



# COASTAL COMPASS

*The force behind the fleet*

March/April 2024  
Vol. 12 Issue 2

***CONTRIBUTION TO THE WARFIGHTER:  
SERVING THE NATION, WARFIGHTER AND MISSION***



**DOMINATE THE LITTORALS**  
**NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PANAMA CITY DIVISION**



March/April 2024  
Vol. 12 Issue 2

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The *Coastal Compass* is published bimonthly by the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) and is an authorized medium for news of general interest about employees of NSWC PCD and their work.

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Front Cover: The USS Boxer (LHD 4) Chiefs Mess and leadership stand in formation during morning colors on the flight deck, April 1, 2024. Boxer is a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Finney, illustration by Catherine Layton)

Back Cover: U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green

# VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Capt. David Back, USN  
Commanding Officer



There is no shortage of challenges that face the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps across today's global expanse. Tensions seemingly rise daily on multiple fronts. As potential scenarios intensify, so does the importance of vigilance and military readiness.

Our ability to deliver real, reliable and relevant solutions and capabilities to our warfighters directly impact America's ability to meet the demands of national defense strategies.

In the previous edition of the *Coastal Compass*, we introduced our strategic plan and how it was developed to help Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division deliver relevant solutions within the littoral battlespace and modernize the organization to support national defense objectives.

Built on our core values and led by our guiding principles, five categories were established on that foundation as to how we conduct our business as a warfare center asking this question: How does the Navy (both now and in the future) need us to support them using our unique skill sets and resources?

This edition will explore our first, and most central category – Contribution to the Warfighter. As an organization, we are committed to:

- Designing novel solutions to warfighting needs in our mission areas,
- Delivering operationally relevant solutions to deter and defeat the nation's adversaries,
- Applying our expertise to the emerging mission area of subsea and seabed warfare,
- Maintaining a healthy balance of science and technology, research, development, testing and evaluation, and sustainment workload.

# IN THIS ISSUE



Dr. Peter Adair, SES  
Technical Director

As the force behind the fleet, our mission – to Dominate the Littorals – demands every one of our individual efforts to collectively provide innovative solutions to complex problems through excellence in technical and business performance. The very term of contribution can be defined as the part a person or thing plays in bringing about a result or helping something to advance, which is our mindset as an organization. Regardless of where you all are within the command, every person executes a valuable part in our mission to help advance the fleet forward.

“When I look at our ability to be a standing force, a crisis response force [and] a force that is ready to go today ... [that all] relies heavily, crucially and critically on the U.S. Navy.” – Adm. Lisa Franchetti, Chief of Naval Operations

Ultimately, our success or failure, is determined by what we put in the hands in our warfighters. Every contribution we make together helps add towards that success to expand the advantage and provide the level of expertise the Navy has come to expect from NSWC PCD.

We are committed to serving the nation, warfighter and the mission.

**“Our Navy-Marine Corps team remains a key contributor to maintaining maritime safety, security, and global stability, and we remain committed to maintaining freedom of navigation in international waters.”**

**”**  
- The Honorable Carlos Del Toro  
U.S. Secretary of the Navy

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# CIVILIAN LENGTH OF SERVICE

MARCH/APRIL 2024

Name	Years	Name	Years
DAVID KETTERING	35	BRIAN WALLACE	15
MARGARET MOREJON	35	MALLORY BOND	10
LEONARD BARRON	30	JOHN BROOKS, JR.	10
MICHAEL BARRENECHEA	25	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	10
RICHARD CHILDRESS	25	AARON COLE	10
ROBERT COFFEY	25	CODY DELANEY	10
ANGELA COOK	25	ROBERT GUDGEL	10
RANDALL DYE, JR	25	KYLE HANSEN	10
JUSTIN PRIDGEN	25	JOSHUA PETERS	10
CHARLIE ALLEN	20	HEIDI SERRANO VARGAS	10
AARON BERGER	20	MARSH WEBER	10
OANA CASTLE	20	DEBORAH BANKS	5
ROBERT CONNER	20	CHRISTOPHER BILL	5
NICHOLE KIDD	20	DANIELLE BINGHAM	5
CHIYAN NG	20	SHARON BRAKEY	5
CHRISTOPHER NOBLE, JR	20	CANDRA CEBULA	5
BRIAN SAUER	20	MUHIBUS CHAUDHURY	5
JOHN STITT, JR	20	CHIKA COSMAS	5
LISA SUTTON	20	WILBERT HALL	5
CHINYERE UKAZIM	20	ADAM HUMBLE	5
MATTHEW BAYS	15	JEREMIAH LAFOUNTAIN	5
DAVID DOWDY	15	GUSTAVO MIRANDA LOPEZ	5
JOHN GIBSON	15	HONOR SIX	5
DANIEL PHILLIPS	15	JEFFREY TWEEDIE	5
BRENDA THIEDE	15	FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ RIVERA	5
GEORGE THRASHER	15	ROBERT WORCESTER	5



# NSWC PCD DAWIA

Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act

Congratulations to our employees for completing their DAWIA requirements this period!

