

THE RESERVE LOOKOUT

A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department's Reserve Corps



"Excellence in Volunteer Policing" - Commander Southby

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Reserve Officers Roger Currie and Tam Tran-Viet on their MPD Harley-Davidson Motorcycle at the 4th of July Palisades Parade.

RESERVIST SNAPSHOT



Fifth District Reserve Officer **Alfred McComber** has been involved in full-time and reserve law enforcement, high-level dignitary protection, and emergency preparedness operations since 1983. He is a graduate of three police academies and two dignitary protection schools. He has served the Washington, DC community as a sworn member of the Reserve Corps for over 22 years after graduating from MPD Reserve Class 88-1, back in early January 1989.

Alfred's police assignments have included uniform and plainclothes patrol, harbor patrol, Administrative Sergeant, gang detail, field training officer, background investigator and his all-time favorite, helicopter patrol.

McComber also spent time as a full-time Dignitary Protection Agent providing very high-level dignitary protection to members of the Royal Family of Jordan.

Since 2004, Alfred has hosted and anchored the popular Code Red! Radio talk show (www.CodeRedRadioShow.com), specifically dedicated to personal security, safety and emergency preparedness issues across America and around the world.

THE RESERVE CORPS MOTOR DEBUT

Following completion of several Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) training courses, successful graduation from MPD's 40-hour Honda Rebel Motorcycle Course, and years of scooter patrol working the midnight tour in the First District, **Reserve Officers Tam Tran-Viet** and **Rodger Currie** aspired to become "Big Bike" Harley-Davidson Police Motor Officers for the Department. Officers Tran-Viet and Currie then decided to pay out of their own pockets to attend the intensive 80-hour Police Motor Officer residential training program offered by the Harley-Davidson Motor Company and Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety in May 2008. This well-regarded program using the 800 pound Harley-Davidson FLHTP Ultra Glide Police Motorcycle has certified thousands of police motor officers across the country and is restricted to law enforcement. While the course began with 20 officers, three officers suffered fractures during training, and nine others failed the riding test. In the end, only eight

out of the original 20 officers passed the course, with Officers Tran-Viet and Currie graduating with the two highest scores.

The Reserve Officers then approached the MPD Command Staff and SOD Motor Unit Officials to discuss the possibility of becoming Reserve Motor Officers. As part of their proposal, Officers Tran-Viet and Currie offered to donate two new, fully-equipped FLHTP police motorcycles (identical to those used by MPD). After navigating the donation process and with the support of **Chief Cathy Lanier**, PSB, SSB, HSB, SOD, and RCD senior officials, Officers Tran-Viet and Currie demonstrated their skills to the SOD instructors and were subsequently accepted into the rigorous SOD 80-hour Harley-Davidson FLHTP Ultra Glide Police Motorcycle Course. The training develops the coordination, skill, and confidence necessary to operate the Harley police motorcycle safely and efficiently. It covers slow speed maneuvering, control, braking, curve

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negotiation, motorcycle maintenance, defensive driving techniques, escorts, details, and other law enforcement techniques. The SOD course is extremely demanding and has a 65% failure rate, but Officers Tran-Viet and Currie successfully completed the course on June 25, 2010.

Officer Currie stated, "The MPD training was much faster paced and far more difficult than the Harley-Davidson factory police program at Northwestern University. The SOD instructors, led by **Sgt. Todd Patterson**, **Louie Guerra**, **Marvin Spriggs**, and **Mike Brown**, pushed us harder than I could have imagined. There can't be a better, more demanding motor officer training program anywhere." Officer Tran-Viet added, "We went back to our hotel to ice packs and Motrin every night, but we emerged far better and much safer riders than

we were prior to SOD training. We took enormous pride in getting that motor patch from Sgt. Patterson and in being the newest motor officers in the nation's capital. We're excited to be assisting the full-time career motor officers, the Department, and the citizens of D.C. in this enhanced capacity."

Officers Tran-Viet and Currie have been routinely patrolling the neighborhoods of 1D on their gleaming Harleys and have also worked large demonstrations, marches, parades, and other details. "Sgt. Patterson and the other SOD instructors were very clear that graduation from motor school is only the beginning of our training. They stressed the importance of on-the-job training, working and learning from more experienced motor officers and the importance of practicing our safe riding skills every day."

COMMANDER'S CORNER



During the past eight months our Reserve Corps Focused Initiatives (RCFIs) have clearly become our 'signature activity' within MPD and they have demonstrated significant contributions to law enforcement and crime prevention throughout the District of Columbia. By the time the next Annual Report is prepared for the Department, we will be able to include an impressive data set on the results of these initiatives. I am very grateful to all those members who have participated to date. Your work is greatly appreciated, and recognized by the District Commanders and the Senior Executive Staff.

The RCFIs have been declared 'mandatory' activities for everyone, so it is your responsibility to inform your officials, through the chain of command, if you are unable to participate.

