



## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

March 3, 2009

### RESERVE AFFAIRS

Vice Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, USN  
Chief, Navy Reserve  
2000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4E426  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Admiral Debbink:

I'd like to extend my congratulations to all Navy Reserve Sailors on this 94th birthday of the Navy Reserve. Since 1915, the Navy Reserve has continued to endure and evolve to meet the needs of our Nation, engaging our adversaries, supporting our allies, and lending a hand to those in need at sea and on land around the world.

The continued demands of the Global War on Terror have demonstrated the need for mission evolution, operational flexibility, and strategic focus. Increasingly, our Reserve Sailors are contributing to the successful execution of current campaigns in dynamic and lasting ways.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, over 53,000 mobilization requirements have been filled by Navy Reservists in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Today, nearly 5,300 Navy Reserve Sailors are currently deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and many other countries around the world.

Whether on the high seas or in the littorals, members of the Navy Reserve display a level of dedication and resilience which truly encapsulates the phrase, "*Ready Now. Anytime. Anywhere.*"

I would like to extend my personal thank you to all the members of the United States Navy Reserve for their devotion to duty, whenever and wherever our Nation has needed them. I am confident that this legacy will continue. Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T. F. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H".

T. F. Hall