

Military Callup

- **MTA's Raymond Price Led Unit Protecting Navy Ships in Japan**

By ALISHA GOMEZ

(Nov. 14, 2002) After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, about 10,000 military reservists were called to active duty for operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

And out of the many who had to say good-bye to their families, Crossroads Depot Division 2 Operator Raymond Price was one.

"Being separated from my family for almost a year was the hardest part," says Price.

Price was called to duty as a Naval Reservist, spending 11 months and 4 days in Japan. He was stationed at the U.S. Naval Station, [Yokosuka](#), near the entrance to Tokyo Bay.

For Price, a Hull Technician First Class, the job was important – force protection. He was the Leading Petty Officer for 71 reservists from 20 different units. The sailors were tasked with providing security for deployed Navy ships and 42,000 personnel and their families.

"I was among the first 13 to arrive and we were placed in a vehicle inspection area, standing 12-hour watches," says Price. "We had 12 hours on and 12 off, working four days and having two days off."

As the most senior first class petty officer, he was in charge of making sure that assigned posts were manned at all times.

Inspected for weapons

One of these posts was the vehicle inspection area, where all commercial vehicles and drivers were inspected for weapons, explosives and checked for proper identification.

"We found some weapons during these inspections," says Price. "Small knives, realistic looking .9mm pellet guns and some homemade weapons are a few items we came across."

Price also assisted in police patrols, and conducted random boat patrols in the waters surrounding the base.

"Our team was the first line of defense in case of a waterborne attack against the ships that were in port," he says.



^ Operator Raymond Price of Crossroads Depot Division 2 spent almost a year in Yokosuka, Japan, as a Naval Reservist.



< Price prepares for a night shift on a harbor patrol boat enforcing tight security in Yokosuka, Japan.

The reservists stayed at an old Japanese Naval base that the United States gained control of after World War II.

Support of his family

"Without the support of my wife, Nancy, and my three sons, Chris, Mike, and David, it would have been really difficult to survive the year," he says.

Price came home once in June to watch his eldest son, Chris, graduate from high school and also to celebrate his wife's birthday. The couple has been married for 20 years.

He was deactivated from active duty, Oct. 4, but he is still in the Naval Reserve.

An operator with MTA since 1997, he is glad to be home.

"It feels good to be back at work," says Price, of being an operator. "I was surprised to see a large banner with U.S. flags and 'Best Wishes' signatures from my fellow workers."

Being home has been a bit of a change for Price.

"After being away so long it takes awhile to get back into things and for everybody in my family to get readjusted," says Price.

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