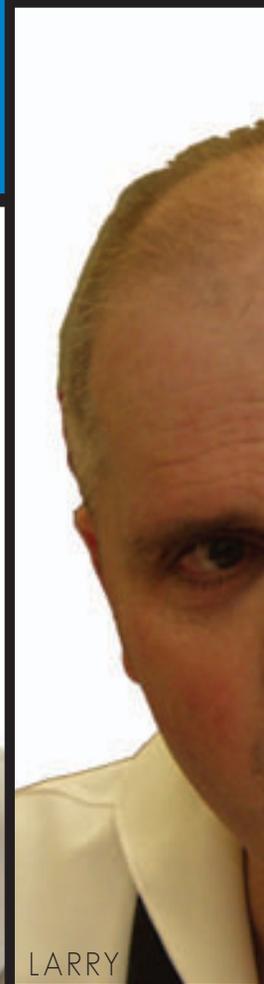


SAILOR OF

BEST OF THE

BEST



CAN YOU GUESS

THE BEST?

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR?

IN THE TOP 5% OF AIRCREWMAN?

THE YEAR



KELLY



GEORGE

LPO FOR 2 CLINICS?

PRODUCES PERENNIAL
HORTICULTURAL PLANTS?

CRIME WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN?

BEST OF THE BEST

TENTINGER SELECTED AS RESERVE SAILOR OF THE YEAR

JO1 Mike Miller

Commander, Navy Reserve Force Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS - HM1(FMF) Larry G. Tentinger was selected as the 2004 Navy Reserve Force Sailor of the Year.

Commander, Navy Reserve Force VADM John G. Cotton announced the selection in ceremonies at Navy Reserve Force headquarters.

Tentinger is a Selected Reservist attached to Fleet Hospital Dallas Sioux City Detachment at Navy Reserve Center Sioux City, Iowa. He was selected from a group of five finalists that also included HM1(FMF) James M. Holcombe from 4th Fleet Surgical Support Group Medical Battalion Detachment 9 at Navy Reserve Center Meridian, Miss.; AT1(AW/NAC) George F. Lean from VR-46 at Naval Air Station Atlanta; SK1 William J. Lynch from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 7 Delta Detachment at Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Readiness Center Indianapolis; and HM1(FMF) Kelly L. White from Navy Coastal Warfare Group 1 Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 108 at Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center Corpus Christi, Texas.

While in New Orleans, the finalists visit various commands and offices, meeting with a variety of personnel. Each receives valuable advice. At the same time, they are subject to scrutiny and evaluation during their two days in New Orleans prior to the selection, even at social events. The final decision is made just prior to the announcement.

"There are about 55,000 enlisted Navy Reservists, and these are the best five out of that whole bunch. That's pretty amazing," Cotton said. "They are all winners. They will probably all make chief petty officer, because they are the best of the best."

The finalists have been actively engaged in current operations.

"Four out of five [of the finalists] have been mobilized to help fight the Global War on Terrorism, and the fifth is on his way," Cotton said. "I think this is indicative of the skill sets we have before us and the need for our Reservists today."

Cotton awarded each of the five a Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service; service that led to selection as a Reserve Force Sailor of the Year finalist. Tentinger will be advanced to chief petty officer during the Navy Sailor of the Year recognition week in Washington, D.C., in July.

"Five finalists are chosen by a selection board from a field of 35-to-40 Sailors. Those five are brought to New Orleans for interviews, evaluation, and selection," FORCM(AW/NAC) Thomas M. Mobley said of the process. "A second board, comprised of five master chief petty officers, then makes a recommendation to Commander, Navy Reserve Force, who, in turn, makes the actual Reserve Force Sailor of the Year selection."

ETCISW Mark M. Antoniazzi, Reserve Force Sailor of the Year in 2003, was on board for the selection and to advise his successor.

"There is a prescribed track of service expected of the Reserve Force Sailor of the Year, and I was fortunately able to take advantage of these opportunities. These are rewarding experiences in their own right and continue to build on your Navy knowledge and experience. The most rewarding of all were the unexpected opportunities to speak to Sailors from other units and centers and relay what I've learned. The responsibility is one we all carry throughout our career. The title of Reserve Sailor of the Year certainly lends credence to the message," he said.

The finalists had sage advice for their fellow Reservists. The ever-growing requirements of Internet access and computer competency for Reservists were a recurring topic of discussion throughout the week. All the finalists agreed that both are critical to participation and probably advancement as well.



Photo by PH1 Don Dinsmore

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Larry G. Tentinger has been selected as the 2004 Navy Reserve Force Sailor of the Year at Commander, Navy Reserve Force headquarters in New Orleans on Apr. 28. Commander, Navy Reserve Force Vice Adm. John G. Cotton, announced the selection in ceremonies at Navy Reserve Force headquarters.

Finalist HM1(FMF) Holcombe said, "I think Reservists who truly lack computer skills are actually few and far between, and it is really more an issue of access. But if somebody is truly uncomfortable with using a computer they need to say so and get a mentor. I think they will quickly understand the benefits and overcome their fear. My concern is with access, particularly in some areas where many of the people are economically disadvantaged. Sure, there are computers around in libraries and so forth, but that does not help if you are not available during library hours of business."

Finalist SK1 Lynch agreed. He said, "Personnel with computer literacy problems need to find mentors who can help them. They have to, actually, because so many more things are steaming down the channel and they are electronic; they are not on paper. Unfortunately, I think the problem is more means-based than actual computer literacy."

