

October 2019

Coastal COMPASS

THE FORCE BEHIND THE FLEET

HURRICANE MICHAEL

ONE YEAR LATER



NSWC Panama City Division
Ensuring Warfighting Dominance in the Littoral Battlespace

Coastal COMPASS

THE FORCE BEHIND THE FLEET

October 2019 | Vol. 7 Issue 10



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Commanding Officer



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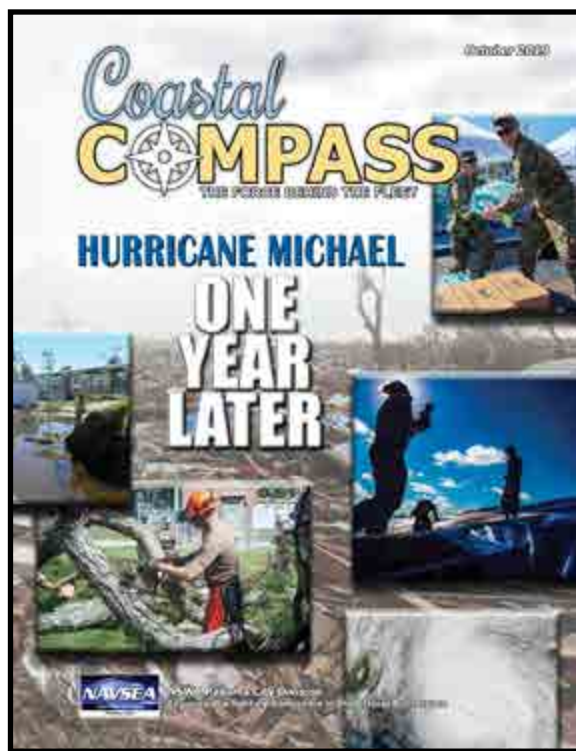
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On the Cover



October 10 marks the one year anniversary of Hurricane Michael. U.S. Navy illustration by Martin Buskirk

Featured



Almost two dozen Navy marine mammals stationed in Kings Bay, Ga. sought shelter at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division recently.



The U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) recently tested the Remote Control Assault Amphibious Vehicle.

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View from the BRIDGE



Capt. Aaron S. Peters
Commanding Officer
NSWC PCD

“

Accepting the status quo is no longer an option if we want to remain technologically superior to our adversaries.

”

– **Capt. Aaron S. Peters**
Commanding Officer

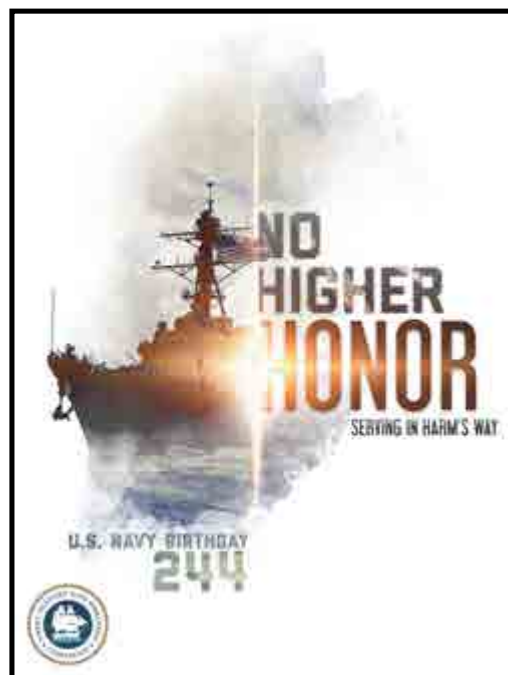
As you are all aware, 10 Oct. marks the first anniversary of Hurricane Michael. I was with the first group of people who came on the base after the Category 5 hurricane had barreled through and it was shocking to see all the damage it caused. Despite being closed for three weeks, our command did not miss a single deadline. Over the last 12 months, we have been diligently working to find short- and long-term solutions to our challenges while also continuing to ensure warfighting dominance in the littoral battlespace. As a team, we are making it happen and making it look easy.

This month, we will also celebrate the Navy's 244th birthday. From 1775 to today, the U.S. Navy has enhanced safety, security, and stability around the world. To succeed in today's dynamic and ever-changing environment, we must be the force that provides thoughtful solutions to tough problems. The work we do here each and every day supports the National Defense Strategy, CNO Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority v2.0 and the NAVSEA Campaign Plan v2.0.

October also marks the end of the fiscal year. Everyone is directly impacted by the hard work of contracting, comptroller, and procurement offices. Despite all of the challenges over the last year, they haven't missed a beat.

During Vice Admiral Tom Moore's town hall recently, he mentioned that we have to work with a sense of urgency. Urgency is not about working harder – it is a mindset that leads us to question our processes in order to improve how we conduct business. Accepting the status quo is no longer an option if we want to remain technologically superior to our adversaries.

This edition of the *Coastal Compass* is a great representation of the wide array of work done at NSWC PCD, in addition to your accomplishments off duty.



U.S. Navy Illustration by Nathan Quinn

Welcome ***ABOARD***



U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green



HIGH-GRADE & SUPERVISORY ***PROMOTIONS***

**Dr. Keith Aliberti**

Department Branch Head
(Code X)

As the new Code X Department Head, Dr. Keith Aliberti will manage science and technology development in support of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's mission. Code X develops and transitions

innovative technical solutions through collaboration with academia, industry, and other researchers to defend the nation and save lives through Naval superiority in littoral warfare and coastal defense.

**Bobbi Wood**

Expeditionary Systems
Development Branch Head
(Code E34)

As Expeditionary Systems Development Branch Head, Wood manages direct support personnel for the Expeditionary Maneuvers, Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV), and Seabasing technical areas. The two main projects under her

guidance are the Foreign Military Sales, ACV and the Amphibious Assault System Integration. Wood will continue to support these projects and will also work to increase support in the growing area of Expeditionary Maneuvers.

