



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 1534.1B
OP-04
8 June 1992

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1534.1B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MERCHANT MARINE RESERVE, U.S. NAVAL RESERVE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) Title 46, U.S. Code, Section 1101 (Merchant Marine Act of 1936), as amended (including the Maritime Education and Training Act of 1980, Section 1295)
(b) CNETINST 1534.1E (NOTAL)
(c) COMNAVRESCRUITCOMINST 1131.1 (NOTAL)
(d) COMNAVSURFRESFORINST 5400.3 (NOTAL)
(e) BUPERSINST 1001.39
(f) COMNAVSURFRESFOR STS X31-01 (NOTAL)
(g) Memorandum of Agreement between COMNAVSURFRESFOR and NAVRESPERSCEN of 14 Nov 91 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To issue policy and assign responsibilities for the organization, administration, and training of commissioned officers in the Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve (MMR, USNR) program.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1001.18 and OPNAVINST 1534.1A.

3. Mission. To maintain in the U.S. Naval Reserve an organization of Merchant Marine officers, composed of a corps of actively sailing members who are trained to operate merchant ships as naval auxiliaries, and a shoreside cadre assigned to naval activities that support strategic sealift readiness.

4. Background. The U.S. Merchant Marine is an essential component of national defense. It augments the basic sealift capability necessary to meet defense requirements. Experience gained during previous conflicts has emphasized the importance of Navy coordination with all segments of the maritime industry. In order to facilitate these integrated operations, the Department of the Navy established, in support of reference (a), the MMR, USNR program.

5. Policy. The MMR, USNR program is designed to permit participation of Merchant Marine Reserve officers as Individual Ready Reservists (IRR) or Selected Reservists (SELRES). The



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Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics) (OP-04) is the Program Sponsor; Commander, Military Sealift Command (COMSC) is the Technical Manager; and Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force (COMNAVSURFRESFOR) is the Program Manager.

6. Organization. The MMR, USNR consists of four components:

a. MMR, USNR Midshipman Program: The MMR, USNR midshipman program is an education and training program conducted by the Department of Naval Science at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, state and regional maritime academies, and at other selected maritime schools. It is designed to qualify participants for commissioned service. Program administration, eligibility, participation requirements, and training are directed by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) under guidance issued in reference (b).

b. Merchant Marine Individual Ready Reserve Group (MMIRRG): The MMIRRG is the administrative and training unit for Merchant Marine Reserve officers who are in a non-drill status. The central point of management for their naval training is the Merchant Marine Program Office on the staff of COMNAVSURFRESFOR. Service and health records are maintained by Naval Reserve Personnel Center (NAVRESPERSCEN).

c. Merchant Marine Reserve Operational Command Headquarters (MMROCH) Units: MMROCH units are selected reserve units which consist of MMR officers who are trained to represent the Department of the Navy at the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and other government agencies concerned with the use and control of civilian shipping for military operations. These units are established in Washington, DC (REDCOM 6); New York, NY (REDCOM 2); New Orleans, LA (REDCOM 10); and San Francisco, CA (REDCOM 20) where MARAD maintains its headquarters and some of its regional offices.

d. Merchant Marine Reserve Sealift Support Billets: Merchant Marine Reserve Sealift Support billets are manpower authorizations in designated selected reserve programs which require merchant marine expertise. Military Sealift Command units have billets which are specifically coded for MMR officers. Convoy Commodore Staff and Naval Control of Shipping Office units provide for substitution of MMR officers in billets which are unfilled by the required designator. In the future, the Program Technical Manager may identify other programs/units requiring merchant marine expertise.

7. MMR Sources. Naval Reserve officers in the Merchant Marine Reserve program are licensed Merchant Marine officers who enter the program through one of the following means:

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a. Graduation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, or one of the state maritime academies at Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, California, or the regional Great Lakes Maritime Academy and completion of the MMR, USNR midshipman program while serving under a MMR, USNR Training and Service Agreement (TSA).

b. Graduation from a maritime school with an established Department of Naval Science and completion of the MMR, USNR midshipman program while serving under a MMR, USNR TSA.

c. Direct appointment of officers, under standards established by the Naval Reserve Recruiting Command in reference (c), who possess a current U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) unlimited deck and/or engineering officer license, or a radio officer license, and are employed in an afloat position.

d. Via a change of designator by Naval Reserve officers, originally commissioned through other programs; or inter-service transfer of officers from other reserve components; who possess a current USCG unlimited deck and/or engineering officer license and are employed in an afloat position.

