



NSWC IHD's Ribbon Cutting
 Declares Agile Chemical Facility
 Open for Business
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Congratulations
 2022 Graduates!

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Volume 5, Issue 6 • June 27, 2022

THE LOOP

INDIAN HEAD



2022

GRADUATES

EDITION

FLY FARTHER • HIT HARDER • SAVE LIVES

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The Loop is a monthly electronic newsletter focused on communicating major initiatives and milestones across NSWC IHD. Although some of the content is publicly releasable, The Loop is not intended for distribution outside of the DoD. Contact The Loop editor at: NSWC_IHEODTD_pai.fct@navy.mil for questions or submissions.



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Frequently Used Acronyms

- CAD/PAD – Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Device
- D – Explosive Ordnance Disposal Department
- DoD – Department of Defense
- DON – Department of Navy
- E – Systems Engineering Department
- EOD – explosive ordnance disposal
- G – Systems Integration Department
- NAVSEA – Naval Sea Systems Command
- NSWC IHD – Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division
- M – Energetics Manufacturing Department
- R – Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Department

On the Cover

We are honored and proud to share the successes of the command’s graduates in this fourth annual Graduate Edition. Please join NSWC IHD in honoring their accomplishments and wishing the very best to each of these scholars! Enjoy learning more about a few of the graduates in our spotlights and see all this year’s graduates on page [12](#).

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Last month I had the pleasure and privilege to provide the command brief and administer the oath of office to new NSWC IHD employees during their indoctrination. It was 38 years ago this month that, like them, I was attending my new employee indoctrination and wondering what my work future would hold. I hope their careers and experiences at Indian Head are as great for them as Indian Head has been to me.

During my career at the command, I have been fortunate to be surrounded by talented employees, co-workers, peers, mentors, bosses and leaders at every phase. I watched, listened, studied and learned from so many talented individuals at all levels in technical, administrative, wage-grade and managerial fields. I attempted to emulate the best leadership qualities from all of them and never hesitated to take on a challenge with a highly capable team. I hope many of you do the same or continue to do the same throughout your careers. It is my hope that in the future, others may look back on my time here at the command and be able to say that I have made the same kind of impact on them.

As I bid a fond farewell to the command when I retire this month, I have been thinking about my own indoctrination 38 years ago. I would have never imagined that I would have the honor to serve under three technical directors and six commanding officers who entrusted me with NSWC IHD's greatest asset — its people. I have been privileged to lead two



Chief of Staff Darren Krivitsky

(U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor)

organizations — Corporate Operations and Energetics Manufacturing — both of which are so vital to Indian Head's mission. I am humbled and grateful.

I will miss my Indian Head family and the daily interactions with so many of you. I look forward to hearing about impressive accomplishments and the inspiring achievements that I know will be a part of this command's future. NSWC IHD has a long and storied history of supporting this nation's warfighters and will continue to be a vital asset in the years to come.



A Note From the Wheelhouse

Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Correll and Technical Director Ashley Johnson



Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Correll
(U.S. Navy photo by Matt Poynor)



Technical Director Ashley Johnson
(U.S. Navy photo by Matt Poynor)

Class of 2022, it is an absolute honor to recognize and congratulate you on your hard work and outstanding academic achievement. Graduating is a huge milestone, and the fact that you persevered through many challenges to get here today is something of which you should be truly proud. Whether your graduation is a steppingstone to your next academic adventure or a final academic milestone to carry you onward, you made it with clear conviction.

You might hear sentiments like “keep your dreams in sight,” “keep reaching for the stars” and “dream big,” but we also encourage you to do more than just dream; we want to see you achieve and surpass your dreams. Dreams and aspirations are vital to be your North Star towards which you can navigate, but accomplishing these goals and reaching a destination will show a great deal of success. Remember to continue to move forward, even if you are uncertain of where those steps are taking you. Stay open to the future, seize opportunities and try new things. So many of us started out thinking we were on a particular path, but a new road emerged instead. The road to success isn’t always a straight highway to a destination but a continuous, winding journey. A journey that sometimes has speedbumps, U-turns and standstills. That’s okay. No one arrives following the same route,

and success isn’t a simple formula. Success requires us to embrace unfamiliar situations for a new road for the next path to appear. The hardest part is simply to say “yes” to opportunity and continue on that journey.

This command’s talented and inspiring workforce didn’t all arrive at Indian Head knowing how to create novel new explosive formulas and energetic systems or understand the intricacies of EOD. Instead, in that journey of self-discovery and expanding knowledge, employees met their peers and mentors who offered both guidance

and constructive criticism, allowing each person to develop their specific knowledge base and skill set that are so crucial to the command’s success. Life provides you with an ongoing course of study, and in that class, there is no pass or fail, just continuous learning through experience. NSWC IHD’s employees understand that assignment and continue to grow into a workforce that makes us immensely proud and successful.

Today, we encourage you to take these next steps with boldness. Recognize there will be stumbling blocks and some failures will come, but learn from those mistakes and the mistakes of others because it is in those moments that education happens. Most importantly, you should never stop trying to learn. Every experience and every opportunity is a chance to grow and better yourself.

Congratulations on your accomplishments! Whether you are a child, grandchild, significant other or even employed at the command, we are excited to see what the future holds for you — perhaps even a place here at NSWC IHD. We join your family and friends in celebrating your achievements and wish you a tremendous “good luck” moving forward.