Finalist AT1(AW/NAC) Lean said, "We PT regularly in the Navy Reserve. If some people have an issue with computer skills, then we need to set up a mentoring program where these people receive regular computer training, with the equipment and time set aside for that purpose."

The advice to Reservists also touched on advancement and what lies ahead for the Navy Reserve.

Finalist HM1(FMF) White said, "We get out of the Navy what we put into it. It's more than your time on a drill weekend. Get involved in other



Photo by PH1 Don Dinsmore

Navy Reserve Force 2004 Sailor of the Year candidates during morning PT in New Orleans. Five Navy Reserve Force Sailor of the Year finalists are at Commander, Navy Reserve Force Headquarters, New Orleans.

commands, other organizations. Don't remain stagnant in one place, but rotate around the force. Some Reservists like to stay close to their homes and that is understandable. But for many there are various opportunities within their grasp. I want to make sure that Sailors on their way up are set on the right path in terms of what will be expected of them in the future. I think the Global War on Terrorism is going to go on for quite some time, and not always overseas. We all need to be prepared."

Antoniazzi said, "Stay the course and keep doing whatever it is you do well. Never stop setting goals; your effort and hard work are sure to be of some benefit. Continue to seek positions that challenge your skills and new opportunities to train and learn. Be a driver of change and guide your Sailors through the transition. Don't ever forget that you can make a difference in the Navy and particularly in one Sailor's life. You might mentor the future Reserve Force Sailor of the Year."

Tentinger entered military service in 1969 in the U.S. Army, serving as a combat medic with 2nd Battalion, 8th Brigade, First Cavalry Division in Vietnam. Honorably discharged in 1974, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1987 as a hospital corpsman. He was mobilized to active duty in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Later he deployed to Fleet Hospital 5, Saudi Arabia. Tentinger returned recently from a mobilization to Iraq, where he served as senior corpsman, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion 23rd Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I am both humbled and honored," Tentinger said. "This is an opportunity to represent the type of person who junior Sailors can trust and emulate and also the type of person who superiors can trust to get the job done. It is a privilege and a responsibility to be a new chief petty officer and the number one selection in the Navy Reserve. With that goes the responsibility to spread the message of the Chief of Naval Operations fleet-wide, and help our people to work together - support to the fleet, ready and fully integrated.

"The Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment are the underlying foundation for myself, my shipmates, and all those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. By living the Core Values on a daily basis, a legacy has been handed down through the generations in our country. That legacy forms the brick and mortar, which binds us together -- together as service members, veterans, community members, and together as a nation. The Core Values embed themselves into the minds and hearts of service members to the point that they never leave, even after being discharged from the service. My father was a Marine who served on Okinawa and Guadalcanal. He lived the adage, 'Once a Marine, Always a Marine.' I can remember countless times when he would talk to my siblings and I about Honor, Courage, and Commitment without even speaking those words to us. All we had to do was watch him conduct himself. I advise my fellow Reservists to always have their eyes on the future, and to think beyond this moment in time to tie it into that future," Tentinger said.

Tentinger earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of South Dakota in 1998. In his civilian career, he is professor of technology for education and training at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, S.D.

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QUESTIONS WITH FORM MOBLEY

JO1 Mike Miller

Commander, Navy Reserve Force Public Affairs

TNR: Force Master Chief, during your tour at Commander, Navy Reserve Force, you have seen three groups of Reserve Sailor of the Year candidates pass through your office. If there were a single common thread - a unifying factor -- connecting each candidate who made it this far, what would it be?

FORMC: They are, in every respect, sustained superior performers who have willingly gone above and beyond what the Navy has asked of them. They eagerly and aggressively seek out opportunities to excel, without waiting for those opportunities to come to them. This is especially rewarding during this challenging period in our nation's evolution.

TNR: The Navy Reserve Force draws upon an endless sea of civilian talent, military skills, and leadership experience. Has any one candidate possessed a single unique characteristic that really made them stand out?

FORMC: Out of 87,000 Sailors in the Navy Reserve, only five become Reserve Sailor of the Year finalists, which is a remarkable event in itself. There are no losers here. Comparatively, all of them are extremely competitive. Any of them would serve and in fact has served us in a superlative manner. It is a combination of everything these candidates have done and continue to do, rather than any one characteristic, that makes each of them stand out. So, we can't say it is education alone, or physical fitness alone, or knowledge of the Navy, our Navy's mission, their role or job - it is not any one thing but a combination of everything. Take a look at everything you could ever do, combine that, and it ends up as "people involvement." It is being the example in physical fitness, the continuing strive and thirst for education, civic involvement, mentoring and development of your bluejackets, being attuned to issues your people have and helping those Sailors succeed and excel. All of these things make a winning combination, and the greater the degree to which all of these things are present in an individual; the more that individual is exemplified by them.

TNR: All the candidates seem to exhibit a high degree of computer knowledge, particularly in the areas of Navy Internet resources such as NKO. When you met with the Reserve Sailor of the Year candidates you discussed the issue of computer-challenged Sailors. Do you foresee a time when a certain degree of computer competence will be a stated mandate in the Navy Reserve?

FORMC: I don't know that we'll ever see a universal mandate for computer skills. But I do think we will get to the point where, in order for Sailors to effectively participate in the Navy - and this goes for active duty as well as Reserve Sailors - we will all have to have a good core knowledge of computers in Navy Internet resources. Look at how computers enable us to succeed - courses are online, personnel service record issues can be addressed online, we have myPay, TRICARE benefits, and the Thrift Savings Plan. All of these things are available to help Sailors better manage their personal and professional lives. So by necessity we have to develop computer competence in order to get ahead and to participate effectively.