *NewsBytes* or one of the FRA guides by filling out the information card. For their convenience, they can keep the list of benefits and a wallet size card thanking them for their service to the country on one side and a handy list of information sources on the other.

Your Mission Your Voice Teleconference

On the second Wednesday of each month at noon EST, FRA hosts a free teleconference. We hope you will join us for the calls and enjoy hearing our speakers and participating in discussions. This is yet another benefit to FRA shipmates and their families. We record the calls and post on www.fra.org under Member News (follow the link to the right when you login to the site) for those who are unable to attend at the designated time.

Eileen Murphy is the Director of Marketing and Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of *FRA Today*. Please contact her at eileen@fra.org.

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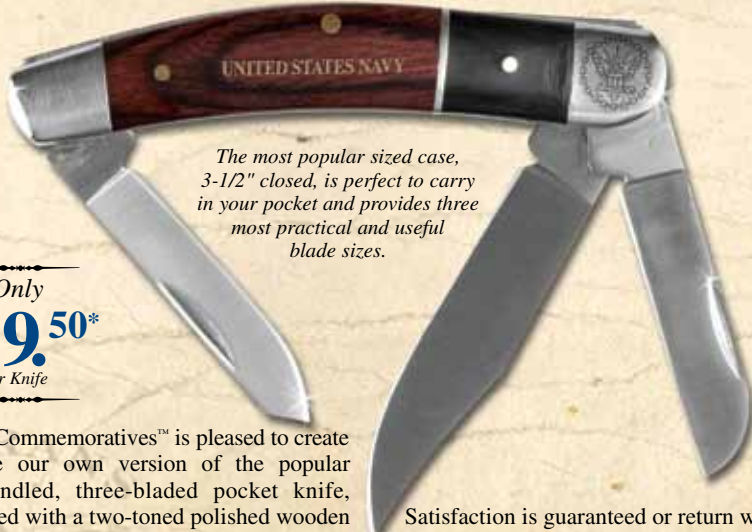
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Joe Barnes

It's About the Mission

REGIONAL CONVENTIONS ARE UNDERWAY with FRA and Auxiliary delegates gathering in each Region to conduct important business and elect officers for the next Association year. Congratulations to the newly elected leaders in each Region and best wishes for a successful term in your respective positions. Congratulations also to recently installed Branch and Unit leaders. Your willingness to accept the significant responsibilities of your new posts reflects a strong commitment to the Association and its mission and the Auxiliary.

In conjunction with the associated orientation process, I believe it's important to restate FRA's mission and remind all Association leaders that fulfilling the responsibilities of our jobs is first and foremost about our mission — and not personal disputes or improper agendas. In short it's not about Shipmate Bob, Bill, Chuck or me — it's about doing what's best for the Association. This is also the basis of "fiduciary" responsibilities associated with our leadership positions — and stated in the Preambles to the FRA and Auxiliary Constitutions and our solemn oaths of office.

Focusing on the Association's mission is also important to addressing our top challenge which is sustaining a strong membership base. And in today's highly competitive and fast-paced environment, explaining FRA's mission to potential members and those not aware of the organization can go a long way toward expanding awareness and hopefully lead to them joining and subsequently renewing their memberships.

Briefly stated — FRA is a non-profit professional organization representing enlisted Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel and its

principal program is its advocacy work on Capitol Hill focused on pay, health care, benefits and quality of life programs. Our members are on active duty, in the Reserves, retired or veterans of the sea services and our Auxiliary supports the FRA and its mission.

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In their book entitled "Race for Relevance," Harrison Coerver and Mary Byers write, "Today's association model, which was created more than 100 years ago, isn't nearly as effective as it once was. You've likely experienced the challenges firsthand: loss of market share (members), increased competition for members' time, (and) shrinking revenue sources.... irreversible trends are making the traditional model and accepted practices obsolete." They also note that the biggest challenge is related to competition from other associations and that the Internet has substantially changed traditional information delivery models.

I include this because we're all working hard to address our challenges

— and focusing more on our mission is helpful in addressing difficult issues. Explain to current and prospective members that our founding members established FRA after going to Capitol Hill to address a major threat to enlisted pay in the 1920s. Their efforts were so successful that they were the first enlisted personnel to testify before Congress.

In "Maximum Engagement," a book by C. David Gammel, the author examines the positive impact of engaging with members within professional associations. He cites the need to "Invite initial involvement with our organization and then deliberately nurture that interaction into greater participation (and use of) services, involvement in leadership, donations, and support of our (the) mission." Our outreach initiatives and calls program results reflect the positive effects of greater engagement with current and potential members and this is important in addressing the challenges facing the FRA and Auxiliary. Remember the importance of linking the Association's mission to our collective leadership work in support of all Shipmates and members of the Auxiliary during the coming year and beyond — something that certainly differentiates FRA from the growing number of military and veterans groups clamoring for attention within the active, reserve, retired and veterans' communities.

Joe Barnes is FRA's National Executive Director and Chairman of the National Committee on Legislative Service and a member of the Special Committee on Future Strategic Planning. A member of Navy Department Branch 181, he is also an advisor to the National Committees on Budget and Finance and Membership and Retention.

Korean War is Forgotten Again

It's easy to see why the Korean War is left out of some history books when our own military magazines have articles printed that fail to mention that period. Just maybe there were no combat injuries during that brief action.

Lou Nordyke



FRA Response: Fatality statistics cited in "The Toll of War" feature [FRA Today, June 2011] did not include fatality rates for the Korean War and we apologize for the oversight.

The number of deaths during the Korean War varies depending on the source. The often-cited 54,246 is misleading because it also includes service members who died on active duty for any reason between 1950 and 1953. DoD clarified the numbers by dividing the fatalities into 33,686 battle deaths, 2,830 non-battle deaths in Korea and 17,730 other deaths DoD-wide. Determining the fatality rate for this period depends on which numbers are used, but a DoD news article from 2000 (www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=45275) said that "even [though] the Korean War military was four times larger than today's, the death rate then was still about double today's."

Panama Canal Memories

Thank you for your story about the Panama Canal (FRA Today, April 2011). It brought back memories of my passage through the canal aboard USS *Leyte* (CV-32) in September, 1950. *Leyte* was sent to Korea and the only way to get there was through the Panama Canal.

We had to make her as light as possible to get her through the narrow canal, so we removed all the aircraft, ammunition, fuel and bombs ... all of which would be replaced when we got to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They pulled the carrier very slowly through the canal as it rubbed along the sides.

I was the only one on the flight deck watching the whole process. For me it was a thrill.

Arthur Levy



Supplement Versus Prescription

Recently my doctor prescribed VSL#3 in an effort to alleviate my stomach discomfort. When I went to the drug store to pick up the prescription, I was told that my copay was in excess of \$100. When I reminded them that I was a military retiree and should only be required to pay \$3, I was informed that VSL#3 isn't considered a medication, but (according to TRICARE) a food supplement.

After numerous appeals, I was informed that I did not need a prescription, but that VSL#3 must be used under the supervision of a medical professional. I find it interesting that I cannot ingest a "food" without medical supervision.

Shipmates should be warned that perhaps some of their "medications" may be "food" and the cost will be theirs. What a great way to reduce the cost of medical expenses to the government.

Larry Fancher

FRA Response: According to the company website, VSL#3 is a "probiotic medical food" for the dietary management of several intestinal problems. Because it is not an FDA-approved prescription medication, it is not covered by TRICARE. Other medications not covered by TRICARE include food supplements, fluoride preparations, homeopathic and herbal preparations, multivitamins, most over-the-counter medications (with the exception of insulin and diabetic supplies) and products to help beneficiaries stop smoking or lose weight. To learn more about the TRICARE Pharmacy Program, including a list of covered medications, visit www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions/PharmacyProgram.

FRA was represented on the DoD uniform formulary beneficiary advisory panel which oversaw prescription drugs until 2009 when new policies were instituted preventing registered lobbyists from participating on same. The Association continues to monitor the DoD formulary and stands ready to assist on any questions.

Submissions: Send *Shipmate Forum* letters to: Editor, *FRA Today*, 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail submissions may be sent to fratoday@fra.org. Please include "Shipmate Forum" in the subject line. FRA reserves the right to select and edit letters for publication. Letters published in *Shipmate Forum* reflect the opinions and views of FRA members. They do not necessarily reflect the official position of FRA as a whole. FRA is not responsible for the accuracy of letter content.

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Correction

On page 10 of the July *FRA Today* Rep. Paul Ryan was noted as being from Minnesota. Rep. Ryan is from Wisconsin. We apologize for the typographical error.



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One hundred years ago, you'd find these classic American Morgan Silver Dollars in the vest pockets and purses of riverboat gamblers, socialites, wealthy bankers and Southern Belles.

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John Davis

FY 2012 NDAA Moves Forward

THE HOUSE AND SENATE versions of the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) are currently on track to be signed by President Obama before October 1, 2011, the start of the new fiscal year, however it's unclear when the full Senate will complete work on its version of the legislation. The House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 1540) in late May (see July 2011 *FRA Today*, page 8) and the Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the Senate version (S. 1253), which:

- Limits TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increases for FY 2012 to \$2.50/month for individuals and \$5.00/month for families;
- Limits future TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increases to the percentage increase applied to military retired pay, beginning on October 1, 2012;
- Eliminates the co-pay for generic home delivery prescription medications and increases co-pays for generic prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies. (Co-payments for brand-name medications will increase from \$9 to \$12 at retail outlets and will be \$9 when provided through the Home Delivery program. Non-formulary medication co-pays will increase from \$22 to \$25.);
- Requires newly enrolled U.S. Family Health Plan (USFHP) beneficiaries to switch to TRICARE for Life (TFL) coverage on October 1, 2011;
- Authorizes a FY 2012 active duty and Reserve pay increase of 1.6%, which is equal to the Employment Cost Index (ECI);
- Reduces Navy end strength by 3,000 (from 328,700 to 325,700);
- Prohibits denial of re-enlistment for a service member who has been determined by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) to be fit for duty, but is subsequently determined to be unsuitable for military service;
- Authorizes \$25 million in supplemental Impact Aid to schools teaching military children and \$5 million in Impact Aid for schools educating military children with severe disabilities;
- Requires pre-separation counseling for Reservists within 90 days of demobilization; and
- Provides \$150 million to relocate Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The full Senate must debate, amend and pass the legislation, after which a conference committee will be appointed to resolve differences between it and the House version. The resulting conference report must then be approved by both chambers and signed or vetoed by the President. The table on page 14 compares key personnel issues addressed in the two bills as they relate to issues of importance to FRA shipmates.

