

August 2011

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE U.S. NAVY



**U.S. Navy,
Namibian Forces
Neutralizing Threats**



[On the Front Cover]
 Namibian Defense Force (NDF) Sergeant Eugene M. Salionga, explosive ordnance technician student, attaches a non-electric blasting cap to the detonation priming loop April 28 as U.S. Navy Chief Explosive Ordnance Technician Chief Petty Officer Justin Berlien, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 (EODMU-11), Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, looks on.
 Photo by MC2(EXW) Todd Frantom



Gettysburg Reenactment

12



18

When Everything Goes Wrong

With the exception of, perhaps, his immediate family, PS2(SW/AW) Enrique Ramirez seemingly had no one, or nowhere to turn for help during the serious illness of his 3-year-old daughter, Arianna; however, he would soon find out that his Navy family had his back.

Photo courtesy of Memphis' St. Jude Children's Hospital Photography Department



22

U.S. Navy, Namibian Forces Share Explosive Safety Skill

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians recently travelled to Arandis, Namibia to support the Namibian Defense Force and Namibian Explosive Control Unit police officers efforts to handle and dispose of unexploded ordnance helping to safeguard the local population.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dawn Price



26

Navy Creates Way to Save Shorelines

Facing an eroding shoreline, loss of naval structures, and wildlife sanctuaries near Naval Support Facility, Indian Head, Md., Navy leaders are leading the way with implementing corrective action in developing a shoreline management plan.

Photo by MC2(EXW) Todd Frantom

D E P A R T M E N T S

6

34

36

38

40

Around the Fleet	6
Something to Think About	34
Focus on Service	36
This Just In	38

Duty in D.C.

In Washington, D.C., towering monuments, memorials and museums all document the history of a nation; but, hidden amongst these well-known tourist attractions are some hidden gems – and some really cool stuff in the nation's capital.

Photos by MC3 Shannon Burns

[Next Month]
 We will never forget. Ten years later, *All Hands* takes a look back at the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 and recognizes the nation's strength since then.



Members of the Navy Ceremonial Guard pass guests during a Salute reception honoring Navy Safe Harbor, and Wounded Warrior Regiment enrollees and their families. The reception, held on the docks of the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Md., April 10, kicked off the 2011 Sea-Air-Space Exposition, hosted by Navy League of the United States.

Photo by MC2(EXW) Todd Frantom

Instructors Enabling the Global Force for Good Shipmates,

Our Navy and Marine Corps Team have incredible ships, aircraft, and other weapons as tools to succeed in their mission. But, without the men and women who serve this nation in the greatest maritime force in the world you might as well take our fleet, moor it to a pier, hangar the aircraft, and defuel our tanks.

The people who develop that incredible force are the thousands of Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) instructors at more than 230 training commands, detachments and associated units around the world. These talented instructors take the civilians who volunteer to serve our nation and instill in them the skills and abilities required to succeed.

From the South China Sea, to the sands and mountains of Afghanistan, and from the ice of Antarctica to the rivers of Africa, South America and Asia, the demand for our maritime forces is high, and we are responding with more agility and flexibility than ever before. We are able to succeed because our Sailors receive the best training in the world. There is no doubt that the men and women of the Naval Education and Training Command enable the Navy to be a Global Force for Good.

Those who volunteer to return to the schoolhouse from the fleet, to become instructors, are taking a natural step in their individual progression as leaders. Instructors develop the next generation of Sailors and the impact of their commitment to excellence is felt far into the future as graduates deploy around the world.

While developing others, instructors are also gaining valuable skills for their own career. As a specialist in a specific area, instructors are immersed in the knowledge, skills and abilities of their career field. The benefits are largely reflected in the promotion rates for Sailors on instructor duty. In 2010, almost 300 first class petty officers within the NETC domain were selected to become chief petty officers. When instructors earn their Master Training Specialist (MTS) qualification, they are preparing themselves for the rigors of a military classroom and earning potential college credit. The Navy's MTS program has been evaluated by the American Council on Education for recommended academic credit at the associate and



baccalaureate levels in Instructional Methodology, and Educational Leadership.

Each year NETC selects the, "best of the best," as our Instructors of the Year are honored at a major event held at the Navy Memorial. Lt. David Tebbe, from the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC), Dam Neck, Va., was selected as the 2010 Officer Instructor of the Year, and summed up his job this way:

"It is truly a privilege to walk into the classroom every day and teach the future of naval intelligence. I have the opportunity to influence the lives and careers of these young men and women who will go on to defend our great nation. It is a sacred duty."

Instructor duty is important to supporting the fleet, and potentially career-enhancing for an individual; therefore a very rigid screening process is in place for Sailors interested in becoming instructors.

Start with a review of your service record with your command career counselor and discussions with your detailer. Among other criteria, prospective candidates must meet evaluation standards and physical fitness requirements, and be willing to obligate service for 36 months. Finally, candidates must have their commanding officer's recommendation.

The U.S. Navy has many challenging and inspiring jobs that are crucial to the continued support and defense of our nation. Each and every one of those roles begins with the quality training Sailors receive. Are you up to the challenge? **AH**

ALLHANDS

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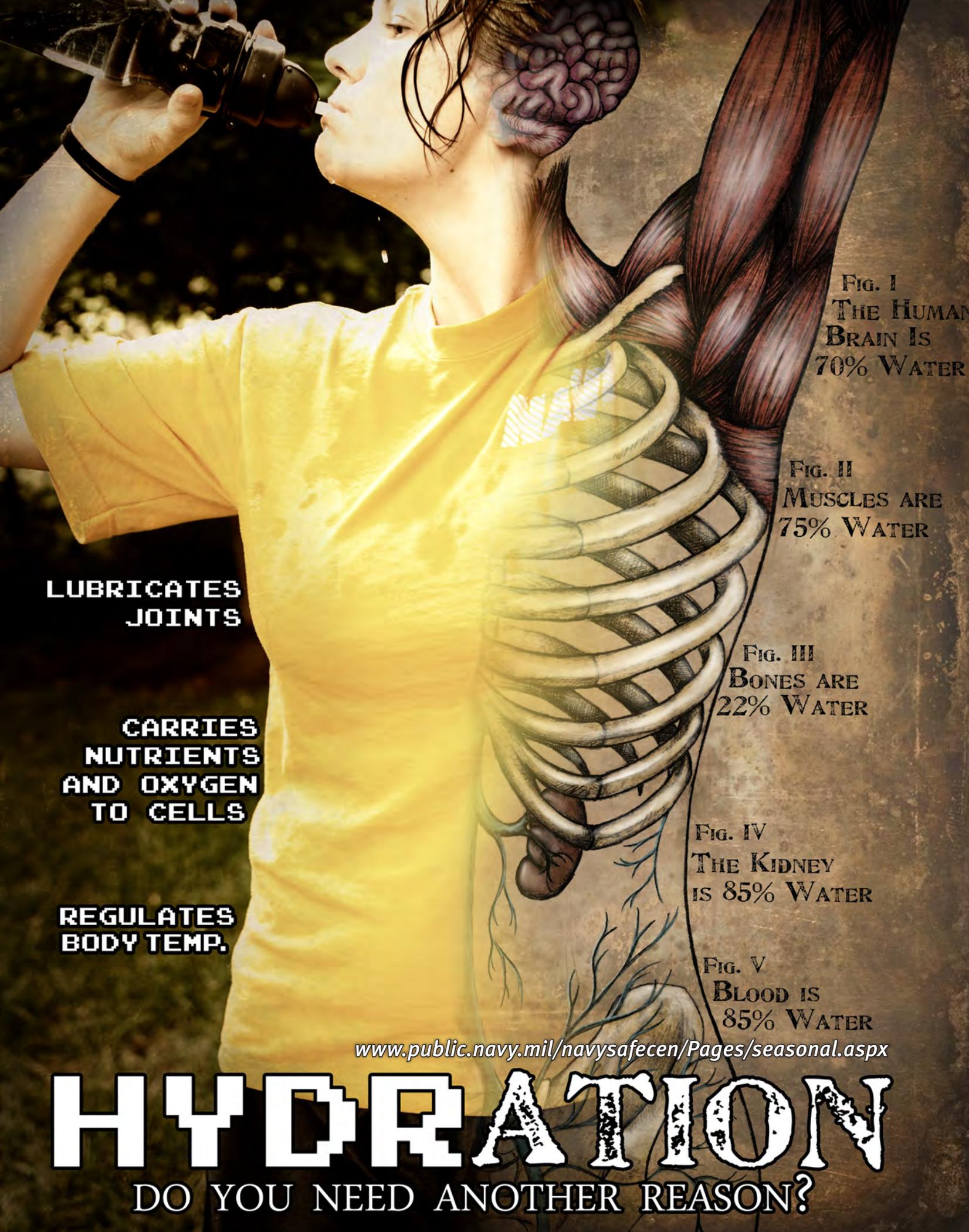


FIG. I
THE HUMAN
BRAIN IS
70% WATER

FIG. II
MUSCLES ARE
75% WATER

FIG. III
BONES ARE
22% WATER

FIG. IV
THE KIDNEY
IS 85% WATER

FIG. V
BLOOD IS
85% WATER

LUBRICATES
JOINTS

CARRIES
NUTRIENTS
AND OXYGEN
TO CELLS

REGULATES
BODY TEMP.

www.public.navy.mil/navysafecen/Pages/seasonal.aspx

HYDRATION

DO YOU NEED ANOTHER REASON?



Photo by MCSN Peter D. Melkus

Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Jerome Acquahjameson, from Ghana, West Africa, encourages Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Jossie O. Marquez Ruiz, from Ponce, Puerto Rico, to do a few more push-ups during a physical readiness test in the hangar bay of USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

Revised Instruction Announces Changes to Physical Readiness Program

In order to improve the overall health of Sailors and enhance the administration and execution of the Physical Readiness Program, Navy recently announced the revision of OPNAVINST 6110.1J in NAVADMIN 203/11.

The revised instruction will strengthen program compliance, improve physical fitness assessment (PFA) documentation and encourage Sailors to maintain the level of physical fitness required to support mission readiness. This is the first major revision to the physical readiness program since 2005.

“We reduced the instruction to just what leadership needs to know and the rest is contained in the Physical Readiness Program Operating Guide, which will be a how-to manual,” said Bill Moore, Physical Readiness Program director. “It will provide information, procedural guidance, and supplementary information.”

Several changes are reflected in the new instruction, including the requirement to complete the medical screening process prior to participating in the PFA as well as a reduction of the number of PRT scoring categories to five, ranging from “outstanding” to “failure.”

The rules have also changed regarding medical waivers. Sailors granted two medical waivers in a 12-month period will be referred to a medical treatment facility for a medical evaluation board.

In addition, failing the body composition assessment (BCA) is now considered an overall PFA failure and Sailors can no longer request a “bad day” exception for the BCA and are limited to one PRT retest for a given PFA cycle.

Mandatory administrative separation will continue for Sailors who have failed three PFAs within the most recent four-year period. While the instruction allows for waivers for those with three PFA failures, individuals may still face separation and may be prevented from transferring, reenlisting or extending in-service.