**Jenny Howell**

MK 18 In-Service Engineering Agent
and Software Support Agent Project
Manager (Code E10)

As MK 18 Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Family of Systems (FoS) Project Manager, Howell is responsible for execution of the MK 18 In-Service Engineering Agent and Software Support Agent roles directly supporting the

Fleet and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community. As PM, she is also responsible for the execution of FoS Acquisition Engineering Agent and the MK 18 Mod 1 Technical Direction Agent roles. Her goal is to continue NSWC PCD's legacy of unmanned systems while also looking to the future. The MK 18 FoS's primary mission is mine countermeasures, specifically autonomous mine hunting.

| | | |
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In remembrance of...
HURRICANE MICHAEL
OCTOBER 10, 2018

Through the STORM



U.S. Navy illustration by Casey Stewart

Navy marine mammals shelter in Panama City during Hurricane Dorian

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Almost two dozen Navy marine mammals stationed in Kings Bay, Ga. moved out of Hurricane Dorian's path and sought shelter at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) recently.

The group of specially trained bottlenose dolphins and sea lions support the Department of the Navy's Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic (SWFLANT).

According to Mark Patefield, a biological technician from Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific, in San Diego, Ca., the animals are a key component of the Swimmer Interdiction Security System at SWFLANT.

"These mammals are one of the underwater security systems that helps protect against any underwater intruder that might come into Kings Bay," said Patefield. "The dolphins' own biological sonar can detect any type of underwater intruder in murky water and the sea lions are able to efficiently interdict an underwater intruder."



PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A Navy sea lion in temporary quarters at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division. Navy personnel ensured the safety, comfort, and care of the sea lions by regulating their body temperatures and monitoring their vitals throughout their stay. U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green



PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Navy trainers reinforce positive behavior with bottlenose dolphins during a recent visit to Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division. U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green

Patefield and the team of trainers, divers, and veterinarians were able to quickly move the mammals to a safe environment before Hurricane Dorian made landfall.

"The safety and care of our animals and our personnel is paramount; that's what led us here to Panama City," said Patefield. "NSWC PCD opened up their facilities to us for the time that we needed. This is a fantastic facility to allow us to shield our team from the path of Hurricane Dorian."

Nicole Waters, NSWC PCD Fabrication and Prototype Shops project manager, said the NSWC PCD team has successfully moved the Kings Bay sea lions and dolphins for three separate hurricanes, including Hurricane Matthew (2016), Hurricane Irma (2017), and now Hurricane Dorian (2019).

"At NSWC PCD, we personally understand the trials and tribulations that come with the devastation of a hurricane, especially after Hurricane Michael severely impacted our area in 2018," said Waters. "We strongly support the One Team, One Fight initiative and will always be willing to help protect any Navy personnel and assets."

During their time aboard NSWC PCD, the mammals did not conduct operations or training. The goal was to maintain the welfare of the animals.

Patefield said the biggest takeaway is that these animals are proficient at what they do.

"We have a very high success rate with these animals. Our goal and purpose is that these animals get the best care possible," said Patefield. "This is a perfect example of that — including the personnel and teammates that come together like a family. We have a lot of good people who are supporting these animals in the best way possible."

NSWC PCD engineers train operators on airborne search and detection sonars

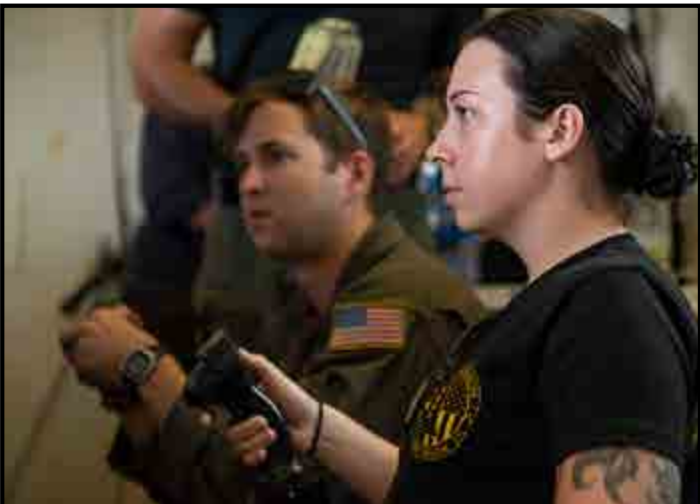
By Ashley Conner
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) engineers trained operators from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14 & 15 on Airborne Search and Detection Sonars (AN/AQS-24B) recently.

“The purpose of the training was to qualify new operators for the AQS-24B system,” said Justin Grimes NSWC PCD AN/AQS-24 systems engineer. “After this training from the surface vessel, these new operators will be able to conduct mine hunting missions from the MH-53E helicopter.”

The AN/AQS-24B can be towed through the water by surface vessels or by helicopters in areas where enemy anti-ship mines may be present. The system can work at high speeds, uses high-resolution side-scan sonar for real time detection, localization and classification of bottom and moored mines at high area coverage rates.

“Having this training allows the squadrons to have high speed detection and classification abilities that are essential to the mine countermeasure community.”



PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) engineers trained operators from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14 & 15 on Airborne Search and Detection Sonars (AN/AQS-24B) recently. U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green

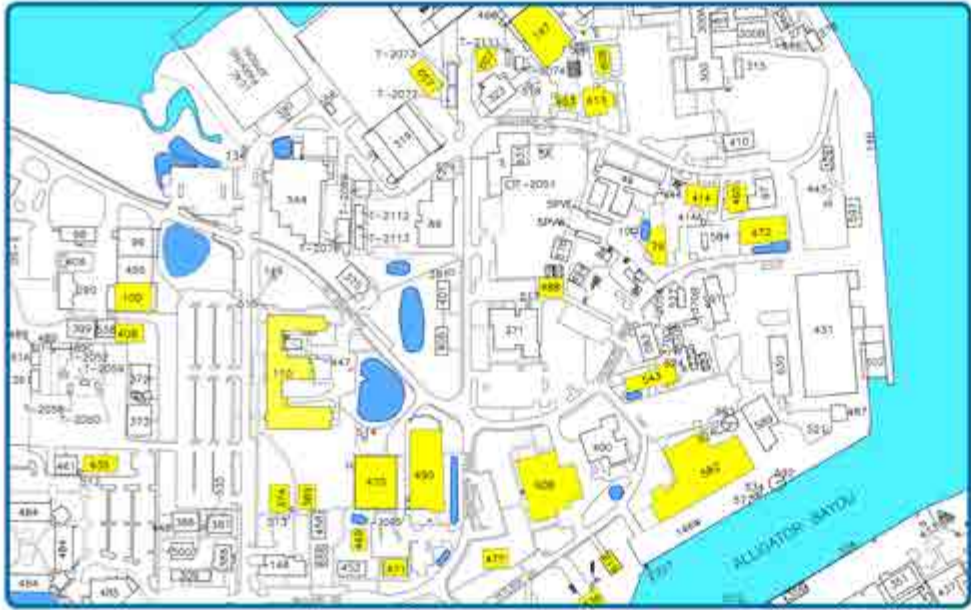
NSWC PCD hosts the AN/AQS-24B operator training to the HM squadrons a couple times a year and conducts the training onboard a M/V Patriot, and a NSWC PCD support vessel.

“Our mission is to ensure a more lethal fleet,” said Capt. Aaron Peters, NSWC PCD commanding officer. “This type of training is just one of many examples of how the work we do here ensures the Navy is creating an unfair advantage over our adversaries.”



NSWC Panama City Division

Water Fountain + Bottle Filling LOCATIONS



| Building | Room |
|----------|----------------|
| 79 | 111 |
| 100 | 9 |
| 110 | 2M Corridor E |
| 110 | 3A Corridor |
| 110 | 3M Corridor E |
| 110 | 3M Corridor W |
| 147 | Hangar |
| 151 | 1 |
| 374 | E-W Corridor |
| 379 | 1 |
| 389 | Corridor/Break |
| 408 | 1 |
| 413 | 110 |
| 414 | Front Corridor |
| 435 | 107 |
| 436 | 102 |
| 460 | 103 |
| 469 | 101 |
| 470 | N/A |
| 470 | N/A |
| 471 | 113 |
| 472 | 1 |
| 477 | 6 |
| 488 | 107 |
| 490 | 111 |
| 490 | 203 |
| 493 | 101 |
| 543 | 101 |
| 575 | 200 |
| 581 | 102 |
| 581 | 202 |
| 581 | 328 |
| 582 | 139 |
| 582 | 212 |
| 582 | Dive Locker |
| 607 | 101 |
| 608 | 119 |
| 608 | 200 |
| 609 | 100 |
| 618 | 105 |
| 657 | 116 |
| 658 | 100 |

Panama City acquisition professional receives Marine Corps excellence award

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – James Goodwin, operations and equipment specialist at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD), was presented with the Marine Corps Excellence in Acquisition Support Award August 20.

Goodwin received the award for his support to Marine Corps Systems Command as the Field Service Representative on the MK 154 Mod 1. The Mk 154 system allows an amphibious breach lane that provides maneuverability for assault forces as they push forward to provide fire and maneuver on enemy defended breaches.

According to Goodwin, he was humbled by the opportunity to receive the award.

“I had first started training Marines on the MK 154 in 2008 when I was on active duty. After I retired from the Marines in 2012, the program to modernize the system was beginning to take shape,” said Goodwin. “I was fortunate to be part of a hard working team that was passionate to produce a platform that allowed our warfighters to remain safe at the tip of the spear. It was especially rewarding being able to train the Marines again and support them as they continue to train and operate with the MK 154 Mod 1.”

During this period, Goodwin and his team provided support to

the Fleet Marine Forces of 2D Assault Amphibian Battalion, 3D Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Blount Island Command, and Marine Corps Logistic Base Albany. This support included equipment training, maintenance support when a system would have breakdowns, installations, and modifications to support Engineering Change Proposals. In addition, the team conducted production acceptance for all 47 units produced by Production Plant Albany. Goodwin and his team also assisted with the production of the Operators Technical Manual and Maintenance Technical Manual.

Goodwin credits his successes to his team in support of delivering solutions to ensure warfighting dominance.



Navy Cybersecurity team achieves forensic examiner certification

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Two Cybersecurity professionals at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) recently achieved a milestone to strengthen our naval superiority.

Stacy Faison, command information system security manager (C-ISSM) at NSWC PCD, and Julia Lewis, information technology (IT) incident response handler at NSWC PCD, completed the Windows Forensic Analysis course and its associated Global Information Assurance Certification Certified Forensic Examiner (GCFE) exam.

In the six-day course, Faison and Lewis built in-depth digital forensics knowledge of Microsoft Windows operating systems. The GCFE exam certifies that both Faison and Lewis are able to conduct typical incident investigations including e-Discovery, forensic analysis and reporting, evidence acquisition, browser forensics, and tracing user and application activities on Windows systems.

According to Lewis, the knowledge gained from both the course and exam provided invaluable information and skills relevant to IT incident handling.

“Our command now has its own IT forensic support personnel with an industry top standard certification status,” said Lewis. “The knowledge and skills gained from the course and exam also allow IT forensic support personnel better transparency into



command IT in the event of possible insider threat scenarios, infractions, and attacks.”

Lewis is responsible for responding to cyber attacks, network intrusions, computer crimes, and violations of command IT policy. She is also responsible for investigation of IT security breaches, executing remediation, and reporting of incidents.