Budget constraints will play a significant role in determining which provisions will be included in the final NDAA, and negotiations on increasing the current debt ceiling could significantly alter the legislative calendar if there is no agreement.

HVAC Anxious about VA Mental Health Care

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) recently heard testimony concerning the apparent disconnect between Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health treatment programs and the disability compensation available to help veterans heal from the invisible wounds of war, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Disturbing data from VA indicates that 18 veterans commit suicide everyday and there are 950 suicide attempts each month by veterans receiving care at

VA. Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (Fla.) cited a history of reports evidencing problems. A 2005 report from the VA Inspector General reported that the rating evaluation level for those diagnosed with PTSD generally increased over time until reaching the 100% level, for instance. He also quoted from a 2007 report from the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission which suggested a new approach to PTSD treatment, and the Administration's FY 2010 Performance and Accountability Report on VA said "the current

system fails to support and may even create disincentives to recovery."

Witnesses proposed improvements to better assist veterans seeking mental health treatment and coordinate mental health treatment between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The Committee is currently exploring the concept of a holistic approach to VA mental health treatment, family support counseling, and education and employment benefits customized to each veteran's needs.

Proposed Changes to CPI

Negotiations on increasing the debt ceiling include a proposal to change the formula for computing inflation that could impact cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) paid to military retirees, Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and others. COLAs are currently determined based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is based on the changing cost of food, shelter, clothing, fuel, and other goods and services that consumers buy for day-to-day living. Lawmakers are discussing changing to a new index, the so-called "chained CPI," that takes into account the substitutions that consumers make in response to changes in prices and may result in slightly reduced COLAs. FRA continues to monitor negotiations to reduce government spending, particularly as proposals relate to military pay, health care, benefits and other quality-of-life programs.

Military retirees and other beneficiaries haven't seen a COLA increase for the past two years, but many economists are estimating as much as a 3.5-percent increase to take effect in January. The exact adjustment will be dependent on which index is used to determine inflation, which won't be determined until mid-October.

GAO Report on TRICARE Low Provider Reimbursements

A recent Government Accountability Office report (GAO-11-500) cites low reimbursement rates impacting access to civilian healthcare providers for TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries. The report, mandated by the FY 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), verified shortages of certain provider specialties, such as mental health providers, but noted that there are similar shortages for the entire U.S. health care system.

TRICARE reimbursement rates are directly tied to Medicare reimbursement rates and last December Congress approved a one-year extension of current reimbursement rates for doctors seeing Medicare and TRICARE patients. The legislation (Public Law No: 111-309) delays proposed rate cuts from taking effect until January 1, 2012. This was the fifth extension in 2010 of the so-called "doc fix" and averted drastic cuts in reimbursement rates for these providers. The measure was intended to give legislators time to reform the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula to provide adequate reimbursement for doctors. FRA continues to advocate for a permanent resolution that ensures TRICARE and Medicare patients have access to quality health care services.

Maintaining SBP Beneficiary Designation

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) reminds retirees to notify DFAS as soon as possible when a beneficiary change occurs. Events like divorce or remarriage change the beneficiary status of an account, and failure to notify DFAS of changes may result in an invalid beneficiary designation. This would make it difficult or even impossible to process the benefit claim quickly, and might create a financial hardship for the loved ones of a deceased retiree.

If a retiree does not inform DFAS of a divorce, the beneficiary could forfeit a refund of overpaid premiums. DFAS is barred by law from refunding payments retroactively beyond a six-year period, i.e. if a retiree divorces a spouse and doesn't notify DFAS until 10 years after the fact, the agency will only be able to refund six years of those payments.

To change or update your SBP beneficiary designation, please complete a Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate (DD 2656-7), which is available at <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/forms.html>.

FRA Testifies Before Senate Defense Panel

FRA presented the Association's legislative priorities to the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee at a recent hearing, stressing concern about adequately funding the military health care system, opposition to drastic TRICARE fee increases and the Administration's proposal to index future TRICARE fee increases to the rate of health-care inflation. John Davis, FRA's director of Legislative Programs, cautioned that any annual enrollment fee increases above the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase would erode the value of retiree compensation. Davis also expressed support for an active duty/Reservist pay increase that keeps pace with civilian pay increases, a seamless transition process for disabled veterans transferring from DoD to the VA healthcare systems, funding to support family readiness and expansion of concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, and retroactive early retirement benefits for Reservists frequently mobilized since 9/11/01.

Walgreens Drug Store to Leave TRICARE Pharmacy Network

Walgreens drug stores have announced that, as of January 1, 2012, the chain will no longer be part of the network used by the TRICARE Pharmacy plan known as Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI). ESI is a Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) company that processes TRICARE pharmacy claims and manages TRICARE's Mail Order Pharmacy Program (TMOP).

Walgreens and TRICARE had a similar contractual disagreement in 2008, but the impasse was resolved before the expiration date of the contract. FRA is closely monitoring negotiations and will report further developments. If the dispute is not resolved, TRICARE beneficiaries filling a prescription at Walgreens after December 31, 2011, will pay 100 percent of the cost up front and then file a paper claim for non-network benefit reimbursement.

VETERANS ISSUES

VA Starts Caregiver Payments

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) sent out more than \$430,000 in its first stipend payments to nearly 100 Family Caregivers of veterans in July. These Caregivers were the first to complete training under the program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

"This is a long-awaited day for many Family Caregivers who diligently worked to achieve this landmark legislation to enhance services for Family Caregivers," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "I am proud VA can now offer direct support to the loved ones who give the Veterans we serve a greater quality of life by allowing them to remain at home surrounded by family and friends."

Family Caregivers receive an average \$1,600 in monthly stipend payments. The initial payments will average \$2,500 because the first stipend checks are retroactive to the date of application. The amount of the stipend is based on the condition of the veteran and the amount of care they require, as well as the geographic location where the veteran resides. An additional 80 stipend payments were released from the U.S. Treasury on July 8, 2011, bringing the total to 176 Family Caregivers receiving the stipend this month.

Since May 9, nearly 1,250 Caregivers of veterans have applied for the program. A comprehensive training curriculum, developed by Easter Seals in collaboration with VA clinical experts, is required and is being well received by caregivers. Eligible family caregivers can also access mental health services and are provided health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health plan.

Veterans may review the criteria for eligibility and download the Family Caregiver program application (VA CG 10-10) at www.caregiver.va.gov. Caregiver Support Coordinators are stationed at every VA medical center to assist with coordinating the training or assist Caregivers in locating available services.

Updated VA List of Vessels Exposed to Agent Orange

FRA urges all Vietnam veterans to visit www.fra.org/agentorange to review the latest updates to a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam Era.

The updated list is maintained by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) and is of particular interest to those former service members experiencing health problems related to herbicide exposure. If service aboard one of the listed vessels can be confirmed, it may help expedite claims for VA health and disability benefits. Veterans should understand that the list is not complete and presumption of exposure will not be denied solely because a veteran's ship is not on it.

To start a claim, contact your nearest regional office (<http://www.vba.va.gov/vba/benefits/offices.asp>) or contact Chris Slawinski, FRA's national veterans service officer, at vafra@fra.org or 1-800-FRA-1924 (ext. 115).

Revising the VA's Agent Orange policy is a top priority for the Association and is repeatedly addressed in FRA's congressional testimony and in discussions with legislators and their staff. FRA strongly supports "The Agent Orange Equity Act" (H.R. 812), sponsored by Rep. Bob Filner (Calif.), that would authorize the VA to presume service-connection for veterans and retirees suffering from ailments related to exposure to Agent Orange if they served in the waters off the coast of or in the skies above Vietnam. NED Joe Barnes addressed the importance of supporting this legislation at a recent Congressional roundtable meeting hosted by House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.). Those impacted by herbicide exposure and others are urged to visit FRA's Action Center (www.fra.org) to communicate with their elected leaders on this issue.



Camp Lejeune Illness Survey Available

The Federal Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry is sending a detailed health questionnaire to people who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune Marine Base, N.C., and Camp Pendleton Marine Base, Calif., before 1986. Information from the questionnaire will be used to determine what, if any, diseases are linked to polluted drinking water at Camp Lejeune that may have contaminated as many as one million people. (Responses from Camp Pendleton will be used for comparison.)

This survey is the largest ever carried out by the agency and is intended to determine the impact exposure may have had on birth defects, childhood and other cancers, and mortality rates for Camp Lejeune personnel and families. The first batches of questionnaires were mailed in June and more will be sent through November. Statistical analysis is expected to be available in early 2014. For more information, see the VA's fact sheet on the topic at www.fra.org/lejeune.

Defy Pain, Defy Aging, Defy Fatigue

This is my story

I used to be more active. I used to run, play basketball, tennis, football... I was more than a weekend warrior. I woke up every day filled with life! But now, in my late 30's, I spend most of my day in the office or sacked out in front of the TV. I rarely get to the gym – not that I don't like working out, it's the nagging pain in my knees and ankles. Low energy and laziness has got me down. My energy has fizzled and I'm embarrassed to admit that I've grown a spare tire (I'm sure it's hurting my love life). Nowadays I rarely walk. For some reason it's just harder now. Gravity has done a job on me.



Wear them and you'll know

That's what my doctor recommended. He said, "Gravity Defyer shoes are pain-relieving shoes." He promised they would change my life—like they were a fountain of youth. "They ease the force of gravity, relieving stress on your heels, ankles, knees and back. They boost your energy by propelling you forward." The longer he talked, the more sense it made. He was even wearing a pair himself!

Excitement swept through my body like a drug

I received my package from GravityDefyer.com and rushed to tear it open like a kid at Christmas. Inside I found the most amazing shoes I had ever seen – different than most running shoes. Sturdy construction. Cool colors. Nice lines... I was holding a miracle of technology. This was the real thing.

GDefy Benefits

- Relieve pain
- Ease joint & spinal pressure
- Reduce fatigue & tiredness
- Be more active
- Have more energy
- Appear taller
- Jump higher, walk and run faster
- Have instant comfort
- Cool your feet & reduce foot odor
- Elevate your performance

Scientifically Engineered to Defy Gravity!

