The Ready Reserve Force (RRF) program was initiated in 1976 as a subset of the Maritime Administration’s (MARAD) National Defense Reserve Fleet (NDRF) to support the rapid worldwide deployment of U.S. military forces.

As a key element of U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) strategic sealift, the RRF primarily transports Army and Marine Corps unit equipment, combat support equipment, and initial resupply during the critical surge period before commercial ships can be marshaled.

The RRF provides nearly one-half of the government-owned surge sealift capability. Management of the RRF program is defined by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOD and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

RRF ships are owned by the DOT, Maritime Administration and managed under contracts with commercial U.S. ship managers for maintenance and repair, activation, crewing, and vessel operations.

The program began with 6 ships in 1977 and peaked at 102 in 1994. As of September 2012 it consists of 46 ships including 35 roll on/roll off (RO/RO) vessels, 8 Fast Sealift support vessels (FSS), 2 heavy-lift or barge carrying ships, six auxiliary craneships, one tanker, two aviation repair vessels.

Two RRF ships are homeported in the NDRF anchorage in Beaumont, Texas. The balance is berthed at various U.S. ports.

RRF ships are expected to be fully operational within their assigned 5 and 10-day DOD assigned readiness status and sail to designated loading berths. Commercial U.S. ship managers provide systems maintenance, equipment repairs, logistics support, activation, manning, and operations management by contract. Ships in priority readiness have Reduced Operating Status (ROS) maintenance crews of about 10 commercial merchant mariners that are supplemented by additional mariners during activations.

Readiness of the RRF is periodically tested by DOD directed activations of ships for military cargo operations and exercises.

Ships in ROS do not need a shipyard to activate.

RRF ships are on time activated 98% of the time.
RRF LOCATIONS

5 and 10 Day Vessels: R - RO/RO (35)  T - TACS (6)  A - TAVB (2)  OP - OPDS (1)  S - SEABEE (2)
Readiness: -5, -10 days from notice to activate

Tacoma, WA (2)
R-5 - CAPE INTREPID
R-5 - CAPE ISLAND

Suisun Bay (1)
OP-10 - PETERSBURG

San Francisco, CA (5)
R-5 - CAPE HORN (Pier 50)
R-5 - CAPE HUDDSON (Pier 50)
R-5 - CAPE HENRY (Pier 96)
R-5 - ALGOL (Pier 80)
R-5 - CAPELLA (Pier 80)

San Diego, CA (1)
A-5 - CURTISS

Long Beach, CA (2)
R-5 - CAPE INSCRIPTION
R-5 - CAPE ISABEL

Oakland, CA (1)
S-5 Cape Mohican

Alameda, CA (5)
R-5 - ADM CALLAGHAN (Pier 2 S)
R-5 - CAPE ORLANDO (Pier 1 S)
T-5 - GEM STATE (Pier 2 S)
T-5 - GRAND CANYON ST (Pier 2 S)
T-5 - KEYSTONE STATE (Pier 2 S)

Beaumont Reserve
Fleet, TX (0)

MARAD Layberth Facility (4)
Berth 1: TBD & TBD
Berth 2: TBD & TBD
Berth 3: R-5 REGULUS
R-5 POLLUX
Berth 4:
R-5 - CAPE VICTORY
R-5 - CAPE VINCENT

Port of Beaumont (3)
R-5 - CAPE TAYLOR
R-5 - CAPE TEXAS
R-5 - CAPE TRINITY

Marrero, LA (2)
R-5 - BELLATRIX
R-5 - ALTAIR

New Orleans, LA (2)
R-5 - CAPE KENNEDY
R-5 - CAPE KNOX

Philadelphia, PA (1)
A-5 - WRIGHT

Baltimore, MD (4)
R-5 - CAPE WRATH (Pier 8)
R-5 - CAPE WASHINGTON (Pier 8)
R-5 - ANTARES (Pier 8)
R-5 - DENEBO (Pier 8)

Newport News, VA (3)
T-5 - CORNHUSKER STATE (Pier 23)
T-5 - FLICKERTAIL STATE (Pier 23)
T-5 - GOPHER STATE (Pier 23)

Portsmouth, VA (3)
R-5 - CAPE RACE
R-5 - CAPE RAY
R-5 - CAPE RISE

Norfolk, VA (1)
S-5 - CAPE MAY

Charleston, SC (6)
R-5 - CAPE DUCATO (Pier 5)
R-5 - CAPE EDMONT (Pier 5)
R-5 - CAPE DIAMOND (Pier T)
R-5 - CAPE DOUGLAS (Pier T)
R-5 - CAPE DECISION (Pier U)
R-5 - CAPE DOMINGO (Pier U)

This chart is current. The date reflects the last change made in ships or location

December 22, 2017