Navy EOD technician to be among National Memorial Day Parade's 'Today's Heroes'

Washington, DC. -- More than 300,000 spectators are expected to stand along the route of the National Memorial Day Parade May 25, paying tribute to "Today's Heroes," including a Navy explosive ordnance disposal technician serving as one of parade's grand marshals.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 1st Class Mark Faloon, an Auburn, Maine, native and member of the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division's (NAVEODTECHDIV) Technical Support Detachment, was one of seven grand marshals selected to represent Today's Heroes, which is to be the theme of this year's parade.

Faloon and the other six grand marshals - consisting of representatives of each branch of military service - will lead the parade along with Gary Sinise, the 2006 National Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal and star of CSI: New York and known for his role as Lt. Dan in Forrest Gump.

"We are extremely proud and honored to have one of our Sailors selected to represent the Navy, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal community, and NAVEODTECHDIV Technical Support Detachment in the National Memorial Day Parade," said Cmdr. Kevin Gilliam, NAVEODTECHDIV's executive officer. "EOD1 Faloon is a high achiever and a great ambassador for the Navy."

Faloon recently received a Bronze Star, presented to him by Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Vice Adm. Kevin M. McCoy, for his exceptionally meritorious service while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) this past year. He was also recently named the NAVSEA Sailor of the Year and has been selected to receive a commission as part of the limited duty officer commissioning program.

More than 250 elements are expected to participate in the event, which has rolled down Constitution Avenue annually since 2005 and includes marching bands, floats, walking groups and hundreds of veterans from every branch of the military. In recognition of this year's focus on Navy service, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, will be the reviewing officer for the parade.

The other grand marshals will be Chief Petty Officer Kathleen Reilly, a native of Lexington, Mass., and the 2008 Navy Reserve Force Sailor of the Year; Air Force Tech. Sgt. Derek Blumke; Air Force Major Nicole Malachowski; Army Sgt. 1st Class Ed Malone; Marine Corps Cpl. Wade Spann; and Marine Corps Sgt. Jeremiah Workman.
NAVEODTECHDIV is a fourth-echelon field activity under the Naval Surface Warfare Center and NAVSEA focused on exploiting technology and intelligence and providing the forces needed to develop and deliver explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) information, tools, equipment and their life cycle support to meet the needs of joint service EOD operating forces and combatant commanders.

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