I am especially grateful to **Inspector Starks** and the Platoon Leaders for the overall management and implementation of the RCFIs. We have now moved in to the next phase of these initiatives where the Platoon Leaders in the respective districts are taking the primary responsibility for the planning and operational aspects.

The dates for RCFIs through the end of 2010 have been distributed. You will note that we have included some Saturdays to accommodate your work schedules.

I have received some very good suggestions for improving the RCFIs and we will be looking at these very carefully in the near future.

On September 9, 2010, we were very pleased to welcome six new members to the Reserve Corps at a graduation ceremony held at Police Headquarters. The names and assignments of the new officers are included later in this newsletter.

As of September 1, 2010, we launched the Reserve Corps Information Portal (RCIP). This is a very sophisticated technology developed by **Ben Haiman**, Information Technology Specialist in MPD, and **Lieutenant Daniel Ewell**, our Reserve Corps Liaison. Through the RCIP, you are able to record your hours and sign up for details and other events. The portal is also a quick and effective

way to communicate with all Reserve Corps members. I am very grateful to Mr. Haiman and Lt. Ewell for their hard work and dedication to this activity. As a result of our experiences in using this new tool, and your suggestions, we will be continuously improving it to make it easier for everyone to use and to serve important management functions.

We have emphasized the importance of professional development training during the year and, with the full cooperation of **Commander Andrew Solberg** and his MPA staff, Lt. Ewell has been able to establish two Reserve Corps specific training sessions. I expect those members who have not attended either of these sessions will have made alternative arrangements to complete this mandatory training. We expect to have 100% compliance in 2010!

If everything can be completed in time, we are planning to launch a Level 2 class in late November, hopefully with 25 new recruits. I hope that we will be able to have a class of this size at least once each year and therefore we will be building the Corps to meet our strategic goals.

In 2011 we hope to explore the possibility of conducting a Level 1 class. Another Level 1 class has not been forgotten and I hope that we will receive approval to put out a call for applications in the first half of 2011.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the many career members of MPD for their continuing support of our Reserve Corps, but special thanks are due to **Executive Director Polly Hanson** and Lt. Daniel Ewell for 'going the extra mile' to make sure that resources are available and for their provision of advice and guidance to ensure that we attain our goal of "Excellence in Volunteer Policing."

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 14, 2010. We are planning to have an 'End of Year' activity to recognize the contributions of many of our members and provide an opportunity for a social occasion at the start of the holiday season. More details on the time and location will follow.

With many thanks for your dedication and commitment to the Reserve Corps.

Commander Richard F. Southby
Commanding Officer

RESERVES IN ACTION

Professional Development Training

On Saturday, April 24 and September 19, 2010, as part of the 2010 Professional Development Training, Reserve Corps members made their annual trek to the Metropolitan Police Academy. This year's training consisted of recertification in CPR/AED and ASP. **Reserve Sergeant Sharpe** conducted the APR/CPR recertification training and each Reserve Corps member demonstrated their proficiency in rendering CPR to infants and adults. The recertification of CPR/AED followed with a strong dose of ASP recertification training conducted by **Officer Hector Deoleo and Officer Jeffrey Boyd**.

Reserve Corps members were mentally and physically charged up in their deployment and use of the ASP. The Saturday courses made it possible for Reserve members to comply with MPD's mandatory training without having to take time off from their daily civilian work commitments. Over 50 Reserve members took advantage of the two Saturday training sessions. Reserve Corps members would like to thank **Executive Director Polly Hanson**, Strategic Services Bureau and **Lieutenant Daniel Ewell**, Reserve Corps Liaison Official, for planning and coordinating the Saturday PDT courses. In addition, special thanks to MPA members **Commander Andrew Solberg**, **Eric Waldt**, **Lieutenant Ashley Rosenthal**, **Reserve Sergeant Robert Sharpe**, **Officer Hector Deoleo** and **Officer Jeffrey Boyd** for providing an interactive training environment.



Reserve Sergeant Robert Sharpe demonstrates infant CPR to the class.



Reserve Officer Leo Pinson and Reserve Officer Jean Doptis practice their ASP techniques at the MPA.

Chief Cathy Lanier Administers the Oath of Office to Six New Reserve Corps Members

On September 9, 2010, the Reserve Corps gained six new members. The graduation ceremony was held in the Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC) where family and friends witnessed the newly-appointed Reserve Corps members take their oath of office and receive their badges and diplomas. **Chief Cathy Lanier** and **Commander Richard Southby** congratulated the new members on the successful completion of their training and thanked them for their commitment to serving the community as law enforcement officers. The new Level 2 members received training similar to career recruit members at the Metropolitan Police Academy. **Officer Russell Mullins** was the primary instructor during the course of their training. **Officer Lisa Guzzu** received the Academic Training Award and **Officer Brian Toohey** received the Vehicle Skills Training Award.



