NAVSEA’s Ship Integrity & Performance Group (05P) participated in a successful bio-fuel test aboard a Riverine Command Boat (RCB) Oct. 22 at Naval Station Norfolk.

The demonstration, aboard the 49-foot RCB, included a series of high-speed maneuvers, culminating in the craft reaching a top speed of 44.5 knots, using a blend of 50 percent algae-based and 50 percent NATO F-76 fuel.

NAVSEA’s Ship Integrity & Performance Group (05P), in partnership with the Navy Fuels Cross Functional Team, is leading the test and evaluation of alternative fuels and supports the Secretary of the Navy’s efforts to reduce the fleet’s reliance on fossil fuels onboard naval ships.

“The fuel, a ‘drop in replacement’ to standard shipboard fuel, forms a 50/50 blend of hydro-processed renewable diesel, also known in industry as HR-D,” said Greg Toms, NAVSEA fuels and lubricants technical warrant holder.

HR-D, as opposed to biofuel, has greater storage stability and does not have the limited serviceable life - typically six months - of Fatty Acid Methyl Ester biofuels. A blended hydro-processed renewable diesel fuel ensures that the integrity of the fuel system is maintained.

This exhibition along with other testing will culminate in 2012 with a Green Strike Group of U.S. Navy ships operating locally and by 2016 deploying a Great Green Fleet powered entirely by alternative fuels.

“The Navy is incorporating a systematic approach of evaluating systems, protocols and standard operating procedures. The testing and qualification represents a cost-effective approach for the entire engine inventory,” said Toms.

The next step forward will be land-based testing of the Cummins QSB and Rolls Royce 501K-34 engines, scheduled through the first half of 2011.
NAVSEA Innovations continue to improve Navy

We are leading the charge in innovation, NAVSEA! In a recent Observer column, I told you of our involvement in the Navy’s Task Force Energy and outlined some of the initiatives we are involved in that directly support the Navy’s Energy conservation efforts. Some of these included our use of alternative paint and propeller coats, fuel-efficient stern flaps, and the hybrid-electric drive. The great news is -- we are doing even more!

I told you that we are laying the groundwork for the Navy’s Green Strike Group and that part of our task is to test biofuel on small platforms to prepare us for a full-scale test on a DDG in 2012. On Oct. 8, we conducted a successful underway run of an Experimental Riverine Command Boat (RCB-X) operating on a 50-50 blend of algae-based and traditional petroleum-based fuels. The RCB-X test was extremely successful by the two most important criteria we have - first, that the craft performed beautifully and second, that the operator noticed no difference in the engine's performance when using the alternative fuel. When a system does what you designed it to do and it is recognized by a capable operator in the Fleet as a valuable addition to his arsenal, then that is true validation of our expertise!

Other innovations we have put in the Fleet include the installation of solid state lighting aboard USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)) at a projected savings of $3 million; the combustion trim loop installed aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5) that will save $7 million; the online gas turbine water wash now on USS Preble (DDG 88) expected to reduce maintenance, improve starter life, and reduce fuel consumption by 800 barrels of fuel per year at a total saving of $35 million; and the L-Ship directional stability aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) that we look to save $40 million. And, as much as we’re doing, we are already looking ahead at a full plate of other initiatives and milestones in the next year!

Our intense focus on these innovations is ultimately to reduce fuel consumption, improve efficiency and maintain our combat capability. And, perhaps most important, is our energy innovations that will help minimize operational risks, save time, money and lives! I look to you to continue to be innovators - to find new ways to protect our country and its resources on both the physical and fiscal battlefronts. Thank you for your ingenuity and passion in creating a leaner, yet greener sail for our ships. As always, be safe and let’s KEEP CHARGING, NAVSEA!

VADM McCoy pays visit to CPO mess


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Navy completes Phase III testing of LCS Mine Countermeasure Mission Package

The Navy completed Phase III end-to-end testing of the Littoral Combat Ship mine countermeasure mission package off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Oct. 2, fully assessing unmanned vehicle operations and verifying vehicle speeds, turns, and sensor deployment and retrieval capabilities.

The tests, conducted at the South Florida Open Measurement Facility, were conducted by NSWC Panama City for PEO LMW.

“Phase III is the culmination of the end-to-end testing. It gives us confidence that we will be ready for development testing onboard USS Independence (LCS 2) in 2011,” said Capt. John W. Ailes, PEO LMW’s program manager for LCS Mission Modules.