The instruction also stresses that passing the physical fitness assessment is a requirement for continued Navy service and failure to meet these requirements can result in administrative separation processing.

The Physical Readiness Program Operating Guide is now in place, accompanied by an updated version of the Navy Nutrition Guide and Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) guidance that will reside online at the Navy Physical Readiness web page.

The new guide incorporates policy guidance from OPNAVINST 6110.1H and NAVADMINs 293/06, 277/08, 073/09, 247/09 and 131/10.

“A Sailor can achieve long-term health and fitness by making regular physical activity and a solid nutrition plan a lifestyle priority. That commitment is consistent with Navy Core Values and helps ensure Sailors remain competitive,” said Bill Moore,

Physical Readiness Program director. “Every Sailor competes to stay and fitness is one component of this process.”

For a full explanation of the changes, read NAVADMIN 203/11 at www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMINs/NAV2011/NAV11203.txt

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc. **AH**

Story courtesy of Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office, Millington, Tenn.

Restructuring of Enlisted Advancement Exams Begins September 2012

The Navy recently announced the restructuring of advancement exams to give greater focus on technical rating knowledge, in NAVADMIN 197/11.

The restructured examinations decrease the number of questions from 200 to 175, and increase the emphasis on rating-specific technical questions. The first advancement examination cycle implementing the new change is Cycle 216 in September 2012. Advancement candidates who will take the September enlisted examinations include active duty, full time support, active guard and reserve, and canvass recruiters.

“The primary reason for the exam structure change is to improve exam validity. We define exam validity as the adequacy with which the test questions successfully represent the content to be measured,” said Captain Katharine Reed, commanding officer of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC).

More job-specific technical questions improve exam validity and the Navy’s ability to rank-order Sailors by rating.

“If you know the technical aspects of your rating better than your shipmates, you’ll like the change in exam structure,” said Reed.

The restructured exams will consist of 25 Professional Military Knowledge (PMK) and 150 job-specific technical questions for each pay grade. The biggest change will be seen by E-6 advancement candidates taking the chief petty officer (CPO) exam. Currently, the 200-question CPO exam contains 100 job-specific and 100 PMK questions. E-4 exams will have the same number of job-specific questions, and 25 rather than 50 PMK questions.

The exam changes will have no impact on the current Final Multiple Score (FMS). The FMS is a “Whole Person Concept” approach which considers exam score along with other factors to ensure the right Sailors are advanced. Other factors considered for E4/5/6 are performance mark average (how well one performs in their job and as a Sailor), service in pay grade (experience in the job), awards (accomplishments in the job and as a Sailor), education points and self-improvement through education (accredited college degrees), and pass/not advanced points (credit for doing well on previous exam cycles, but not enough quotas available). For those who are CPO-board eligible, the FMS is computed using performance mark average and rating exam score only.

Enlisted exams are produced at NETPDTC’s Navy Advancement Center (NAC) in Pensacola, Fla. Fleet Subject Matter Experts (FSME) for each enlisted rating gather at exam development conferences to review the job scope and associated tasks at each pay grade. The FSMEs also review their rating exam bank to ensure questions are up-to-date, accurate and meet the statistical requirements to accurately rank-order the most qualified advancement candidates. New exam questions are researched, developed and added at each exam development conference.

Study material will remain available to all Sailors preparing for upcoming exams. Exam bibliographies will reflect the new exam construction, and will be available for exam preparation six months prior to administration dates on the Navy Advancement Center’s Web portal on NKO at <https://www.nko.navy.mil/portal/careermanagement/navyadvancementcenter/home/navyadvancementcenter>. **AH**

Story by Tom Updike, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Navy Revises Career Paths to Emphasize Service at Sea

The Navy released a recent message announcing revisions to the sea/shore flow for enlisted career paths.

NAVADMIN 201/11 provides the Fleet with the updated sea shore flow for every rating. Thirty-six ratings will see an increase in sea time, and 18 will now be classified as sea intensive. Sailors in these ratings can expect to spend more than half their careers at sea.

“Our nation knows the importance and effectiveness of our forward-deployed Navy, whether delivering aid to those in need, or hunting terrorists. The skills and capabilities of our Sailors are in great demand

continued on page 9



Capt. Frank Hughlett, commanding officer of Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST) Command, awards the Bronze Star medal to Lt. j.g. Ron Kolpak during an awards ceremony at Dam Neck Annex in Virginia Beach, Va.

Forward-Deployed Sailor Receives Bronze Star

Story by MC2(EXW) Matt Daniels

A Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training (MCAST) Command Sailor was awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a recent ceremony on board Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Va.

Lt. j.g. Ron Kolpak earned the award for his service while deployed in support of Operation *Enduring Freedom* as a humanitarian assistance civil affairs officer from October 2008 to September 2009. He was assigned to Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-West as part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix located in Kabul, Afghanistan.

“I worked hard to contribute to the war effort and make good use of the time spent away from my family,” said Kolpak. “The days were long, and downtime rare. We worked in some of the toughest conditions I could imagine, but that’s civil affairs. If you are going to be truly successful and really contribute to the operation you have to get away from your desk.”

Kolpak’s service in Afghanistan led to more than 250 tons of humanitarian assistance relief supplies being distributed to more than 500,000 Afghans in 12 conflict-ravaged districts. An integral component of the United States’ counter-insurgency operations, civic assistance programs bring local national security forces, local and international non-governmental organizations, and U.S. elements together to build lasting stability.

“It really is a great honor to be recognized like this,” said Kolpak, who was accompanied by his wife Darlena and three children, Kai, Karlie, and Kaden at the ceremony. “Awards aren’t why we serve, but it is nice to have your accomplishments recognized.”

Kolpak now serves as a maritime civil affairs planner for *Pacific Partnership 2011*. **AH**

Daniels is assigned to Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command Public Affairs.



The Pacific Partnership Band performs for children at the Farol Primary School in Timor-Leste during Pacific Partnership 2011.



AMERICA'S
NAVY
A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD

High school students participate in a tire-rolling race during the 2011 U.S. Naval Academy Summer Seminar Sea Trials. Summer Seminar ends with an abbreviated version of the U.S. Naval Academy plebes' Sea Trials, where students participate in seven hours of physical training and team building exercises.



Photo by MC3 Kevin S. O'Brien



Photo by MC3 Billy Ho

ABH3 Mike Nicholas directs an F/A-18E Super Hornet of the Strike Fighter Squadron 14 to a catapult aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) during a composite training unit exercise off the coast of Southern California.

Above—Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Mercedes Logan, from Newark, N. J., studies for her enlisted surface warfare specialist (ESWS) qualification in the pilothouse aboard USS Cowpens (CG 63).

continued from page 7

as an integral part of our national security and maritime strategy,” explained Rear Adm. Cynthia Covell, director, Total Force requirements Division (OPNAV N12). “As a result, the Navy has increased the number of sea duty billets and decreased the number of shore duty billets since 2008.”

To meet the new sea/shore requirements, Navy Personnel Command may adjust some Sailors’ projected rotation dates (PRD) based on the length of tour remaining. As a general rule, PRDs of March 2012 or earlier will not be adjusted, unless requested by the Sailor or if their commanding officer submits a request based on unit readiness or deployment needs.

To maintain proper career progression, no sea tour lengths will involuntarily exceed 60 months for Sailors with less than 20 years of service (YOS) and 48 months for Sailors with more than 20 YOS. Sailors are advised to contact their community manager or detailer for information on the availability of incentives such as sea duty incentive pay for volunteering to serve additional time at sea.

To read the complete list of enlisted rating career paths, visit the Navy Personnel Command website at www.npc.navy.mil. AH

Story courtesy of Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs, Millington, Tenn.

SECNAV Presents 2010 Safety Excellence Awards

Nineteen commands and installations recently received the 2010 Department of the Navy (DON) Safety Excellence Award for their safety programs at the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Honorable Ray Mabus; Commander, Navy Installations Command, Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, the Honorable Jack-

alyn Pfannenstiel; Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton presented the awards during the event.

“Safety and keeping our Sailors and Marines safe is one of the most important things we do, it’s one of the things that makes us the most formidable fighting force there’s ever been,” said Mabus. “It’s important to recognize those that do such an excellent job because they are models for the rest of the fleet and the rest of the Marine Corps. It’s important to say bravo zulu, job well done.”

Recipients were awarded with a citation, plaque and the SECNAV’s safety flag, which they are entitled to fly for a year.

“The Navy and Marine Corps mission is to protect this country,” said Mabus. “Fundamental to that job is protecting the welfare of the men and women who serve. These safety practices provide the foundation for a healthy service.”

The awards were accepted by representatives from the commands, including command leadership, safety officers and safety petty officers who held the title or collateral duty during the period cited.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) received the Large Deck Combatant Safety Excellence award for having no ‘Class A or B’ mishaps, a score of one hundred percent on its own Conventional Ordinance Safety Review during an op-tempo that included a build-up and expenditure of eighteen thousand pounds of ordinance during training exercises and almost twenty-three thousand pounds in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“What helped us earn a safety award this year was the fact that we did two back to back deployments with minimal mishaps,” said Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class (SW) Paul Laferty from USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. “It’s feels outstanding to be recognized by the Secretary of the Navy for all

of our hard work and efforts. One of the best ways to implement safe practices is by using operational risk management [ORM] because it’s definitely going to help you figure out how dangerous the activity that you’re engaging in is. You have to outweigh the benefits of the activity with the risks involved”

Established in 2002 by former SECNAV Gordon R. England, the Safety Excellence Awards are designed to promote safe practices throughout DON and personally recognize those commands that have integrated an awareness of safety in everyday operations, reducing loss in man-hours, material damage, among other factors that may decrease Navy assets. AH

Story by MC3 Shannon Burns, Defense Media Activity-Ft. Meade

Study Explores Aircraft Operations Aboard Carriers

The Office of Naval Research announced a recent self-sponsored effort to examine how aircraft carrier flight deck crews will manage manned and unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), has ended in a successful live demonstration.

The Deck operations Course of Action Planner (DCAP) demonstration was performed at the Humans and Automation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

DCAP is a software tool designed to aid in planning on aircraft carrier flight decks—a congested and often times chaotic environment that not only includes a variety of aircraft but also ground equipment and personnel.