- Alain Andre
- Brandon Bascetta
- Victoria Bottorf
- Robert Cox
- Piper Ellsworth
- Tiffany Finch
- Lauren Gaczewski
- Dean Golden
- Andrew Matson
- Carter Mcmillan
- Penney, Madison
- Nathan Repucci
- Antonino Travia
- Jack Weiler
- Shayna Zeleznik

## AWARDS

### WINNERS

*Navy Civilian Service Meritorious Awards:*  
Dr. Isaac Sledge & Scott Dorsch

### UPCOMING

- 3 May National Medal of Science
- 15 May Women of Color Technology All-Stars and Technology Rising Stars  
Women of Color Top Women in Finance
- 17 May National Blacks in Government Military Service Award
- 21 May National Blacks in Government Prestige Awards
- 22 May Program Executive Office William H. Neiger Fleet Readiness Excellence Award
- 24 May Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference
- 29 May National Defense Industrial Association Bronze Medal
- 31 May Naval Submarine Distinguished Civilian Award
- 7 June Latina Style Distinguished Military Service Awards
- 14 June System Safety Society Awards

# WELCOME ABOARD!

- SGT Martin Papa - 1044
- Tonya Rawlings - 0122
- Jason Boudreaux - 022
- Adam Pisarsky - 022
- Troy Orender - 1024
- Bradly Boyer - A22
- Graham Hawkes - A44
- Brett Master - A13
- Bryan Miller - A33
- Austen Riffie - A44

- Matthew Barnes - E31
- Edward Blanton - E13
- William Dorr - E31
- Roger James - E14
- Lt John Keeler - E40
- Chamberlin Hannah - E14
- Aramis Ramirez - E41
- Chloe Robinson - E23
- Randy Hamilton - S22
- AZ2 Devon Kerr

# DIVISION SPOTLIGHT



## Stacy Faison

*104B Deputy Activity Command  
Information Officer (DACIO) and  
1042 Branch Head*

Code 104B  
*Deputy Activity  
Command Information*

Code 1042  
*Information Management  
Customer Services*

### How long have you worked at NSWC PCD?

I came to NSWC PCD cyber security branch as a contractor back in 2010, and became a civilian four years later in 2014.

### Why did you decide to work at NSWC PCD?

I was working as a contractor at Tyndall Air Force Base doing Department of Defense Certification and Accreditation (C&A, DIACAP). My current supervisor was hiring someone to do C&A for NSWC PCD. I was excited for the challenge to transfer my knowledge, skills and abilities to the Navy's work, and I have been here ever since.

### What do you do in your job? What is the impact?

As the DACIO, I am responsible for determining the Information Technology (IT) budget for the command and ensuring IT governance is implemented; coordinating the command's cyber security vision, strategies, policies, and implementation for PCD; executing processes for PCD that support Navy enterprise software portfolio management and aligning IT investment priorities with Naval Sea Systems Command Chief Information Officer and PCD mission requirements; and providing oversight for the research, development, test and evaluation networks at PCD because it is vital to make sure the IT division can support the technical codes by providing current technologies and subject matter experts to support emergent initiatives. As the Branch Head for the Information Management Customer Services Branch, my main goal is to make sure that we are providing the best customer service we possibly can.

### What does your branch do?

Code 1042 provides support for those who support the warfighter through the Unified Help Desk, telecom service, Assistant Contract Technical Representative (ACTR), software, IT Procurement Requests (ITPRs), Spectrum Management, IT asset and inventory management, spectrum management, Tier II research, development test and evaluation support, token management and Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, or SIPR, room access.

### What does your division do to support NSWC PCD and the Navy?

The IT Division provides behind the scenes support for all NSWC PCD personnel. We offer network access to the Defense Research Engineering Network (DREN) and Secure DREN. We offer a software development, security, and IT operations environment on the RDT&E Network; customer service; Risk Management Framework support and services, vulnerability management, and Incident handling support; and web application development, SharePoint Online, Cloud Platform and emerging technologies support for the command.