8. Designators

a. MMR officers will be commissioned with a special duty restricted line designator as follows:

1625 - Merchant Marine, Deck

1665 - Merchant Marine, Deck and Engineering

1675 - Merchant Marine, Engineering

1695 - Merchant Marine, Communications

b. USCG license level within each designator will be indicated by an Additional Qualification Designation (AQD) Code. CO, NAVRESPERSCEN will assign appropriate AQD's on inputs provided in the Annual Qualification Questionnaire (AQQ).

9. Maintaining Eligibility

a. MMIRRG. To participate in the MMIRRG, Merchant Marine Reserve officers must maintain a valid USCG Merchant Marine license and meet, as a minimum, one of the following:

(1) Be serving the first 6 years of commissioned service incurred under a MMR, USNR TSA; or,

(2) Earn a minimum of 4 months sea time every 2 consecutive years; or,

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(3) Be employed as an instructor at a maritime academy or in a USCG approved school of navigation or marine engineering; or,

(4) Be employed with a U.S. Government Agency concerned with civilian or military shipping; or,

(5) Have upgraded their Merchant Marine license at least to the next higher level; or,

A) (6) Have been actively employed in a maritime-related occupation which is deemed useful to the U.S. Navy e.g., Terminal Manager, Petroleum Surveyor, Ship Repair Supervisor, etc. and has a valid U.S. Coast Guard license. Final determination of eligibility resides with the Program Sponsor. Eligibility waivers will be reviewed biennially by the Program Manager.

b. MMROCH and MMR Sealift Support Billets. To participate in the MMROCH and MMR Sealift Support Billets, Merchant Marine Reserve officers must be satisfactory participants in the MMR, possess a current USCG unlimited deck and/or engineering officer license, and they must have upgraded their Merchant Marine license at least one level within the unlimited license structure.

c. Waiver. Requests for waiver of any of the eligibility requirements will be submitted to the Program Sponsor, via the Program Manager, for approval or disapproval.

10. Participation. Minimum participation requirements for retention in the MMR program are based on the agreement/component of the program under which one is affiliated.

a. MMR, USNR TSA. Merchant Marine Reserve officers serving under a MMR, USNR TSA assume an 8-year military service obligation at commissioning. Those sections of the TSA which correspond to the requirements of the MARAD Service Obligation Contract (SOC) are monitored by MARAD and officers must report compliance with those requirements directly to MARAD. This paragraph lists the TSA requirements for satisfactory service as a MMR commissioned officer. Compliance with the commissioned service requirements is monitored by the Program Manager. Since service as a commissioned officer is also a sub-requirement of the MARAD SOC, non-compliance with these requirements will be reported by the Program Manager to MARAD. In fulfillment of the commissioned service obligation, MMR officers under a TSA must participate in the naval reserve by completing one of the following options:

(1) Serve on full time active duty for a period of 3 years with the remainder of obligated service in the IRR; or,

(2) Complete the participation requirements for either one or a combination of the two options specified below for the

first six years of their obligation. The final two years of obligated service may be completed in the IRR:

(a) Meet the participation requirements for the MMIRRG, as outlined in paragraph 10b; or,

(b) If eligible, participate in the USNR selected reserve. Participation may be as a Merchant Marine Reserve officer, or if eligible, as a Naval Reserve officer holding another designator.

b. MMIRRG

(1) Required:

(a) Complete two weeks of annual training (AT) each anniversary year unless waived by the Program Manager for a valid reason such as extensive sailing time or lack of funds.

(b) Complete the Merchant Marine Reserve annual report within 60 days of the completion of each calendar year.

(c) Answer all official Navy correspondence, including timely submission of the AQQ, and keep the Navy informed of all address changes.

(d) Obtain physical examinations in accordance with MANMED 15-28 and complete NAVMED 6120/3 during years that a complete medical examination is not required.

(e) Notify the Program Manager whenever there is a change in physical condition that may interfere with performance of reserve obligations.

(2) Options:

(a) Complete correspondence courses approved by CNET.

(b) Drill voluntarily with a Naval Reserve unit under non-pay Drill Participation Authorization (DPA) issued by COMNAVSURFRESFOR. Assignment will be made with concurrence of the Reserve Center and the Reserve Unit Commanding Officer. Procedures are outlined in reference (d).

(c) Perform professional training as authorized by the Program Manager under the provisions of reference (e).

(d) Perform pay/non-pay Active Duty for Training (ADT) under orders issued by COMNAVSURFRESFOR. Assignment will

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be made with the concurrence of the naval activity and the Program Manager.

c. MMROCH and MMR Sealift Support Billets. MMR officers in the selected reserve must maintain 90 percent drill attendance and complete two weeks of AT. Detailed participation requirements are specified in reference (e).