NSWC IHD's Ribbon Cutting Declares Agile Chemical Facility Open for Business

NSWC IHD hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil its state-of-the-art Agile Chemical Facility (ACF), June 13. The \$100 million liquid nitrate ester manufacturing facility is a critical capability for the Navy and the Defense Industrial Base Sector.

The ACF consolidates the capabilities of both the legacy Biazzi and Moser nitration facilities — built in the 1950s and 1960s, respectively — into one highly automated complex capable of production-scale manufacturing of six different liquid nitrate esters used in various DoD products. The facility's production will greatly surpass its legacy plant predecessors with a capacity of up to 2,000 pounds of Otto fuel II per hour, which equates to over 1 million pounds per year. Developed by the U.S. Navy in the 1960s, Otto fuel II is a monopropellant used to drive torpedoes and other weapon systems.

“The ACF is an asset to the Navy and DoD. It delivers on all aspects and helps us deliver on the strategic competition,” said Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Washington Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Hawn, who emphasized how the relationship between the DoD, industry and the community played a pivotal role in bringing the facility to life.

The ACF represents a long-term modernization effort and partnership between the Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVFAC, Naval Support Activity South Potomac and industry to upgrade process equipment and facilities. Their combined efforts integrated safety and environmental improvements, such as the ability to monitor and control hazardous operations remotely and a reduction of detonable materials in process.



NSWC IHD Technical Director Ashley Johnson cuts the ribbon to officially declare the command's ACF open for business, June 13. The state-of-the-art ACF was made possible through the work of many DoD, industry and community partners. Pictured from left: NSA South Potomac Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Copeland; NSWC/Naval Undersea Warfare Center Commander Rear Adm. Kevin Byrne; Ashley Johnson; NSWC IHD Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Correll; and NAVFAC Washington Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Hawn.

(U.S. Navy photo by Matt Poynor)

“Our goal is to supply the warfighter with the equipment to win the fight,” said Commander, NSWC/Naval Undersea Warfare Center Rear Adm. Kevin Byrne. “The pointy end of the spear was always produced here at Indian Head. We now take the next great step to make sure our men and women have what they need to outpace our adversaries.”

NSWC IHD Technical Director Ashley Johnson closed out the ceremony by recognizing the unique aspects of the facility and the combined effort it took to reach this occasion.

“Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to utilize facilities such as the one we're in today. We have a host of critical chemicals here and we couldn't do it without the most advanced nitrate facility,” said Johnson. “It gives me great joy to be able to look those of you who made this happen in the eye and say ‘thank you.’ Now, let's use this to defend the nation as it was intended.”

Security Note 22-06: Vacation Travel

What You Need to Know for Foreign Travel



By William Gregor, NSWC IHD security director

You're excited to be heading to that exotic locale for your upcoming vacation, but in order to have a carefree time, it's wise to invest a bit of time before you go to make sure you've covered your bases. You've made sure your passport and visa are up-to-date, checked for health advisories and travel warnings and advisories, registered your trip with the State Department, stocked your wallet with acceptable methods of payment, bought travel insurance and packed appropriately. That's great, but as a government employee, there are some other requirements you must complete before traveling abroad.

All command personnel must report any foreign travel to security personnel. As part of the NSWC IHD Antiterrorism plan, all foreign travel must be reported to the command Antiterrorism Officer (Matt Konschak/Ryan Burns). The form used for reporting is located at: <https://navsea.navy.deps.mil/wc/surinhdc/private/formsOld/Security%20Forms/Foreign%20Travel%20Notification%20Form.pdf>.

Foreign travel increases the risk of foreign intelligence targeting. You can be the target of a foreign intelligence or security service at any time and any place; however, the possibility of becoming the target of foreign intelligence activities is greater when you travel overseas.

The foreign intelligence services have better access to you, and their actions are not restricted within their own country's borders.

Favorite tactics /collection techniques include:

- Bugging hotel rooms or airline cabins.
- Intercepting fax and email transmissions.
- Recording telephone calls/conversations.
- Unauthorized access and downloading, including outright theft of hardware and software.
- Installing malicious software.
- Intruding into or searching hotel rooms, briefcases, luggage, etc.
- Recruiting or substituting flight attendants.

Some commonsense security countermeasures should include:

- Not publicizing travel plans and only sharing your travel information with people who need to know.
- Reviewing pre-travel security briefings.
- Maintaining control of sensitive information, media and equipment. Do not pack these types of articles in checked baggage; carry them with you at all times. Do not leave them unattended in hotel rooms or stored in hotel safes.
- Keeping hotel room doors locked and noting how the room looks when you leave.
- Avoiding sensitive discussions. Public areas are rarely suitable for discussion of sensitive information.
- Not using computer or fax equipment at foreign hotels or business centers for sensitive matters.
- Ignoring or deflecting intrusive or suspect inquiries or conversations about your professional or personal matters.
- Keeping unwanted sensitive material until it can be disposed of securely.

See "Vacation Travel" Page 21

Opportunities Available for Command Employees to Share Feedback

Employees at NSWC IHD have a couple of current opportunities to provide feedback about their work experiences, the organization and leadership via the annual Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) and Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS).

What is FEVS and why is it important?

The FEVS is an annual survey administered by OPM that measures federal government employees' perceptions about their work experiences, organization and leaders. The data is used by NAVSEA and command leadership to determine and share areas where best practices are present that should be shared and to identify priority areas for action or change to support employee productivity and morale. The data is also used to inform the government-wide Best Places to Work in Federal Government rankings, which are publicly available and often reviewed by job seekers before



applying for or accepting an offer of employment in the federal government.