The science and technology effort will provide flight deck personnel with automated planning tools, enhanced information displays, and new user interface approaches that make it much easier to interact with autonomous systems in challenging naval environments.

continued on page 11



Photo by MC1 Kevin S. O'Brien



Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Whitefox



Photo by MC2 Jonathan E. Davis

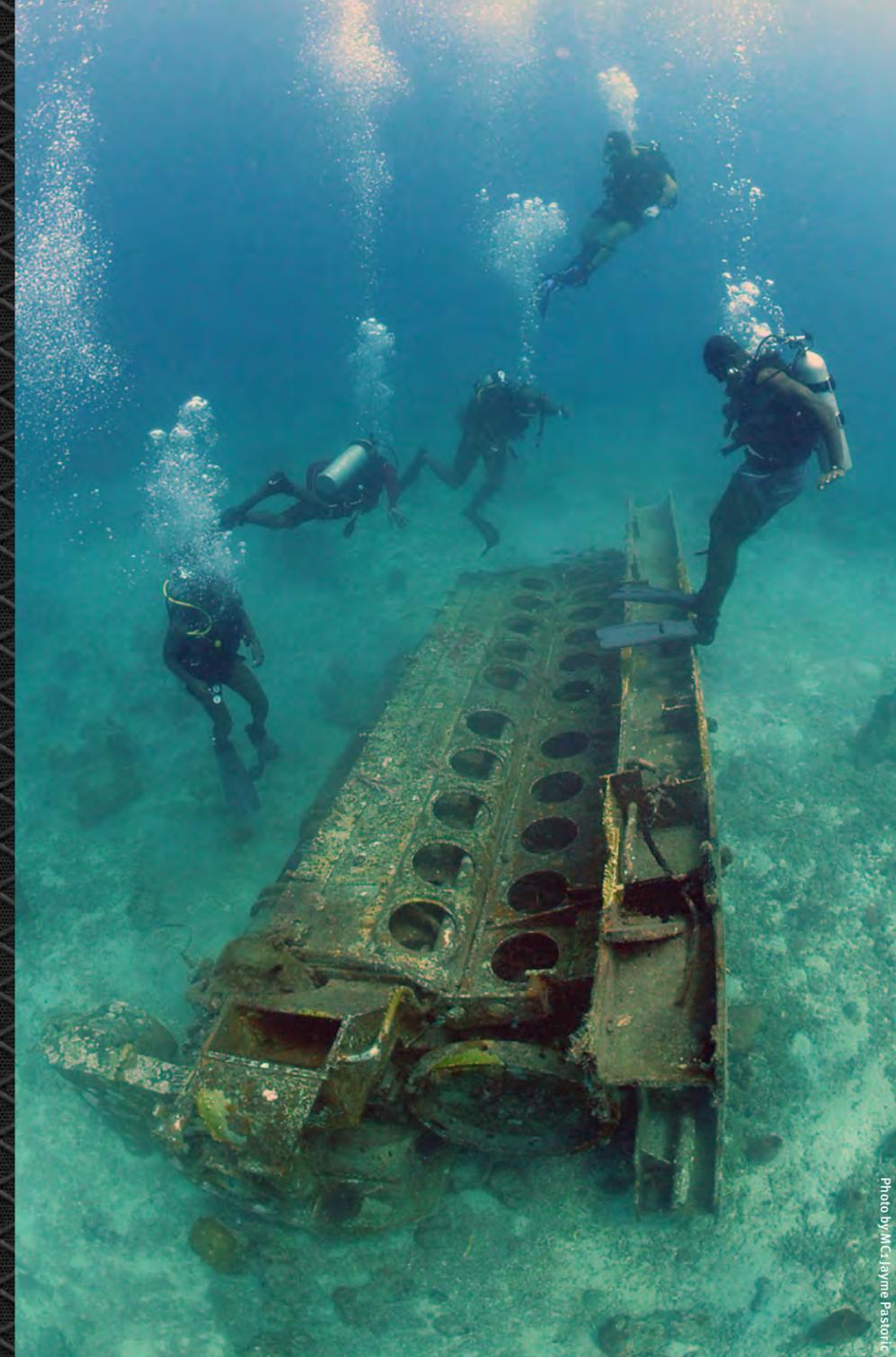


Photo by MC1 Elyne Pastorek

Top left— Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Ray Mabus observes an array of solar panels while receiving a tour of the Boldak Expeditionary Energy Patrol Base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.
Middle left— Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West meets with U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Robert Sparks III during his visit to National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md.
Lt. Patricia Salazar, from San Francisco, examines a patient at the Escuela Humberto Mendez Juarez medical site during a Continuing Promise 2011 medical community service event.

Divers dive onto a 22-ton engine block off the coast of Barbados. Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 is participating in Navy Diver-Southern Partnership Station, a multinational partnership engagement designed to increase interoperability and partner nation capacity through diving operations.

continued from page 9

According to ONR program officer Marc Steinberg, the goal is to increase efficiency and safety in the deck environment, and reduce the need for special procedures and restrictions as increasing numbers of unmanned air systems are integrated into the fleet.

“We are trying to understand how we can most effectively do future deck operations with manned and unmanned aircraft as we increase the numbers and level of autonomy and intelligence of the unmanned systems,” he said.

The demonstration, conducted June 23 by researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), attempted to show how a person can manage, in this case 10 aircraft, where the operator encountered failures, ranging from the simple to the complex. The scenarios included catapult failures during launch operations and aircraft fuel and hydraulic leaks.

More complex scenarios staged one aircraft fuel leak with a request for additional aircraft while there were conflicting priorities on the deck.

Engineers used small, remote-controlled ground vehicles to simulate aircraft on a scaled model of a carrier deck. Other parts of the lab represented a mission area and a marshal stack area that the vehicles moved through in the course of their simulated missions.

The planning device also displays priorities, schedule information, and details on aircraft fuel level and mechanical status as well as catapult and landing strip usage. This data aids personnel in the decision-making process, accord-

ing to information from MIT’s Humans and Automation Laboratory.

Additionally, it enables the decision maker to interact with the included planning algorithm. This planning system is done on-demand, allowing crews to choose when to initiate a change in schedule and giving them a choice of different options. **AH**

Story courtesy of Office of Naval Research Corporate Communications, Washington, D.C.

F-35C Completes First Jet Blast Deflector Testing

The F-35 integrated test force, along with the aircraft launch and recovery engineering team at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), completed the first jet blast deflector (JBD) test on the F-35C Joint Strike Fighter, July 8.

The test was completed at JB MDL using the F-35C test aircraft designated ‘CF-2.’

The testing collected data on the effects of F-35C engine exhaust on fleet-representative 4- and 6-panel JBD units and the flight deck in front of the JBDs. Temperatures, pressures, sound levels and velocities were tested to collect environmental data and validate a JBD cooling panel configuration model.

“From an aircraft perspective, the testing went without a hitch,” said Tom Briggs, air vehicle engineering lead. “We adjusted to weather delays to complete forty test points on schedule, all because of the teamwork between the [inte-

grated task force], Lakehurst and industry crews.”

Each Nimitz-class aircraft carrier has a JBD for each of its four catapults. The size, cooling configuration and angle to the catapult vary slightly between the four, so the test team had to repeat various tests – military and limited afterburner power takeoffs – for the various JBD configurations.

“We’ve learned a lot and our technical capabilities have expanded immensely since the original JBD testing for the F/A-18 about ten years ago,” said Kathy Donnelly, senior executive for aircraft launch, recovery and support equipment engineering at Lakehurst. “We’re able to bring in a lot more rigor to the F-35C testing so the fleet will be well prepared for its introduction.”

With greater technical capabilities today, the single aircraft JBD testing will be repeated with an F/A-18 to collect the same data. This will allow for comparison between the two aircraft and the development of a combined cooling model for the entire fleet.

The test team also collaborated with Naval Sea Systems Command during the testing to measure the effects of heat on the flight deck.

Future carrier suitability testing is scheduled for later this summer, including JBD testing with two aircraft, catapult launches and arrestments in preparation for initial ship trials in 2013.

The F-35C is the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, unique from the F-35B and F-35A with its larger wing surfaces and reinforced landing gear for the demanding carrier environment. The F-35C is undergoing test and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River prior to delivery to the fleet. **AH**

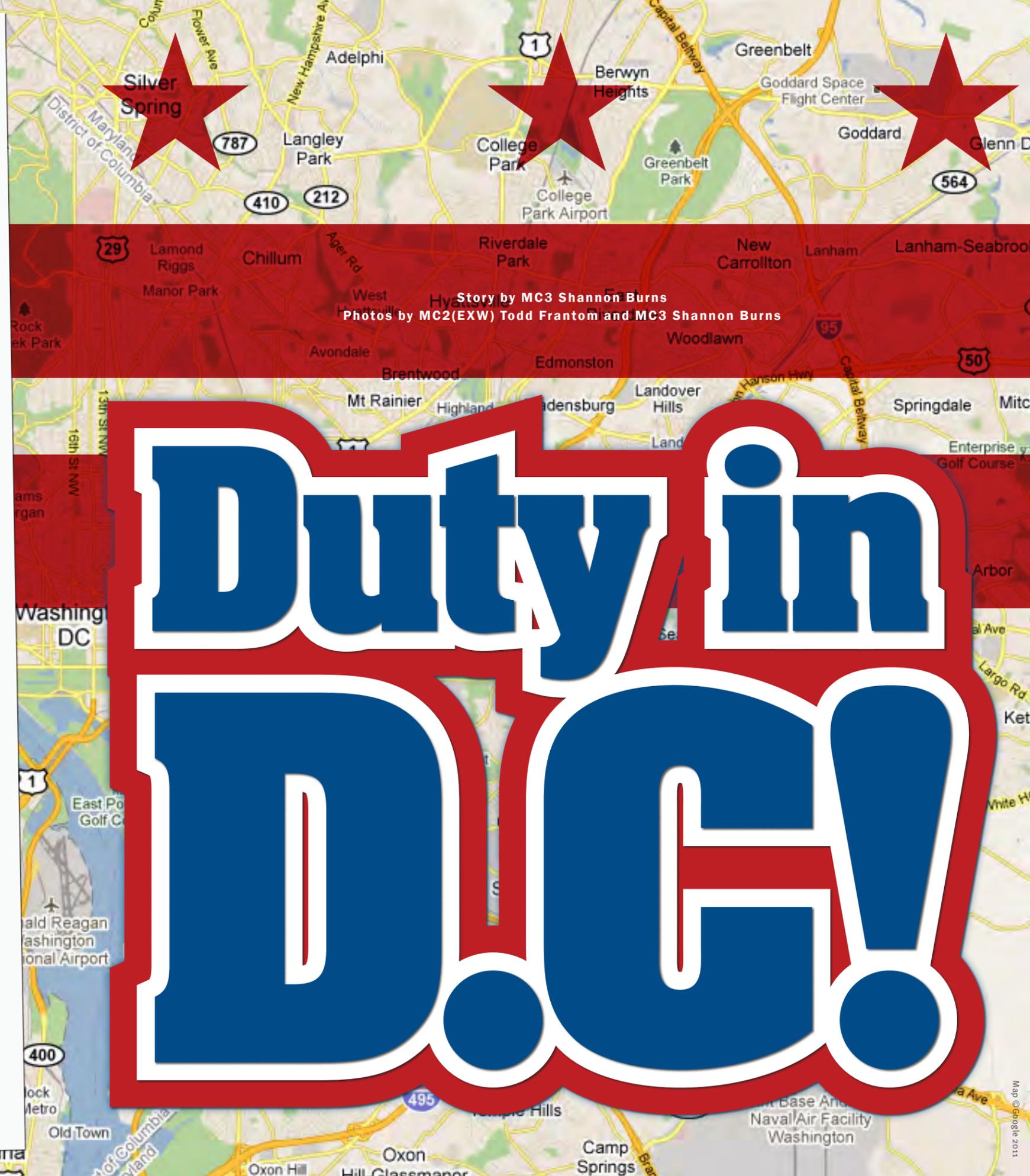
Story courtesy of Naval Air Systems Command, F-35 Integrated Test Force Public Affairs, Patuxent River, Md.