I put them on and all I could say was, "WOW!" In minutes I was out the door. I was invincible; tireless in my new Gravity Defyer shoes. It was as if my legs had been replaced with super-powered bionics. What the doctor promised was all correct. No more knee pain. I started to lose weight. At last, I was pain free and filled with energy! I was back in the game. Gravity had no power over me!

Customer Satisfaction Speaks for Itself!

4 out of 5 customers purchase a 2nd pair within 3 months.

Nothing to lose: Start your 30 Day Trial Today!

So, my friend, get back on your feet like I did. Try Gravity Defyer for yourself. You have nothing to lose but your pain.



ABSORB SHOCK
Eliminate pain from every step.



REBOUND PROPELS YOU FORWARD
Reduce fatigue. Be more active

Tell us your story!
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Semi-Rigid Heel Stabilizing Cage

Removable Comfort-Fit™ Insole Accommodates most orthotics

Twin Stabilizers

Smart Memory™ Master Spring Propels you forward and reduces fatigue

VersoShock™ Trampoline Shock-Absorbing Membrane Heel

AVS® Ventilation™ Port Cools & Reduces Microbial Growth

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WOMEN (Black on Black)
TB902FBL
sizes 5 - 11
Med/Wide and ExtraWide/XXWide Widths



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ACTIVE DUTY ISSUES

Retroactive Stop Loss Deadline Extended Again

Service members who were involuntarily extended between September 11, 2001, and September 30, 2009, due to Stop Loss authority may be entitled to Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP). The deadline for filing a RSLSP claim has been extended to October 21, 2011, and those eligible can receive \$500 for each full or partial month served in Stop-Loss status. The military services estimate thousands are eligible, but haven't yet filed claims.

To apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay or for more information, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

Senate Panel Gets Input from FRA on Coast Guard Funding

In conjunction with the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Bob Papp's testimony before the Senate Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee, FRA submitted a letter to subcommittee leaders, calling for adequate funding to ensure parity of Coast Guard personnel programs with those available to Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. The Association also noted the continuing Coast Guard challenges to adequately fund previously authorized active and Reserve people programs and stressed the need for improved housing, availability of child care centers, and funding for a 1.6-percent pay increase for 2012.

FRA Hosts Coast Guard Caucus Event

FRA recently hosted its 13th annual Coast Guard Caucus Breakfast, an event to expand awareness of the Coast Guard's tremendous service to our nation and promote dialogue between members of Congress and key Coast Guard leaders. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Bob Papp spoke at the Capitol Hill event, reminding lawmakers and staff members of the challenges facing the service. He referenced the USCG vessels that have surpassed or are rapidly approaching the end of their projected service life of 50 years. Papp also acknowledged FRA's long-standing and strong commitment to the Coast Guard, stating that "I consider anyone who supports the Coast Guard a shipmate and obviously FRA is a tremendous supporter. Thank you, shipmates."

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG) Michael Leavitt spoke of the needs of Coast Guard personnel and their families, citing the concerns he hears in the fleet. "The quality of our housing, particularly in remote and high-cost areas; daycare options, spouse employment and education opportunities are all related to family resiliency and are important to our members."

FRA's National President Jim Scarbro, National Vice President Jeff Gilmartin, Regional President North East Dave Munday, National Executive Director Joe Barnes, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force Mark Allen and a number of Coast Guard leaders attended and heard about the needs of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and its personnel.

The Caucus is a bipartisan group of 85 lawmakers who share a common interest in the Coast Guard, co-chaired by Representatives Howard Coble (N.C.), the only USCG veteran serving in Congress; Frank LoBiondo (N.J.), Rick Larsen (Wash.) and Joe Courtney (Conn.). They were joined by other caucus members Representatives Walter Jones (N.C.) and William Keating (Mass.) in praising the versatile, multi-mission service and calling for funding to meet USCG needs.

Panetta Confirmed as SecDef

Following unanimous Senate approval, Leon Panetta became our Nation's 23rd Secretary of Defense (SecDef) on July 1, 2011. Senators from both sides of the aisle praised Panetta's work as director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the early 1990s and his most recent position as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA, 2009-2011). He is replacing Robert Gates who has been SecDef for the past four and a half years. One of Panetta's first tasks as will be to implement President Obama's plan to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

**Worried about losing your voice?**

There are many things you want to say. When you join FRA, you are heard. We listen closely, then take your message where it needs to go.

FRA gives voice to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel on Capitol Hill. Your mission was defending your country, FRA's mission is defending you.

Join now and be heard.

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COMPARISON OF THE TWO NDAA BILLS

ISSUE	H.R. 1540*	S. 1253**	FRA POSITION
TRICARE Prime Annual Enrollment Fee	Limits TRICARE Prime fee increase to \$30 for individuals and \$60 for family and limits further increases to COLA increase. (Sec. 701)	Similar provision to House provision (Sec. 701)	<i>FRA strongly opposes indexing TRICARE Prime adjustments to health care cost index and supports limiting future adjustments only to annual COLA rate.</i>
Pharmacy Co-pay	Eliminates generic home delivery prescription co-pays and increases co-pays for generics at retail pharmacies from \$3 to \$5. Co-pays for brand-name meds increase from \$9 to \$12 for retail and to \$9 through home delivery. Non-formulary med co-pays increase from \$22 to \$25.	Similar provision in Senate bill	<i>FRA supports elimination of co-pays for generic home delivery and no increase in co-pays for brand name drugs via home delivery.</i>
Individual Ready Reserve TRICARE Coverage	Permits IRR on active duty since 9/11/01 to purchase TRICARE Standard (Sec. 706)	No similar provision	<i>FRA supports House provision.</i>
Unified Medical Command	Creates Unified Medical Command (Sec. 711)	No similar provision	<i>FRA supports House provision that creates in substantial savings for MHS.</i>
Pay Increase	Increases pay 1.6% effective January 1, 2012 (Sec.601) and one-year extension for various pay & bonus programs (Sec. 611–622)	Identical to House provision (Sec. 601 & 611)	<i>FRA supports annual pay increase that keeps pace with pay increases in the civilian sector (1.6%), despite Federal pay freeze.</i>
End Strength	Reduces Navy end strength from 328,700 to 325,700 and increases Navy Reserve by 700 (Sec. 401 & 411)	Identical to House provision (Sec. 401 & 412)	<i>FRA is very concerned about further Navy end strength reductions given continuing operational commitments and stress on the force.</i>
Child Custody	Improves child custody protections for deployed service members (Sec. 573)	No similar provision	<i>FRA supports improvements for deployed service members.</i>

COMPARISON OF THE TWO NDAA BILLS

ISSUE	H.R. 1540*	S. 1253**	FRA POSITION
Fit for Duty but Unsuitable for Military Service	House bill does not have a similar provision.	Prohibits denial of re-enlistment for a service member determined by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) to be fit for duty, but is subsequently determined to be unsuitable for service (Sec. 522)	<i>FRA supports the Senate provision to ensure disabled service members are not denied disability benefits.</i>
SBP/DIC Offset	Reduces the “widow’s tax” for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiaries offset by Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSAI) would increase to \$163 a month (vice \$90 increase slated for FY 2012). Monthly SSAI benefit would gradually increase to \$314 in 2016 and then sunset.	Senate bill has no similar provision	<i>FRA supports the SSAI increases, but is concerned that the benefit will be reduced to \$9/month after FY 2016 — a plan characterized as a “place holder” for not-yet-funded future benefits — and will work to ensure the SSAI benefit is not reduced in FY 2016.</i>
Education Assistance	Provides \$30 million in aid to schools impacted by military populations (Sec. 571) and \$10 million for military children with special needs (Sec. 572)	Provides \$25 million in aid to schools impacted by military populations (Sec. 571) and \$5 million for military children with special needs (Sec. 572)	<i>Supplemental Impact Aid funding enhances funding from Department of Education and FRA supports the House provision.</i>
Pre-separation Counseling for Reserves	Requires pre-separation counseling for Reservists within 90 days of demobilization (Sec. 512)	Senate has identical provision (Sec. 513)	<i>FRA supports pre-separation counseling for the Reserve Component.</i>
Reserve Component Access to Behavioral Health Services	Mandates access to mental health professionals during drill (Sec. 703).	No similar provision in Senate bill	<i>FRA supports improved access to mental health services.</i>
Navy	Changes the name of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps (Sec. 902)	Senate bill has no similar provision	<i>FRA supports the name change.</i>

* Provisions reported are based on House bill (H.R. 1540) that passed the House on May 26, 2011.

** Provisions reported are based on Senate legislation (S. 1253) approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee on June 22, 2011. Legislation may be amended to address other priority issues during pending floor debate.

The FRA Legislative team is Joe Barnes, National Executive Director; John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs; Bob Washington, Health Care Advisor and Outreach Manager; Chris Slawinski, National Veterans Service Officer and Ed Dockery, Assistant Director of Legislative Programs.

He Worked His Body to the Bone for 47 Years and Wouldn't Accept an Inconsistent Sex Life

Note: Below is a message from Francis Sutton III, the co-founder of Retoxor

Dear Valued Customer,

As President of Retoxor it is always my duty to forge the proper marketing message to our customer. I have the personal responsibility to showcase the many benefits of Retoxor while at the same time managing potentially unrealistic expectations. Often times the best marketing message comes from our thousands of Retoxor users who communicate their gratitude to us for the sometimes life-changing results they achieve.

Every once in a while we receive a letter so powerful it supersedes anything our marketing department can tell you.

All I can say is this is what we do:

“I Deserve a Fulfilling Retirement”

Background Notes and Bio of Retoxor User, George P.

- Born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1942
- One of nine children
- Son of blue-collar parents
- Started working at 9-years-old
- Served in U.S. Military
- Married in 1964
- Settled in the South
- 4 children, 9 grandchildren

Dear Retoxor,

My wife usually writes the “thank you’s” from our family but this is a rare exception.

I was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1942. I grew up with 6 brothers and 2 sisters. Both of my parents worked two jobs each and by the time I was nine-years-old I was a newspaper kid working seven days a week myself. It was a way of life for me, for us. My parents instilled a culture of hard work and no excuses in all nine of their children.

By the time I was 20 I had served my mandatory armed forces duty to our country and met a wonderful woman while stationed just outside of Virginia. We married in 1964 and soon settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where I found steady labor work. The fast growing city of Raleigh kept me employed for the next 40 years with everything from digging ditches for cemetery headstones to laying blacktop on the streets and everything in between.