The 2022 FEVS began May 30 and will remain open until July 15. Employees will receive an email from the Office of Personnel Management with a link to the survey. It takes about 20 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential. One exciting change this year is if a department has more than 10 people complete the FEVS, the department will get survey results for that specific department.

So, the FEVS is an excellent opportunity for you to influence change within the command and your department.

For FEVS results and resources visit:

<https://wiki.navsea.navy.mil/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=167288627>

What is the DEOCS and why is it important?

The DEOCS is a confidential, command-requested organization development survey that measures cross-cutting risk and protective factors to help DoD leadership and unit/organization leaders gain an understanding of problematic behaviors in their organization.



The DEOCS program is managed and administered by the Office of People Analytics, a DoD component under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the Defense Human Resources Activity.

The 2022 DEOCS opened on June 13 and runs through July 5.

For 2021 DEOCS results and other related resources, visit:

<https://navsea.navy.deps.mil/wc/surinhdc/private/10E/Pages/Command-Climate-Assessment.aspx>

PDC Reports on Successful Initial Team Building and Corporate Project Progress

By PDC Public Relations committee (Danielle Dozier, Joseph Schutt and Danielle Woodall)

The Professional Development Council (PDC) recently completed initial team building (ITB) training in April. ITBs are typically held at the beginning of the term, as it helps strengthen the PDC team cohesion. However, there were difficulties in scheduling ITB at the beginning of this term.

The PDC rose to the challenge, and completed the leadership retreat in Virginia Beach, Virginia.


During the retreat, they had the opportunity to explore various components of leadership such as leadership styles, employee types, leadership engagement and personal mastery. They also conducted a PDC evaluation based on a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis to identify the



current state of the PDC and potential avenues for growth. The team engaged in breakout sessions to discuss leadership topics more in-depth, enabling them to better understand each other and ways to strengthen the PDC team.

In the last article from PDC, the group shared their two corporate projects for this year’s term. Their first project, “A Better Sense of Us,” is a training course focused

on improving awareness of command resources. This project was chosen because the PDC believes an improved understanding of this information will enable vertical integration by creating a more cohesive workforce. Their second project, “Strategic i-Nation,” is a crowdsourced improvement/innovation program that solicits ideas from anyone in the workforce and is based on a similar program developed at Supervisor of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast.



Witness a co-worker do something exceptional? Observe remarkable commitment, loyalty and enthusiasm?

When the tenets of discipline, esprit de corps, morale, motivation and proficiency are prominent in our organization, there is evidence of effective leadership, and with this strength, we can better achieve our vision and mission.

Nominate individuals or teams up to five for Tenet Recognition here. For groups larger than five email: nswc_iheadtd_pai.fct@navy.mil

THE LOOP
 INDIAN HEAD

Celebrating PRIDE Month: Kalel Almeyda-Blas

Nearly four years ago, Kalel Almeyda-Blas began his career at NSWC IHD. After receiving his master’s degree in computer engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, Almeyda-Blas left his life in Puerto Rico to continue his family’s tradition of service to the nation, but in his own way.

“Most of the men in my family have served and I wanted to serve as well,” Almeyda-Blas said. “My grandpa Reynaldo Almeyda was a Vietnam vet and one my greatest inspirations. He is one of the reasons I decided to focus my career in this field, supporting and proudly representing my island heritage.”

First as a software safety engineer and scientist and now as an electro-static discharge technical agent with the command’s E Department, Almeyda-Blas analyzes software and firmware for multiple weapon systems to ensure their safety for the warfighter. When not analyzing

and testing software, Almeyda-Blas enjoys spending time with his wife, friends and family, and shares his musical talents through singing and playing guitar.



Kalel Almeyda-Blas
(U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor)

Sharing his experience during Pride Month is important to him, just not for the most obvious reasons of celebrating LGBTQ+ rights and the impact these communities have had nationally.

“I was born and raised humbly in Puerto Rico where family, culture and religion play a large role in your life. As a transgender man I had to have thicker skin and fight harder to open a path for myself and for the next generation,” Almeyda-Blas explained. “To me, raising awareness

during LGBTQ Pride Month is important, not to share differences but to demonstrate how hard you work, how good a human being you are, how you treat others and how others can rely on you to have their backs. Being a trans man doesn’t define me, my essence does.”



In Memoriam **Wayne Thomas**

The command joins in heart-felt sympathy at the passing of Wayne Thomas, May 20, 2022. Thomas was an M Department employee his entire career, which spanned nearly four decades. He was well-respected and admired by all that knew him for his vast technical knowledge, caring leadership and ever-helpful spirit. Thomas considered the command his second home and its people his second family, he will be deeply missed.

NSWC IHD Employees Recognized at Command Honorary Awards Ceremony



NSWC IHD Honorary Awards winners gathered to be recognized for their significant contributions to the command on May 17.

(U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor)

NSWC IHD recognized individuals and teams who made significant contributions to the command's mission at the annual Honorary Awards ceremony, May 17 at the College of Southern Maryland's Velocity Center. Command leadership presented 18 Honorary Awards to recognize the significant contributions of more than 100 employees.