For testing purposes and due to the operational schedule of the two delivered Littoral Combat Ships, the mission package was embarked aboard the Office of Naval Research vessel Seafighter, which acted as a surrogate for the LCS platform. Using Seafighter, mine countermeasure detachment Sailors were able to operate and test the mission module equipment systems at sea.

The test included full detect-to-engage scenarios, off-board vehicle tactics development, evaluation of tactical operation and maintenance procedures, and evaluation of progress toward meeting key performance parameters.

The LCS Mission Modules Program successfully executed the first two phases of end-to-end testing in September 2008 and September 2009, respectively.

Mission packages consist of mission modules, mission crew detachments, and support vehicles such as helicopters, unmanned mini-submarines, rigid-hull inflatable boats, and unmanned rotary-wing aircraft. Containers for the mission packages house electronics, and, in some cases, the mission crews.

Navy conducts first COBRA system flight test

The Navy successfully conducted the first flight test of the Coastal Battlefield Reconnaissance and Analysis (COBRA) Block I system at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Oct. 13, testing the system’s performance on the Fire Scout vertical take-off unmanned aerial vehicle.

The AN/DVS-1 COBRA system allows the MQ-8B Fire Scout to conduct unmanned aerial reconnaissance in littoral areas, detecting minefields and obstacles to prepare for amphibious assaults. Incrementally developed, the Block I upgrade was designed to specifically address the beach zone and inland areas.

“COBRA will provide valuable minefield, obstacle, and bathymetry information to the warfighter and amphibious task groups, information which is critical to amphibious assault planning,” said Capt. John Hardison, deputy program manager for the LCS Mission Modules.

see COBRA continued on page 4
The newest addition to the DDG 51 class guided-missile destroyer fleet, USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109), sailed away from the building yard in Bath, Maine, Oct. 6.

The “sailaway” marks the ship’s final departure from the construction yard for its homeport or commissioning site. USS Jason Dunham will transit to Newport, R.I., before arriving in Annapolis for the U.S. Naval Academy homecoming.

“We are proud to sailaway the USS Jason Dunham with exceptional certification scores and fewer open trial cards than her predecessors,” said Capt. Pete Lyle, DDG 51 class program manager, PEO Ships. “This milestone is another testament to the program’s successful history of delivering high quality ships to the Fleet within budget.”

The destroyer honors Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham, who sacrificed his life to save two fellow Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2004. President George W. Bush honored Dunham for his actions with the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor. He is the first Marine Medal of Honor recipient for Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first Marine to receive the medal since the Vietnam War.

SEED tutors, mentors needed

NAVSEA is seeking volunteers to provide tutoring and mentorship to the Washington, D.C., School for Educational Evolution and Development (SEED) Public Charter School to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the 21st century workforce.

The six-week tutorial sessions will partner volunteers with SEED students in grades 9-12 for an hour or more between 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or 7 pm – 9 p.m.

Orientation training is required for all volunteers. The next volunteer orientation will be held Nov. 7.

For more information on this and other STEM volunteer opportunities, contact Joe Coleman at (202)781-2867 or Justina Mitchell at (202)781-5246.

PEO Subs bests PEO LMW in Navy 5 Miler

More than 50 people from PEO LMW and PEO Subs competed in the 7th annual Navy 5 Miler at the Pentagon, Sept. 26, in support of DoD’s Leap Into Fall Fitness Challenge and to promote office camaraderie. PEO Subs bested PEO LMW in the competition for the second straight year.

- COBRA

Continued from page 3

manager for Mine Warfare Programs. “Successful completion of these tests is a significant leap forward in delivering this capability.”

The Fire Scout, equipped with COBRA, conducted integration testing and flew for approximately 2 1/2 hours. Several successful tracks were completed in both pre-planned and operator-controlled modes and the systems conducted simulated missions. Take-off and landing went without incident, and the system completed all test scenarios.

With the successful completion of the first COBRA flight on Fire Scout, the system moves closer to delivery and deployment. The COBRA Block I system will enter low-rate initial production under a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase III contract. Under this contract, the first production unit is scheduled for delivery to the fleet in fiscal year 2012.

Don’t forget to fall back!

Sunday, Nov. 7, turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. local daylight time, which becomes 1 a.m. local standard time.
The NAVSEA organizational chart has been updated as of October 2010. Key organizational changes include:

- Surface Ship Life Cycle Maintenance Activity is now Surface Maintenance Engineering
- SEA 04Y is now Commander, Navy Regional Maintenance Center

NSWC Indian Head engineer receives award for developing lightweight multi-use shipping container

The Federal Laboratory Consortium presented an Excellence in Technology Transfer award to Mark Heinrichs, an NSWC Indian Head mechanical engineer, Oct. 7 in Richmond, Va., for his work in the development of a lightweight container for the transport of supplies.