My four decades of blue color living took its toll on me from nagging injuries like arthritis in the hands to more serious stuff like broken vertebrae in my back. But I wouldn't trade a single day of it. My wife and I raised 4 children (all grown) and enjoy 9 beautiful grandchildren. Each morning when I woke up I would give myself a pep talk about how it would all be worth it when retirement arrived. The Mrs. and I would travel, enjoy the grandkids, but most of all celebrate each other and the satisfaction of our accomplishments. See, my wife is everything to me. She's my reason for all the hard work, the pain, the injuries, and the struggles. She's the sweetest woman on earth. Her loyalty to me has been unrelenting, her love and support unmatched. Every move I've ever made has been with her best intentions in mind. I've wanted nothing more than to

make her happy that she chose me all those years ago.

With all the effort and sacrifices we both made to be able to give more to our kids there is a sense of entitlement I felt upon retirement. I felt like I deserved to soak up the quality years I had left on earth. I also felt a sense of urgency towards giving my wife everything she too had ever dreamed for in our twilight years together. Financially we had

love of my life. She deserved it. I deserved it. WE deserved it.

I dreaded the “talk” with the doctor. It was bad enough I had regular visits anyway because of the arthritis and the back. I certainly wasn't going to tell a stranger that sexual relations with my wife was difficult because I had no ability to maintain “consistency”.

My wonderful wife made light of my “situation” by gently teasing me and



I bring my “A Game” every single time.

planned well. Health-wise we were in relatively good shape. But there was something lacking. It's not easy for a 68-year-old man to share details about his intimate moments with his wife of 46 years. I come from a different era. My generation keeps things quiet, private, and personal. I'm often shocked at the casual sexuality of today's generation. Sex is everywhere and anywhere. Quite frankly, it's appalling to me how oversexed our culture has become.

A few years back I started seeing tv ads for prescription drugs that would allow men to “perform” better for their partners. As I aged my body struggled to keep up with the activities of my younger years. Fatigue played a factor. So did the pressures of children, tuition, mortgage payments, and life in general. But I always promised myself (and my wife) that when I did finally retire I would be completely free to enjoy her the way we did when life was more innocent. That meant no more failed attempts in the bedroom. It meant me being capable of providing the proper pleasure for her, the

reassuring me it wasn't something to be ashamed of. But I was frustrated because this was our time to enjoy our lives unconditionally and it wasn't happening that way. For every couple that's ever experienced the misfortune of starting... then having to stop... starting again... only to have to stop again, you know how empty it feels.

After another failed attempt one night my wife tried to ease my mind when she said to me, “Don't beat yourself up over this. I didn't marry you for the sex!” OUCH!!!

In her rush to make me feel better she chose the wrong path. Yikes. My wife deserves more of me and from me. I was ready to call the doctor and swallow my pride but I did have one potential ace up my sleeve.

For years while driving to and from work I always heard radio commercials for Retoxor. I never turned the station off because every testimonial sounded like a guy my age and everything those guys said applied to my life. I never wrote the number down but the name Retoxor was burned into my memory bank. I knew it

was non-prescription and I knew I certainly fit the profile. I'm not a computer guy so looking Retoxor up online was out of the question for me. So I went out for an extended drive one afternoon and sure enough after about 25 minutes I heard another Retoxor commercial. This particular one was eerily similar to my story. The guy was recently retired and he had remarried after the death of his wife of 39 years. His new wife was only 51-years-old and he was devastated by the fact that he kept disappointing her in the bedroom by not being able to perform at all or only very sporadically. I heard the desperation in his voice and it might as well have been me on that radio commercial.

Some stories have a happy ending and here's mine: Retoxor has absolutely changed my life. My wife now jokes with me that she remembers why she married me in the first place! Trust me, it was a joke but it was music to my ears. No more wondering, hoping, or praying for performance. I bring my “A Game” every single time. I feel more vibrant. I feel more together. My wife smiles throughout the entire next day and sings in the garden as she plants her flowers. That alone has made my retirement dream a firm reality. I never did have to make that call to the doctor. Some things are just meant to be, I guess. Thanks, Retoxor! Without you guys I don't know where I'd be today.

George P.
Raleigh, NC



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Penny Collins

Disaster Relief Support

THERE ARE MANY FACETS to the value of membership which are related to how well the association recruits and retains members. These are also important to keeping our members informed regarding their benefits.

In addition to FRA's highly effective advocacy work on Capitol Hill, FRA members benefit from car rental discounts, credit card, travel portal, periodical subscriptions, and important endorsed insurance products. There are other valuable benefits including accessing information from the website and promoting member participation in FRA's online communities, Facebook and Twitter. There are also benefits of a humanitarian nature, including member assistance following a catastrophic event. It is FRA's Disaster Relief Program. Let's review how this works.

The Disaster Relief Program was established to assist members of the FRA, widows of deceased members, and/or immediate families who have been stricken by a disaster and are in financial need. A disaster is defined as a single sudden physical event of a catastrophic nature such as floods, fires, typhoons, hurricanes, windstorms or earthquakes, which cause severe damage to property. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina was categorized as one of the most horrific storms, which ravaged the southern tier of the United States. Many of our shipmates experienced devastating losses of property and personal belongings. Under the Hospitals, Welfare and Rehabilitation Committee, FRA came to the aide of shipmates who applied for Disaster Relief. The Association provided over \$100,000 in aid to members who qualified to receive individual grants. Refer to FRA Standing Rule 9 for additional information on the program which

can be referenced in the *Member News* section of www.fra.org.

More recently, several areas of the country have experienced unusual and severe weather — especially in the states of Missouri and Alabama. National President Jim Scarbro and the NHQ staff monitored communications and media reports following the storms and anticipated requests for assistance.

**To make a donation to
FRA's Disaster Relief
Program, please contact
National Headquarters at
1-800-372-1924.**

One of our shipmates, PRPNC Norm Combs of Branch 161, Kansas City, Mo., gathered information about FRA members residing in the Joplin, Mo., area who may have been affected by devastating tornados. He contacted FRA headquarters and requested a list of members in the area. S/M Combs reached out to S/M Milton Head, Secretary of Joplin Branch 315, and together they identified several members who may have needed assistance. Shipmates Fred Dalton, Keith Feeley, Vernon Hyslop, Henry Morris, Cecil Peters, Gary Wade and one Auxiliary member, Charlene Twitchel were affected by the storm. Specifically, Hyslop and Charlene Twitchel lost their homes and automobiles. Branches 161 and 210, Milton, Fla., donated \$500 each to Branch 315 to provide financial assistance to those

members who needed help. Also, several members residing in Tuscaloosa, Ala., were contacted to determine if they needed assistance. Thankfully, those who responded to phone calls were all doing well.

All members of the FRA, whether affiliated with a Branch or Members-at-Large, can apply for disaster relief assistance. The process requires contacting a local branch or Regional Chairman, Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation in the respective area. A determination will then be made regarding the need for assistance, which will be forwarded to the Regional President, Chairman of the National Committee on Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation and FRA National President for final approval. Financial assistance is limited to a grant of \$1,000 per family. Additional aid may be requested.

Funding for the Disaster Relief Program is derived from several sources, including but not limited to, branch donations, personal donations from members of the Association and donations from the general public.

If you would like to make a donation to FRA's Disaster Relief Program, please contact National Headquarters at 1-800-372-1924 and speak to a Member Services Representative, or send your check made payable to FRA and mail to 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

An integral aspect of membership is camaraderie and a commitment to the care and attention to those in need. Thanks to Branches 161, 210 and 315 for stepping up to the plate to assist their fellow FRA shipmates and Auxiliary members.

Penny Collins is FRA's Director of Membership Development and a member of FRA Branch 24 in Annapolis, Md. She can be reached at penny@fra.org.



Port Security Units are a unique asset

Jack of all Trades

in the U.S. Coast Guard's toolbox.

The U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) responsibilities touch every facet of the maritime environment, at home and abroad. They protect those on the sea; they protect our nation from threats delivered by the sea; and they also protect the sea itself. The USCG motto is *Semper Paratus — Always Ready — to meet all hazards and all threats.*

By Lauren Armstrong

If you think of the Coast Guard as a military Jack of All Trades, the service's Port Security Units are its Swiss Army Knife. Billed as the Coast Guard's deployable force protection units, Port Security Units (PSUs) are ready to mobilize within 72 to 96 hours to support waterborne and limited land-based protection for key U.S. assets. Manned predominantly by Reservists, PSU personnel carry big weapons and warm hearts. They use small, fast and heavily-armed boats to conduct patrols against threats that include swimmers, divers and explosive-laden boats, such as the one used to attack the *USS Cole* in 2000. They protect piers, harbor entrances and high-value assets; provide force protection in the aftermath of terrorist attacks and offer humanitarian support when natural disasters strike.

continued on page 21

Pioneering audiologist invents "reading glasses" for your ears.

"Neutronic Ear has helped me Get Back in the Game!"

Neutronic Ear is the easy, virtually invisible and affordable way to turn up the sound on the world around you.

"I'm 96 years old, and I think Neutronic Ear is a great product. I had a digital hearing aid that cost over \$2000, but I lost it in the supermarket. There's nothing wrong with my hearing, I can hear sounds just fine, like a car door shutting or a plane going overhead, but when someone talks to me, I can't understand the words. My daughter has what I call a "Lauren Bacall" voice— very low, and I just can't hear her. It's embarrassing to have to constantly say "Excuse me" and although people say they don't mind repeating themselves, I think they are only saying that because I'm 96! With Neutronic Ear I can hear and understand her. If I need to, I can turn up the volume. I'm originally from Missouri, and Neutronic Ear has sure "Shown Me" that it works.

*Thank-you.
— G. Austin, MA*

For thousands of folks like this satisfied customer, Neutronic Ear is an easy and affordable way to rejoin conversations

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and get the most out of life. First of all, Neutronic Ear is not a hearing aid; it is a PSAP, or Personal Sound Amplification Product. Until PSAPs, everyone was required to see the doctor, have hearing tests, have fitting appointments (numerous visits) and then pay for the instruments without any insurance coverage. These devices can cost up to \$5000 each! The high cost and inconvenience drove an innovative scientist to develop the Neutronic Ear PSAP.

Neutronic Ear has been designed with the finest micro-digital electronic components available to offer superb performance and years of use. Many years of engineering and development have created a product that's ready to use right out of the box. The patented case design and unique clear tube make it practical and easy to use. The entire unit weighs only 1/10th of an ounce, and it hides comfortably behind either ear. The tube is designed to deliver clear crisp sound while leaving the ear canal open. The electronic components are safe from moisture and wax buildup, and you won't feel like you have a circus peanut jammed in your ear. Thanks to a state-of-the-art manufacturing process and superior design, we can make Neutronic Ear affordable and pass the savings on to you.