Faison, who is responsible for the overall Cybersecurity posture of the command, said the course will benefit the command’s cyber procedures.

“The knowledge and expertise gained from the class will allow me to assist Julia and to understand her findings to help guide the next steps into IT investigations.”

Lewis said she sees the need and importance of acquiring such knowledge and skills to stay ahead of the rapidly advancing, and ever changing cyber landscape.

NSWC Panama City welcomes NSWC Crane director in support of One Team Warfare Center philosophy

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – September 30 marked the first day of a three-month detail at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) for a NSWC Crane leader.

Dr. Angela Lewis, NSWC Crane Corporate Operations Department head, said she is looking forward to filling the role of the deputy technical director, operations at NSWC PCD. Lewis is currently dual-hatted in a similar capacity at NSWC Crane.

“I am certain this assignment will benefit me both personally and professionally from the perspective of my own development,” said Lewis. “I am hopeful that my 29-year career has prepared me well to have a positive influence and that I am able to make a meaningful contribution to the Panama City team while I am here.”

Dr. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a Master’s degree in Business Administration, both from Ball State University, and a Ph.D. in Management from Sullivan University.

In 2012, Dr. Lewis was selected as NSWC Crane’s first female Chief of Staff. In this position, she was recognized as a member of Crane’s Executive Leadership Team, and she served as an advisor to the Commanding Officer and Technical Director, and their staff.

Throughout her career, she has maintained an active role in working on behalf of the Crane workforce. She has been



Dr. Angela Lewis

instrumental to the establishment of Crane Division University, and to the facilitation of the organization’s hallmark leadership development courses.

According to Lewis, she is excited to integrate with the NSWC PCD leadership team to find opportunities to learn and also to meet and interact with the NSWC PCD workforce.

“I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn about the unique strengths of the NSWC PCD team while also sharing information about the approach and structure in place at NSWC Crane,” said Lewis. “Workforce development, organizational culture, and integration of business

and technical functions are priorities that guide my personal time management philosophy and objectives at NSWC Crane.”

Ed Stewart, NSWC PCD technical director, recently visited NSWC Crane and discussed the power of the One Team approach to integrating our Warfare Centers. Lewis said she sees her assignment at NSWC PCD as a great opportunity to demonstrate One Team in a very visible manner.

“We are excited to see the opportunities and new perspective Dr. Lewis will bring to the NSWC Panama City team,” said Stewart. “As a One Team Warfare Center champion, I am a firm believer in the philosophy that we are stronger when we collaborate as One Team rather than 10 separate entities.”

NSWC Panama City team renders lifesaving aid

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PARKER, Fla. — A team from Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) provided lifesaving assistance after a multi-vehicle accident September 26.

The group, consisting of one active duty Sailor and a team of Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) Delivery Vehicle (SDV) support personnel, were witness to a vehicle accident while in transit.

According to Tim McTrusty, NSWC PCD electrical engineer, he and the team were the first ones on the scene.

“We saw the accident and saw the victims needed lifesaving assistance,” said McTrusty. “It was clear their lives were in danger.”

NSWC PCD SDV test pilot and dive supervisor, Tim Alexander, assisted a woman in the car, while McTrusty went to render aid to a woman in an overturned sport utility vehicle (SUV).

With the assistance of the others on scene, the team slowly squeezed the woman out the window of the SUV.

Navy Diver 1st Class Blake Flohre, used his prior emergency medical technician training and maintained spine stabilization of her head and neck until paramedics arrived on the scene.



PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A team from Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) provided lifesaving assistance after a multi-vehicle accident September 26. Pictured from left to right: Navy Diver 1st Class Blake Flohre, Timothy Alexander, Austin Graham, Timothy McTrusty, Clayton Brookins, Harry Evans. U.S. Navy photo by Anthony Powers

Capt. Aaron Peters, NSWC PCD commanding officer, commends the team on their bravery and selflessness.

“I am humbled and inspired to learn of our NSWC PCD teammates who provided assistance after a recent vehicular crash,” said Peters. “This serves as a reminder that we should emulate this type of courage and selflessness each and every day.”

NSWC Panama City project manager inducted into U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Athletic Hall of Fame

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs



Jena Rea

KINGS POINT, N.Y. — A Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) employee was inducted into the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) Athletic Hall of Fame September 20.

Jena (Jeffries) Rea, project manager for Amphibious Assault Systems Integration and the lead test director for the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) 100/Ship Interface Test at NSWC PCD was inducted into the Hall of Fame for her athletic achievements in volleyball and softball, while serving at the academy from 2000-2004.

"I was honored and filled with gratitude for all of the people that helped me achieve this," said Rhea. "I am only the sixth woman to be inducted into the USMMA Athletic Hall of Fame, so to me, it means I'm carrying the torch for all of the women that helped get me here and all that will come after me."

Rhea said playing softball and volleyball at USMMA has shaped her life.

"What I'm most proud of is the fact that I was able to play two sports for all four years I was at USMMA, and I was on successful teams with amazing women that

left our mark on the history of the academy. I did all of this while earning a degree and accumulating 360 days at sea," said Rhea. "Having the chance to share this with my family, especially my children, is the most special part of all this."

According to Rhea, USMMA taught her service above self and to live by the Academy motto "Acta non Verba," meaning deeds not words.

"The academy is where I developed my love for ships and a drive to do what I could to help our warfighter. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering, a U. S. Coast Guard Third Assistant Engineer License for Unlimited Tonnage Vessels (steam, gas turbine, and diesel), and was commissioned as a strategic sealift officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve."

Rhea served at USMMA in New York during the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and flew out a few months later to complete her first sea year period with Military Sealift Command. Her ship deployed to the Persian Gulf with 7th Fleet where she spent her time resupplying Navy ships with fuel, supplies, and ammunition.

