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Fall River native honored for exceptional service to the Navy

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Citing her professionalism and personal integrity, Robert Woods, assistant General Counsel (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), presented the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award to Carol Lynch, assistant General Counsel at Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), during a brief ceremony Jan. 16.

Lynch is a native of Fall River, whose brother, John Lynch, serves as the city's Deputy Fire Chief. A graduate of the BMC Durfee High School, she was inducted into the Durfee High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.

The award, a surprise to Lynch, was presented in the office of NETC Commander Rear Adm. Mike White as other senior members of the command watched.

"I provide legal advice and assistance to NETC headquarters staff and to our subordinate activities on a wide range of issues in areas of fiscal law, civilian personnel law, procurement law and government ethics and standards of conduct," said Lynch. "I represent the Navy in litigation pending in Federal courts and before administrative boards such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Merit Systems Protection Board."

According to the citation that accompanied the award, Lynch's expertise and professionalism was key in her selection to also assist commands outside of the NETC domain.

She was assigned to support the President of the Naval Postgraduate School during an assessment of operations, and provided legal counsel to the Chief of Naval Air Training during an extended absence of the command counsel.

"The expertise, professionalism and spirit that Carol brings to the table every single day are a testament to her dedication to our Navy and Marine Corps team, and our great republic," Woods said. "She is a touchstone for all of us to emulate, as both a civil service employee, and as a captain in the Navy Reserve."

Lynch is a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) assigned to Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command Mobilization Center as the deputy Force Judge Advocate. She also serves as the Pillar One lead for all military justice practitioners in the Navy Reserve Law Program. The Navy JAG Corps aligns Reserve Corps expertise into three Pillars of Practice: (1) military justice litigation; (2) command services and legal assistance; and (3) specialty practices in international law, environmental law, and admiralty law.

"As the commander for one of the largest and most diverse domains in the U.S. Navy, I rely on outstanding professionals like Carol," White said. "She plays a critical role in furthering our unique and challenging mission of turning America's youth into naval leaders and warriors. The legal and ethical guidance she provides is invaluable."

Lynch has been a member of the NETC staff since December 2001.

“I work with the most amazing team here at NETC,” Lynch said. “Not only the great people in the General Counsel office, but the rest of the staff as well. The leadership at NETC is top-notch and the best I’ve ever encountered in my career.”

For more information about the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/> , or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavalEducationAndTrainingCommand> .

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Story by Joy Samsel, NETC Public Affairs Office