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The White House



Ben's Chili Bowl

On a trip to Washington D.C., one can see towering monuments, memorials and museums all documenting the history of a nation. Hidden amongst these well-known tourist attractions is a city filled with diversity thriving with a mixture of cultures that give the city a heartbeat of its own.

Sailors who receive orders to the nation's capital have access to an assortment of activities with the potential for new experiences; from politics on Capitol Hill to curiosity shops and stands at Eastern Market. The fast-paced, yet at-ease, life in Washington D.C. contributes to its beauty.

"There is such a diverse mixture of cultures that, whatever venue you're looking for, you can definitely find in this city," said Lt. Elijah Black, who has been stationed at the United States Naval Observatory in D.C. for more than two years. "Whatever you want to pursue, whether it be hearing live music, hearing live poetry, [or] going to a jazz spot, [Washington D.C.] provides all avenues."

In addition to the abundance of leisure activities open to service members, the opportunity to advance on the professional level is also available. There are many prestigious collegiate institutions located in the district including American University and Howard University.

"Washington, D.C., is rich in opportunities for Sailors to take advantage of continuing their education either through a distance learning program or any of the many local colleges and universities," said Dr. Mary Redd-Clary, director of Voluntary Education at the Center for Personal and Professional Development. "Sailors can obtain information on rating-related degrees offered by various academic institutions and apply for tuition assistance through WebTA on the Navy College Program website."

Education counseling services are available at National Naval Medical Center's Navy College Office for Sailors assigned to D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia, and also through the Virtual Education Center at VEC@navy.mil, she said.

Not far from D.C., in Maryland are universities like the University of Maryland University College, one of many that cater to the military community offering online courses to help manage time.

Split into four quadrants, Northeast (NE), Northwest (NW), Southeast (SE) and Southwest (SW), the authenticity of each quadrant ensures Sailors will experience a variety of leisure activities.

The NW quadrant has many restaurants, salons, and boutiques. One such restaurant is Ben's Chili Bowl (BCB) located on historical U Street. Since 1958, BCB has been a fixture in the community and has withstood the test of time. Ben's has become so well known that customers come from near and far for their food, including President Barack Obama and comedian Bill Cosby.

"They have really great food at Ben's Chili Bowl," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Mario Reese, a medical lab technician at the Washington Navy Yard Branch Health Clinic. "It reminds me of those places you see on Diners, Drive-ins and Dives on the Food Network Channel; it always stays packed."

In another well-known area of D.C. called Georgetown, home of the "Hoyas" of Georgetown University, is a little place called Georgetown Cupcakes, which has its own show on TLC, called DC Cupcakes. Georgetown Cupcakes has more than 20 types of cupcakes including special order and seasonal cupcakes. On a normal day, lines stretch halfway down the block, as patrons have waited as long as 30 minutes for a taste of the popular cupcakes.

"The cupcakes [at Georgetown Cupcakes] looked really good, and they tasted the same," said Information Systems Technician Seaman William



Georgetown Cupcake

Photo by Robb Genesic

Map © Google 2011



Eastern Market



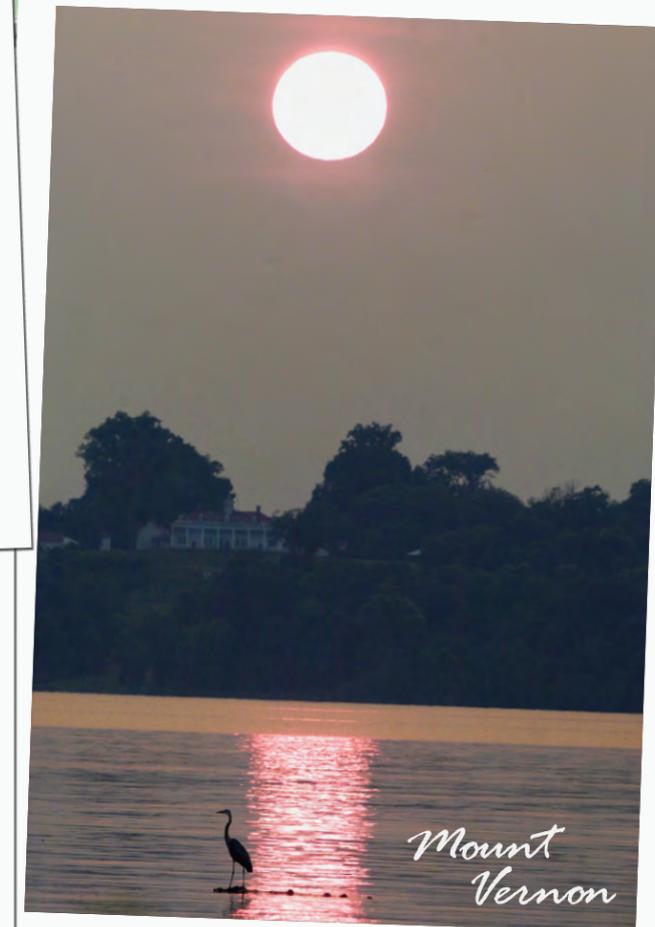
Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Smithsonian Museum



*The Tidal Basin
Cherry Blossoms*



*Mount
Vernon*



The Awakening

For sports lovers, Nationals Park, home of the Washington Nationals baseball team can be found in

the SE quadrant of the city. Franchy, currently assigned to the Ceremonial Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. "They are located on the Georgetown shopping strip in a great location."

Originally built in 1892, an old Victorian-style house was converted in 1980 into, what is now known as, "the Mansion on O Street." The mansion is a bed and breakfast, rock-and-roll museum, and private club. The famous civil rights figure Rosa Parks once called the mansion home. The mansion, which offers tours of its more than 100 rooms and 32 secret doors, has also hosted famous musicians as guests.

"I've run into Cat Stevens, [groundhog] Punxsutawney Phil, Emmylou Harris, and [American Alternative rock band] Wilco," said Lt. Cmdr. Joe Goldsberry, a resident at the mansion. "I live behind a spice rack [a hidden door]. It's hard to imagine if you haven't been there."

The NE quadrant is home to Union Station. The station first opened in 1907 as a train station and has remained a known fixture ever since. Union Station began to deteriorate over time, so Congress enacted the Union Station Redevelopment Act of 1981 preserving it as a national treasure. The official groundbreaking took place in 1986. The restoration took two years and the station was officially reopened in 1988.

Inside Union Station are more than 100 shops including clothing and specialty stores, restaurants and ice cream shops.

"Union Station is the most modern train station I've ever been to," said Yeoman 3rd Class (SW) Edgar Ruffin, a Baltimore native currently assigned to Defense Media Activity-Ft. Meade. "With the diverse number of shops and restaurants there, it's less like a train station and more like a mall with a train running through it."

"The sporting events are great here," said Black. "I [recently] went to my first Nationals game. I came away thinking that the Phillies fan base was well represented here. The fans were probably about 70-percent Phillies fans. It's just a big melting pot here."

Also in SE is Eastern Market, D.C.'s oldest continually operated, fresh-food markets. Booths featuring everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to art, clothing and jewelry can be found among the merchants in the market.

"The produce at Eastern Market is so fresh that I get most of my fruits and vegetables there," said Polly Carran, a Navy spouse in the D.C. area. "There are so many interesting vendors there ... you'll always find something original at a great bargain."

Not far from the market is the Navy's oldest shore installation, the Washington Navy Yard. The yard, opened in 1799, is part of Naval District Washington (NDW) and is known as the "Quarterdeck of the Navy." The yard has been designated as a national historical landmark by the National Park Service; on it, resides the Navy Museum.

"Being at the Navy Yard is pretty cool because you can see the history in the buildings," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SW/FMF) Carlos Benavides, a lab technician at the Washington Navy Yard clinic. "You don't realize until you get here how old the base is. All the stuff you see in books is here, and you can see it with your own eyes. Seeing it brings it to life and gives it a deeper meaning."

Between the NW and SW quadrants lies National Mall. Along the mall Sailors can go for a run, play a game of soccer, or visit one of the many museums, monuments and memorials.

"Of all the monuments, my favorite is the Lincoln Memorial," said Black. "It's a large statue of a man, but the Lincoln itself stands for so much. The size of the statue definitely represents the stature of the man."

One of the most visited memorials at the National Mall is the World War II Memorial. It pays tribute to the more than 16 million people who served in the military during the war. Fifty-six stone pillars represent all the states and territories belonging to the United States. It also has a field of stars on the Freedom Wall, which features 4,000 gold stars commemorating more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during the war.

"[Another of] my favorite memorials is the World War II because I have family members who fought in that war," said Black. "Being at that memorial looking through a Sailor's eyes and having friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice, it definitely makes you grasp the fact that these people died for their country."

More than 19 Smithsonian museums align the National Mall; among them is the National Museum of American History, which displays three centuries of the nation's history.

"There are some great historical artifacts such as Old Glory and the statue of [George] Washington, some of which you would only read about in history books," Benavides said of the American History Museum.

Just across the Potomac River from monuments such as the Vietnam Veteran Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial located on the National Mall is Arlington

the most visited sites at Arlington is the, "Tomb of The Unknowns."

Many other attractions are within the confines of the D.C.-metropolitan area. Located in Southern Maryland in Fort Washington is the National Harbor. The harbor, which was officially opened in 2008, is home to numerous shops and restaurants; among them is Ketchup, owned by Ashton Kutcher and Wilmer Valderrama, which offers a menu featuring American "comfort foods" such as hot dogs and hamburgers that are presented in a unique, upscale manner.

Also at the harbor is sculptor J. Seward Johnson Jr.'s famous creation, "The Awakening," which is a 70-foot statue of a giant embedded in the earth, struggling to free himself from the ground. The statue had been on display since 1980 at Hains Point in Washington, D.C., but was moved to the harbor in February 2008.

For Sailors who don't have a car or prefer not to battle the D.C. traffic, getting around the D.C.-area is as easy as jumping on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, better known as the "Metro" train lines. The Metro has five lines: red, green, blue, yellow and orange, which run throughout the four quadrants and nearby regions. For \$9 riders can get a one-day, unlimited ride pass.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation also offers liberty activities at discounted prices. Available activities include whitewater rafting, trips to amusement parks, horseback riding, professional sporting events, weekend trips to New York City, and more. For more information go online and search for your nearest military installation guide. [AH](#)

Burns and Frantom are assigned to Defense Media Activity



**St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital**

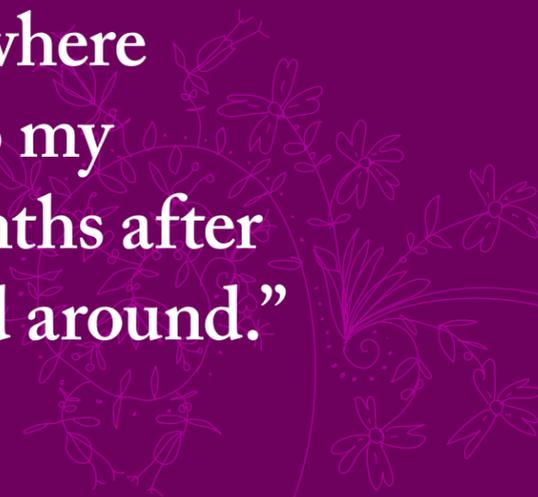
ALSAC • Danny Thomas, Founder
Finding cures. Saving children.