# NSWC PCD WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHTS



## DR. MICHELLE KINCER

*Chief Strategist, Expeditionary Warfare & Littoral Operations Department*

Dr. Michelle Kincer graduated from Georgia Tech with a bachelor's of science followed by earning her doctorate in materials engineering. After graduating, she went to work with the Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala., where she worked on counter rockets, artillery and mortars technology and high energy laser platforms. Kincer moved to NSWC PCD, in 2015, where she worked a variety of research and development projects in the Science and Technology Department, including non-lethal vessel stopping, buried threat detection, ship wake studies, and laser detection. In 2020, she became the first NSWC PCD chief strategist of the Expeditionary Warfare and Littoral Operations Department. Kincer plays a big part to help this Navy Lab Expand the Advantage by keeping NSWC PCD aligned with the current and future mission needs of the Navy and Department of Defense. This means helping to make smart and informed investments with internal resources, and making sure projects across the acquisition spectrum are aligned with the fleet needs of today, tomorrow, and the Navy after next. "We should challenge every decision we make – are we making the right choice for the Navy as a whole, and are we providing the capability that the warfighter at the tip of the spear needs? It's not enough to think only about being successful today, we need to be intentional about preparing for the agility that will be required of the Navy and Navy labs in tomorrow's fight."

## NICOLE WATERS

*Test & Evaluation & Prototype Division Head; NSWC PCD Test & Evaluation Director; Test & Evaluation Competency Lead*



Nicole's contributions to the Navy and the warfighter demonstrate how personnel at NSWC Panama City Division fulfill its mission – to Dominate the Littorals. After earning her bachelor's of science in ocean engineering, she started her career as a Naval Architect for General Dynamics Electric Boat aboard submarines. After her arrival at the Navy Lab in 2015, Nicole held positions as a test director, project manager, branch head, and now division head. While serving as a test director, she supported major programs of record on ships such as USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000), USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), the lead ship in the Ford-Class of Aircraft Carriers, as well as Littoral Combat Ships and, Virginia, Los Angeles, and Ohio Class Submarines. She has tested, supported, and fleeted U.S. Special Operations Command and Office of Naval Intelligence technologies to warfighters in the fleet today. Currently, as division head, her role is to spearhead modernization of the Gulf Coast Test Range for the Navy fight of the future. "Hope is not a strategy – we must pursue and take initiative on the things we need to accomplish with wartime readiness in mind. The testing and evaluation successes we have today are transferred directly to the capability of the warfighter tomorrow."

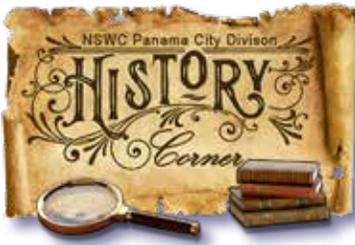


## ELIZABETH "PAIGE" SAULS

*Operations Manager, Expeditionary Warfare & Littoral Operations Department*

Paige was born and raised in Panama City, Fla., where her family settled after her father's military career. She earned an associate of arts in computer science and a bachelor of science in accounting. From 2009-2012, Paige began working as a contractor at NSWC PCD as a financial analyst in the Comptroller Department. She returned in 2017 as a federal civilian employee in the Corporate Budget Office and served as NSWC PCD Comptroller Department's P-code. While in corporate budget, she passed the Certified Defense Financial Manager exam, allowing her to build a foundation of financial stewardship. For the last three years, Paige has engaged in business excellence as the Department Operations Manager for the Expeditionary Warfare & Littoral Operations Department. Strengthening business proficiency, she acts as the funnel of information for the manager's and employee's requests, and she ensures the department's hiring actions are accurate and delivered on time. The love for her job and support of the command is recognized through her noble work ethic. Paige's contributions to the Naval Sea Systems Command, the fleet and the warfighter consists of acting as a support role for managers and employees in the field. Her role as operations manager is vital to keeping the department running efficiently and supporting the mission.

Paige is married with two daughters and family time is very important to her. Words she lives by are, "always be kind, work hard, be honest, never stop learning, have a good work-life balance, and always smile!"



# Contribution to the Warfighter

Prepared by: NSWC PCD Command Historian Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch  
[shauna.r.love-vonknoblauch.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:shauna.r.love-vonknoblauch.civ@us.navy.mil)

Since its inception in 1945, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division<sup>1</sup> (NSWC PCD) has been contributing to the warfighter with a focus on the research and development of mine countermeasures systems. From its earliest beginnings, the Lab has been designing novel solutions to meet warfighting needs. These projects and efforts are noteworthy as they set precedents, not only for the future of mine countermeasures, but for the Navy Lab's overall approach to research and development.