Roger M. Smith Team Award: PBXIH-143 team: Timothy Appleby, Thomas Breen, Jock Brewer, Thomas Byerley, David Clark, Dale Cornette, Joseph Craven, Nicholas Falcone, David Fuller, Sean Hancock, Johnnie Hart, Dr. Darlene Galloza Lorenzo, Dr. Anne Haslam, Darryell Johnson, Christina Kasmer, Emily Leitsch, John Luense, William Marks, William McConnell, George McDaniel, Thomas McGrath, Dr. Joseph Olles, Samuel Paras, Erik Saar, Gabrielle Sandy, Stephen Stiles, Garvin Thomas, Melvin Thomas, Dr. Francis Vangessel, John Van Kirk, Daniela Wagus, Mark Williams and Travis Yon

Excellence In Safety Award: Alexis Leaf

Excellence In Systems Engineering Award: Todd Rininger

Excellence In Quality Execution Award: Kelly Maguire

Excellence In Project Management Award: Dr. Jill Phillips and Dr. Alfred Wooten

Internal Customer Service Award: Austin Garruba

Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity And Inclusion Award: Command Culture Working Group: Becky D'Ambrosio, Lisa Griffith, Michelle Hinkle, Johnna Robinson, Shari Thomas, Barbara Wagner and Stuart White

Continuous Process Improvement Award: EOD Publications Sub-Integrated Product Team (IPT) Leads Robert D. Breaux, Robin Breaux, Matthew Lohn and William R. Wilson

Captain H. E. Lackey Award For Community Service: Janine Van Niekerk

Excellence In Business Operations: Eric Arcement

Spirit Of Indian Head Award – Rising Star: Gabrielle Sandy

Spirit Of Indian Head Award – The Emerging Legend: Dr. Demitrios Stamatis

Spirit Of Indian Head Award — The Legend: Gary Williams

A.J. Perk Outstanding Operator/Technician Of The Year: Johnnie Hart and Shane Buzby

Admiral Harold R. Stark Award For Innovation: Research and Prototype for IED Defeat (RAPID) Team: Valja Collingwood, Lee Foltz and Chad Smith

Joe L. Browning Award For Managerial Excellence: Sara Gunderson

Dr. George W. Patterson Award For Outstanding Accomplishment: Terrence Connell

Robert B. Dashiell Award For Excellence: Craig Pilecki

EXU-1's Dr. John McCarthy Honored with University of Virginia's Adelle F. Robertson Award

Expeditionary Exploitation Unit ONE's (EXU-1) Dr. John McCarthy recently received the University of Virginia's (UVA) Adelle F. Robertson Award, which recognizes faculty members who demonstrate excellence in teaching and a commitment to public service. Dr. McCarthy serves as EXU-1's Senior Program Advisor and the Operational Requirements, Resources, and Continuous Improvement Department Head, which provides analysis, advice and continuous improvement consultation to command leadership and management personnel at EXU-1. At UVA, he serves as part-time faculty at their School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS), teaching a variety of graduate level and professional subjects.

"UVA SCPS's devotion to its students and curriculum is unmatched when it comes to quality academic programs centered on the non-traditional, adult learner," said Dr. McCarthy. "The leadership, faculty and staff are the heartbeat of the school, and it is their commitment to excellence that drives success at UVA SCPS."

The Adelle F. Robertson award is the SCPS's highest honor and characterizes the life of Robertson, who served as Dean of the UVA Division of Continuing

Education from 1978-1986. The award criteria centers on three primary areas: teaching, public service or scholarship. In addition to teaching, Dr. McCarthy also develops new curriculum and syllabi, as well as contributes to the development of new academic programs at UVA. Dr. McCarthy wears many hats and provides the same level of service to EXU-1, where he serves as the senior level expert in strategic programming and resource planning for EXU-1's mission and operations, as well as the chair of its Capability Improvement Program.

"I am truly humbled by my selection for the Adelle F. Robertson Award. Being singled out for such an honor is difficult because success for me, regardless of the endeavor, depends on the efforts of so many who are willing to put forth maximum effort to achieve a successful end state," said Dr. McCarthy. "My teaching focus is first and foremost on student learning and success in the classroom and as a mentor/advisor to students beyond a particular program or course of instruction...to be successful, and certainly successful enough to be recognized for an award such as this, everyone and everything involved in the process (students, school staff, the quality of the curriculum etc.) have a huge role to play in that outcome."



2022 Graduate Profile: Elias Eaton



2022 graduate Elias Eaton stands next to the rocket he built on his own, which achieved an altitude of 2,500 ft. in flight.

(Photo courtesy of Elias Eaton)

Elias Eaton — son of E Department System Design Engineer Deran Eaton — knows a thing or two about multitasking. Not only did his senior year at LeTourneau University (LETU) in Longview, Texas, include a full course load but he was also the chief engineer of the Mini Baja College Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) automotive team and a member of LETU’s Senior Design rocket team.

LETU is known to be a hands-on engineering school; a fact that Eaton appreciates.

“I’ve really enjoyed the professors, the students and the community here — they really offer a growing atmosphere,” said Eaton. “The faculty are willing to help to the best of their abilities. You get a lot of involvement from the professors in seeing student success. Whether it be in robotics, artificial intelligence, material science or cryogenics, this is a community that seeks to thrive, and I am glad to be a part of it.”

For example, Eaton had a professor and students go out of their way to advise him on how best to structurally reinforce and prepare a rocket he built

on his own, which achieved an altitude of 2,500 ft. in flight and qualified for a level 2 certification in the Tripoli Rocketry Association mentoring program.