11. Non-Participation

a. MMR, USNR Midshipmen. Midshipman, MMR, USNR, who breach those sections of the MMR, USNR TSA which correspond to the MARAD SOC will be reported to MARAD. MARAD will nominate the individual for involuntary active duty in an enlisted status.

b. MMR Officers - TSA. Merchant Marine Reserve officers, participating under a MMR, USNR TSA, who do not satisfactorily fulfill their commissioned service obligation will be reported to MARAD. Since failure to serve as a commissioned officer represents non-compliance with a portion of a requirement that is included in the MARAD SOC, MARAD may nominate the individual for involuntary active duty. If such action is not taken, the Navy may administratively separate the officer from the naval service by an adverse separation action. MARAD will also nominate for involuntary active duty those officers who fail to meet any of the other requirements of the TSA which are also included in the MARAD SOC.

c. MMR Officers - Ready Reserve Agreement. Merchant Marine Reserve officers participating under voluntary service agreements who do not perform satisfactorily, or whose Merchant Marine license expires, will be nominated by COMNAVSURFRESFOR to the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) Mobilization Disposition Board. That board can recommend retention, transfer to the Standby Reserve, retirement or discharge.

12. Mobilization. The policy for mobilization of the Merchant Marine Reserve is:

a. MMIRRG

(1) MMIRRG officers employed in a licensed position at sea aboard a U.S. flag vessel or a foreign flag vessel under "effective U.S. control" (EUSC), or between assignments, will be mobilized only if there is an urgent and specific need for their services. Their intended role is to serve aboard U.S. merchant ships. As a result of their naval training, these officers will be qualified to carry out operations effectively with U.S. Naval forces.

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(2) MMIRRG officers not serving at sea on mobilization day may be mobilized to Navy commands as required to fulfill national emergency requirements.

b. MMROCH and MMR Sealift Support Billets. MMR officers in the MMROCH and MMR sealift support billets are part of the selected reserve and will be mobilized to the gaining command of their respective reserve unit, as required.

13. Training. In order to meet the objectives of this program, the following training will be accomplished:

a. All Merchant Marine Reserve officers in the MMIRRG will be trained in naval regulations, naval operations (i.e., amphibious operations, convoy operations, naval control of shipping, and underway replenishment), damage control and firefighting. Additional training will include maritime related areas such as MARAD National Shipping Authority and Military Sealift Command operations.

(1) Deck officers will receive additional training in naval tactics, communications, and security procedures.

(2) Engineering officers will receive additional training in naval repair and logistics operations.

(3) Communication officers will receive additional training in naval communications and security procedures.

(4) Officers with dual licenses shall complete the requirements for deck officer first and then engineering officer.

b. MMROCH unit training objectives include the Defense Transportation System, Military Sealift Command/Naval Control of Shipping management, and the Strategic Sealift role of MARAD. Specific individual mobilization billet training requirements are outlined in reference (f). In addition to training for qualification in their mobilization billets, MMROCH units will provide area liaison with MARAD, the maritime industry, seagoing unions, and the various maritime training schools in support of the MMR program.

c. Training requirements for MMR sealift support billets will be outlined in each unit's reserve billet training plan.

d. All training requirements for the MMIRRG and the MMROCH units will be formalized by a Navy Training Plan (NTP).

14. Naval Reserve Merchant Marine Insignia. Personnel

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authorized to wear the Naval Reserve Merchant Marine insignia, and the conditions under which it may be worn, are as follows:

a. The Naval Reserve Merchant Marine insignia is authorized for wear on naval uniforms by any Naval Reserve officer who holds a valid U.S. Merchant Marine officer license provided the individual is not entitled to wear other naval warfare insignia.

b. U.S. Merchant Marine officers, who are also U.S. Naval Reserve officers, are authorized to wear the Naval Reserve Merchant Marine insignia on their U.S. Merchant Marine or U.S. Maritime Service uniform.

c. Members of the Naval Reserve who are serving as officers under licenses issued by the USCG in ships under contract with MARAD (Title 46, U.S. Code, Section 1131), or who are serving as staff officers on Certificates of Registry issued by the USCG (Title 46, U.S. Code, Section 245), are required by law to wear the USNR Merchant Marine insignia.

d. Members of the Naval Reserve who are serving in merchant ships (or employed by or under the supervision of MARAD in positions which require them to wear a uniform appropriate to an officer) are authorized to wear the Naval Reserve Merchant Marine insignia with such uniform.

e. MMR, USNR midshipmen are authorized to wear the insignia.

15. Responsibilities

a. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics) (OP-04) will:

- (1) Serve as Program Sponsor.
- (2) Provide policy and planning direction.
- (3) Validate and fund billet requirements.
- (4) Support budgeting, personnel, and logistic requirements.
- (5) Set program training objectives and assess the progress of the program in meeting objectives.
- (6) Coordinate with BUPERS and COMNAVSURFRESFOR on retention of officers affiliated in the program.
- (7) When required, appoint a board of senior officers in

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the MMIRRG to assist with the above requirements. Commanding officers of the MMROCH units shall also be members of the board.

b. COMSC will:

(1) Serve as Program Technical Manager.