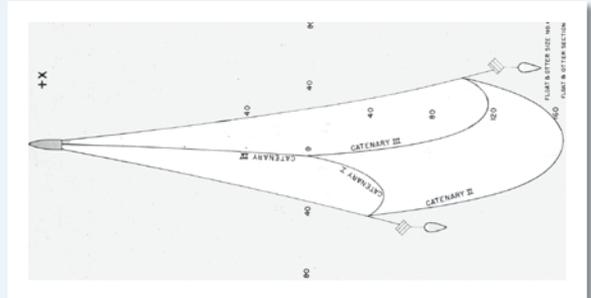
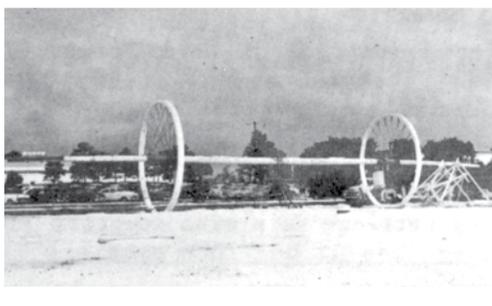


## PLATE Project

At the conclusion of World War II, a project was established to fabricate and evaluate a prototype rectangular plate capable of sweeping pressure-actuated mines. This first PLATE - constructed of wood and filled with gravel for ballast - failed structurally. However, the experience indicated that it was indeed practical to tow this type of pressure and a more ambitious, second-generation PLATE project began in 1950. Deficiencies ultimately led to the abandonment of the concept as being impractical from an operational, at-sea application, but all the experience gained from the PLATE project served to bolster the engineering and operational expertise of NSWC PCD.

## Asymmetrical Diamond

The first research project was assigned to NSWC PCD in late 1945. The project - a magnetic minesweeping effort known as Asymmetrical Diamond - was led by physicist Harold A. Johnson. The project focused on validating theoretical predictions pertaining to the effectiveness of a new sweep configuration for use against the new threat of magnetic mines.

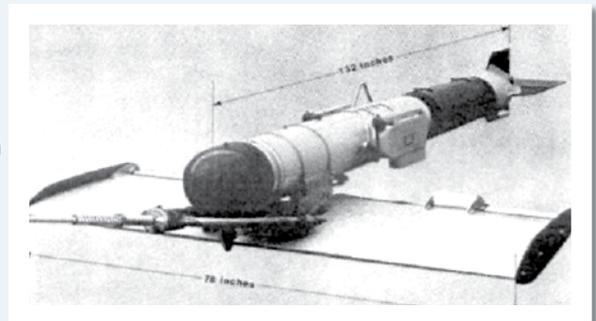


## SWAMPFOX

Threats from the Korean War introduced the project GD-3, SWAMPFOX. Influence mines were designed to lay on the ocean bottom, which instigated a series of experiments focused on the development of techniques to locate such mines. The idea investigated placing sensors in close proximity of the sea bottom.

## SHADOWGRAPH

Based on NSWC PCD test data and specifications, the SHADOWGRAPH system was developed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The system evolved from a 1954 proposal by Dr. Julius Hagemann for a fixed-beam, side-looking, high-resolution sonar to be carried in a towed vehicle that flew 15 feet above the ocean bottom. Beginning in 1973, the Naval Oceanographic Office acquired several SHADOWGRAPH systems that were used to conduct bottom characteristics surveys worldwide.



<sup>1</sup> Over the course of the years, the name of the organization has been identified by several official Navy names, although in the local community, it has always been referred to as the "Navy Lab." Herein, the organization is generally referred to as NSWC PCD, or the Lab, regardless of the time frame.



## Annual Command Award Ceremony Recognizes Top One Percent of Workforce

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By Cierra Burch, NSWPCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. - Each year, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) hosts the Commanding Officer (CO) and Technical Director's (TD) Annual Awards ceremony. This year's event included 15 Annual Awards, one Navy Civilian Service Meritorious Award, and recognition of three patents acquired in fiscal year 2023.

The annual awards program epitomizes the best the command has to offer. Through their technical innovation and business excellence, the personnel of NSWC PCD continue to raise the bar each year.