This year, Eaton served as a field tester and fabricator for LETU’s rocket team, Team LUNAR (LETU’s Nexus for Amateur Rocketry). On April 9, the team launched their “DEUT X XIV” rocket successfully among a field of 20 competing college teams, placing fourth overall with an altitude of 9,560 ft. at the Argonia Cup challenge sponsored by the Tripoli Rocketry Association. Team LUNAR was one of only seven teams to meet the competition’s mission objectives.

“For a lot of us, it was our first time being involved in high scale rocketry,” said Eaton. “It was the first time we built our own rocket that successfully performed well and came back home. We achieved what we set out to do, and we know that we could do it again, if not better. We learned a lot from the other teams that came out.”

Eaton also gained great experience in his role as chief engineer for the Mini Baja SAE automotive team. While working with his hands and learning a lot about structures, fabrication and machinery in his sophomore and junior years, he also gained an appreciation for team dynamics by managing and delegating tasks for 30 freshmen. The experience garnered through each role allowed Eaton to better support his team as they prepared for construction of their first design of a four-wheel drive car.

On top of finishing his bachelor’s in mechanical engineering technology, Eaton is in the process of interviewing for a job in aerospace and defense. Luckily, he already comes ready for that challenge after interning with NAVSEA through their Naval Research Enterprise Intern Program at NSWC Dahlgren Division. Now he’s on the hunt for work in field and test engineering. He clearly already has a lot of skills to offer the workforce.

2022 Graduate Profile: Nicole Bowes

With a love of puzzles, a desire to help others and a fortunate opportunity during an internship, self-professed science geek and Explosive Detection Equipment Branch chemist Nicole Bowes discovered her calling. Bowes then found her niche at NSWC IHD seven years ago, where she worked on testing and evaluating explosive detection equipment.

Her journey began while pursuing a double major at West Virginia University in chemistry and forensic science; Bowes was required to participate in an internship and found herself working with the Maryland State Police in the Trace Evidence Unit. She had her first encounter with explosive analysis during a course for the unit's scientists that she sat in on as an intern, and the subject piqued her interest — so much so that Bowes' capstone project for her chemistry major was research on the detection of explosives. She was hooked.

Following university, Bowes took a position in forensics, working for a forensics proficiency test provider; several years later, she saw an advertisement for a position at the command, and the rest is history. She began her Navy career in the Explosive Detection Equipment Branch as a chemist and was recently tapped as a project lead.

“One of the things that I like about what we do is the variety,” Bowes explained. “Depending on what we are funded for from year to year dictates what our projects are.”

However, the overarching mission of the projects never changes — supporting the needs of the detection community and working to ensure the safety of the



2022 graduate Nicole Bowes is looking forward to enjoying more time with her family, including son Patrick, now that she has completed her Master of Science in forensic sciences investigation of arson, explosives, firearms and toolmarks from Oklahoma State University.

(Photo courtesy of Nicole Bowes)

warfighters — and that makes what Bowes does even more satisfying.

“I feel like the work that we do is directly supporting the warfighters and aims to keep them safe, which is something that I feel is an admirable task,” Bowes shared. “I am proud of the work that we do here.”

Bowes endorses the forensic sciences investigation of arson, explosives, firearms and toolmarks from Oklahoma State University program highly for others who might be interested. However, she explained that the program is designed for working adults already employed in a related field, not one for interested undergraduates.

“It’s designed for people like me who have some experience in the field but want to increase their understanding of the details,” Bowes said. “The program is entirely online with an expectation that a couple of the classes have a one-week portion on campus, but it’s something geared to the workforce, which I thought was helpful for me to achieve my master’s while being employed. The faculty is very flexible, and the courses are designed for people who can’t attend a class in person or even attend on a particular day or a particular time.”

Another aspect of the program that appealed greatly to her was knowing that many of the students in the program are the bomb technicians and warfighters.

“I thought knowing what they know would make me better at the job I do now,” Bowes explained.

[See “Profile: Nicole Bowes” Page 14](#)

2022 Graduate Profile: Maya Artman

Maya Artman has known since she was a little girl that the medical field was where she hoped to be one day and now that she has graduated high school, she is heading to Salisbury University, in Salisbury, Maryland, where she will begin their biology/pre-med track. Artman appreciates the smaller classes that the university offers and is hoping to carry over her love of health and fitness to the campus.

At 10 years old, Artman was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and spent a good deal of time at the hospital and that kindled an interest in the medical field.

“Ever since then, [the time spent at the hospital] I would watch medical shows and I would sit there trying to figure out what was wrong with the patient,” Artman explained. “That’s when I knew I wanted to be in the medical field.”

Artman didn’t waste time getting into the field any way that she could. She volunteers as an emergency medical technician at the Ironside Emergency Medical Services Station in Charles County, Maryland. She

[“Profile: Nicole Bowes” \(cont. from Page 13\)](#)

She finds herself looking forward to a couple of things now that she has completed her degree — finding a little free time to spend with her family and perhaps discovering a new hobby.

“As a mom who also has a full-time job and has been working on my master’s degree for the last three years, hobbies have been low on the list. My hobby was going home and doing homework,” she quipped. “I am looking forward to finding a hobby and enjoying my free time — maybe get caught up on the movies and television shows from the last three years.”



2022 graduate Maya Artman poses on the first day of her physical training internship.
(Photo courtesy of Maya Artman)

hopes to be able to devote more time there over the summer.

She is also a certified personal trainer and hopes to work at the gym at the university and uses a favorite quote from a character — Inosuke Hashibira — in the Japanese manga *Demon Slayer*: “There are no shortcuts. Only hard work. Train hard and be patient. It will pay off.”