By MC1(AW) LaTunya Howard, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office

When Everything Goes Wrong

“When I needed guidance most, my Navy leadership knew exactly where to direct me. I was fairly new to my command in Japan and six months after reporting, our world got turned around.”





Personnel Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Enrique Ramirez, Enlisted Career Progression, Navy Personnel Command, had recently reported to Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), Atsugi, Japan when on June 29, 2009, his 3-year-old daughter, Arianna, experienced a series of seizures; the worst one lasted 10 minutes.

Ramirez's wife, Leticia, happened to be the substitute teacher for her daughter's daycare class the morning Arianna became ill. Ramirez recounts the call he received from his wife.

"I was at work when it all started," said Ramirez. "Leticia called and said 'Hey, get to Medical, Arianna was having an allergic reaction to something.' I said 'ok,' and stopped what I was doing to walk over. When I walked in, Arianna was already in a room. She was having convulsions, and the doctors were trying to control it."

The doctors did stop the longest seizure for approximately 10 seconds before another one began.

"The seizures left Arianna non-responsive," said Leticia. "The doctors thought she was brain dead. We were overwhelmed."

A computerized axial tomography (CT) scan revealed a mass on Arianna's brain that was later determined to be a rare, high-grade tumor. Atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor (AT/RT) occurs most commonly in children younger than two years old, with only a 10-percent survival rate.

A local Japanese hospital took the CT scan. It was the base medical clinic that made the decision to medically evacuate (medi-vac) the family back state-side on July 5.

"Even as a Personnel Specialist I didn't know how medi-vac worked," said Ramirez. "It was a holiday weekend because it was the Fourth of July. We had no idea what was going to happen. I thought PSD was going to handle my orders. It turns out medical takes care of everything."

The clinic made all necessary arrangements for the family. The flight schedule, hotel reservations and transport from the airport were planned before the family left Japan.

Arianna needed a pediatric neurosurgeon to remove the cancerous mass on her brain. Base medical located a children's hospital in San Antonio, near Ramirez's hometown, for surgery. The facility also provided a doctor to accompany the family for the flight state-side.

"A captain, military doctor flew back with us," said Ramirez. "It was a total medical flight. She sat right next to Arianna. She had medicine just in case Arianna had another seizure. Her sole purpose was to watch after Arianna the whole way. It was so comforting."

"In all honesty I don't remember those days between the diagnosis and the transport back to the States; they were all a blur" said Leticia. "The people at Enrique's work and the doctors on base took care of everything. I don't remember having a full-conversation

with Enrique to figure-out where we were going to go, or what we were going to do. The Navy took care of every detail for us."

"It was crazy how it all fell together," said Ramirez. "When we got there, I reported like I was on duty. When we got to the hospital, I showed up in uniform and they stamped my orders. It was amazing."

Arianna had surgery just five days after arrival. Leticia said the doctors and nurses at the children's hospital were amazing, but this was the first case of AT/RT that they would be treating.

"We did a little research of our own and every article we read was written by the same doctor," said Ramirez. "We wanted better odds; the doctor that did Arianna's surgery gave her a 20 percent chance of living, or 13 months. We asked that Arianna be referred to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. My chain-of-command was extremely supportive. They assisted me in getting a referral to St. Jude and granted me leave to care for our daughter."

"Ramirez's senior chief called the Early Return Section in the Enlisted Distribution Division of Navy Personnel Command and requested that we execute an early return for this Sailor due to his daughter's unique condition," said Master Chief Yeoman (SW/AW) Michael Harris, Career Management Enlisted Distribution Department, former senior enlisted advisor. "Orders were cut for Ramirez and Arianna was temporarily enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program."

When the family arrived to St. Jude, they were met by Arianna's doctor. "This was the same man whose name had appeared on all their research articles," said Ramirez. "Our confidence and comfort level, somewhat, stabilized."

Treatment for Arianna was aggressive and immediate. Her medical team quickly discovered that her cancer had not spread to her nervous system. After a second surgery, four rounds of chemotherapy with stem cell transplants and 31 radiation treatments, Arianna shows no signs of disease.

"I thank God for St. Jude and my Navy family," said Ramirez. "I've always loved the Navy but now I know the Navy loves me. We were able to give Arianna her 'no-more-chemo' party a week before her 4th birthday. In September 2010, we celebrated six months cancer-free."

Leticia invited several of Arianna's friends to her one-year cancer-free party March 31.

"I wanted her party to be fabulously over-the-top," said Leticia. "The theme was based on the children's book 'Fancy Nancy.' We had a dressing station set-up at the entrance where the little girls could select an outfit. We had feather boas, tiaras, rhinestone accessories and zebra print everywhere. When we sang happy birthday to Arianna, she hugged me tightly and said it was the best birthday ever. It was for us too. We are grateful to have her here."

Arianna is five years old now. She has accomplished what, unfortunately, not many children with her rare form of cancer achieve; a fifth birthday.

According to Memphis' St. Jude Children's Hospital website, AT/RT occurs in about 1-to-2 percent of children with brain tumors, with a 10 percent survival rate for children younger than 3 years old. It can be found anywhere in the brain, tends to be aggressive and frequently spreads through the central nervous system.

Arianna is a frequent face on many of St. Jude's informational products, for the National Football League Fox Sunday and the Combined Federal Campaign, a Navy-wide effort with over 2,600 charities that federal workers, military and civilians can choose from for annual giving (www.opm.gov/cfc/). To read more about Arianna Ramirez, visit the St. Jude website at www.stjude.org. **AH**

Howard is assigned to Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs Office, Millington, Tenn.



U.S. Navy EOD1 John C. Richards, Master EOD technician assigned to the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eleven (EODMU-11) gives the range control safety brief April 28th, prior to range training in Namibia.

U.S. Navy, Namibian Forces

Neutralizing Threats

Story by MC2 Timothy Wilson
Photos by Master Sgt. Dawn Price



Master EOD technician, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Justin Berlien (left), Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 (EODMU 11), Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, coordinates radio frequencies with Namibia Defense Force EOD Captain Ferdinard Fillemon during demolition initiation procedures April 27.



U.S. Navy EOD1 John C. Richards, Master EOD technician assigned to the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobil Unit Eleven (EODMU 11), Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, observes as students from the Namibian Defense Forces EOD (NDF) prepare the priming loop on the detonation cord during range demolition training, April 28th.

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians from Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa recently teamed with the Namibian Defense Force and Namibian Explosive Control Unit police officers in Arandis, Namibia, for EOD Level 1 and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) training.

“The purpose of us being here is to show support for their country and to give the understanding of IMAS operations,” said Master EOD Technician 1st Class (EWS) John Richards, a class instructor.

According to Richards, the Level-1 skills learned during this exercise will enable Namibian forces to gain a better understanding of operational risk management (ORM), range safety procedures, unexploded ordnance reconnaissance, blasting calculations, handling of electric and timed-fused firing setups and medical triage.

IMAS was created by the U.S. government in 2001 to handle and dispose of unexploded ordnance in United Nation’s countries to help safeguard local populations. The specifications of IMAS doctrine include the marking of mine and unexploded ordnance hazards.

U.S. Navy EOD technicians began their instruction by sharing their knowledge with seven Namibian Defense Force and police personnel from all regions of the country. In turn, those graduates are now leading more than 20 Namibian students so they may take IMAS knowledge back home.



Namibia Defense Forces Warrant Officer Mashatu Jonas, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, initiates a demolition shot April 28 during the practical application phase of demolition initiation procedures in Namibia.

“We’re striving to bring awareness to those who have not been here before and show them basic demolition skills,” said Richards. “We’re giving them skills to recognize and dispose of the remnants of war and other unexploded ordnance. If they ever come across something, they will know how to deal with it.”

The seven Namibian students who completed the course beforehand were given additional instruction by the Navy to continue their practical applications of this mentorship.

EOD2 (EWS) Barry Despot, also a class instructor, said he was pleased with how well the students retained the information they were taught.

“The students stayed late and worked really hard. They’re eagerly learning the skills we needed to teach them,” said Despot.

Namibian Warrant Officer 2 Migal Kambatuku, a class instructor and police department officer, said she did not know anything about explosive ordnance disposal before the U.S. Navy team visited her country.

“Train the trainer is important because it gives us knowledge to go out and train our col-

leagues,” she said. “The skills we learned here will enable us to train those who were not here.”

“The U.S. Navy, with their knowledge and patience, helped us gain more understanding and comprehension,” Kambatuku said. “It gives us more confidence to even stand in front of a class and teach others. The Navy gives us the power that we never had before,” said Kambatuku. “We will be able to save life and property now.”

EODC (EWS) Justin Berlien, the mission commander, said this training is critical.

“It’s important to continue to build a relationship with Namibia,” he said. “We are here to help ensure their progress and provide education in the EOD field. They are very motivated to be self-sufficient in their education and learning,” he said. “I hope they will continue their advancement to use what they have learned in real-world applications.”

Richards said that he was very impressed with the level of enthusiasm and dedication showed by the members of the military and police department.

“There are star students here and everyone is trying to learn,” he said. “Anytime you get to train others, you in turn learn more. It makes us better technicians. Learning goes both ways.”

Berlien said that the experience has been worthwhile. “They told me that they enjoy us being here,” he said. “They are very professional and [said] that they feel very privileged to have us here to spend the time to assist them.”

The participants of the class received a certificate from U.S. Africa Command stating attendance of the course and proof that they have gained an understanding of IMAS EOD Level-1 procedures.

Kambatuku said she hopes the Navy will come back to her country.

“The next time the Navy comes, I hope they can come with more things that we don’t know,” she said. “But with the knowledge that I have gained from this course, I will be able to assist on any EOD or unexploded ordnance case.” **AH**

Wilson is assigned to Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa

Immediate attention along the Potomac had an average annual erosion rate of 1.5 feet per year, approximately 12,000 cubic yards of sediment per year was entering the surrounding waterways at Naval Support Facility, NSF Indian Head.

