

From the *Editor*

Everyone knows that the “dog days of summer” occur during the hottest and muggiest part of the season. Webster defines “dog days” as: (1) “the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere;” (2) “a period of stagnation or inactivity.” Many understand that Sirius, the “Dog Star,” which rises and sets with the sun during this period gives origin to the term.

Despite the heat and humidity here in Washington, DC, and in New Orleans, LA, there is no stagnation or inactivity in the Navy’s RC. Or, is there? Because of financial challenges (there are no problems, just challenges, we’ve been told time and time again), orders that have been issued are being cancelled, ATPs and RMPs are being taken off the table, and scheduled courses (e.g., FFC SNROC) are being cancelled. Serious challenge by all reports; one can only imagine the magnitude of the problem if the 5,800 vacant billets were filled and those Reservists were creating financial obligations. Can this be the price of being better integrated than at anytime in the past?

Once again, Navy RC personnel have to undo arrangements made with their employers and families to be on military duty. They do face a certain amount of stagnation and inactivity this summer. And, they face the challenge and embarrassment of telling the supporting command they won’t be there as promised. Many might be asked to do it without paid orders – a true injustice if it happens. Especially so, when come September, there will most likely be money available – always has been the case. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

While all this is going on, the Navy is moving forward with its Naval Aviation ARI plan and quietly transferring aircraft and personnel from a number of Reserve squadrons. We wonder what will be the reaction of Senator Vitter when all of VP-94’s aircraft have been transferred to the fleet and most of the personnel either ordered out or reassigned to either pay or nonpay assignments. The same could be said for the Senators from PA and CA. Not quite a decade ago, all the personnel and aircraft had been transferred from a fleet squadron in the Northeast and only a handful of personnel remained behind in the duty office to answer the telephone, should a Congressman or Senator call. Surely, the Navy leaders today will not revert to keeping up appearances with our Reserve squadrons that are being offered up to create pools of equipment and pools of people. We’re not likely to know because ARI discussions are not to take place outside the Navy chain of command.

During a recent trip to Capitol Hill, I was informed told that the delay in appointing the Commission on the Guard and Reserve is not tied to the BRAC and QDR as I had opined in this column. The delay is reflective of how difficult it is to find the right individual among many wanting to be considered as a commissioner. The fact that many are interested is a good thing. We’ve also been told that the Navy has been given a green light to adopt the term “Navy Reserve” and that’s good enough for us to start adopting it as well.



We introduce the Navy Reserve flag officers to you in this issue. There are certainly no “Dog Stars” here. They are the best-of-the-best, and we congratulate them. We also congratulate the newest O-8s. CAPT Mark Hardy interviewed and captured in an article what it takes to get to flag rank. You might want to review that and much of what Mark has written over the last two years to see how you can get the keys to the executive wash room.

Thanks for your indulgence and for your membership. As always, enjoy the read.

Best regards,

Steve Keith
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Naval Reserve Association NEWS

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