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If you believe you need a hearing aid,
please consult a physician.

continued from page 19 “PSUs can support all three of the Coast Guard Reserve’s (USCGR) core missions of maritime homeland security, national defense — both domestic and expeditionary — and domestic disaster operations,” explains Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force (MCPO-CGRF) Mark Allen. “PSUs also fulfill several of the USCGR’s critical competencies: boat operations, contingency planning and response, expeditionary warfare, port security, and mission support.”

Supporting DoD

Though PSUs are prepared to be self-supporting for up to 30 days, they always deploy in support of a higher command or interagency authority. PSUs bring the Coast Guard’s unique littoral capabilities to the fight based on requests for forces from DoD and priorities established by the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard.

“The Coast Guard specializes in handling smaller, more maneuverable boats,” said Master Chief Darrell Odom, the Command Master Chief for the Coast Guard’s Deployable Operations Group (DOG) who is also a 28-year veteran of the Prince Georges County and Montgomery County (Md.) Fire and Emergency Medical Services Departments. “Our capability in maneuvering and operating smaller crafts within the littoral seas is unmatched by the other armed forces. Our experience in law enforcement and national defense allows us to work in port environments to protect and ensure safe operation of critical infrastructure. Our personnel are trained to conduct boarding operations and can be an asset to overall DoD operations and missions. When USCG capabilities are coupled with those of the other services, a synergistic ability to both protect the homeland and enhance our strength abroad has been historically proven.”

The Coast Guard’s partnership with DoD is a two-way street that’s been around for decades. “Prior to 1981, DoD’s missions were quite separate from those assigned to the Coast Guard,” explains Allen, “but DoD has been a significant force multiplier in the Coast Guard’s war on drugs. For example, DoD aircraft would fly reconnaissance for the Coast Guard, identify go-fast boats [carrying contraband] and vector us to the target. This integration has grown and we’re now well integrated with full respect of the legal separation. It’s a natural fit to leverage this relationship under this war.

“USCG personnel benefit significantly from this cross-deck training and it’s been a horizon-broadening experience for them to train and qualify on other boats,” adds Allen. “It’s a real source of pride.”

Unique Skills and Weapons

Coast Guard Port Security Units are almost exclusively manned by Reserve personnel with a complement of six full-time, active duty members. Most usually commanded by a Reserve O-5, PSU manning includes approximately 140 Reservists and an active duty engineer or machine technician to keep vessels operational, a yeoman to accomplish administrative tasks and keep records, a health services specialist to ensure each crewmember is medically ready to deploy, a gunner’s mate to oversee the unit’s arsenal and weapons training, as well as a storekeeper to ensure the unit is properly supplied. There is also a logistics specialist assigned to the unit, often an active-duty O-3.

The Coast Guard currently has eight PSUs, but the need for their skills exceeds capacity, according to MCPO-CGRF Allen.

“We currently have Marine Safety and Security Teams (MSSTs) doing things that PSUs would do if we had enough of them,” says Allen. “We need more PSUs in order to maintain a dwell time ratio of one deployment every five years. We can’t predict when incidents or crises will arise that will require short-notice deployments, but we’d like to give PSU personnel some stability. Like all Reserve personnel, we’d

Members of Port Security Unit 312 stand in formation prior to their departure from Air Station San Francisco on the first leg of their deployment to the Middle East, Jan. 5, 2010.



like for them to be able to tell their families and their civilian employers, 'I'm here.'"

"Among our Reserve units, our PSUs are in the highest demand," says Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Bob Papp. "If the Coast Guard received authorization to increase the Select Reserve, I'd focus our attention on adding one or two more PSUs."

By definition, crises don't occur on a schedule and response efforts rarely follow a predictable timetable. PSU 305 (Fort Eustis, Va.), for example, deployed three times in the 20-month period following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on our nation. Though not the deployment tempo Coast Guard leaders would like, it highlights the preparedness of PSU personnel. All Reservists need to be ready for short-notice recalls, but it's even more critical for PSU crews, according to HS1 William Hilt, a member of PSU 312 (San Francisco, Calif.).

"Reservists in the PSU have to always be ready to leave our civilian jobs and lives at a moment's notice and be ready to deploy anywhere in the world. I've had the opportunity to travel and do a lot of interesting things, but it can

be a rather difficult prospect for most Reservists. Yet this is something that all of us in this community are willing to do," says Hilt, who was recently named the Coast Guard's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year (REPOY) for his work as a health services technician when the unit deployed to Kuwait for several months in 2010.

Another manning challenge includes policies that require Reservists to fund their own travel to drill sites. "The ability to staff PSUs is challenging," says Odom, "particularly when [Reserve] members' commute distance to and from the drill unit often exceeds the [designated] reasonable commuting distances, in many cases by more than 100 miles. This means that a Reservist who has to choose a [career specialty] when he enters the USCG may consider an assignment that will allow him to drill much closer to home in order to limit the expense of travel, which is not reimbursable. Also, an assignment to a [non-PSU] unit won't bear the same potential for deployment."

So why not assign PSU responsibilities to more active duty personnel? Allen says it's related to the Coast Guard's Reserve policy and the unique PSU mission.

Photos courtesy of USCG.

Interoperability with DoD

Although the Coast Guard often supports DoD missions, it's important to remember the service is not part of the Department of Defense. It is a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and one of the five armed forces, but not one of the four armed services overseen by Congress' Armed Services Committee. As a result, USCG authorization, programs and funding aren't the same as those for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. "We're grateful for the many ways DoD supports USCG personnel and families, even though they don't have to," says MCPO-CGRF Allen. "Coast Guard members and their families visit DoD healthcare facilities, shop at commissaries and exchanges, and use DoD childcare facilities. But DoD's resources can only go so far, so some programs, such as the Military OneSource program [www.militaryonesource.com] aren't accessible

to the USCG community. Our Employee Assistance Program [www.uscg.mil/worklife/employee_assistance.asp] offers similar resources, but because we're a small service, we can't provide the same breadth of support available to DoD personnel and families."

Coast Guard Reservists are also benefiting from the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP, www.yellowribbon.mil/index.html), a DoD-wide effort to help National Guard and Reserve members and their families locate resources before, during and after deployments. Yellow Ribbon events provide access to information on health care, education and training opportunities, financial and legal benefits.

"The YRRP is a wonderful program and extremely successful in helping Reservists reintegrate into society, their civilian workplace and with their families," says Odom. "It prepares personnel for the deployment continuum by providing one pre-deployment briefing for Guard and

Reserve personnel and family member, which is mandatory for the USCG service member; one event during the deployment for the family; and events at 30, 60 and 90 days after deployment. The events show a cross-section of resources available to and at the disposal of the family and the service member. The experts are right there to answer questions and the events also include some phenomenal inspirational speakers, who show the brighter side of the deployment picture."

"Like many benefits that are authorized for DoD and USCG personnel, the YRRP is congressionally mandated, but unfunded for the Coast Guard," explains Allen, "so we must pay for it out of other programs."

Whether Coast Guard Reserve personnel are activated to support DoD contingency missions or provide incident response (non-DoD) also determines the type of orders they receive.


"Coast Guard Reservists can be activated under Title 10 or Title 14 [of the U.S.



“The Coast Guard Reserve exists to mobilize and support,” explains Allen. “PSUs are expeditionary units; they don’t exist to maintain the status quo. The USCG doesn’t maintain forces in garrison where they wait for the next mission, so it’s a natural fit for a Reserve unit to be responsive. PSU missions match that format.”

Code], which is unique to our service,” explains Allen. “Title 10 governs DoD and when our people are assigned to support DoD missions, they are cut Title 10 orders. In addition to assigning PSU personnel, we also have a lot of active duty and Reserve personnel assigned to Central Command as Individual Augmentees (IAs). DoD really appreciates the Coast Guard’s support and our people are great force multipliers. Title 14 governs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the USCG, which is under its purview. DHS issues Title 14 orders for non-DoD missions.

“The DHS Secretary preauthorizes the Commandant to assign or order personnel up to a certain limit for crisis response,” continues Allen. “On 9/11, for example, the Coast Guard was able to issue Title 14 orders more quickly and then, days later, issued Title 10 orders. It’s one of those wonderful things that make us so responsive and prepared to do our work.”



In today’s scenarios, USCG PSUs are most commonly deployed in support of DoD’s Central Command missions, often integrating with Navy Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadrons (MSRONs) that are currently supporting Army requirements. When PSUs deploy with MSRONs, they exercise shared capabilities, but also employ unique skills.

PSUs put their broad-based capabilities together with specialized skills and equipment to provide antiterrorism and force protection for coastline areas like those around U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or to work with Navy personnel and local authorities to inspect vessels coming and going from commercial ports where U.S. assets are moored, such as in Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait.

And while all PSU personnel are well versed in the USCG’s core competencies, they also have unique training and experience in tactical maneuvering, and participate in 60 drills a year, while their non-PSU counterparts drill 48 times per year. Additionally, their weaponry includes some armaments, like grenade launchers, that aren’t in the traditional USCG arsenal.

Crisis Response

Coast Guard PSUs were deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy in 1994. PSU 309 (Clinton, Ohio) provided vital force protection for Navy assets following the 2000 terrorist attack on the USS *Cole* in Yemen. The events of September 11, 2001, highlighted PSUs’ responsive mobility closer to home and increased the country’s demand for their services.

When terrorists attacked New York City on 9/11, firefighters, police officers and other first responders came to support rescue and recovery efforts. Members of Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) 305 (Fort Eustis, Va.) were among those who played a vital role in the rapid response to protect New York Harbor and other critical assets in the aftermath. Although not a declared war zone, that’s essentially what New York Harbor became in the days following September 11th. PSU 305’s boats were among the 80 USCG vessels that formed a flotilla assigned to guard against potential attacks on water facilities, the nuclear power plant in the area and other important infrastructure elements.

With only hours notice, PSU 305 had no time to do the surveillance, logistics, reconnaissance and planning (SLRP) that usually precedes a deployment. “We were going in blind,” recalls Lt Commander Karl Leonard, USCGR, who commanded the unit. “SLRPs [traditionally] go in advance and look where your ramps are, where your housing is going to be, where you can get food. We had none of that. We only knew we needed to secure New York Harbor.”