"This time changed the direction of my life and I'm proud that I'm still able to support and interface with the Fleet in my job today," said Rhea. Today at NSWC PCD, Rhea provides a broad spectrum of support in the amphibious warfare mission area with ships that interface with LCAC(s).

Rhea gives gratitude to her family, coaches, teammates, mentors, and coworkers for providing her with support and hopes that she will inspire younger individuals to excel in academics and sports.

"I truly believe sports instill leadership qualities that can't be taught or learned anywhere else," said Rhea.

In addition to the Hall of Fame recognition, Rhea was also the 2003 recipient of the Julie Berke Trophy as the Academy's top female student-athlete. She was a four-year starter for both the USMMA volleyball and softball teams. On the court, Rhea was a member of the 2000 and 2001 Skyline Conference Champion Mariner volleyball teams, and was an All-Skyline Conference selection and two-year team captain.

On the softball diamond, she led the USMMA Mariners to back-to-back Skyline Conference Championships in 2003 and 2004 as the team captain, while also being selected as the Eastern College Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 2004 and to multiple All-Region Teams over three seasons. Rhea was the Skyline Rookie of the Year in 2001, two-time Skyline Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004, and a four-time All-Conference First Team selection. She led the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III in batting average during 2003 and still holds USMMA records in batting average, runs batted in, doubles, triples, and slugging percentage.

The USMMA is a federal service academy that educates and graduates leaders of exemplary character who are inspired to serve the national security, marine transportation, and economic needs of the United States as licensed Merchant Marine Officers and commissioned officers in the Armed Forces. This induction highlights Rhea's athletic achievements in volleyball and softball, while serving at the academy.



Allison Roberts

U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green

Disability Awareness Month – Allison Roberts

By Susan H. Lawson
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

Allison Roberts, computer scientist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD), is an above the knee amputee.

“My leg had to be amputated in 2013, due to complications from the bone cancer I had 25 years prior,” said Roberts.

Roberts began at NSWC PCD in January 2000. She has a bachelor of science in Computer Science from the University of West Florida with a minor in Mathematics.

Roberts has held several roles at NSWC PCD over the last 20 years, including working as a tester on the Electro-Optic Identification System, the Carriage, Stream, Tow and Recovery System, lead tester on Post Mission Analysis (PMA) for the AN/AQS-20, lead tester on Organic PMA for the AN/AQS-20, Airborne Laser Mine Detection System, Airborne Mine Neutralization System, and Remote Minehunting System. Most recently, Roberts was the site production lead for the People’s Integrated Essential Resource (PIER) project.

“I feel blessed to work here at NSWC PCD,” said Roberts. “I’ve been on teams made up of great people.”

NSWC Panama City distinguished scientist awarded for NDIA technical achievement

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

Groton, Conn. – Dr. James “Tory” Cobb, distinguished scientist for advanced signal processing and automation in mine warfare at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) received the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Award for Technical Achievement in Undersea Warfare Sept. 17, in Groton, Connecticut.

The NDIA Undersea Warfare Division Bronze Award recognizes outstanding individual achievements in either Science or Engineering in the field of Undersea Warfare. This recognition is awarded to key individuals in the principal Navy and University Laboratories engaged in undersea warfare related activities.

Cobb was surprised to learn of his selection to receive the award highlighting NSWC PCD’s technical successes in Undersea Warfare.

“Our team at NSWC PCD has worked hard to transition machine learning capabilities to mine countermeasures UUV programs and I’m honored to accept this award for these accomplishments,” said Cobb. “This award means a lot to me because of the others at NSWC PCD who received it, such as Dr. Gerry Dobeck, Dr. Kerry



Groton, Conn. – Dr. James “Tory” Cobb, left, is presented with the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Award for Technical Achievement in Undersea Warfare by Mike Cortese, division chair for the Undersea Warfare Division September 17. Courtesy photo

Commander, and Dr. Dan Sternlicht, among others,” said Cobb. “To be included with such accomplished research scientists is a real honor for me.

Cobb has devoted his 18-year career to improving the U.S. Navy’s undersea warfare capabilities. As an internationally recognized expert in applying machine-learning principles to mine warfare, he has successfully transitioned side-scan and synthetic aperture sonar automatic target recognition (ATR) to unmanned underwater vehicle programs.

“Cobb’s ATR algorithms improve system performance substantially over prior approaches and they are paving the way for enhanced autonomous unmanned underwater vehicle capabilities,” said Capt. Aaron Peters, NSWC PCD commanding officer.

Cobb attributes the successes to many years of hard work and accomplishments of his and others.

U.S. Navy, Marine Corps demonstrate unmanned ship-to-shore transit capability

By Dan Broadstreet
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — The U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) recently harnessed the power of unmanned technology and successfully tested the Remote Control Assault Amphibious Vehicle (RC AAV).

“Assault Amphibious Vehicles were structured to carry troops in water operations from ship-to-shore, through rough water and the surf zone,” said Dustin Bride, RC AAV system engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD). “This modernized upgrade will allow the Marine Corps to remotely traverse from ship-to-shore with an organic vehicle capability to breach and proof lanes and landing zones for landing forces.”

NSWC PCD’s RC AAV team spent two weeks testing in the Open Ocean and surf zone at the United States Marine Corps’ (USMC) Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch (AVTB) at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Bride said NSWC PCD’s USMC Maneuver Systems Branch is concurrently developing three remote breaching/proofing mission sets for the RC AAV’s control system. To accomplish this, NSWC PCD is leveraging optimal technical expertise by networking with experts across the Department of Defense’s (DoD) littoral battlespace communities.

“Our Naval Research and Development Establishment (NR&DE) is leveraging collaborative partnerships,” said Bride. “For example, the RC AAV’s Mission Set One is the MK 154 three-shot linear demolition charge system. It is being upgraded to employ remote capabilities by NSWC PCD, NSWC Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division, and Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific.”