While Artman hasn’t decided on a particular field of medicine that she hopes to practice one day, she knows that if she continues to work and train hard and be patient, she will succeed. She graduated with high honors

from Henry E. Lackey High School. She credits her grandfather, Dennis Artman, a command employee in the Ordnance Assurance and Safety Division noting, “He’s probably my number one supporter since day one!”

When not training, working hard on her education or volunteering, Artman enjoys dogs, video games and food.

Bowes looks forward to her new position with the branch, where she will be focusing more on managerial duties rather than working in the lab.

“I am in an interesting place right now. My current project is wrapping up, and for the last seven years, I have been a chemist, so I was the one doing the actual testing and working in the lab,” Bowes concluded. “Now I am switching over to managing the finances and the personnel instead of the technical side. I think there are pros and cons of both — being in the lab has its own set of frustrations, and of course, funding does too, so you are trading some for others, but overall, I am excited about the new position.”

2022

A hearty congratulations to the command family graduates. Each picture shared represents a journey and an outstanding achievement. Graduation is a bridge to the next part of your life, and everything that got you here—hard work, drive and confidence—is going to carry you over to your next journey. We invite the command to join us as we recognize and honor the successes represented by each photo. Congratulations graduates today and best wishes for all of your tomorrows!



Courtney Alvey
George Washington University
 Bachelor of Science
 Nursing
 (Lisa Alvey, E Dept.)
 Currently employed at George Washington Hospital



John Andrews III
La Plata High School
 Diploma
 (Laura Andrews, D Dept.)
 Career in HVAC



Maya Artman
Henry E. Lackey High School
 Diploma
 (with high honors)
 (Dennis Artman, Command Operations)
Salisbury University
 Biological science



Adriana Bean
College of Southern Maryland
 Associate of Applied Science
 (with honors)
 (Raymond Bean, Safety)
University of Maryland Global Campus
 Homeland security



Theresa Benton
College of Southern Maryland
 Associate of Applied Science
 (Toni Benton, PMS 408/D Dept.)
Stevenson University
 Nursing
 Working at University of Maryland Charles Regional
 Hospital as a registered nurse.



Nicole Bowes
Oklahoma State University
 Master of Science
 (D Dept. employee, Explosive Detection Equipment Branch)
 Forensic Investigation of Arson, Explosives,
 Fire Arms, and Tool Marks
 Continuing career at NSWC IHD



Savannah Bowie
King George High School
 Diploma
 (Colleen Stortzum, R Dept.)
Virginia Commonwealth University
 Forensic science



Thomas Bubniak
Jefferson Township High School
 Diploma
 (Greg Bubniak G Dept.)
University of Maine
 Economics and political science



Shana Cavanaugh
Green Hope High School
 Diploma
 (Tim Cavanaugh, D Dept.)
Western Carolina University



Abigail Cosgrove
St. Mary Ryken High School
 Diploma
 (Audrey Cosgrove, Code 02)
College of Charleston
 Biochemistry



Peter DeSear
Hayfield Secondary School
 Diploma
 (Paul DeSear, M Dept.)
George Mason University
 Management information systems



Jennifer Dickinson
Midwestern University
 Doctorate Veterinary Medicine
 (Valedictorian)
 (Michael Dickinson, M Dept.)
 Veterinary practice in Flagstaff, Arizona



Elias Eaton
LeTourneau University
 Bachelor of Science
 Mechanical engineering technology
 (Deran Eaton, E Dept.)
 Pursue a career in engineering



Cameron Ely
La Plata High School
 Diploma
 (Heather Del Selva, Code 10)
 Enlist in the Air Force



John Elliot Hager
University of Edinburgh
 (John Hager, 00Q)
 Master of Art
 International relations/international law



Bradley Hill
Henry E. Lackey High School
 Diploma
 (Nikki Ellis, E Dept.)
 Local 602 Steamfitters Union apprenticeship



Caleb Hock
Henry E. Lackey High School
 Diploma
 (Elaine Hock, E Dept.)
College of Southern Maryland



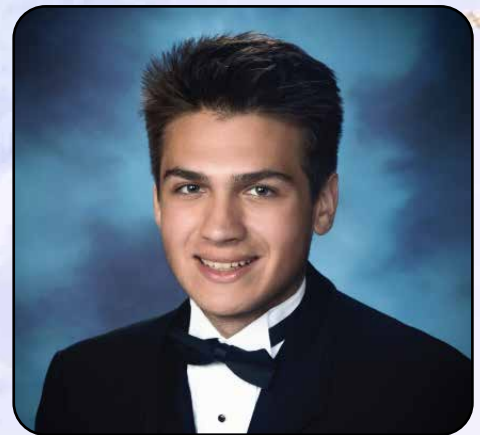
Brianna Hoegler
University of Arizona
 Bachelor of Science
 Geosciences (emphasis in earth, oceans and climate)
 (David Hoegler, G Dept.)
Brown University
 Doctorate in earth, environmental and planetary science



Tristan Hunt
La Plata High School
 Diploma
Robert D. Stethem Educational Center
 Certificate
 Automotive Technician
 (Marc Mouer, E Dept.)
 Eldorado Farm
 (Non-profit owned/operated by Last Chance Animal Rescue)



Ashli Jernigan
University of Maryland Global Campus
 (Corporate Operations Department employee)
 Bachelor of Science
 Digital Media and Web Technology
 Continue to pursue career with the command



Grayson Kjelland
Chopticon High School
 Diploma
 (Jimmy Kjelland, Corporate Operations Department employee)
College of Southern Maryland



Taylor Ledman
Henry E. Lackey High School
 Diploma
 (Janet and Walter Coulby, E Dept. and
 NAVFAC, respectively)
 Currently employed as an emergency medical technician
 and will study cosmetology.



