

## TIME OFF FROM THE NAVAL RESERVE

Huffer's statement that his command said he will be discharged from the Navy for donating the kidney seemed odd. Since it has been established that he is not active duty Navy, he must be talking about the Naval Reserve. The options available to Huffer are explored below.

### POINTS

In the Naval Reserve, it's not so much a matter of whether you drill or not, it's if a Reservist is able to get enough points for a "good year" that counts toward retirement.

One weekend drill gives a Naval Reservist 4 points. One point for each 4 hour drill period. One day of active duty gives the member a point, and there is a requirement for a 12-13 day annual training (AT) per year, so this gives an additional 12-13 points per year. So, 50 points will give a Naval Reservist a "good year". If one were to drill every weekend they would get 48 points plus 12 additional points for an AT would give them 60. So one can see there is some flexibility and still get over 50 points for a good year.

### UNSATISFACTORY DRILLS

A Naval Reservist is allowed 8 Unsatisfactory (i.e. "U") drills per year. This means if they simply didn't show up one weekend and elected not to reschedule or make up the drills, they would get 4 "U"s. Two weekends of not showing up would give them 8 "U"s. At 9 or more "U"s they are unsatisfactory for the year and can be administratively separated.

So, for example someone can drill in February, take "U"s for March and April, and return again in May effectively get 3 months off and still get enough points for a satisfactory year (provided they do an AT). There is no margin of error for getting another "U" so they would have to reschedule drills if they need to miss another weekend.

Usually it never has to come to the Naval Reservist getting "U"s. It's not really a black mark on their record but the Reserve Centers don't like reporting "U"s so the Reserve admin staff does everything in their power to work with the Reservist to avoid this scenario.

### RESCHEDULED DRILLS

If a Naval Reservist needs 3-4 months off they can reschedule drills. They can do a few extra weekends, weekdays or evenings that the center is open and do the extra drills up front as rescheduled drills. So in the example above, they can reschedule drills from March and April and do them in Jan and Feb and not have to drill again until May.

They can also reschedule drills after the block of time they are off. So they can reschedule March and April and do extra drills in May and June so they can take March and April off, giving them three months off from drilling.

Or they can do a combination of drills beforehand and drills afterwards and take 3 months or longer off. The extra drills would be paid so they would not lose any income.

## **AUTHORIZED ADMIN ABSENSE**

A Naval Reservist can also get up to six (6) months of Authorized Administrative Absence and even be evaluated for longer. Without drilling, the Reservist risks not getting enough points for a good year, so can do correspondence courses for the points, but they would not get paid as they would with a regular drill weekend. They are not paid for the points gained from correspondence courses.

## **INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVE**

The Reservist can go to an Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) status, then come back in 3 months and still get enough points for a good year. One can also do courses for points while away if the time away is longer. They would miss the income of doing regular weekend drills, however.

## **TIMING THE SURGERY**

A Reservist has a Physical Fitness Test (PFT) twice a year. Usually these are in the Spring and in the Fall. A Reservist can maintain drilling status and do the surgery after a PFT and continue to drill until the next PFT provided there is no physical exertion they need to accommodate. This demand varies from rating to unit, but if the weekends consist of classroom training they may be able to drill normally with no physical exertion.

## **TEMPORARY NOT PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED (TNPQ) LIST**

The Naval Reservist can be put on a Temporary Not Physically Qualified (TNPQ) list and can drill but be excused from Physical Fitness tests or demanding physical exertion. They may be able to drill for pay but may be excluded from performing Annual Training (AT) until they come off the list.

## **BOTTOM LINE**

So, there are a lot of options available to a Naval Reservist for taking 3-6 months off and not affect their pay or securing a good year and not affect their retirement. That is why something sounds odd about Adam Huffer's situation. He is either not aware of these options and either hasn't asked or hasn't been properly counseled on his options.

What's certain is that the command would not simply require Huffer to end his career with the Naval Reserve. He claims he is a SEAL and does not want to give up the operational tempo he is used to in the Spec Ops community, but we already know this is not true. It creates drama for a compelling story, certainly, but it's not the reality of what he is faced with assuming the kidney donation story is true.