NAVAI R Reserve Sailors take the helm during COVID-19

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NAVAI R Reserve Program

Throughout the pandemic, the United States Navy has used various resources to ensure mission requirements are met. In the early days of COVID-19, Navy Reservists were called upon to assist Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAI R) in establishing an emergency watch operation center.

The watch is chartered to provide 24/7 response to NAVAIR by establishing a central focal point within NAVAIR for all activities related to the pandemic. The central focal point within NAVAIR for all activities related to the pandemic is the Command’s Leadership Team (CLT) and support the command’s Incident Response Team (IRT). The team acts as a central focal point within NAVAIR for all activities related to the pandemic — interpreting and disseminating policies and guidance from local, state, national and the Navy to provide daily impact reporting to United States Fleet Forces Command (USFCCOM).

In early March, the NAVAIR Reserve Program (NRP) received notification for initiating watch operations and immediately put out a call for reserve support. Within five days of the request two NRP reserve officers volunteered, were placed on orders, and began the NAVAIR COVID-19 watch. Cmdr. Joseph Stewart, from Navy Reserve (NR) Rapid Research and Development (RRD), and Lt. Cmdr. Oscar Mathews, from NR Program Executive Office (PEO), began the task of organizing the first watch.

The need for Reserve support is best captured by IRT Lead, Scott Holden, who said, “In a crisis, there needs to be an entity that is main-

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