NAVY CREATES WAY TO SAVE SHORELINES

Story and photos by MC2(EXW) Todd Frantom

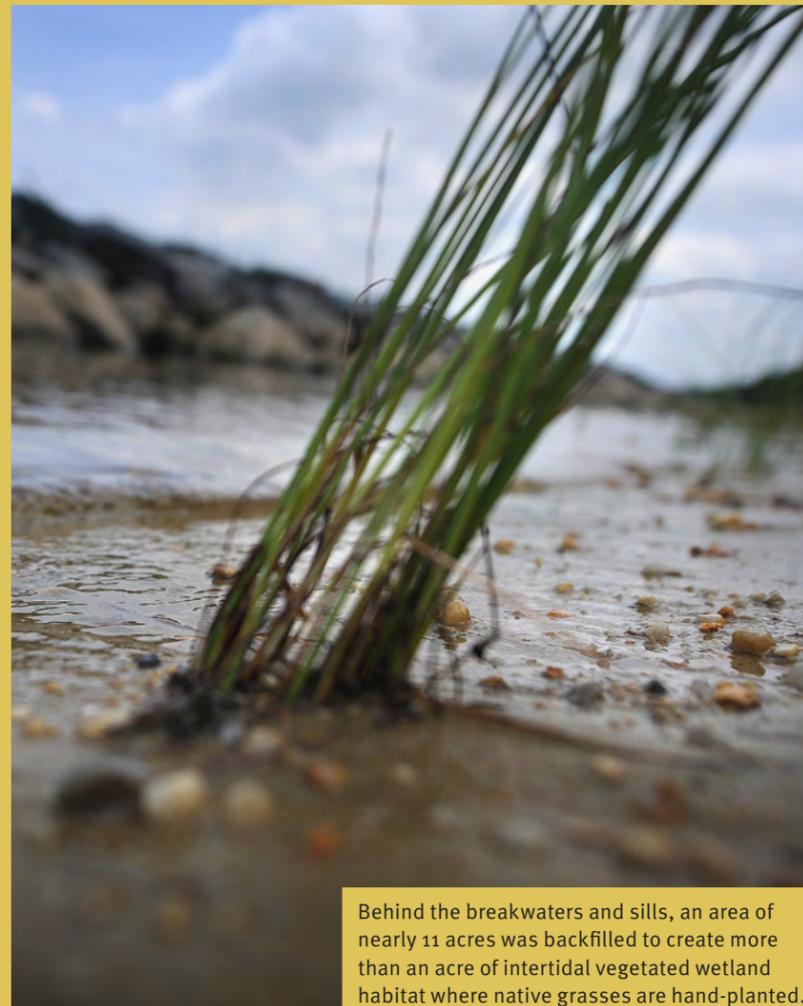
THE WATERWAYS SURROUNDING NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY (NSF) INDIAN HEAD, MD., FACED A DILEMMA. AT THEIR AVERAGE ANNUAL EROSION RATE OF 1.5 FEET PER YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 12,000 CUBIC YARDS OF SEDIMENT PER YEAR WAS ENTERING THE WATERY ENVIRONMENT. NAVY STRUCTURES, BASE SHORELINES AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES WERE IN DANGER OF DISAPPEARING FOREVER. IT WAS TIME TO DEVELOP A SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN.



The Potomac required immediate attention along its shoreline as it had an average annual erosion rate of 1.5 feet per year. Approximately 12,000 cubic yards of sediment per year was entering the surrounding waterways at Naval Support Facility, NSF Indian Head.



Team members gather at NSF Indian Head to talk about the progress of the shoreline stabilization project.



Behind the breakwaters and sills, an area of nearly 11 acres was backfilled to create more than an acre of intertidal vegetated wetland habitat where native grasses are hand-planted.

“In 2002 we surveyed shoreline erosion along the installation’s waterfront,” said Jeffrey Bossart, Installation Environmental Program director. “The plan prioritized areas that needed immediate attention and recommended actions to manage shoreline erosion to protect the existing infrastructure at the base, improve water quality and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.”

SAVING THE SHORELINE

“The Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River are national treasures,” said Donald Schregardus, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (environment). “The shoreline restoration at Indian Head is one of many projects in which DoD is investing to revitalize the bay.”

Schregardus has more than 25 years of service with federal and state environmental protection agencies. He was appointed deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (environment) in November 2001, and as such, reports to the assistant secretary of the Navy (installations and environment).

He is the principal policy advisor on environmental programs, including conservation of natural and cultural resources, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, cleanup of contaminated sites and programs for pollution prevention.

He also represents the Department of the Navy on the DoD Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Board and provides coordination for the DoD Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

Filing for project permits began in 2004 and continued through 2006. Ground was broken on the project in 2007. Schregardus, Baltimore’s National Aquarium, the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, the Charles County Soil Conservation District, the Charles County Master Gardeners and the Maryland Conservation Corps have neared completion of phase three of the four-phase project. Phase three was designed to protect mission critical infrastructure, and to enhance aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats while improving water quality by reducing sediment loading to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Fertilizer pellets are a standard application when replanting the shoreline.

“This project affects the Potomac in a positive way,” said Bossart. “It’s reducing sedimentation in the water column where before there was really no habitat for fish or wildlife to harbor around. We’re bringing in stone beaches so it’s actually providing fish spawning habitats.”

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

According to Robert Summers, deputy secretary, Maryland Department of Environment, projects like these support the Navy’s stewardship of the environment as well protects the Navy’s mission.

“Moving this rock in here and dealing with this situation is quite costly, but it’s an investment in our infrastructure that is absolutely vital,” said Summers. “Without this, the base wouldn’t be here very long and buildings would be lost. Without a clean Chesapeake Bay, we don’t have a basis for our economy in this state.”

“Although the importance of this project is high,” Bossart said, “there were numerous challenges. Some of the challenges we had to face were the long-term planning and funding, while trying to convince several of the agencies on the regulatory side that this is a good thing to do.”

During a recent dignitary and media visit, Natural Resources Program Manager at NSF Indian Head Seth Berry, talked about the progress of the shoreline stabilization project –its history, status and future activities. Guests were given an opportunity to visit restoration sites and received a first hand opportunity to work with volunteers planting trees.



During the project volunteers helped plant a variety of wetland grasses, trees and shrubs, which are native to the Chesapeake Bay.

Donald Schregardus, environmental deputy assistant Secretary of the Navy lends a hand in planting a native hardwood tree.



A river otter enjoys the bounty of fish along the Chesapeake watershed.

Above left—

An American Bullfrog is one of many native amphibians that are being positively affected by the project.



Jeffrey Bossart and Donald Schregardus speak about Shoreline Stabilization project along the Potomac River.

While tromping along in deep sand, between plantings of young, wrapped hard woods, Bossart explained to his audience the challenges that have been met and the situations that continue to be a challenge.

Many dignitaries decided to take part and help the volunteers tearing into the hard clay along the beach while continuing to listen to Bossart, Berry, Schregardus and other subject matter experts who have worked on this project.

“After Hurricane Isabel further made the shoreline erosion on the base worse, the Navy received \$5.2 million in hurricane relief funding,” said Bozzart.

“The money was used to fund the design, permitting and construction of the initial phase of the shoreline stabilization project. And, with the support of the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board and the Charles County Soil Conservation District, work began in November 2007 with the construction of a series of breakwaters and sills along approximately 3,500 feet of the eastern shore of the Potomac River.

“In October 2010, the National Aquarium in Baltimore recruited volunteers from the AmeriCorps, Maryland Conservation Corps, Charles County Master Gardeners, Aquarium Conservation Team, local community and Navy military and civilian personnel to support the planting of trees, shrubs and grasses in the riparian floodplain areas,” said Bossart.

These stabilization efforts have greatly reduced or eliminated impacts of wave action on the shoreline. As a result, approximately 2,900 feet of shoreline will naturally stabilize.

In addition, extensive erosion along a 600-foot section of the stabilized shoreline required bank grading to stabilize the slope and protect two office buildings within 35 feet of the top of the shoreline.

“Behind the breakwaters and sills,” continued Bossart, “an area of nearly 11 acres was backfilled to create more than an acre of inertial



In October 2010, the National Aquarium in Baltimore recruited volunteers from the AmeriCorps, Maryland Conservation Corps, Charles County Master Gardeners, Aquarium Conservation Team, local community and Navy military and civilian personnel to support the planting of trees, shrubs and grasses in the riparian floodplain areas.

vegetated wetland habitat and 9.5 acres of wetland habitat suitable for scrub-shrub, riparian floodplain forest and upland trees and shrubs.

“What we have essentially done is created a standard format for this type of shoreline restoration,” said Bossart.

“Our design has stood the test of time from the initial phases,” he added. “For almost a decade we have shown that the system works, had no failures in structures and through trying small variations in methods, such as testing the hardiest grasses, shrubs and trees enhanced success rate in vegetation.”

Today the Aquarium staff and volunteers continue to plant native wetland plants in the inter-tidal wetland areas and replace damaged or dead trees and shrubs from the fall planting effort.

“This project uses state-of-the-art design to minimize the facility’s impact on the environment,” Schregardus pointed out. “It’s also an example of fiscal stewardship. The Navy has been able to achieve more while reducing its costs through partnerships with the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, and the Charles Soil Conservation District.”

During the project, volunteers helped plant a variety of wetland grasses, trees and shrubs, which are native to the Chesapeake Bay, along the waters edge to help stabilize the area, reduce erosion, protect the existing land and provide a habitat for numerous species of wildlife.

“This project and the shoreline stabilization design that has evolved into what it is today over the last nine years by the Navy has been adopted as the standard practice around the watersheds around the nation,” said Bossart.

In the broadest perspective, the project not only establishes a healthy ecosystem in Chesapeake Bay Watershed it has also given us the know-how, too,” said Schregardus. “This decision changes the way we as a nation, the Navy and society care for the future of our shorelines.” 🌱

STEM 2 Stern:

Story by MC3(SW) Mikelle D. Smith

The Navy Supports STEM initiative

The Navy prides itself on maintaining a high level of technological superiority as part of the world's most capable militaries.

"STEM 2 Stern," an outreach initiative coordinated across the Navy that promotes educational continuation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), is the Department of the Navy's (DoN) method for creating and fostering technological leaders of tomorrow.

Created in 2009, STEM 2 Stern connects and motivates individuals starting at kindergarten through 12th grade and beyond with hands-on experience, familiarity and exposure to various STEM-related fields.

Support for the program comes from many avenues throughout the Navy, including Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

"The need is clear," said Mabus of the STEM 2 Stern program. "Large numbers of naval STEM professionals will be retiring over the next few years, and fewer American students are graduating with the preparation and interest needed to

pursue STEM careers. I am committed to the [Navy's] aggressive leadership role in STEM education."

In FY2010 the Navy invested \$54 million in direct involvement, as well as an additional \$20 million to help fund more than 180 STEM programs. The Navy is also committed to supporting research efforts and grants for students at colleges and universities across the nation totaling another \$180 million.

"These investments are significant, but not sufficient," said Mabus. "As a result, I have committed to doubling the department of the Navy's direct investment in STEM over five years, to more than \$100 million."

To make certain that young people and professionals are receiving quality experiences in STEM, the Navy has developed a roadmap based around five main priorities: inspire, engage, educate, employ and collaborate. These priorities are aimed at increasing participation for student from all walks of life.

Priority One: Inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, parents and teachers. Some may feel STEM is not for them. The Navy aims to include everyone by presenting STEM education and opportunities to all individuals regardless of their current societal standings. The goal is to encourage everyone, especially at a very young age, and encourage participation in future STEM programs.

Priority Two: Engage students and build STEM confidence. The Navy incorporates the help of Navy scientists and engineers who volunteer to provide future STEM professional's hands-on learning experience. These individuals are diverse in nature and share in the commitment to assist young people and promote community understanding of STEM.

Priority Three: Educate students to be prepared for employment in STEM careers. The Navy aims to develop promising STEM professionals with naval-related knowledge and skill sets to provide the workforce. The Navy supports programs that reduce the number of STEM professionals who change career paths, and expand high-performing STEM education programs for entry- and master-level students.