"As the force behind the fleet, wartime readiness demands that we give our best to ensure that the military force is ready to fight, can meet the demands of national defense strategies, and is properly trained and supported to complete their wartime tasks at anytime," said Capt. David Back, NSWC PCD CO. "This awards ceremony showcases an in-depth look at everything our PCD team is doing to deliver reliable warfighting capability to our sailors and marines."

The first Annual Awards were presented to Dr. Douglas Humphreys, Cmdr. Dave Humphreys, and Orman Holley for Special Achievement in 1975. The NSWC PCD Annual Awards recognizes the top accomplishments within the span of only one year, and this year there were seven teams and eight individual awards, including the hall of fame inductee.

The Hall of Fame Award is one of the most prestigious command awards, presented to one individual who has retired at least five years before nomination, whose contributions to the workforce and warfighter has had a lasting impact that is felt to this day. Dave Tubridy, former leader at NSWC PCD, was selected to receive this year's honor, and was inducted into the NSWC PCD Hall of Fame.

"Being nominated for, even more so selected for, NSWC PCD's Hall of Fame is truly a great honor for me," said Tubridy. "I am humbled to be included with such an esteemed group of talented people. I really loved my time working at the Lab so much and look forward to reading about the future accomplishments of the command."

Of the 57 nominations placed, 98 individuals were awarded Annual Awards which is less than one percent of the workforce.

"I am proud of all the accomplishments presented here today, which represent a small fraction of all of the impressive efforts that the entire workforce does at our Navy Lab on a daily basis," said Dr. Peter Adair, NSWC PCD TD. "Many of the guiding principles of our Panama City Division Strategic Plan are epitomized here, and this is crucial because it ensures that the technologies and services that we deliver are operationally relevant and significant to the Navy's warfighters."

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The 2023 Annual Awards Ceremony is now streaming on NSWC PCD's YouTube and Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

# Hall of Fame Award



Dave  
Tubridy

## Patents



RELEASE SYSTEM  
FOR A TETHER LINE

Robert J. Herman\*

Not pictured: Demetrius Kutzke and  
Gustavo Miranda Lopez\*

BIODEGRADABLE  
MICROPHONE

April Hirsch

Not pictured: Dr. Joshua Kogot



METHOD OF COLLECTING FIELD-BASED DATA  
TO REDUCE COLLECTED-DATA ERROR

Not pictured: Michael Kobold

\* New inductees into the  
NSWC PCD Inventors Society

# Individual Awards

## BUSINESS EXCELLENCE



Lori A. Hilgenberg

## CAREER ACHIEVEMENT



William J. Coffman

## DR. DAVID P. SKINNER OUTSTANDING SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Thomas P. Fanning

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP



Donald R. Wittkopf

## NEW EMPLOYEE EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



Dr. Ivan Rodriguez-Pinto

## OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT



Joe S. Renella

## TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE



Charles L. Dillingham

# Team Awards

## OUTSTANDING TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

### HAWKEYE EXPEDITIONARY LAUNCH MODULE TEAM



From left to right: Dr. Andrew Schicho, Niraj Thakkar, Corey Lounsbury, Michael Tavarone, Richard Kim, Braylee Brown, Mackenzie Blair, Robert Herman, Miguel Angelo Salinas, Randolph Hetzel, Emily Kiehn, Walt Hollis, Haydlee Slutzky, Amanda Small, and April Hirsch  
Not Pictured: Frank Allen, Chloe Cribbs, Jeremy Croom, Blake Delahoussaye, Joseph Earnest, Brian Eckert, Wesley Gerow, James Goodwin, Benjamin Nelson, Timothy Pride, and Kelly Williams

# Team Awards

## COLLABORATION EXCELLENCE

### SHIP-TO-SHORE CONNECTOR SHIP INTERFACE TEST TEAM



Left to right: Clyde Brown, Haydlee Slutzky, Fiamma Fernandez, Aaron Nicholas, Jena Rhea, Carlos Gonzalez-Montanez, Jeffrey Kiser, Ronel Murillo-Pagan, and Allen Martin  
Not Pictured: Dr. Robert Cole, Micheal Macdonald, Timothy Nehring, and Kathleen Paul

## EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS INNOVATION

### FUNDING ALLOCATED TO LOCALLY CONTROLLED NETWORKS TEAM



Left to right: Kate Pennington, Cathy Haynes, Emily Little, Joel Sasiela, Connie Anderson, Amanda Davis, Elizabeth Delay, Jamie Frederick, and Charles Faircloth  
Not Pictured: Cory Bruckschen and Colleen McCoy

## EXCEPTIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### COASTAL TEST RANGE TEAM



Left to right: Anthony Zarrilli, Paul Wray, Casey Brennan, Andrew Head, and Anthony Bush

## OUTSTANDING FLEET SUPPORT

### IN-SERVICE MINES PROJECT TEAM



Left to right: Abigail Stutz, Maryanne Dertilis, Sean Smith, Mackenzie Brogdon, Loubens Octave, Sharon Brakey, Robert Bethea, Vincent Larsen, Michael Denny, Niklas Bacon, Eric Fernandez, Donald Kiper, Omar Hernandez, Kuruboboka Tamunoitekena, Quyen Le, and Thu-Thao Nguyen  
Not Pictured: Senior Chief Mineman, Christopher Auvil, MNCS Luis Flores, Donald Hobden, Zachary Luther, Cameron Prosser, David Robinson, Joshua Roddenberry, Johnnie Steele, and Maria Weilbacher.

## OUTSTANDING INNOVATION

### AIR CUSHION VEHICLE MODEL-BASED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Left to right: Quinn Straub, SGT Alexander Morgan, Kendra Wardlow, Kevin Meaux, and Ira Haraughty  
Not pictured: Brian Delmar, Micheal Macdonald, and Ashley Rauch

## OUTSTANDING PROGRAM SUCCESS

### ADAPTIVE PERSISTENT AWARENESS SYSTEMS COUNTER UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TEAM



Left to right: Dominic Nguyen, Dr. Jacqueline Jermyn, Jeremy Johnson, Roscelin Figueroa, Daniel Klemfuss, and Jeffrey Kiser  
Not Pictured: Jonathan Faranda, Tyler Hoover, Kevin Larrimore, and Marvin Peardon

# ***CONTRIBUTION TO THE WARFIGHTER***

NSWC PCD is the Navy and Marine Corps trusted partner for identifying, providing, and sustaining innovative and effective technologies and solutions for the warfighter. We partner with other Department of Defense laboratories, industry, and academia to ensure relevant products and solutions to ensure warfighter dominance in the littorals.



## OBJECTIVES

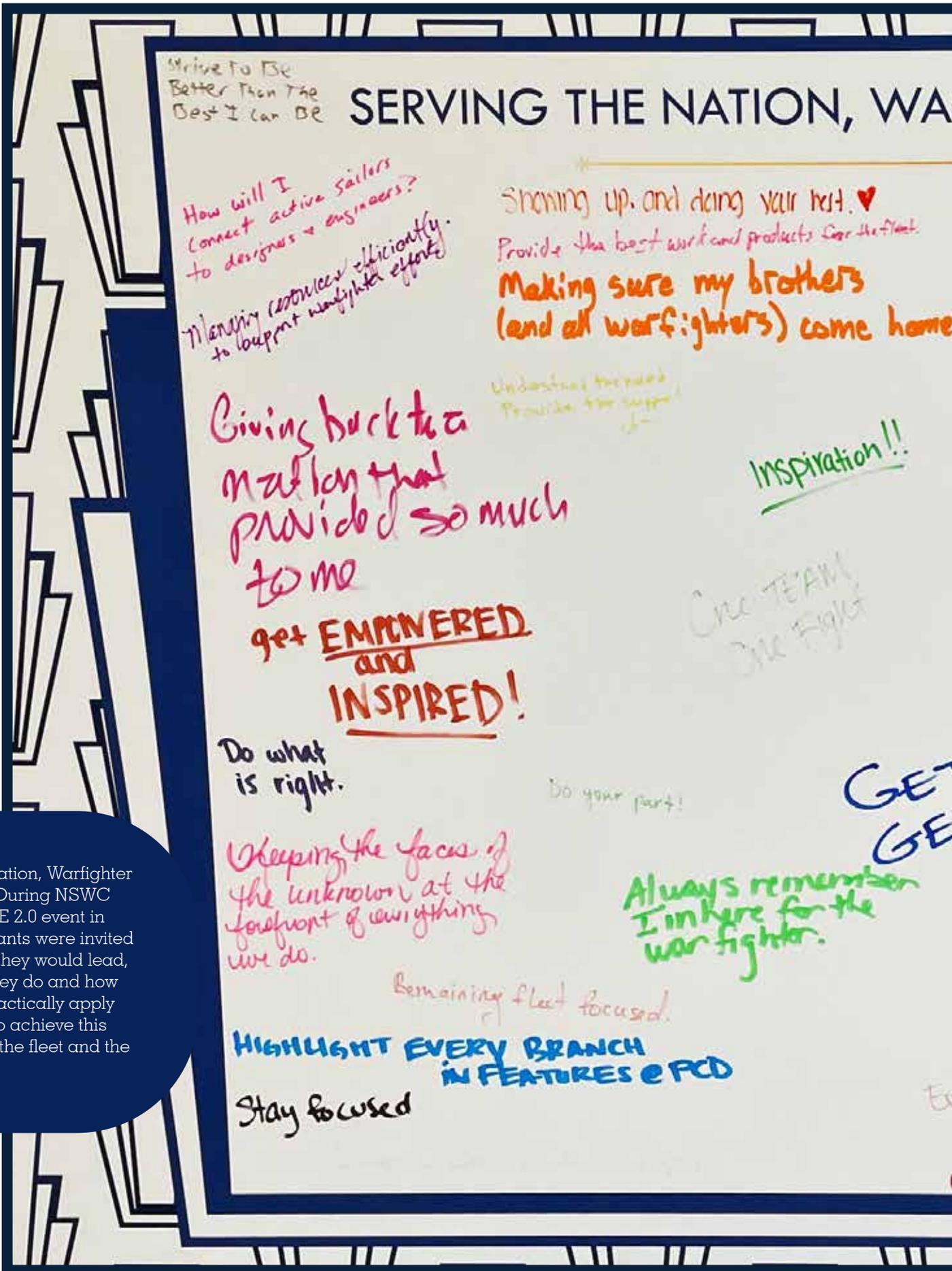
*Design novel solutions to warfighting needs in our mission areas*