Reserve Members taking Oath of Office.

The new members are assigned to the following districts:

- 1D Ofc Robert Carlyle & Ofc Brian Toohey
- 2D Ofc Frezer Woldemichale
- 3D Ofc Lisa Guzzu
- 5D Ofc Joshua Fowler
- 6D Ofc Clifton Jackson

Reserve Corps Members Provide Police Services at the Annual Safeway National Capital BBQ Battle

At the 9th Annual National Capital Barbeque Battle, Washington's largest food and music festival, Reserve Corps members converged on Pennsylvania Avenue to render police services on June 22, 2010. Among the strong aroma's of roasting pig, Reserve Corps members conducted crime and crowd control duties. **Chuck Brown**, one of the main attractions to the event, brought out his usual hundreds of supporting fans. Reserve Officers were on hand to manage the large crowds and provide security at the various cash-receiving vendors and gate access points. The Festival stretched five blocks along downtown Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Partial proceeds from the festival are donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington (BGCGW) to help support Washington area youth clubhouses and Camp Brown. In past years, over one million dollars have been donated to the BGCGW, making this festival the largest annual fundraiser for the BGCGW.



Reserve Officer Jack Herriot assists civilians at the BBQ Battle.

SIX RESERVE CORPS MEMBERS COMPLETE DRUG TESTING CERTIFICATION

Six members of the Reserve Corps—**Sergeant Rob Baechtel** as well as **Officers Michael Ashley, Jeremy Brady, Rodger Currie, Christopher Daignault,** and **Adam Parkhomenko**—completed Drug Recognition and Testing Certification Training conducted by the MPD's Narcotics and Special Investigations Division (NSID) and the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Mid-Atlantic Laboratory. The course, held July 27-29, 2010 at the Police Academy, trains officers in the presumptive identification of various controlled substance types using color indicator tests to verify probable cause for arrest. These tests allow for rapid results from which charges can be filed based on the officer's field identification of commonly abused drugs including marijuana, cocaine, other cocaine-based drugs, heroin, methamphetamine, amphetamine, LSD, PCP, and more. Should the case proceed to trial, a full analysis of the substance is conducted by the DEA laboratory to

confirm the officer's identification of illegal drugs.

This certification will allow members to provide field testing assistance to other patrol officers who discover suspected controlled substances on traffic stops and other encounters, thereby reducing wait times in the field and increasing the effectiveness of MPD's efforts to stop the possession and sale of illegal drugs.

Reserve Officer Daignault, a new member of the Reserve Corps, stated, "This was a fantastic training; I expect it will be helpful in the district." Daignault also stated that this training will "effectively support and supplement the services of the full-time police force."

RESERVE CORPS ENHANCES COMMUNICATION

During early spring 2010, **Lieutenant Daniel Ewell**, Reserve Corps Liaison Official, and **Marvin Haiman**, Information Technology Specialist, teamed up to develop a portal/database that would thrust the Reserve Corps Division into a new realm of information sharing among Reserve Corps members. **Lt. Ewell** and Mr. Haiman worked several months to bring the portal to fruition, dubbing the new system the Reserve Corps Information Portal (RCIP). They conducted introductory classes to RCIP in the Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), where feedback from Reserve members were obtained and used in refining RCIP. The final product reveals a system that makes it possible for Reserve members to sign up for upcoming events and details, track their volunteer service hours, and get other

up-to-date information relevant to Reserve Corps members. Once Reserve members view details of upcoming events, signing up is just a click away. In addition RCIP provides a medium where members are able to share photos taken during events and details. The launching of RCIP has received positive remarks from career and Reserve MPD members alike.



Ben Haiman introduces the RCIP to Reserve Members at the JOCC.

FIRST DISTRICT MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR QUICK CLOSURE OF ROBBERY-ASSAULT

On May 21, 2010, at 11:27 pm, First District **Officers Rachel Pitzen, Jafaru Osumah** and **Chancham Spears** (of the Asian Liaison Unit) responded to the 600 block of I Street, NW, for an assault in progress. Once on the scene, Officer Spears interviewed four complainants, who reported that they were walking in the 600 block of I Street, NW, when a group of black males assaulted and robbed them of their camera, wallet, cell phones, and keys.

Officer Spears gave a flash look out for a group of juvenile males running northbound through the alley between I Street and Massachusetts Ave., NW. **Reserve Sergeant Rob Baechtel** and **Reserve**

Officer Adam Parkhomenko observed a group of juveniles matching the look out, running northbound in an alley between I Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The suspects were stopped in the 700 block of K Street, NW. A show-up was conducted and three suspects were positively identified and arrested.



For their efforts, **Chief Cathy L. Lanier** recognized these members with awards at Friday's Crime Briefing.

First District members receive Achievement Medals for quickly arresting suspects after an assault and robbery in the Chinatown neighborhood.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the Reserve Corps Information Portal (RCIP) for further upcoming events.