



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

17 November 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS, AND
OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE

Subj: PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS

1. Professional military associations, such as the Reserve Officers Association, Naval Reserve Association, Military Officers Association of America, Surface Navy Association, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, and the Association of Naval Aviation, promote the interests of our Navy and provide professional development and training opportunities for our Naval Reservists. The preceding list of associations is not intended to be exclusive. There are many other worthwhile professional military associations that provide similar benefits to Naval Reservists.

2. Participation and membership by Naval Reservists in any non-federal entity, including professional military associations, is a purely voluntary decision for individual members. In view of these associations providing valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth, I encourage and support participation in them.

3. Commanders, Commanding Officers and Officers-in-Charge are authorized to disseminate information about professional military associations when requested. No preference shall be given to any association requesting approval to disseminate information. Brief oral presentations by representatives of these associations may be allowed at Naval Reserve activities so long as there is no interference with scheduled training evolutions, the association does not engage in any fund raising or membership drive activity, and there is no pressure applied, either direct or indirect, to participate in, or join, the association.

J. G. COTTON
Vice Admiral, U.S. Naval Reserve
Chief of Naval Reserve