Priority Four: Employ, retain and develop naval STEM professionals. The saying "train your replacement" applies to all individuals who wish to see their work continue on the best possible path. Individuals are encouraged to pass on all knowledge of current and new ways to develop in STEM advances. It's also a priority to ensure future generations understand their impor-

tant role in the acceleration of programs. The Navy wants individuals who harbor a proactive mindset for supporting, developing and encouraging potential STEM professionals.

Priority Five: Collaborate on STEM efforts across Department of the Navy. "Sharing is caring." The Navy seeks to establish the knowledge of all STEM professionals working with DoN by exchanging best practices, common metrics and lessons learned. Making all processes more efficient throughout administrative, program coordination and policy issues will help STEM professionals as a whole. Establishing things like a "one-stop" center, where naval STEM professionals can come together and share information through a portal, recognizes the importance of well-coordinated and centrally-supported STEM efforts.

"The strategic roadmap presents a path forward for the Navy," said Mabus. "This plan provides strategies to address gaps and weaknesses in the current naval STEM portfolio, and includes exciting new programs that will help increase participation by students and teachers."

The Navy's STEM priorities outlined in the STEM 2 Stern strategic approach manual include:

- High-engagement, long-duration, and hands-on learning K-12 programs, particularly at the middle school level.
 - Programs and practices that target under-represented populations.
 - Naval-relevant content as an integral part of programs.
 - Programs that improve student interest, confidence and retention in STEM.
 - Teacher training and development programs.
 - Partnerships with best-practice programs.
 - Programs that transition the Navy's cutting-edge educational technologies into real-world settings for students of all ages.
 - Bridging mechanisms that keep students engaged from early contact through graduation and allow for a continuum of experiences and opportunities.
 - Simple, practical and effective metrics.
- President Barack Obama also supports STEM, stating that it "reaffirms and strength-

ens America's role in the world's engine of scientific discovery."

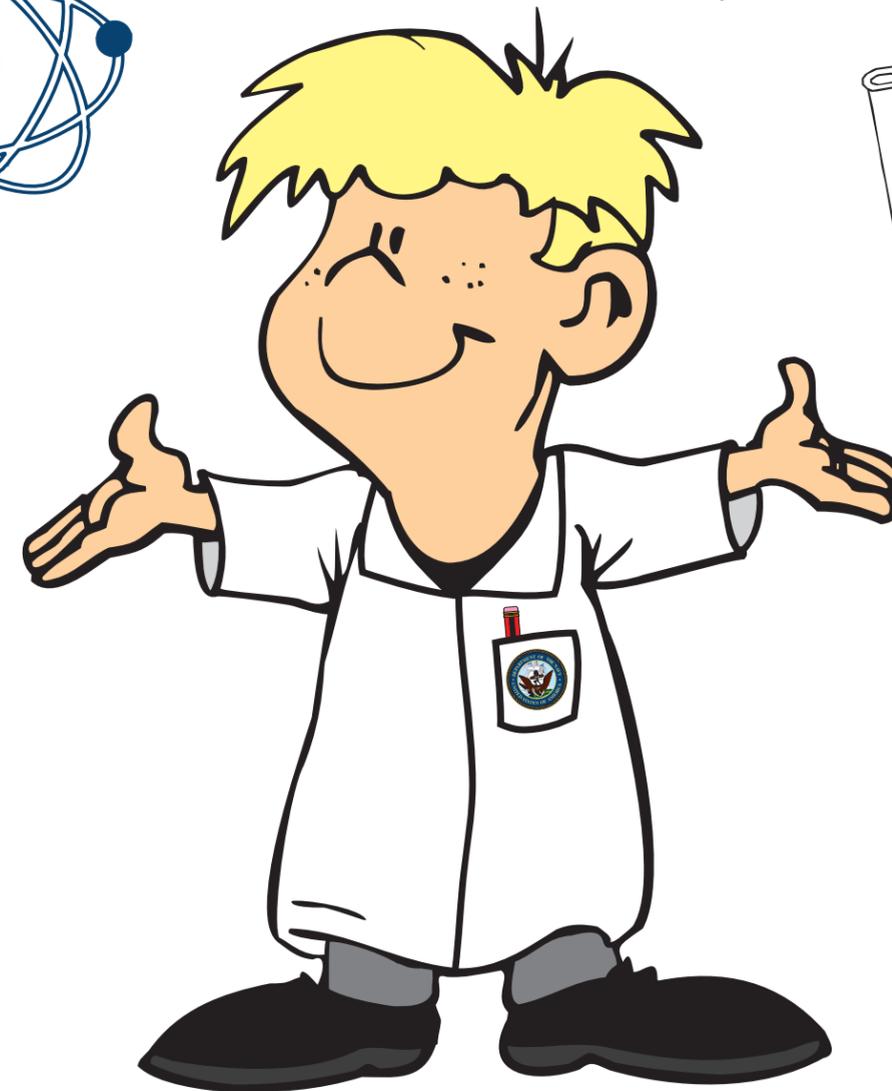
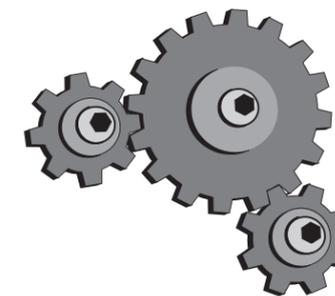
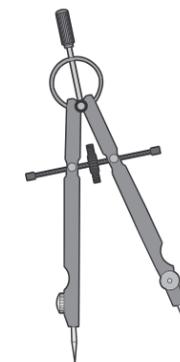
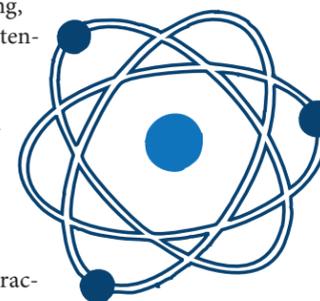
"Technological innovation is essential to meeting the challenges of this century," said President Obama. "That's why I am committed to making the improvement of STEM education over the next decade a national priority."

STEM 2 Stern is overseen by the DoN's Office of Naval Research (ONR), which is integral in providing science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy's technological warfighting dominance. They bring

new technology to different components in naval aviation, ships, submarines and ground vehicles; they also help develop more effective weapons systems.

For further information on STEM 2 Stern, and the Navy's strategic approach to STEM education visit the ONR website at www.onr.navy.mil. **AH**

Smith is assigned to Defense Media Activity.





Navy Officer Saves the Day

Story by Michael M. Miller

A Navy officer commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Atlanta Consortium and a graduate of Georgia State University, was recognized for heroism during a ceremony on the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) campus, June 14.

Ens. Sean Barner, from Stone Mountain, Ga., was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his actions occurring May 3, 2009, when he intervened and stopped two armed assailants during an attempted robbery, and then provided immediate medical assistance by applying tourniquets to one of the gunshot victims.

Family members and coworkers witnessed the award presentation in the O'Keefe building's Joint Forces auditorium at Georgia Tech.

The Atlanta Consortium is made up of schools with NROTC units at Georgia Tech and Morehouse University. Georgia State University is a cross-town affiliate of the Georgia Tech unit.

The incident took place in College Park, Ga., while Barner attended a party with five men and four women. Two masked and armed men entered the apartment while Barner and a friend were outside. Upon returning to the apartment, Barner was met by the two armed robbers who had rounded up the men and women in the living room.

After being robbed of their personal belongings, the six men were ordered to a back bedroom while two women were taken to a second bedroom with one assailant while the other two women were taken to the living room with the other assailant.

In the back bedroom, Barner and the other five men overheard the perpetrator's plan to rape the women and shoot all the victims.

"Knowing that this was not a nice area of town, I brought along a firearm which I left in my book bag," said Barner, who is licensed under the Georgia Weapons Carry laws. "I was lucky that the room I was locked in had my book bag and had not been searched."

Barner escaped the bedroom with his firearm and went to the living room where he fired several shots at one of the armed assailants causing him to flee.

Barner then went to the bedroom where two females were being held by the other assailant. He kicked down the door and entered the room, shooting the assailant and causing him to flee out the window.

That assailant was later found dead near the apartment from gunshot wounds. One of the females was also shot in the ensuing crossfire.

"I'm glad I took my Marine Corps training seriously," said Barner. "I was blessed to have the ability to handle the situation the way I did and prevent anyone else from getting further injured."

In 2009, Barner, then a sophomore at Georgia State, was an active duty Marine, and member of the Atlanta Consortium and the NROTC unit at Georgia Tech. He was attending Georgia State University as part of the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) before switching to the Navy's Seaman to Admiral (STA-21) program.

The Navy and Marine Corps medal is one medal above the Bronze Star. It is considered the highest non-combat medal a Sailor or Marine can be awarded.

Lt. Col. Steve Sims, Atlanta Consortium executive officer, said Barner is a hero.

"I am very proud of Ensign Barner," said Sims. "He is a hard worker, extremely diligent and a huge team player in the unit. It was great that he got to receive the medal with the victims and his family in attendance."

Following the ceremony, Barner's orders directed him to report to his first naval assignment as a surface warfare officer aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS *Makin Island* (LHD 8). AH

Miller is assigned to Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs



Photo by MC2 Michael Russell

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Celina Sweat cleans dental instruments during a dental civic action project site at Nanpei as part of *Pacific Partnership 2011*.

Japan Self Defense Force Medical Staff Supports Pacific Partnership 2011

Medical officers from the Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) provided support at a medical civic action project in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, in support of Pacific Partnership 2011, July 8.

The JSDF joined the mission in Timor-Leste after initially pulling out of the mission due to the scope of recovery efforts following the earthquake and tsunami near Japan in March 2011.

The Japanese government and non-governmental organizations have participated in Pacific Partnership since its first mission in 2006.

“This event is very important for the stability of the Pacific region,” said JSDF Ground Forces Maj. Toshihiro Yamasaki, joint medical plans and operations officer from the Ministry of Defense Joint Staff in Japan. “We believe that our work as a multinational team with a common goal

is valuable, not only for us, the partner nations, but it sends the right message to our hosts as well. We are all one community.”

In the Federated States of Micronesia, the JSDF contingent brought their expertise and support at a point when the Pacific Partnership medical team needed their assistance most.

“The mission here in FSM (the Federated States of Micronesia) is spread out over an area that covers about one million square miles,” said Cmdr. Michael Smith, director of medical operations for Pacific Partnership 2011. “Here in Pohnpei, we have an additional emphasis on subject matter expert exchanges, and quite a bit of our team is operating in the other three states, Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap. While we’re enthusiastic about serving this many people, having the additional support of these consummate professionals couldn’t have come at a better time.”

The JSDF joined the multinational team that includes representatives from Australia, Canada, Malaysia and Spain. New Zealand, France and Indonesia participated in the first half of Pacific Partnership 2011.

The presence of the JSDF contingent serves to highlight the importance of the key dimensions of Pacific Partnership: interoperability, preparation for humanitarian assistance/disaster response crises and sustainable improvements in the quality of life for the citizens of host nations in the Pacific.