Presented at the 2010 Federal Laboratory Consortium Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, the award recognizes Heinrichs’ work developing a lightweight version of the Joint Modular Intermodal Container (JMIC) specifically designed to secure, store and deliver up to 1,500 pounds of supplies which can be used for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

Heinrichs, who works at the Naval Packaging, Handling, Storage and Transportation Center, in Earle, N.J., established a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with NextGen Containers of Birmingham, Ala., to help create the lightweight JMIC for the Marine Corps, but the system may be able to be marketed for private humanitarian relief use, as well.

“Hopefully the work we’re doing in [Defense Department] can be enjoyed by the private sector,” said Heinrichs upon receiving the award.

While the lightweight JMIC containers are designed to store and deliver supplies for military missions, they can also be used during disaster relief missions and other potential activities to transport humanitarian aid. The Navy and NextGen hope to focus on civilian medical uses for the lightweight JMIC to help rapidly deploy medical supplies and equipment during emergencies.

Organized in 1974, the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer is the nationwide network of federal laboratories that provides the forum to develop strategies and opportunities for linking laboratory mission technologies and expertise with the marketplace.

Call for award nominations

National Defense Industry Association (NDIA)
Tester of the Year
Deadline: Nov. 17

NDIA is accepting nominations for the NDIA Tester of the Year award, recognizing outstanding work in the field of test and evaluation in the categories of military, civilian and contractor. The awards will be presented at the annual Test & Evaluation National Conference Event, March 14-17, 2011 in Tampa, Fla.

For questions, contact Mike Overby at Mike.Overby@navy.mil at 202-781-0779, or Anu Katiyar at anurag.katiyar@navy.mil or (202)781-5205.

CNO Environmental Awards
Deadline: Dec. 13

The Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards is accepting nominations to recognize exceptional environmental stewardship. Up to three winners will be named for each of the 11 award categories:

- Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation
- Cultural Resources Management, Installation
- Cultural Resources Management, Individual or Team
- Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation
- Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation
- Sustainability, Non-industrial Installation
- Sustainability, Individual or Team
- Environmental Restoration, Installation
- Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition Small Program, Individual or Team
- Environmental Planning, Team
- Environmental Quality, Small Ship

For more information on the award guidelines, visit https://inavsea.nmci.navy.mil/hq/04/04R/04RE/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

For questions, contact Vickie Writt at vickie.writt@navy.mil.
With the upcoming elections, NAVSEA’s ethics counselors remind government employees of some of the Do’s and Don’ts with respect to political campaigns. Members of the military should consult Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 for guidelines. For more information, contact Nanette Oppenheimer at (202)781-3093 or Dale Birdoff at (202)781-3030.

Federal Civilian Employees (Non-SES) may:
• be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
• register and vote as they choose
• assist in voter registration drives
• express opinions about candidates and issues
• contribute money to political organizations
• attend political fundraising functions
• attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
• join and be an active member of a political party or club
• sign nominating petitions
• campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances
• campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections

The do’s and don’ts during this election season
• make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
• distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
• hold office in political clubs or parties
• participate in campaigns where none of the candidates represent a political party
• contribute money to political organizations or attend political fund raising functions
• attend political rallies and meetings
• join political clubs or parties
• sign nominating petitions
• campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances

Federal Civilian Employees (Non-SES) may not:
• use official authority or influence to interfere with an election
• solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency
• solicit or receive political contributions (may be done in certain limited situations by federal labor or other employee organizations)
• be candidates for public office in partisan elections
• engage in political activity while:
  - on duty
  - in a government office
  - wearing an official uniform
  - using a government vehicle
  - wear partisan political buttons on duty

Additional guidelines for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES)
Members of the SES may:
• register and vote as they choose
• assist in voter registration drives
• express opinions about candidates and issues

Members of the SES may not:
• be candidates for public office in partisan elections
• campaign for or against a candidate or slate of candidates in partisan elections
• make campaign speeches
• collect contributions or sell tickets to political fund raising functions
• distribute campaign material in partisan elections
• organize or manage political rallies or meetings
• hold office in political clubs or parties
• circulate nominating petitions
• work to register voters for one party only
• wear political buttons at work
DIVERSITY

NAVSEA supplies custom career training to Wounded Warriors

Three months after its launch, 20 Wounded Warriors are pursuing careers in the naval acquisition field through NAVSEA's contracting career pipeline.