Amid the chaos that followed the attacks, the unit had to transport their boats to New York City and find crane operators and boat ramps to get them in the water. They were loading .50- and .60-caliber weapons onto the vessels while they were still on their trailers. The USNS *Comfort* (T-AH-20)

was coming in the next day, so they knew they needed to be ready to protect her. The first two boats “splashed” as *Comfort* — “a very important asset” — was coming underneath the Verazanno-Narrows Bridge. “Talk about timing being everything!” recalls Leonard.

In addition to protecting *Comfort*, PSU crews were responsible for the waterfront, securing the Ground Zero area, patrolling around Staten Island where the debris from the World Trade Center was being brought, and keeping the harbor shut down. Civilian boaters who were trapped by the harbor closing had no food and no fuel. The few who tried to leave were met with .50-caliber weapons.

“When you’re on a Coast Guard white hull, you typically get a lot of tension and a lot of argument when you talk to [civilian boaters and] ask, ‘Where’s your personal flotation device?’ But these [gunboats] don’t get feedback,” says Leonard. “When we give instructions, people [do as they’re told].”

The PSU’s heavy firepower was both a blessing and curse in the days following 9/11. The big guns certainly commanded a high level of respect from those bent on violating secure boundaries, but the unit was also operating in restrictive quarters. Being under ThreatCon Delta — the highest alert status — personnel were acutely aware of potential threats.

“You’ve got a four-mile range on a .50 cal and in the harbor of New York, you’re going to hit somebody,” explains Leonard. “You might miss the person you’re aiming at, but you *will* hit somebody. Our guys had to be very disciplined, and they were.”



Tip of the Spear

Since 9/11, Coast Guard PSUs have remained engaged in our nation’s war on terror and overseas contingency operations. One of the assignments they’ve undertaken has been duty with Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo in Cuba. JTF Guantanamo conducts the care and custody of enemy combatants at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. This facility is the oldest overseas naval station and the only one in a country with which the U.S. does not have diplomatic relations. Patrolling the fence line that separates the facility from the rest of Cuba is predominantly the responsibility of U.S. Marines and, until 2008, securing the ports, exposed shoreline and waterways around the base was the responsibility of Coast Guard PSUs. In addition to force protection and security patrols, PSU crews also conducted vessel escorts, search and rescue missions, random anti-terrorist measures, and insertion and extraction missions with the Marines. Since 2008, USCG Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSSTs) have been maintaining this mission.

The Coast Guard also played a key role in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). In addition to the invaluable support provided by USCGCs *Boutwell* and *Walnut*, and four patrol boats (*Adak*, *Aquidneck*, *Baranof* and *Wrangell*), three Coast Guard PSUs augmented security forces at Kuwait Naval Base (KNB), commercial ports in Iraq and Kuwait, and guarded oil platforms in the northern Arabian Gulf.

PSUs 311 (San Pedro, Calif.) and 313 (Everett, Wash.) were deployed to Kuwait in February 2003, and immediately began supplementing Naval Coastal Warfare Group One (NCWG-1) forces that were providing security at KNB and Kuwait’s commercial port of Ash Shuaybah. PSU 311 received additional tasking to provide security for the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and the Kohr al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) off the coast of Iraq and Iran, which required the unit to divide its personnel in order to conduct two distinctly different operations in two distinctly different locations. Similarly, PSU 313 split its personnel to cover the mission at KNB and guard the Mina al Bakr Oil Terminal (MABOT), located approximately six miles south of the KAAOT. These Gas and Oil Platforms (GOPLATS) and the oil they produce were, and are, critical assets for the people of Iraq and the key to future economic stability for the country. PSU 309 (Port Clinton, Ohio) arrived in April and joined the other two units to maintain security at two Kuwaiti ports.

Duty aboard the GOPLATS presented numerous challenges. When PSU personnel first arrived at *continued on page 26*



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- M.N. from Superior, CO

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continued from page 24 the secured oil terminals, some Iraqi soldiers were still aboard as enemy prisoners of war. PSU crews worked to ensure no unauthorized personnel came near the platforms by conducting security patrols and manning gun emplacements.

Living conditions were extremely primitive, with little to no food or provisions, cockroach and rat infestations, and unusable water pumps and generators. In his "Report from Iraq" (*Reservist Magazine*, May-June 2003), YN1 Thomas Heavey, USCGR, likened the experience to the conditions shown in the Kevin Costner movie "Waterworld."

Humanitarian Missions

Many of the Coast Guard's varied missions have nothing to do with security and force protection. Its search-and-rescue, aids-to-navigation, ice-breaking, migrant interdiction, drug enforcement and environmental protection missions, for example, have little direct correlation to DoD's overseas contingency operations.

"Coast Guard personnel will have a full time job, even if peace breaks out all over the world," says MCPO-CGRF Allen.

So it's not surprising that PSUs are also capable of providing relief and humanitarian aid around the globe. As a case in point, when OIF was winding down, PSU personnel also played an important humanitarian role in rebuilding Iraq. In addition to making needed repairs on infrastructure like the GOPLATS, PSU crews also provided security for ships bringing humanitarian aid to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. As allied forces worked to restore operations to the port, PSU crews created a waterborne security presence that was intentionally low-key and non-threatening to the local residents.

In addition to their support of DoD contingency missions, PSUs also respond to non-DoD incidents, natural disasters and other crises. This was most recently illustrated by crews from PSUs 307, 313 and 311 (Clearwater, Fla.; Everett, Wash.; and San Pedro, Calif., respectively) that responded when Haiti was hit by a devastating 7.0 earthquake in 2010. And like most Coast Guard assets, their humanitarian work was a multi-mission assignment. In addition to providing security while Coast Guard and other military units worked to re-establish the port in Port-au-Prince, they also helped repair damaged Haitian Coast Guard boats, volunteered to rebuild and supply local orphanages, provided medical attention to injured children and adults, and helped rebuild a hospital in Petionville, Haiti.

According to PA2 Mike Anderson, assistant public affairs officer for the Coast Guard's Deployable Operations Group (DOG), PSU personnel are a multi-purpose asset not unlike USCG helicopters.

"Our helos do search-and-rescue, use of force and insertion missions. It's the same helicopter, but it's used for different purposes. Our PSU crews are trained and authorized to do more than one Coast Guard mission."

"When PSU 307 responded to the call in Haiti, they took PSU and non-PSU personnel, all of whom were volunteers," says Allen. "There was little to no select-and-direct (involuntary orders). It's just the culture of our service to jump in where we're needed, but these types of situations still take our personnel away from their families and civilian jobs. It's a tribute to the selflessness of our people."

Providing Global Reach

Port Security Units are a unique asset in the Coast Guard's tool box. Like all Reservists, PSU personnel bring an assortment of skills from their personal backgrounds and civilian careers, including job experiences from police and firefighting departments and the medical community. These unique skills, coupled with PSU's specialized equipment and robust firepower, make them a tremendous expeditionary force.

"Simply put, PSUs are the Coast Guard's warfighting units," states Odom. "That's their sole purpose. PSUs work in tandem with our cutter force and other USCG units, which are also engaged in many of these operations, but it's not their primary mission."

"While the USCG may not bring capacity, we bring capability. We have skills that don't exist elsewhere," echoes Allen. "With the exception of subsea/submarine duty, there are few places in the world where DoD is deployed and the Coast Guard isn't there, too. Without the PSUs, that statement wouldn't remain true."



Lauren Armstrong is the Contributing Editor and Member of the FRA Auxiliary. She can be reached at lauren@fra.org.



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BRANCH 201 AUSTIN, TEXAS

Shipmate Jay Jernigan and RPSC Russ Miller prepare the ship's bell from the USS *Florikan* for transfer to FRA Branch 11, Ft. Worth, Texas. The bell was on loan to Branch 201 and the transfer was authorized by the Chief Naval Archivist in Washington, D.C.

BRANCH 72 FALL RIVER, MASS.

Branch Chaplain Roger Gagnon tolls the bell honoring departed shipmates PNP Eugene Smith, PRPSC Francis Farr and Shipmate Charles Viens. Branch Vice President Donald Bernardo looks on during the Two-Bell ceremony.



BRANCH 11 FORT WORTH, TEXAS

During the NAS Fort Worth JRB Blue Angels Air Show in April, Shipmates presented an Outstanding Achievement Award to a local Sea Cadet. Shown behind her are (l to r) Branch President Arthur McAvoy, Shipmates Mike Bevill, Gaylon Jack, Larry Hays and PRPSC Mike Snyder.



BRANCH 89 ATLANTA, GA.

Branch President Wayne Barron (far right) presented the pins to shipmates who, collectively, celebrated 130 years of Continuous FRA Membership. Shown (l to r) are Doug Johnson (30 years), Walter Swafford (30 years), Ron Teefy (30 years), and Bobby Berry (40 years).

BRANCH 186 OCALA, FLA.

Linda Downey (left) wanted to fly flags in front of her sandwich shop to show her support for her two sons serving in the U.S. Navy and other military personnel, but City Hall told her she needed to remove them. Shipmate Jay Conti (right) mobilized members of his FRA branch and American Legion Post to support Downey's patriotic display. She has since been allowed to fly her flags and the local ordinance is being rewritten.



BRANCH 20 GROTON, CONN.

Celebrating the 15-year partnership of FRA and the Navy's Submarine School Sailor-of-the-Quarter program are (l to r) Branch Secretary Billye Serabian; Captain Kenneth Swan, the commanding officer (CO) of Submarine Learning Center; Captain Paul McHale, CP of SubSchool; SubSchool CMDCM Glen Kline; PNP George Hyland; RDML Arnold Lotring, USN (Ret.), an honorary FRA Shipmate; CMDCM Wesley Koshoffer of SubGroup 2 and RPNEng Phil Justin. Photo by Bill Kenny.

**BRANCH 296 AUBURN, CALIF.**

Shipmates and Auxiliary members honored local Americanism Essay Contest winners (l to r, back row) Desiray Immoos, Christina Heflin, Catherine Argueta, Gabi Haldeman, Michael Bergland, (front row) Megan Kirchner, Landon Carp, Nicholas Austin Hugi, Kristi Kenworthy and Kristine Mai.

**BRANCH 172 YORKTOWN, VA.**

Shipmate William Bradford receives his 50-year membership pin and certificate from his wife, Bess. Bradford retired from Naval Weapons Station Yorktown in 1964 and continued to work at the station for another 15 years. He relocated to Louisiana, where he still resides, but he has been a faithful member of Branch 172 during his long affiliation with the FRA.