*Deliver operationally relevant solutions to deter and defeat the nation's adversaries*

*Apply our expertise to the emerging mission area of subsea and seabed warfare*

*Maintain a healthy balance of Science & Technology, Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, and Sustainment workload.*





Strive To Be Better Than The Best I can Be

# SERVING THE NATION, WA

How will I connect active Sailors to designers & engineers?

Minimise resources efficiently to support warfighter efforts

Showing up, and doing your best. ♥

Provide the best work and products for the fleet.

Making sure my brothers (and all warfighters) come home

Understand the need Provide the support

Giving back to a nation that provided so much to me

Inspiration!!

get EMPOWERED and INSPIRED!

ONE TEAM ONE FIGHT

Do what is right.

Do your part!

GET GET

Keeping the faces of the unknown at the forefront of everything we do.

Always remember I'm here for the warfighter.

Remaining fleet focused.

**HIGHLIGHT EVERY BRANCH IN FEATURES @ PCD**

Stay focused

Serving the Nation, Warfighter and Mission: During NSW PC D's INSPIRE 2.0 event in 2023, participants were invited to share how they would lead, what would they do and how they would practically apply these efforts to achieve this objectives for the fleet and the nation.

# WARFIGHTER, AND MISSION

This is the reason we do what we do

Dominante the littorals

HOYAH + GIDDY UP!!

Full Speed Ahead

Flank Speed!

Make the Navy look good

Move Forward!

Give it All Every Day!

Step up.

GET REAL GET BETTER!

😊  
The work we do matters!!!

Recruit the best & brightest!

Bridging the gap in communicating War-fighter needs to our NSWC 7ED Teams

# INSPIRE



## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Empower through knowledge

Grow teams to bring better capabilities.

# PCD DAY 2024 DEMONSTRATES BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

By Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Personnel from across Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City were invited to attend the second annual PCD Day hosted by Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD), April 18.

To show their appreciation for all the hard work this command contributes daily, Capt. David Back, NSWC PCD commanding officer, and Dr. Peter Adair, NSWC PCD technical director, sanctioned PCD Day as an opportunity for each department to showcase their talents and educate the workforce about how this Navy Lab works together to support the warfighter.

“For an organization as large and diverse as we are, PCD Day is an important way for each branch and division to brag about the important work they do to support the sailors and marines in the fleet,” said Back. “I hope that events like this encourage people to seek out opportunities in areas of the command that they might not have thought about [or even known about] before.”

As a special treat, Adair proudly served ice cream for everyone to enjoy. Attendees flocked to his table as he handed out sweet treats and greeted personnel.

“I was honored to witness this event first-hand last year. As I said then, in my career here at NSWC Panama City Division, I have never seen an event quite like this,” Adair said. “Last year’s event was such a resounding success; we have decided to do it again!”

