2011 National POW/MIA Recognition Day: "The Cost of Freedom"

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – This year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day theme set for Sept. 19, is "The Cost of Freedom," as announced in Navy Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 268/11.

"National POW/MIA Recognition Day highlights the sacrifices of American service men and women throughout our history," said Rear Adm. Martha Herb, director, personnel readiness and community support. "We must never forget the men and women who fought to secure the freedoms we enjoy today."

Navy commands are encouraged to host or support local National POW/MIA Recognition Day activities. It is highly recommended that former prisoners of war and family members of hostile unaccounted-for casualties from past wars and conflicts be invited to participate in these ceremonies, where possible.

Traditionally held on the third Friday of September, POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of six days when the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag is flown as mandated by Congress. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

For information on National POW/MIA Recognition Day activities, commands can contact personnel readiness and community support at 1-800-443-9298, commercial (901)874-4303/4306, DSN 882-4303/4306, or visit the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

For more information from the Chief of Naval Personnel visit www.navy.mil/cnp.

A symbolic set table for those missing in action sits during a CFAY Navy Ball. It is customary to set a table for service members who are missing in action during certain military ceremonies.

Photo by Mark Elrod

Enlisted Retention Board Phase I adjourn

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – The first phase of the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) adjourned and forwarded its recommendations to Navy Personnel Command (NPC), officials said Sept. 16.

ERB Phase I results will likely be released in mid-to-late October after the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) reconciles the results and processes those who applied for conversion, according to Rear Adm. Don P. Quinn, acting chief of naval personnel.

As announced in Navy Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 180/11, conversion applications were held until the board completed deliberations.

Only those Sailors not selected for retention in-rate by the ERB will be considered for conversion into selected undermanned ratings for which they qualify. Conversion waivers will be granted based on the needs of the Navy.

Once BUPERS reviews the recommendations for conversion opportunities, board results will be forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel for approval.

"A conversion package is a second opportunity to stay Navy and we want to have all those decisions made before results are released," said Quinn. NPC received more than 2,000 conversion requests from ERB eligible Sailors.

The Phase I ERB reviewed the records of ERB-eligible E-4 and E-5 Sailors from 31 overmanned ratings.

The board was charged with reviewing each candidate's official military personnel file and any correspondence submitted by the member to identify the best qualified Sailors to receive the finite number of retention quotas available.

Once the board results are approved, NPC will notify commanding officers so they may personally contact and provide counseling to each Sailor who is not being retained.

Sailors not selected for retention will have access to the Navy's transition assistance management program and other benefits, for members who are involuntary separated.

To learn more about the ERB, visit www. http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx.

Officer years commissioned service requirement reduced

By MC3 Andrea Perez, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The minimum years of commissioned service (YCS) required for selected officers for retirement purposes has been temporarily reduced from 10 to eight years, officials said Sept. 15.

"This change mainly affects prior enlisted officers who with their prior service and active commissioned service will satisfy their minimum payback towards 20-plus year active duty retirement," said Lt. Shane Walker, assistant limited duty officer/chief warrant officer community manager. "This temporary change will help the Navy achieve, in part, its desired end-strength goals."

All Navy (ALNAV) 057/11 temporarily minimizes that years commissioned service (YCS) requirement. Now certain officers eligible for retirement through Sept. 30, 2013 only have to satisfy eight years of commissioned service to receive the same retirement benefits.

"To clarify, if an officer who is retirement eligible and will have eight years of active commissioned service between the release date of the message and Sept. 30, 2013, he or she can request retirement under this option if they are in an eligible designator and no other service obligations are in place," said Walker.

Waivers from years of required active commissioned service will not be approved for officers:

- With pending permanent change of station orders;
- Identified to fill a general services administration assignment;
- Under a bonus entitlement (or special pay);
- Assigned to a Department of Defense (DoD) area and who have not met the DoD tour requirement (joint/overseas duty);
- Under service obligation for an education program including graduate education, scholarship, fellowship, service college, tuition assistance or graduate voucher;
- Under a training obligation.

Normally, requests for retirement must be submitted no more than 12 months in advance. Officers applying for retirement under ALNAV 057/11 can submit requests up to 18 months prior to their retirement date. For eligibility requirements, read ALNAV 057/11, found on the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) website, www.npc.navy.mil or contact the NPC customer service center at CSCmailbox@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.