Madeline Leonard
Fredericksburg Christian School
 Advanced Studies Diploma
 (Lester Leonard, M Dept.)
Clemson University
 Lyceum Scholars Program
 History (major) political science (minor)



Alex Mandley
La Plata High School
 Diploma
 (Michelle Mandley, Code AX)
 Local 602 Steamfitters Union apprenticeship



Rabbia Masud
University of Maryland School of Dentistry
 Bachelor of Dental Surgery
 (Hasan Masud, E Dept.)
 Focusing on a dental specialty in the field



Private David Matthew McKeown III
U.S. Marine Corps
 Boot Camp
 (Karen McKeown, Contracts Dept.)
 Helicopter/jet mechanic



Christina Murphy
The Pennsylvania State University
 Bachelor of Science
 Biology
 (Connie Murphy, Ordnance Assurance and Safety Division)
 Pursuing a master's degree in school counseling



Caitlyn Murphy
Towson University
 Bachelor of Science
 History
 (Connie Murphy, Ordnance Assurance and Safety Division)
 Pursuing employment as a history teacher



Kaleb T Murphy
Trinity High School
 Diploma
 (Jenny Murphy, G Dept.)
Eastern Kentucky University
 Homeland security



Laura Phillips
College of Southern Maryland
 Associate in Applied Science
 Nursing
 (Luke Wathen, D Dept.)
 Pursuing a career as a registered nurse



Rachel Rodriguez
Sparta High School
 Diploma
 (Jeanette Rodriguez, G Dept.)
Marywood University
 Art therapy



Stephen Newell Stiles, Jr.
University of Maryland, College Park
 Bachelor of Science
 Chemistry
 (Stephen Newell Stiles, Sr. R Dept.)
 Pursuing a career in chemistry



Mallory Tipton
Leonardtown High School
 Diploma
 (Jill Ryan, 1013)
Salisbury University
 Education



Anene Wynn

John Hopkins University

(E Dept. employee, CAD/PAD Division)

Master of Business Administration

Continue to use newly acquired skills and knowledge to more effectively and efficiently support the warfighter



James T Young

University of Maryland Global Campus

(Corporate Operations Department employee,

Corporate Business Office Division)

Master of Business Administration

Continuing career at NSWC IHD



Katie Zimmer

University of Delaware

Master of Music in Teaching

(Bette Zimmer, G Dept.)

Pursuing a career as a middle or high school music teacher



Congratulations!

Newton's Laws of Motion Go Wheels Up at Local Middle School



NSWC IHD Chief Technology Officer Dr. Kerry Clark (center) helps eighth grade students Sofia Wind (left) and Taylor Young (right) strategize the best way to build their balloon buggies during their science class at Matthew Henson Middle School, June 8. The command's STEM outreach group donated a box of STEM "balloon buggy" activity kits to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for distribution.

(U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor)

Eighth grade science students at Matthew Henson Middle School in Bryans Road, Maryland, got a chance to put Newton's laws of motion into action thanks to NSWC Indian Head Division. The command's STEM outreach group donated a box of STEM "balloon buggy" activity kits to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for distribution. NSWC IHD Chief Technology Officer Dr. Kerry Clark, Deputy Chief Technology Officer Coit Hendley and STEM Coordinator Catherine Shingleton visited the school on June 8 to interact with the students to build the buggies and have some fun.

Erin Lewis, science teacher at Matthew Henson, led her students in the balloon buggy activity. She teaches five science classes each day and has half of all eighth graders in the school. Lewis engaged the students in a recap about Newton's laws of motion before handing out the kits. She went over five challenges that the students should complete:

- 1) Distance – How far can it go?
- 2) Weight – How much weight can go at least two inches?

- 3) Ramp – How steep of a ramp can the car travel up?
- 4) Carpet – Can your car drive over rough terrain?
- 5) Circles – Can your car complete a 360° circle?

"They love it. They love anything hands-on," said Lewis. "Today's goal is to get [the buggies] working. Tomorrow they will try the other challenges and do some modifications — making the buggy smaller, etc. so they can complete the last challenge to make the car go in circles."

CCPS Science Content Specialist Ian Buter and his colleague, Leigh Ann Anderson, also participated in the balloon buggy activity with the students. Buter manages science resources for high schools and middle schools within the school system, while Anderson covers half of the middle schools and all elementary schools. They support science teachers with professional development and other activities such as lab ideas to help them better engage with students.

"We met with [Dr.] Kerry [Clark] in the fall to discuss how NSWC Indian Head can partner with the school system to provide STEM activities for our students," said Buter. "The balloon buggy activity complements the physics lessons these students learned earlier in the spring. It's a great way to reinforce the concepts they learned. The kits are perfect — rather than the teacher explaining instructions step by step, the kit has everything the students need to build the buggies. The kids are exploring and are excited. They're looking around to see how their other classmates made theirs and they're comparing notes. It's a great way to put Newton's laws into a real-world example. The next day, Ms. Lewis will 'clean it all up' and go over everything and ask the students how it worked and what they learned as a way to assess student learning."