There are two more unmanned remote breaching/proofing sets under development, both funded by MCSC. According to Bride, further development and testing of the RC AAV with the breaching mission sets will occur over the next two years.

“The end goal of the development program is to demonstrate that the RC AAV is a logical and suitable choice for the future of the Marine Corps’ investment into unmanned ground and amphibious platforms,” said Bride. “These upgrades will create a more efficient and lethal force that can come from land or sea.”

While explaining the purpose of the RC AAV, Bride mentioned how testing revealed that the upgrades were improving the platform’s performance.



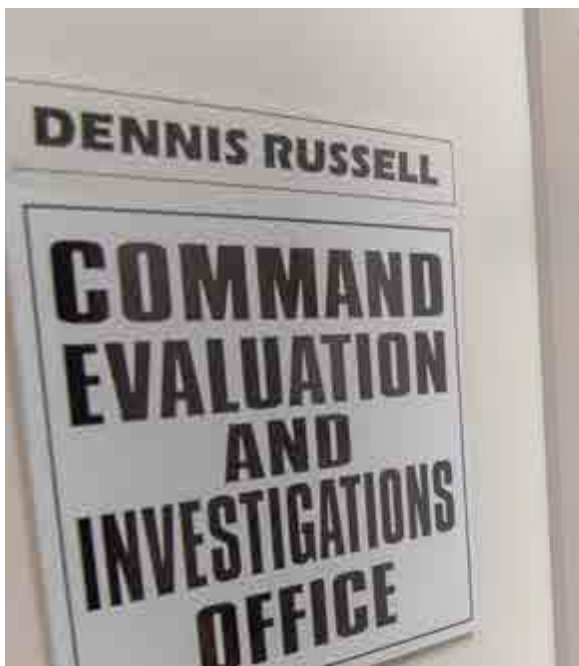
CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Remote Control Assault Amphibious Vehicle (RC AAV) is pictured after completing one of its successfully-completed 22 surf zone crossings while undergoing testing at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) United States Marine Corps’ (USMC) Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch. The testing of the newly modernized RC AAV is the result of a collaborative effort between the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division and the United States MCSC. U.S. Marine Corps courtesy photo

Bride said there were many test objectives recently performed at MCSC’s AVTB.

“Out of the many, one of the key indicators of success during this testing was that we were able to successfully perform 22 surf zone crossings and 13 open water transits,” said Bride.

Stephen Hunt, head of Expeditionary and Maritime Systems Department at NSWC PCD said collaborative efforts, such as these help establish a culture of urgency and innovation across the NR&DE.

“I believe the DoD is ushering in a new cultural shift that encourages the NR&DE to collaborate in order to make rapid, impactful advances in capability,” said Hunt. “When we optimize our technical expertise through collaboration, just as the RC AAV team demonstrated at Camp Pendleton, we’re well on our way to accomplishing Naval Sea Systems Command’s desire to “move the needle” when it comes to rapidly providing capability to the United States Navy.”



NSWC Panama City inspectors attain command evaluator certification



By Susan H. Lawson
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) inspectors Dennis Russell, Command Evaluation and Investigations (CE&I) director, and Robert Malouin, Jr., advanced investigator, were lauded for achieving their CE Professional Certification.

The certification acknowledges their academic knowledge, reviewing, and report writing expertise that has resulted in actionable, impactful, and relevant corrective actions.

“Dennis (Russell) and Bob (Malouin) have demonstrated the high standards of proficiency and excellence, including experience, academic achievement, analytical skills, and CE report writing ability, said Carl Adams, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Office of the Inspector General (IG) deputy inspector general. “This CE certification is a critical initiative in our community’s professional development framework, and now joins both Hotline Investigations and Inspections in having a professional certification standard.”

Commander, NAVSEA recently issued a Policy Memorandum establishing the NAVSEA IG CE competency requirements for CE certification that sets higher standards of professional excellence. The program formally acknowledges experience, academic achievement, analytical skills, and report writing accomplishments.

“I am very proud of our inspectors for the high quality of work that they perform,” said Capt. Aaron Peters, NSWC PCD commanding officer. “They continue to amaze me with their expertise and excellence.”

The NSWC PCD CE&I office IG Hotline investigations, special studies, command program reviews, management inquiries, command directed investigations, security preliminary inquiries, manual of the judge advocate general investigations, lost, damaged, or stolen property investigations and any other investigation directed by the Commanding Officer.

To report fraud, waste, and abuse, mismanagement or misconduct at NSWC PCD, use the chain of command or call our local hotline at 234-4462. You may also contact Russell directly at (850) 234-4795 or Dennis.D.Russell@Navy.Mil.



PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division inspectors Dennis Russell, Command Evaluation & Investigations director, and Robert Malouin, Jr., advanced investigator, pose for a photo in honor of their certifications. U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green



Navy donates Apple technology to local school district

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) recently donated retired technology to future generations in the local school district.

Seth Edewaard, NSWC PCD Cybersecurity branch head, said the command transferred three Apple Mac Pro desktop computers with high definition, 4,000 pixel, 27-inch retina displays and two Apple MacBook Pro laptops to Bay District Schools (BDS).

"The systems no longer serve their intended purpose at NSWC PCD. It is a logical choice to donate them to the local school district – given the recent hardships of Hurricane Michael and the graphic capabilities these systems can provide," said Edewaard. "Hopefully the district will select a school with a strong graphic arts department to receive the equipment."

According to Edewaard, these systems were used in the Cybersecurity branch of the command and allowed personnel to analyze and support Apple products in that capacity. Per Department of Defense policy, the system's memory has been erased and hard drives have been removed.