(2) Assist the Program Sponsor and other commands as appropriate in support of the management and administration of the program.

(3) In conjunction with the Program Sponsor, identify selected reserve billets for Merchant Marine Reserve officers.

(4) Participate in the process of ensuring that the technical training requirements of the program are met.

(5) Formalize the technical training requirements in a NTP.

c. CNET will:

(1) Maintain Departments of Naval Science at the federal, state, and regional maritime academies and at approved maritime schools.

(2) Administer the MMR, USNR midshipman program.

(3) Process applications and appointments for MMR, USNR midshipmen and maintain administrative control of all midshipmen.

(4) Process commission applications for all graduating MMR, USNR midshipmen.

(5) Process direct commission applications for graduates who did not participate in the MMR, USNR midshipman program.

d. COMNAVRESFOR will:

(1) Establish goals for recruiting of MMR officers for selected reserve requirements.

(2) Review all requests for affiliation of MMR officers to selected reserve billets.

e. COMNAVSURFRESFOR will:

(1) Serve as Program Manager.

(2) Monitor MMR, USNR officer fulfillment of the

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commissioned service requirements of the MMR, USNR TSA and report any non-compliance to MARAD.

(3) Serve as the single point of contact for Merchant Marine Reserve officers in the MMIRRG.

(4) Assign training to MMIRRG officers as necessary to meet the objectives of the program.

(5) Monitor program training requirements (including processing: AT applications, correspondence course applications, uniform allowance claims, AT waivers, and DPA.

(6) Assign members of the program, as needed, to meet the Program Sponsor/Technical Manager's special project requirements.

(7) Monitor the performance of program members and report to the BUPERS Mobilization Disposition Board those officers no longer eligible.

f. Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (COMNAVCRUITCOM) will approve/disapprove all direct commission applications for appointment to the Merchant Marine Reserve program.

g. Commander, Naval Reserve Recruiting Command (COMNAVRESCRUITCOM) will:

(1) Screen and process direct commission applications for appointment to the Merchant Marine Reserve.

(2) Process all accession requests of MMR officers for affiliation into the selected reserve based on recruiting goals established by COMNAVRESFOR.

(3) Ensure that all direct commission or selected reserve affiliation applicants meet the maritime requirements specified for participation.

h. BUPERS will:

(1) Staff the Departments of Naval Science at the federal, state, and regional maritime academies and other maritime schools.

(2) Separate or order to involuntary active duty (in an enlisted status) MMR, USNR midshipmen who fail to fulfill the requirements of their MARAD SOC (following recommendation by MARAD to CNET and approval by the Program Sponsor).

(3) Select those graduates of the maritime academies who

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desire to exercise the active duty option of the MMR, USNR TSA.

(4) Monitor MMR, USNR officers for reserve status, designator changes, and attrition in accordance with current laws and directives.

(5) Separate or order to involuntary active duty those MMR officers who fail to fulfill the requirements of the MARAD SOC (following recommendation by MARAD to COMNAVSURFRESFOR and approval by the Program Sponsor).

(6) Request the Director, Selective Service System to declare "available" those officers of the MMR who fail to fulfill the MMR, USNR TSA and who are not involuntarily recalled to active duty.

i. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) will:

(1) Provide physical examinations for program applicants in accordance with surface URL officer requirements.

(2) Review physical examinations of program applicants, reporting on the physical qualifications of each applicant.

j. MARAD will:

(1) Monitor compliance with the MARAD SOC as required by reference (a).

(2) Nominate MMR, USNR Midshipmen who do not fulfill the MARAD SOC to involuntary active duty (in an enlisted status) via CNET and the Program Sponsor.

(3) Nominate MMR officers who do not fulfill the terms of their MARAD SOC to involuntary active duty via COMNAVSURFRESFOR and the Program Sponsor. If the Secretary of Defense is unable or unwilling to order the officer to active duty the Secretary of Transportation may recover from that officer the cost of education provided by the Federal Government for those officers who attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy beginning in 1991.

(4) Train MMROCH personnel, per reference (f), in that portion of their mobilization responsibilities which relates to MARAD.

k. CO, NAVRESPERScen will:

(1) Maintain service and medical records for MMIRRG

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officers and provide service to these officers as outlined in reference (g).

(2) Assign AQD's to MMR officers based on license level as indicated on AQQ's.

16. Action. Addressees will be guided by the policy outlined above in administering the Merchant Marine Reserve program.



S. F. Loftus
Deputy Chief of Naval
Operations (Logistics)

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