Anderson also commented that, "This activity was a great example of fun activities that give the students

[See "Wheels Up" Page 21](#)

[“Vacation Travel” \(cont. from Page 6\)](#)**Traveling Safely**

Safe travel begins with consulting the Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG). The FCG is maintained by the DoD and is the guiding document for determining if travel is restricted or unrestricted. The FCG can be accessed online using a government information system and CAC account. The link for the FCG is www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm.

Begin by using the search bar at the top center of the screen. Enter the destination country and click “Go.” You will be directed to the information page for the country you selected. On this page you will see seven hyperlinks in the top section of the page. You may use these links to quickly access the information most relevant to your type of travel. For most travel, you will select either “Personnel Entry Requirements for Official Travel” or “Personnel Entry Requirements for Leave Travel.” Leave travel is personal travel you take on your own time such as vacations. Select the “Personnel Entry Requirements for Leave Travel” link which will take you to Section IV of the FCG. At the top of the section will be any restrictions or special notices for the country to be visited along with any specific travel restrictions.

Pay close attention to these updates and any notes associated with your destination and complete all requirements of Sections A through E.

The following links provide helpful information:
NSWC IHD Foreign Travel information:

<https://navsea.navy.deps.mil/wc/surinhdc/private/EM/SitePages/ForeignTravel.aspx>

Department of State Travel Advisories:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

Country Information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

<https://step.state.gov/>

The free service allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. For more details or foreign travel assistance, contact the command Antiterrorism Officer Matt Konschak at matthew.j.konschak.civ@us.navy.mil.

(Source: CDSE, FCG)

[“Wheels Up” \(cont. from Page 20\)](#)

a chance to apply everything they’ve learned. It’s an awesome opportunity, especially for all students to really get active, involved, and find success.”

Buter and Anderson develop science activities for the classroom that are more interactive and engaging so that the students can become scientifically literate. “Making those connections eventually leads them to recognize there are job opportunities that mirror practices in STEM at Indian Head,” remarked Buter.

“The command really enjoys opportunities like this to promote practical, real-world applications of STEM education,” said Dr. Clark. “We want to be an active force in training the next generation of scientists and engineers at Indian Head.”



Matthew Henson Middle School students Amari Edwards (left) and Caleb Price (right) test their balloon buggy to see how far it will go after adding weight to the buggy.

(U.S. Navy photo by Matthew Poynor)

MIST Team Honored With PEO(CS) Spotlight Award

NSWC IHD Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Correll and Technical Director Ashley Johnson presented Aircrew Systems Mishap Investigation Support Team (MIST) members and E Department employees Vincent Rodgers (center right) and Nicholas Schombs (center left) a Spotlight award by Naval Air Systems Command's Program Executive Office for Aviation Common Systems and Commercial Services on May 26. Rodgers and Schombs are part of the eight-member MIST team responsible for on-site mishap analysis of Aircrew Escape and Crashworthy Systems, Aircrew Life Support Equipment and Personal Protective Equipment. Over the last six months, their presence has been requested by the Naval Safety Command on seven separate occasions in multiple countries, providing their unique expertise on incidents involving F-35, T-45, F/A-18, AH-1, MH-60, E-2D and MV-22 platforms.

“Congratulations to Vincent, Nicholas and the entire MIST team,” said Correll. “While the team has unfortunately been very busy recently, they have remained steadfast in continuously meeting their mission of improving the safety of Navy and Marine



U.S. Navy photo by Ashli Jernigan

aircrew. Their ability to pivot around ever-changing international travel requirements are great examples of an agile workforce.”

“Nicholas, Vincent and the MIST team exemplify what it means to carry out the command's mission,” said Johnson. “Their timely and unwavering support has been critical in directly supporting the warfighter to improve the safety of Navy and Marine systems and equipment.”

Around the Command



NSWC IHD Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Correll provided opening remarks to attendees during the kickoff portion at the JEOD Capabilities Assessment held at Stump Neck in Indian Head, Md., May 17.

(U.S. Navy photo by Ashli Jernigan)



Rear Adm. Kevin Byrne, Commander, NAVSEA Warfare Centers, provided remarks and insight at the United States Bomb Technician Association grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony event held at their new building in Indian Head, Md., May 13.

(U.S. Navy photo by Ashli Jernigan)



MWR facilities open to all authorized patrons:

- Auto Skills, Tuesday-Friday: 1-7 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Bowling Center, Friday-Saturday: 5-10 p.m.
- Community Recreation Center/Tickets/Library, Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Gear Issue/Equipment Rentals, Tuesday and Friday: 1-3 p.m.
- Liberty Center, Monday-Friday: 2-8 p.m.
- Market Fresh Bistro, Monday- Friday: 6 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Weight House Fitness Center, Monday-Friday: 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday-Sunday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Note: Hours of operation are subject to change on short notice based on staff availability.

Face coverings are optional currently.

Updates can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/indianheadffr>



Send Us Your Feedback!

If you have an interesting story/event coming up that is newsworthy or would like to submit an article, contact the Public Affairs Office.

Phone: 301-744-6505
Email: NSWC_IHEODTD_pai.fct@navy.mil (IHD Loop Editor)
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Indian Head Division
3767 Strauss Ave.
Indian Head, MD 20640





Department of Defense
**PRIDE MONTH
CELEBRATION**

JUNE 2022



Pride In All Who Serve

FLY FARTHER.

HIT HARDER.

SAVE LIVES.