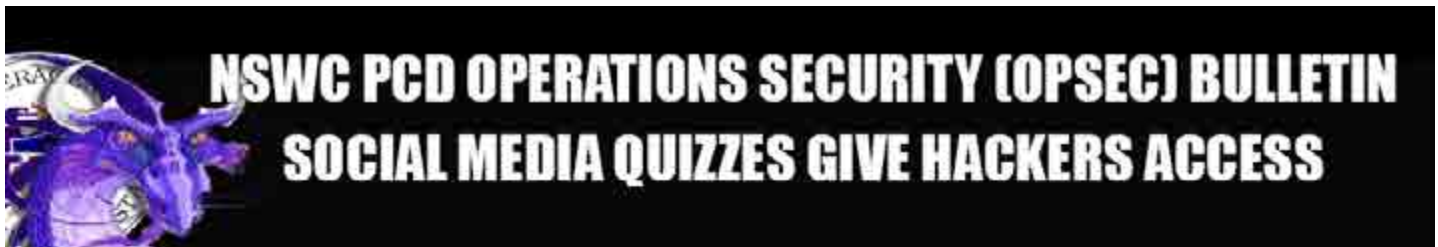
Ginger Littleton, BDS board member, said students will benefit because their range of experience with both the technical and creative opportunities provided by this donation is greatly expanded.

"NSWC Panama City Division always considers the local educational institutions when it has equipment that still has a functional life span and may find a new home within the schools, colleges, and universities. The "old" becomes "new" again, and many students are now enjoying the recycled items from welding machines to computers and video cameras," said Littleton. "This synergistic relationship allows the Navy to remove and replace items, and it allows educators and educational institutions to provide more learning opportunities by recycling equipment for use by our students. The partnership is strong, efficient, and is most beneficial."

Littleton said when she received word that NSWC PCD had Apple equipment in great condition and ready for replacement, she immediately contacted the BDS information technology (IT) personnel who were ecstatic to receive the potential donation.

"We have schools that have IT programs that produce a morning show to start the day," said Littleton. "The BDS IT team could see how adding the Apple equipment would enhance their ability to produce a morning show and to extend their experience with other technologies."

Edewaard said he is grateful to provide the students with the systems.



Social media allows you to connect with the world, but many seemingly harmless quizzes and surveys can be traps laid by social media hackers. The quizzes and surveys often request you to accept "terms and conditions," which allow the application to access personal information on the device. They also ask questions that appear simple:

*What's your favorite color?
Where did you grow up?
What's your spirit animal?*

The answers to these questions are also often used as security questions for online accounts. Combined with the data obtained from your device, the answers provide the missing piece for potential cyber pirates to illegally seize your online identity and access your accounts.

For more information on OPSEC, contact Ernest "Stug" Fentress
OPSEC Program Manager (Code 1053) at (850) 636-6356

THINK. PROTECT. OPSEC.

People of PANAMA CITY

with JACKIE ZBRANAK
(X Department)



U.S. Navy photo by Katherine Mapp

My name is Jackie and grew up in Austin, Texas. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas before moving to Panama City.

I started at NSWC Panama City Division as an electrical engineer just over a year ago. I do a little bit of everything, but I have three main areas of work.

I work with the team in the radiofrequency laboratory to build, test, and design antennas and communication systems. Since the lab has an anechoic chamber, which is a room designed to absorb reflections of either sound or electromagnetic waves, we preform antenna comparisons and electromagnetic interference testing for other teams on base.

I serve as an Administrative Laser Safety Officer instructor. Our team travels to other bases to teach Sailors how to establish and maintain a laser safety program, introductory laser physics, and about the Navy Policies governing this. I have just started working with the next round of student-teachers and I'm excited!

I also lead the New Professional Network (NPN). The NPN helps our New Professionals connect with each other and the local area to help ease their transition. It is a great program to be a part of, because I get to learn about different people and projects in addition to addressing and providing feedback on NP challenges.

I have a strong interest in music. I play flute in the Bay Wind Community Band and I'm also working on learning saxophone and piano. I enjoy composing music. I mostly write for woodwind or flute ensembles, but want to try writing for larger ensembles in the future. I like swimming and art. If I have time to draw, I like to focus on shapes and patterns.

Strengthening our Navy Team: Recruiting



ORLANDO, Fla. – Sam Crutcher, Kristen Campbell, Craig Pajak, and Christina Langford recruit at the University of Central Florida 2019 Fall Career Expo September 24.



RICHARDSON, Tex. – Ivan Lugo, Willis Walker, Jen Davis and Karl Morris recruit at the University of Texas at Dallas Career Expo Day September 25.

Courtesy Photo

What Does FIAR Mean and Why Does it Matter?

Financial Improvement and Audit Remediation (FIAR) is a state of continuous readiness to demonstrate that our financial processes are effective, efficient, and in place. Specifically, FIAR efforts are to increase the reliability of the Department of Navy's financial statements. The National Defense Strategy demands a "transition to a culture of performance where results and accountability matter." At the high-level, auditable financial statements help promote that accountability, but the reality of attaining this goal affects all of us in the way we conduct business.

Consider the many ways that we personally have an impact on the Navy's financial statements. All of NSWC PCD's civilian personnel, by virtue of our employment, contribute to the Navy's financial statements when we record our time and that time is approved. When we are paid, deep down in the weeds of the financial statements, we are contributing to expenses. As our annual leave accrues every pay period, so do the accounting liabilities on the financial statements. But why does that actually matter? Currently, the Department of Navy provides

financial statements; however, the auditors tasked with independently checking if glaring errors exist have said, "We could not obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion." In accountant-speak, this means that the Department of the Navy's business processes and systems are so complex, diverse, and unstandardized that they cannot tell if they are worth the paper on which they are printed.

The American Public deserves not just to believe, but also to know that the Navy is a good steward of their tax dollars. All of us in some fashion can work to provide them auditable financial statements so that they may know rather than just believe. In the coming months, NSWC PCD's FIAR Team will highlight ongoing local efforts to support auditable financial statements, translate accountant-speak into meaningful information, and provide context for how each of us at NSWC PCD can contribute to the auditability of the Navy's financial statements.