**BRANCH 267 ST. LOUIS, MO.**

When USCGC *Cheyenne* docked in St. Louis, shipmates shared the benefits of FRA membership with the crew and John Partin (left) presented a plaque and an FRA membership to BM2 Josh Motta (right), who was named Sailor of the Year.

BRANCH 276 OMAHA, NEBR.

PNP Ed Zerr was on hand to honor Charlie Goodman for his 31 years of dedicated service as Secretary/Treasurer of the Branch. Zerr held the position prior to Goodman's election to the post.



To submit a photo for *News From the Branches*, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fra.org or mail a high-quality photograph to *FRA Today*, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include a brief description of the photograph and include the names of those pictured. Laser prints and scanned copies of photographs cannot be accepted.

NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Acree, James R, HT1, USN	042	Harris, Alvis H, RMCM, USN	067
Allison, Harold L, BTCM, USN	098	Hartman, Junior A, AMEC, USN	091
Anderson, Jon D, HMC, USN	061	Hartman, Edward L, PO1, USN	014
Arencibia, Joseph, AKC, USN	051	Harvil, Robert L, BMCS, USN	MAL
Armstrong, Alvin Keith, AMH1, USN	070	Hays, Sterling A, ADC, USCG	186
Arnold, Herbert J, MMCM, USN	289	Hilger, Billy J, BM1, USN	061
Askew, Harold E, MSGT, USMC	051	Hill, Donald W, EM1, USN	012
Balestrieri, Anthony P, ETCM(SS), USN	057	Hodges, Virgil L, ETCS, USN	115
Barkley, David P., SSGT, USMC	371	Holder, John R, MACM, USN	008
Barner, Robert L, CMC, USN	MAL	Jacobs, James J, ATC, USN	MAL
Basich, Andy B, GYSGT, USMC	017	Johnson, Robert E, QMCS, USN	130
Bass, Charles D, STC, USN	248	Jones, James, CWO3, USN	168
Belfonti, John R., HMCS, USN	106	Kerfoot, Dale L, LCDR, USN	MAL
Blair, Robert E, DKCM, USN	090	Kirschman, Spencer E, 1STSGT, USMC	MAL
Bock, Robert E, ICC, USN	MAL	Kitch, Frederick J, EMC, USN	MAL
Broder, John L, BT1, USN	MAL	Klein, Kenneth K, HMC, USN	203
Brown, Charles E, MS1, USN	MAL	Knepp, Henry W., LCDR, USN	094
Brown, Joseph T, FTCS, USN	248	Knight, Roy, GYSGT, USMC	358
Callahan, Frank T, SGTMAJ, USMC	066	Korbitz, William E, CDR, USN	163
Cavanaugh, William J, EMC, USN	338	Krisanda, George L, GMCS, USN	288
Cerstvik, John, LCDR, USN	MAL	Krites, Robert E, PO1, USN	010
Childs, Robert L, PH1, USN	MAL	Krupczyk, Donald, MNMCM, USN	269
Coffey, William I, BMCM, USN	003	Lamberson, Arvin, LCDR, USN	130
Coffey, Edwin H, CSC, USN	204	Lane, Homer, LT, USNR	MAL
Coyne, Robert E, MCPO, USN	MAL	Lankford, John D, BMCM, USN	029
Crosby, Jack R, 1STSGT, USMC	089	Larrabee, Carroll, HM1, USN	MAL
Dalecky, Richard A, MRC, USN	216	Lillard, George F, CTOC, USN	MAL
DeCurtis, Vincent, PO2, USN	MAL	Lively, Riley J, TMC, USN	MAL
DePriest, Paul C, EMC, USN	MAL	Logue, Patrick, AS1, USN	156
Dirienzo, Donald F, YNC, USN	MAL	Lottinger, Reubin A, ADCS, USN	001
Dobek, Frank L, CSCS, USN	230	Lucas, Paul A, LT, USN	MAL
Dunbar, John P, ABHC, USN	MAL	Manglicmot, Sabino F, PO3, USN	074
Durrance, Richard B, ADJ1, USN	386	Maravetz, Gabriel E, CTM1, USN	MAL
Dutton, Joseph J, CWO2, USN	MAL	Mathews, William R, ATC, USN	022
Eckerman, Orvin E, LT, USN	099	McKay, Gordon C, ETC, USN	261
Ellis, Raymond L, ENC, USN	298	McLaughlin, Donald Z, HMC, USN	090
Fader, Joseph A., EM2/C, USN	181	McMurtrie, Raymond R, POC, USN	022
Finley, Richard N, IC1, USN	061	Mignault, Phillip C, GMG1, USN	MAL
Flanders, George J, LCDR, USN	009	Miller, Garfield M, BTC, USN	MAL
Fordham, Warren J, LCDR, USN	147	Montgomery, Daniel J, BM1, USN	053
Furqueron, George W, CWO4, USN	MAL	Moore, Frank, ADC, USN	105
Gardner, Clifford T, AKC, USN	042	Moran, Francis W, SH2, USN	060
Gardner, William A, CPO, USN	MAL	Morrissey, Richard M, PN1, USN	288
Garza, Carlos C, ATCS, USN	MAL	Motika, Peter J, GMGC, USN	267
Gessner, Michael J, ADC, USN	010	Motley, Robert B, BTC, USN	057
Gibson, Arthur W, USN	146	Moyer, George E, SMC, USN	068
Gibson, Eugene L, TMCS, USN	120	Mueller, William D, GYSGT, USMC	MAL
Gill, John, USN	MAL	Murphy, Jeff D, SKCM, USN	MAL
Gordon, Albert E, SKC, USN	MAL	Nowicki, M J, HMCS, USN	057
Gray, Roy F, AMHC, USN	371	Oliver, Neil C, AMHC, USN	MAL
Green, William R, JOCM, USN	MAL	Onstott, Robert N, CTCS, USN	163
Hager, Maurice C, AO1, USN	001	Panzara, Frank C, DMC, USN	040
Hanley, John F, GMGC, USN	226	Pellerin, Arthur J, GMGC, USN	MAL
Harris, William B, CPO, USN	MAL	Pepper, William T, CS1, USN	147



NAME	BRANCH
Perkett, George R, YNCS, USN	202
Pero, Herbert, HM1, USN	MAL
Prawlocki, Michael, CPO, USN	051
Prebeck, Carl A, LT, USN	MAL
Queen, Robert C, PNC, USN	MAL
Rathburn, Leroy G, LCDR, USN	046
Rohde, James L, AECS, USN	MAL
Rooffener, Earl, EO1, USN	MAL
Ross, Donald D, ATN2, USN	070
Roy, Lynn J, RMC, USN	291
Ryan, Menard D, ADJC, USN	047
Saul, Elmer L, LCDR, USN	011
Schoenecker, Leander M, ATC, USN	136
Schumacher, Frank, LCDR, USN	MAL
Shea, Lawrence I, CMCS, USN	338
Shell, Charles M, AMS1, USN	194
Shinault, Hezekiah, MSC, USN	050
Smith, Chester N, TMCS, USN	MAL
Smith, Charles E, BMC, USN	184
Spohn, Alfred N, SGTMAJ, USMC	253
Squillace, Raymond A, YNC(SW), USN	097
Steen, James A, POC, USN	032
Stefanick, John, GMG1, USN	017
Sutton, Jon R, RMCM(SS), USN	269
Symmes, Loel M, PO1, USN	038
Tallman, Walter, F, CPO, USN	089
Tingen, Donald L, SH1, USN	159
Tomlinson, John E, AMS1, USN	053
Travis, Bob H, CSC, USN	MAL
Trexler, Lamar E, MSGT, USMC	292
Unander, Theodore E, CPO, USN	MAL
Vancompennolle, Robert, MMC1, USN	020
Wayman, Elwin, MOMM, USN	229
Webb, Robert F, CMC, USN	120
Weedin, Donald K, YNC(SS), USN	097
Wilson, Tomas G., USN	170
Woods, Stanley F, AKC, USN	040

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November 9–11, 2011, Galveston, TX. Contact Mac Christy, ENC USN (Ret.), 841 Thomas Rd., Pomona, KS 66076, 785-255-4368, machief@hughes.net.

American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen

September 21–24, 2011, Mcb Camp Lejeune, NC. Contact Art Boyle, 262-857-2018.

Corpsmen United-USN

September 28–October 2, 2011, Branson, MO. Contact Ken Buster, 250 Jefferson Davis Rd., Heber Springs, AR, 72543-9038, 501-250-0436, kbuster@suddenlink.net.

MIUW210/COMIUWGRUTWO

September 24, 2011, Elkridge, MD. Contact Bill Ganz, 3436 Nanmark Ct. Ellicott City, MD 21042, 410-418-5597, yncganz@yahoo.com.

NAF Washington (NAF Crew)

September 13–16, 2012, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Tdc Ret Robert Goodwin, 909 Pillow Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23454, 757-271-8227, nafwashington2012@yahoo.com.

NMCB-14

November 3–6, 2011, Orange Park, FL. Contact George Manning, 850-352-4020, yeoman61@wfeca.net.

USS Albuquerque (PF-7) and all WWII and Korean War patrol frigate sailors

October 20–23, 2011, San Antonio, TX. Contact Joe Bays, 206-293-8180, jhbays@earthlink.net

USS Bache (DD-470)

September 28–October 2, 2011, Lancaster, PA. Contact Tom Blaszczyk, 708-798-8782, Tblasbache470@sbcglobal.net.

USS Caperton (DD-650)/Navy

October 16–19, 2011, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Bill Mcevoy, 65 Toronto Drive, Brick, NJ 08723, 732-477-5804.

USS Davis (DD-937)

October 13–16, 2011, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Pete Lennon, 5 Skyline Drive, Plainville, CT 06062, 860-747-8761, PTLii37@aol.com.

USS Diodon (SS-349)

November 10–12, 2011, Branson, MO. Contact Jay Everitt, 25677 S. 608 Rd., Grove, OK 74344-0345, 918-786-8851, jayss349@hotmail.com.

USS Everett F. Larson (DD/DDR-830)

October 5–9, 2011, Deerfield, IL. Contact Tom Nordquist, 11608 Channelview Dr., Lakeview, OH 43331, 937-633-0040, TNordqu670@aol.com.

USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59/CV-59/AVT-59)

September 13–18, 2011, Jacksonville, FL. Contact Cdr Bob Kohler, 145 Sound Shore Drive, Currituck, NC 27929-9600, 252-232-9906, bobkohler@mchsi.com.

USS Goldsborough (DDG-20)

September 11–16, 2011, Cincinnati, OH. Contact Pat Taylor, 120 East Main St., Eaton, OH 45320, 800-433-6061/937-533-0897, pat@pattaylorphoto.com. Visit www.ussgoldsborough.com for details.

USS Maury (AGS-16)

October 20–24, 2011, Norfolk, VA. Contact Charley Howe – Newsletter, 322 W. Hickory St., Roseburg, OR 97471-2220, 541-672-8027.



USS Maury (AGS-16)/USS Serrano (AGS-24)

October 20–24, 2011, Norfolk, VA. Contact Terry D. Gann, 6221 Hallett, Shawnee, KS 66216-1547, 913-962-6084, tgann@att.net.

USS Towers (DDG-9)

September 13–18, 2011, Atlanta, GA. Contact Raymond Wong, 1634 38th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122, 415-566-7285, usstowersddg9@pacbell.net.

USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN-631)

October 6–10, 2011, Galveston, TX. Contact Larry Jordan, 200 Hardin St., Burkburnett, TX 76354, 940-569-8145, lej_ss@sbcglobal.net.

West Coast Drill Instructor Association (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)

September 8–11, 2011, MCRD San Diego, CA. Contact Gregg Stoner, 619-884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com.

Members can post reunions online at www.fra.org, submit to reunions@fra.org or mail to: FRA Reunions, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

LOOKING FOR...

LT John Paulikonis

Last known duty was as an ETR2 aboard the USS Stribling (DD-867). Please contact Bernard Kellish, 11620 W. Brightwater Ct., Homosassa, FL 34448.

CDR Joseph Lang

Last known assignment was attached to Swift Boat Ops in Vietnam. Prior to that he was on USS Stribling.(DD-867). Please contact Bernard Kellish, 11620 W. Brightwater Ct., Homosassa, FL 34448.

BTC Herbert Delusque

We served together on USS Borie (DD-704) and were very good friends. Please contact BTC William Jenkins (Ret.) with any information at wj71@sbcglobal.net.

DT1 Daniel F. Carroll

Last know duty address was at U.S. Naval Minecraft Base, Charleston, SC. Please contact: or Leland Swensen at 106 Slant St., Wakonda, SD 57073 or swenusnavy@iw.net

Sailors who served on USS Cheboygan County, LST-533, during 1952/1953.

Contact Frank Nelson (USN Ret), 3442 Shenandoah Place, Alamogordo-New Mexico 88310 or fnelsonm@msn.com

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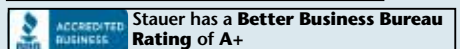
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Message from the South Central Regional President

“THANK YOU” DOES NOT express the gratitude felt by those whose lives are touched by our membership. Visiting Units within the South Central Region has given me a new insight into just how much our members accomplish. If there is a need by a military member, a veteran, a hospital, a school or anything else in their communities, Auxiliary members are involved. They have book drives, yard sales and bake sales to support both local and national projects. They coordinate blood drives to assist local hospitals and collect various items to support the homeless and women’s shelters, veterans hospitals, and military troops overseas. Some Units have established scholarships for local school children, while another collects teddy bears for a local children’s hospital. Auxiliary members participate in Meals-on-Wheels, serve meals at night shelters, provide for the food pantries and for military families in need. Units host holiday dinners and parties for local military, veterans and their families who may be far from home and may otherwise have no chance to celebrate. These are just some of the many ways in which Auxiliary members give to others. I would like to commend the members of the FRA Auxiliary for having such big hearts and such an incredible sense of giving.

The South Central Regional Mid-Year Meeting was held in Fort Worth, Texas, March 31–April 02, 2011. We were honored to be joined by FRA National Vice President Jeff Gilmartin and Auxiliary National Vice President Gini Larson. The South Central Regional Convention will be held August 17–20, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza South in Fort Worth, Texas. Details concerning speakers, seminars, meals and meetings will be provided. The 79th Auxiliary National Convention will be held October 24–30, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Kansas City, Mo. Newsletters giving details have already been published by the Convention Committee. Hope to see many of you at both the Regional and National Conventions.

The Annual Pilgrimage was an event that was truly awe-inspiring. If you have never attended this function, you should find a way to go at least once. Words cannot adequately describe the emotion, nor can pictures do it justice. The sense of patriotism, the pride in our service personnel and the reverence for our departed military is a feeling that will stay with you forever.

On a personal note, I want to thank all the members of South Central Region for your kindness and warm hospitality during my visits to your Units this past year. You have truly made my term as Regional President a wonderful and memorable experience. It has been a sincere pleasure getting to see familiar faces and also meet members that aren’t able to attend conventions, but are participating in their Units and for the Auxiliary. You are truly what make our organization great!



Fran Hoadley is the editor of *Auxiliary of FRA News* and the *FRA Today* Liaison.



The Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony onboard NAS/JRB Fort Worth was attended by (l to r) RPSC Karen Smith, Fort Worth City Councilman “Zim” Zimmerman, FRA RPSC Russ Miller and Capt. T.D. Smyers, CO.



KAREN SMITH
Regional President South Central



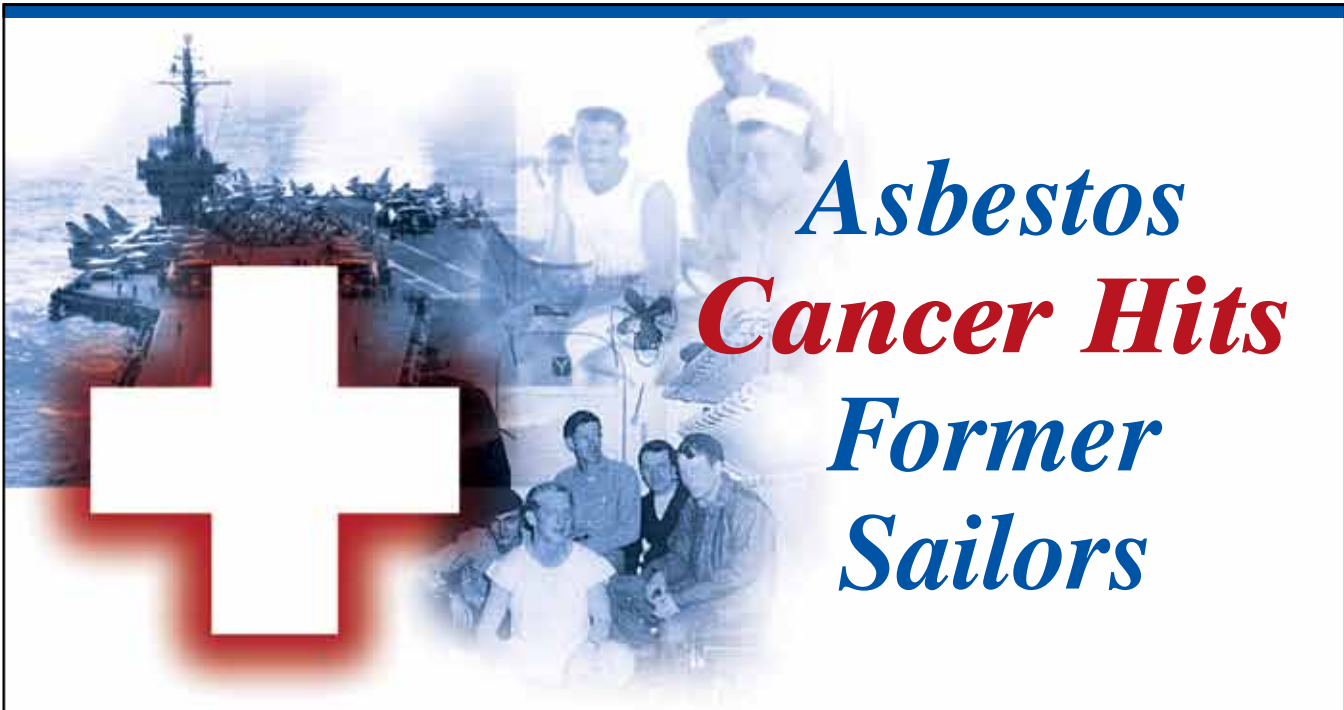
RPSC Karen Smith poses with former Secretary of the Navy Gordon England at the 2010 Navy Ball.



RPSC Karen Smith and WASP Jo Streff Reed attended a ceremony honoring WWII Women Air Service Pilots (WASP's).



RPSC Karen Smith was on hand when CPL Zach Briseno, USMC (Ret.), received a new custom home thanks to HelpingAHero.org. Briseno lost both legs in Iraq.



Asbestos Cancer Hits Former Sailors

Many sailors who served their country proudly aboard ships in the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War eras, are now being **diagnosed with asbestos-related cancers.**

FOR COMPENSATION INFORMATION:

FREE PACKET for mesothelioma or lung cancer, diagnosis/death, **please contact:**



The David Law Firm
"Defeating Today's Goliaths"

Toll Free 1-800-998-9729

**Email: info@thedavidlawfirm.com
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MESOTHELIOMA

ASBESTOS LUNG CANCER

AND RETIRED SAILORS

Many sailors were exposed to asbestos onboard ships in the U.S. Navy. This asbestos exposure often causes lung cancer much later in life. Mesothelioma is a particular form of lung cancer that is only caused by exposure to asbestos.

FREE INITIAL LEGAL CONSULTATION

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with MESOTHELIOMA OR ASBESTOS LUNG CANCER, please call us immediately to find out about the compensation you may be entitled to recover.

We provide retired sailors and their families with a free no obligation initial legal consultation with an experienced lawyer.

We represent clients from all 50 states.

NO RISK TO CLIENTS

Our clients are never at risk of paying any fees, costs or expenses out of pocket. All legal fees, court costs and other expenses are paid by the client only out of any judgment or settlement in the case.

DON'T LOSE YOUR RIGHTS!

Your legal claims must be filed within the time period allowed by law or you and your family members will lose all of your rights to recover against the corporations that are responsible for your injuries. **CALL NOW!**

"These guys sure helped me out after I got diagnosed"

LeRoy Riddell

1935 - 2008

U.S. Navy Retired

Member VFW, DAV, American Legion and the Fleet Reserve

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