The contracting career pipeline, developed by NAVSEA's Contracts Directorate, is a prescriptive plan of college classes and on-the-job training for Wounded Warriors to achieve certification in the acquisition field, as well as job placement as a Navy civilian employee.

“The contracting career pipeline benefits both NAVSEA and Wounded Warriors,” said Cindy Shaver, director, Undersea Systems Contracts Division. “Wounded Warriors get the education and training they need for a new career, while allowing the Navy to grow its contract workforce. It’s a win-win situation.”

Working with Veterans Individual Training Assistance Link (VITAL) and Defense Acquisition University (DAU), Wounded Warriors in the contracting career pipeline begin a customized individual development program toward a specific career while recuperating in the hospital. NAVSEA subject matter experts serve as academic tutors, working with Wounded Warriors to complete DAU coursework.

SEA02 contracting officers and contracting specialists volunteer at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., where they spend two hours after work each week, reviewing DAU coursework with Wounded Warriors.

“Taking an online course about contracts and applying that knowledge are different,” said Tia Belton, NAVSEA contracting officer and Wounded Warrior tutor. “With the personal tutoring sessions, we supplement classroom training with real-world examples and our own work experiences. Since each tutor works on different types of contracts, we offer different insights to the contracting world, which benefits the Wounded Warrior’s educational experience.”

Plans are already in place to bring an “Intern Contracting Boot Camp” to the Wounded Warriors to enhance their training even further. The all-day, two-week course includes both instruction and practical exercises.

“We use our boot camp to train contracting interns, so we’re working to bring that same training to the Wounded Warriors,” Shaver said. “Our goal is to ensure they have all the support they need to proceed through this career pipeline successfully. It’s just another step in supporting NAVSEA’s goal of being the leader in Wounded Warrior hiring.”

The contracting career pipeline is available to Wounded Warriors at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.; Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.; Naval Medical Center, San Diego; and Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The contracting career pipeline is the second launched by the Navy and includes the career fields of contract specialist, procurement analyst, purchasing agent and procurement technician.

NAVSEA is currently developing several career pipelines for shipyard tradesmen.

Interim Performance Management System

Navy implements new performance guidelines

The Department of the Navy (DON) has developed the Interim Performance Management System. NSPS Performance Management rules and regulations will continue to apply to NAVSEA HQ/PEOs and Aegis BMD employees until Feb. 12, 2011. Once NSPS employees transition to GS on Feb. 13, 2011, the DON performance guidance apply.

To avoid the administrative burden of establishing and documenting objectives twice during the appraisal period, the following guidance is provided to establish and document FY11 job objectives:

• Employees and supervisors shall establish job objectives by Nov. 30, 2010
• The Performance Appraisal Application (PAA) tool will not be utilized for the FY11 performance rating cycle. Job objectives should be documented on the DON Interim Performance Management System Appraisal Form.
• Job objectives should not include a contributing factor or be weighted.

As additional guidance, procedures and training are developed and deployed for NAVSEA implementation of the DON Interim Performance Management System, established NSPS objectives may require modification to meet the criteria of the new performance system.

For more information about the DON Interim Performance Management System and to access the Performance Appraisal Form, visit https://inavsea.nmci.navy.mil/hq/10/10t/NSPS/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?Root.

For questions, e-mail the NAVSEA Transition mailbox at NSSC_NAVSEA_NSPS_Transition@navy.mil.
The Combined Federal Campaign raises millions for global health, human services

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than $66.5 million raised last year. Pledges made by federal, civilian, postal and U.S. military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1 to Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world, from assisting poor urban youth in our inner cities to providing humanitarian relief to earthquake victims in Haiti. More than 4,000 approved non-profit organizations will participate this year.

The CFC National Capital Area (NCA) campaign is efficient. Less than 8 percent of the funds raised are spent on campaign expenses, such as printing materials, training volunteers, and auditing contributions. By combining donations, administration costs are cut and the value of each pledge is maximized. Additionally, the online tools help reduce the administrative costs and increase efficiencies even more. It is a wonderful way to make a positive difference in other people’s lives.

Contributions made through CFC are tax deductible and participation is voluntary. Those who wish to participate can do so through payroll deduction, one-time donation or via e-giving on the CFC website. CFC volunteers will be individually contacting employees throughout the campaign. Even a small, bi-weekly payroll deduction can make a big difference.