Civilian LENGTH OF SERVICE

35

Dennis Gallagher
Frank Hamilton

20

Susan Clancy
Carmen Decker
Charles Herring
Jennifer Jackson
Susan Michell

15

Andrew McCalla
Charliz Sanders

10

John Burkhardt
Jessica Finn
Michelle Richardson
Tim Reed
Paul Wray

5

Stacy Faison
Nathan Fonzi
Michelle Henderson
David Hickman
Timothy Lawler
Ahn-vo Nguyen
Tyler Ridley
Edwin White
Kenneth Wilcox
Matthew Wilson

Navy volunteers collect relief supplies for Bahamas

By Katherine Mapp
NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – After Hurricane Dorian devastated the Bahamas, employees from Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) rallied together to collect supplies to aid in relief efforts by those affected by the Category 5 hurricane.

Eric Pierce, Human Systems Integration lead at NSWC PCD, said he started this effort when he could not find another means of donating to the Bahamas.

"Hurricane Michael caused horrendous damage to our area, but at least it kept moving. I can't begin to understand how hopeless and alone the people of the Bahamas felt as Hurricane Dorian battered them for nearly thirty hours. It's a miracle anyone survived. I had to help in any way I could," said Pierce. "It's just the right thing to do."

Paula Oliver, NSWC PCD Test, Evaluation, and Prototype Fabrication Division administrative assistant said she and Pierce wanted to pay it forward after many people came to the aid of the Panhandle of Florida with supplies after Hurricane Michael in 2018.

"Eric came to me and thought it would be a good idea to give back to those that just went through what we went through less than a year ago," said Oliver. "We are still feeling the effects of Hurricane Michael and we feel the need to let those hit by Hurricane Dorian know that the Panhandle of Florida cares."



PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Paula Oliver prepares supplies for delivery. U.S. Navy photo by Anthony Powers

Once the word got out, other NSWC PCD employees joined in to donate supplies.

The employees donated goods such as work gloves, water, baby supplies, pet food, toiletries, clothing, and nonperishable food items, among other disaster relief items.

Pierce delivered the supplies to a central supply drop off zone in South Florida where the supplies were then transported to the Bahamas via private planes.



NSWCPCD
DAWIA

**Defense Acquisition Workforce
Improvement Act**

Monthly DAWIA Achievements: individuals who have completed their DAWIA Certification requirements in the last reporting period.

Mike Monroe, DAWIA Program Manager
850-230-7913

Tyler Baldin
Steven Baldomero
Michel Baril
Charles Brooks Jr.
Clyde Brown
Tommy Bushman
Carlos Crespo
Billy Courson III
Sascha Dastgerdi
Jade Douglas
Omar Hernandez
Bryan Johnson
Jeffrey Kleinbauer
Michael Kleinbauer

Heather Lewis
Corey Lounsbury
Norman Fabre Martes
Thomas McNulty
Erik Molina
James Nelson
Michelle Richardson
Barbara Rollin
Joshua Slaughter
Shaun Swannick
Michael Tavarone
Timothy Toms
Hank Williams

**Congrats to our NSWC PCD employees
for completing their
DAWIA requirements this month.**

SAFETY

Back Injury - How to Avoid Them

Prepared by: Patrick Beacom, NSWC PCD Safety Specialist

There are many causes of back injuries. Often, an injury occurs due to a combination of causes that weaken an employee's back over a period of years until something is seriously damaged.

- **Improper lifting.** Improper lifting techniques are a major cause of back injuries, especially job-related injuries. Lifting a load improperly can cause a serious and immediate injury if your back is already overstrained or out of shape.
- **Awkward motions.** Activities, such as reaching, bending, and twisting are often cited as causes of back injury. Injury can be caused over time by wear and tear on the back or as a result of one sudden movement.
- **Physical condition.** If an employee's body and back are in poor condition, that worker is more likely to develop back problems and pain. This often happens when people who normally don't use their back try to do something that requires a lot of lifting or other stress. This can easily result in a strain or sprain.
- **Excess weight.** Being overweight or having a potbelly can put continuous stress on your back that will gradually weaken it and contribute to injury.
- **Poor posture.** People often complain of back pain because they slept in an awkward position or because they sat or stood in an awkward posture for too long. Slouching, slumping, hunching, and other habitually poor postures put stress on the back and can lead to pain and injury over time.
- **Medical conditions.** An underlying medical condition can make the back more susceptible to injury. For example:
 - Degenerative conditions, such as arthritis and osteoporosis
 - Viral infections
 - Irritation to joints and disks

Safe Lifting

Probably the most common cause of back injuries on the job, of course, is improper lifting. This simple five-step technique can help reduce the risk of back injury and can go a long way toward preventing injuries.

- Step 1.** Stand close to the object with a wide stance. Feet should be shoulder-width apart, with toes pointing outward.
- Step 2.** Bend at the knees and hips, and try to maintain your body's natural curve.
- Step 3.** Pull the load close to you and grip it firmly.
- Step 4.** Tighten your stomach to act as a back support, and lift your head, which will help you lift with your legs, rather than your back.
- Step 5.** When you're ready to lift, use your legs and keep your back straight.



Why It Matters

- One in five U.S. workers suffers a back injury on the job.
- Back injuries are the second most common cause of days away from work, next to the common cold. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are nearly 200,000 reported back injuries that required days away from work annually.
- Overall, 80 percent of Americans will have a back injury that requires medical attention at some point in their lives, so the odds are, you will too.
- Men and women are equally affected.
- Back injuries are most frequently reported in working people beginning around age 30, and the risks increase with age. But even younger people can suffer back injuries on the job if they are out of shape.
- Once your back is injured, you are at greater risk to be reinjured.
-

Some back injuries can result in chronic pain and permanent partial disability.

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