“I am truly humbled by the resilience of the Japanese people, who in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake and tsunami, still provided support for this mission,” said Capt. Jesse Wilson, mission commander of Pacific Partnership 2011, and commander, Destroyer Squadron 23. “The lengths the Japanese have gone to support this mission demonstrate its importance in this region.”

The Federated States of Micronesia is the fifth and final mission port for Pacific Partnership 2011, which has completed operations in Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. In four mission ports, the Pacific Partnership team has treated more than 36,000 patients, cared for more than 1,500 animals, conducted more than 40 community service projects and completed more than 20 engineering projects.

Pacific Partnership is an annual humanitarian assistance initiative sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Born out of the aftermath of the 2004 Indonesian tsunami, Pacific Partnership began in 2006 and has gone to many countries in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific, treated more than 240,000 patients and continued to enhance interoperability with partner nations. **AH**

Story MC1 R. David Valdez, Pacific Partnership 2011 Public Affairs

Navy Establishes Program Executive Office for Littoral Combat Ships

The Navy established the Program Executive Office, Littoral Combat Ships (PEO LCS), during a ceremony at Washington Navy Yard, July 11.

“The littoral combat ship is a critical shipbuilding program and demands the very best skill and effort from government and industry teams,” said Asst. Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Sean J. Stackley in a memo establishing the new PEO. “To ensure that we deliver this program to the fleet successfully, I am establishing a new Program Executive Office, Littoral Combat Ships that will align several program offices into one consolidated PEO, focused entirely on achieving that result. This action takes efforts that are currently managed across multiple organizations, and integrates design and development and tests, trials and evaluations under one roof. PEO LCS will have authority across all aspects of the program.”

U.S. Navy photo illustration



A composite photograph of the littoral combat ships USS *Freedom* (LCS 1), top, and USS *Independence* (LCS 2) provided by Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet shows the two ships underway.

Led by Rear Adm. James Murdoch, the new PEO provides a single program executive responsible for acquiring and maintaining the littoral mission capabilities of the LCS class from start to finish, beginning with procurement, and ending with fleet employment and sustainment.

“I am excited by the challenge of leading this historic effort to provide the Navy with new and highly capable warships equipped with extraordinary aviation features, large payload capacities and flexible environments for future missions - all contained within a fast, stable and efficient sea-frame to support the Navy’s needs today and tomorrow,” said Murdoch.

E. Anne Sandel has been named as the executive director.

Acquisition and maintenance of the sea-frame and mission modules were previously overseen by two different PEOs - PEO Ships and PEO Littoral and Mine Warfare (PEO LMW), respectively. With the creation of PEO LCS, PEO LMW has been disestablished and resident LCS program functions have been transitioned to the new PEO. Non-LCS program functions from PEO LMW have been realigned within Naval Sea Systems Command and existing PEOs.

LCS and its mission modules have been developed under a different strategy for shipbuilding using modular capability, minimal manning and new sustainment concepts. That strategy and the unique aspects of LCS lend themselves to a PEO structure that takes into account the complexity of a system-of-systems approach. Realignment to co-locate the shipbuilding and mission modules programs, together with fleet introduction, is designed to optimize program communication and increased programmatic synergy.

The new PEO LCS will include the following Program Offices: LCS (PMS 501), Remote Minehunting System (PMS 403), Unmanned Maritime Systems (PMS 406), LCS Mission Modules (PMS 420), Mine Warfare (PMS 495), and essential fleet introduction program and functional offices, such as test and evaluation and aviation integration.

The LCS is an entirely new breed of U.S. Navy warship. A fast, agile, and networked surface combatant, LCS’s modular, focused-mission design will provide combatant commanders the required warfighting capabilities and operational flexibility to ensure maritime dominance and access for the joint force. LCS will operate with focused-mission packages that deploy manned and unmanned vehicles to execute missions as assigned by combatant commanders.

LCS will also perform special operations forces support, high-speed transit, maritime interdiction operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and anti-terrorism/force protection. While complementing capabilities of the Navy’s larger multi-mission surface combatants, LCS will also be networked to share tactical information with other Navy aircraft, ships, submarines, and joint units. **AH**

*Story courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command
Office of Corporate Communications*

NAVFAC Awards Environmental Services, Technologies Contract

Specialty Center Acquisitions, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SCAN) awarded a maximum amount \$75 million contract June 9, for performance-based Environmental Services and Technologies (ESAT) support for Navy, Marine Corps, and federal government programs at various locations worldwide.

The Contract was awarded to Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio.

This engineering services ordering contract was awarded to satisfy overall operational objectives of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps installations, and other federal organizations. The scope of this contract includes environmental program development and implementation, research, development, testing, and evaluation for innovative environmental technologies and technical consultations.

“The Department of the Navy (DON) manages extensive facilities and lands to support its mission of maintaining, training, and equipping a world-class, combat-ready naval fleet,” said Wanda Holmes, chief of naval operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, director of Environmental Restoration and Operational Range Assessment. “Over the years, releases of hazardous materials have occurred at some of these facilities. The DON is committed to cleaning up these releases in a timely manner that restores environmental quality for present and future generations. DON uses cleanup methods that are effective, cost-efficient, and environmentally sustainable. We constantly seek new and innovative solutions to these often complex environmental problems.”

All work on this contract will be performed worldwide, and is expected to be completed by June 2016. This contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online website, with two proposals received. **AH**

Story courtesy of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, headquartered at Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Navy Photos



Operation Passage to Freedom: the Navy's Involvement in the Evacuation of Vietnam Citizens

Story by MC3(SW) Mikelle D. Smith

Prior to the United States' direct involvement in the Vietnam War, the United States Navy and other allied forces joined together in what is still considered the largest amphibious rescue mission in the history of the Navy; *Operation Passage to Freedom (OPF)*.

Following World War II, Ho Chi Minh, the prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) that proclaimed independence from France in 1945, was surprised by French forces when attempts were made to once again gain control in Indochina by attacking the port city of Haiphong in northern Vietnam. This initial confrontation was the beginning of eight years of conflict between the two militaries, ultimately resulting in the defeat of French-based forces. After the defeat, the French had the choice and opportunity to relocate from the areas they occupied.

The French forces had a short period of time to call on allies to help transport their military forces, as well as Vietnamese civilians to their side. The United States Navy answered their call for help.

Upon hearing that the Navy would help in the transportation of French forces, Ngo Dinh Diem, the Prime Minister of the State of Vietnam (South Vietnam), estimated that no more than 10,000 citizens would desire to be taken to southern Vietnam, past the 17th parallel; however, Diem's calculation was off by hundreds of thousands.

The first Navy vessel to participate in OPF was USS *Menard* (APA 201), a *Haskell*-class attack transport ship that boarded 1,900 Vietnamese refugees traveling over a three-day period of time to the south. The next vessel, USS *Montrose* (APA 212), another *Haskell*-class attack transport ship, carried 2,100 passengers; by the time the two vessels reached their destination in the south more than 130,000 refugees were awaiting pickup.

Diem's underestimation caused the population in the southern capital of Saigon to increase very quickly in a very short amount of time. This caused the government in Saigon to order that no more than 2,500 passengers arrive in the city every day until Sept. 25. The largest recorded transport of more than 5,000 refugees was made by USS *General W. M. Black* (AP 135), on Oct. 29.

The Pacific Fleet concentrated 74 tank landing ships, transports, attack cargo ships, dock landing ships, and other vessels in the South China Sea. The Military Sea Transportation Service made an additional 39 transports in support of the massive relocation effort. These ships were supplied and replenished by the Logistic Support Force, Western Pacific, whose oiler, cargo, provision, repair, salvage, and hospital ships were stationed at the midway point in Danang Bay; Fleet medical units helped calm the troubles of Vietnamese refugees waiting ashore at both ends of the transit route.

By May 20, 1955, the Navy had transported more than 290,000 immigrants and more than 17,000 Vietnamese military personnel. By the 300-day mark all forces had been successfully relocated to the south past, the 17th parallel mark.

OPF was one of many examples of the United States Navy's ability to actively support allies. The successful and rapid completion of the transportation effort of the French and Vietnamese militaries and refugees demonstrated the power and reliability partnerships. **AH**

Smith is assigned to Defense Media Activity



IDC Warriors Contribute to Long-term Stability Through the AFPAK Hands Program

Story by Joe Gradisher



Sailors from the Navy’s Information Dominance Community (IDC) serve on ships, in squadrons and at shore installations; they help ensure operational commanders have access to the information they require when they require it to make critical decisions, and during war information dominance has never been more critical.

IDC personnel have been deployed to Afghanistan serving on the ground to ensure that operational commanders have the information they need. These Sailors work as part of the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands program, a language and cultural immersion initiative established under Adm. Mike Mullen. AFPAK is designed to build trust with the military and local populations and speed up the transitions of responsibilities to Afghani forces. The concept of creating a “cadre of experts” who specialize in understanding in-depth characteristics of particular countries, is based on similar U.S. Navy programs in the 1920s – 1930s that focused on Japan, Germany, and China.

AFPAK Hands are experts in their respective fields such as intelligence, finance, and force protection, they have undergone extensive training to achieve language proficiency in either Dari or Pashto, native languages of these countries. In addition to more intensive pre-deployment preparations, individuals that volunteer for AFPAK Hands also sign on for repeated tours of duty in Afghanistan, as well as assignments to Afghan-related positions between deployments.

One AFPAK Hands participant Capt. Edward Zellem, a naval intelligence officer assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, is an example of that.

“I lead a permanent detachment of seven AFPAK Hands working at the Afghan-led Presidential Information Coordination Center [PICC], a strategic-level senior watch and liaison center,” Zellem said.

The PICCs mission is to receive, evaluate, coordinate, shape and disseminate information that enables informed decision making by the President of Afghanistan and the ISAF commander.

“The PICC briefs the ISAF commander daily via video-teleconference from the palace, and continually reports key security ministries, and ISAF commands seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day,” added Zellem. “We help facilitate unimpeded warfighting at the operational and tactical levels.”

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, AFPAK Hands participant Capt. James Speicher, and information professional assigned to the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan, and Combined Security Transition Command, serves as a senior advisor to the Afghan National Army (ANA) General Staff G-6 (Communications).

“When I assumed duties as a senior advisor, I found it immediately helpful that I had basic conversational knowledge of Dari, and that I had spent several weeks with an Afghan National Army G-6 near the western city of Herat as part of my language immersion,” said Speicher. “This training gave me the ability to quickly build rapport among the G-6 staff.”

According to Speicher there are many challenges with being an Army signal advisor as a Navy Information Professional.

“The biggest challenges are the Afghans are at a significant disadvantage with respect to literacy (Dari and English) and training in advanced information systems technology,” said Speicher. “But, we view our goal of building a professional ANA signal community as a long-term effort; one that exactly matches the long-term focus of the AFPAK Hands program.”

“While my colleagues on their short-term assignments will continue to mentor ANA toward developing professional expertise to manage those networks and assume full responsibility for the associated training, operations and maintenance tasks,” added Speicher. **AH**

Gradisher is assigned to Information Dominance, Washington, D.C.

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