CFC recognizes those who give at least 1 percent of their salaries with an Eagle Award, and those who give a least 2 percent receive a Double Eagle Award. When a donor pledges at these levels, they receive a special lapel pin to honor their commitment.

The 2010 CFC Campaign’s theme is, “The compassion of individuals; power of community,” and demonstrates how individuals can band together to impact communities around the country and across the globe.

To take part in this year’s campaign and find information on charities, including their charity codes, web links and overhead costs, visit the CFC National Capital Area’s website at http://www.cfcnca.org.

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Sign up for PEO IWS CFC Chili Cook-off

Tuesday, Nov. 9
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Building 197, 2nd Floor Atrium

- Open to all within NAVSEA
- 10 entrants chosen on a first come basis
- Entrants have the option to sell their recipe for charity

Winning chili entrant will receive a $50 American Express Gift Card and a trophy.

To participate, contact Kines Lenhart at kines.lenhart1@navy.mil by Nov. 5.

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Upcoming CFC fundraisers

PEO IWS Pancake Breakfast
Nov. 2, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Bldg. 197, 2nd Floor Atrium

SEA04 Ice Cream Social
Nov. 4, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Bldg. 197, room 4W-1001

SEA01 Bake Sale
Nov. 10, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Bldg. 197, 1st Floor Atrium

NAVSEA Headquarters has raised 9% of its $1 million goal. The CFC season ends Dec. 15.
Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance Program receives changes

The Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program has put revised regulations into effect, with several key changes:

60 Day Election Time Frame

The time frame for making an initial election of Optional insurance has expanded from 31 calendar days to 60 calendar days after the employee becomes eligible for FEGLI coverage.

The time frame for electing coverage and providing satisfactory medical information is also changed from 31 calendar days to 60 calendar days after approval by the Office of Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance (OFEGGLI).

FEGLI Life Events

The new regulations allow an employee who experiences a FEGLI qualifying life event 60 days to elect Basic, plus any or all Optional insurance - Option A, Option B (up to the maximum of 5 multiples with no restrictions), and Option C. FEGLI qualifying life events include marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, and birth or adoption of children.

FEGLI Coverage for 24 months for Federal Employees Called to Active Duty

The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, enacted January 28, 2008, authorizes the continuation of FEGLI coverage for an additional 12 months for federal employees called to active duty whose coverage terminated after the law’s enactment.

The law allows employees who enter on active duty or active duty for training in one of the uniformed services for more than 30 days to continue their FEGLI for up to 24 months. FEGLI coverage is free for the first 12 months. However, employees must pay both the employee and agency share of the premiums for their Basic coverage, and also pay the entire cost for any Optional insurance they may have for the additional 12 months of coverage.

Power of Attorney

The new regulations now allow an individual having power of attorney to apply for a living benefit on behalf of the insured individual.

For more information, visit http://www.opm.gov/insure/life.

Open season scheduled for federal health benefits

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that this year’s open season for health benefits, dental and vision insurance, and Flexible Spending Accounts will run from Nov. 8 through Dec. 13, 2010. This open season will give federal employees and retirees the opportunity to change their health-care coverage and employees who are not enrolled, but are eligible to participate, the opportunity to elect coverage.

In January 2011, there will be 207 health plan options in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. Premiums for the 2011 FEHB Program will rise by an average 7.2 percent for the enrollee share of premiums. Enrollees with self-only coverage will pay, on average, $5.53 more each pay period and enrollees with family coverage will pay $11.45 more per pay period.

To enroll or make changes to health, dental and vision plans, and Flexible Spending Accounts, visit the Department of the Navy Civilian Human Resources website at http://www.public.navy.mil/donhr/Benefits/Pages/BenefitsOpenSeason.aspx.

Transit benefit limit set to expire

In February 2009, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act temporarily raised the transit benefit statutory limit to $230. This new amount will expire Dec. 31, 2010. Unless a new statutory limit is approved prior to the first 2011 distribution date, the effective statutory limit will revert back to $120 starting January 1, 2011.

For more information on this program, visit http://www.whs.mil/DFD/Info/FAQstatutorylimit.cfm.

For questions, contact transitpass@whs.mil or call (571)256-0962.

Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) fair

The Labor and Employee Relations Office will sponsor a FEHB Fair for Open Season Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Washington Navy Yard, Building 197, 2nd Floor Atrium. Speak to health care plan representatives to get information on various insurance plans, benefit options and costs for 2011.

For questions, please contact Lisa Strohecker at (202) 781-2890 or by e-mail lisa.strohecker@navy.mil.