Each NSWC PCD department had the opportunity to set up their own booth and demonstrate how they help the command achieve its mission - to Dominate the Littorals. Many of the projects on display featured posters of future buildings planned for construction, various capabilities, including the Seal Delivery Vehicle and the Coastal



*Eric Pierce, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division Test and Evaluation and Prototype Division senior test director, and Steen Jensen Human Systems Integration team lead, explains the game of Warfighter Life to two participants at PCD Day, April 18. PCD Day saw every business and technical department on-hand to educate and showcase how they support the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Bob Lindee)*

Battlefield Reconnaissance Program. If observing every display was not enough, games were set up to educate the workforce on proper program procedures and how they support the force behind the fleet. Whether it was from a business department or a technical department, participants were able to see how the command comes together to deliver relevant solutions in the littorals from seabed to space.

A game booth from Human Resources (HR), a division of the Corporate Operations Department, was set up to educate and entertain.

“The purpose of the HR Chicken Flickin’ booth was to have fun while also teaching participants about all five



*Nearly 50 displays from technical, business and employee resources were set up, representing the work accomplished at NSWC PCD. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)*



Corporate Communication, Code 103, created a photo booth for attendees at the event. Dr. Peter Adair, NSWC PCD Technical Director, posed with CAPT David Back, NSWC PCD Commander. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

branches of our division. The questions covered fun facts and useful tips and resources used throughout HR,” said Sally Mellen, HR Staffing and Classification Branch head. This year, the NSWC PCD Corporate Operations Department took home bragging rights, accumulating 2500 points, and the Subsea and Seabed Warfare and Maritime Operations Department came in second

with 1000 points. Another big display was the Knifefish container from the NSWC PCD Mine Warfare and Unmanned Operations Department, one of the technical codes.

“The Knifefish Support Container is a modular support container capable of providing lithium-ion battery storage and charging/discharging capabilities needed to support a Knifefish

Unmanned Underwater Vehicle deployment,” said Norman Fabre Martes, manufacturing lead and mechanical engineer. “The container’s automated hazard mitigation system actively monitors, detects, and is capable of deploying the casualty gas extraction system and fire suppression system to maximize personnel safety and minimize collateral damage to the ship.”

The command is committed to Caring for Our People- which is one of the guiding principles in the new strategic plan. To demonstrate how the workforce supports the organization, members of the NSWC PCD Employee Resource and the Special Emphasis Groups displayed booths to educate the workforce on how they offer personal support and aid for professional development.

Attendees arrived hungry and the Navy Ball Committee was there to serve grilled burgers and hot dogs for lunch. Many purchased PCD items and memorabilia made available by the Navy Exchange. Panama City Division employees enthusiastically showed their support by lining up to purchase the goods.

As the Navy Lab is committed to expanding the advantage between America and her adversaries, each member of the NSWC PCD team provides a unique and important role. This type of event allows the workforce to reconnect, to demonstrate how each department matters, and to learn about the relevant solutions only NSWC PCD can provide to the fleet for today, tomorrow and the Navy after next.



NSWC PCD members attended PCD Day, April 18. Technical and business divisions set-up displays, such as this booth from the contracts branch, to highlight what they do and why it matters. (U.S. Navy photo by Bob Lindee)



(left to right) Christine Ward and Shelby Scotese from the NSWC PCD New Employee Network, share information about this employee resource group (ERG) with PCD Day attendees, April 18. Every ERG at the command is established to help the workforce connect and use resources available to them. (U.S. Navy photo by Bob Lindee)

# Welcome to NSWC PANAMA CITY DIVISION



## CODE 10 FACE-TO-FACE

Naval Sea Systems Command Warfare Centers Corporate Operations (Code 10) held their Face-to-Face event in Panama City, Fla., Feb. 27 - 29. Leadership from across the enterprise were able to reconnect, share best practices and learn about Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's mission and how our Code 10 delivers quality service and business solutions using contextual communication, innovative integration and seamless solutions to meet customers' needs. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



## PSP INSPECTION TEAM

The Naval Sea Systems Command Procurement Surveillance Program (PSP) Inspection Team consisting of respective experts and leaders from across the enterprise accessed the health of Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's contracting departments and procurement operations, March 5 - 14, 2024. Essentially an acquisition command inspection, a PSP key objective is to ensure the delegated procurement authority is safeguarded. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



## TOM P. HANEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Students from Tom P. Haney Technical College visit the Navy Lab, April 19. These students learned about some of the capabilities NSWPCD has to support the warfighter and also various opportunities to support the Navy in the future. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



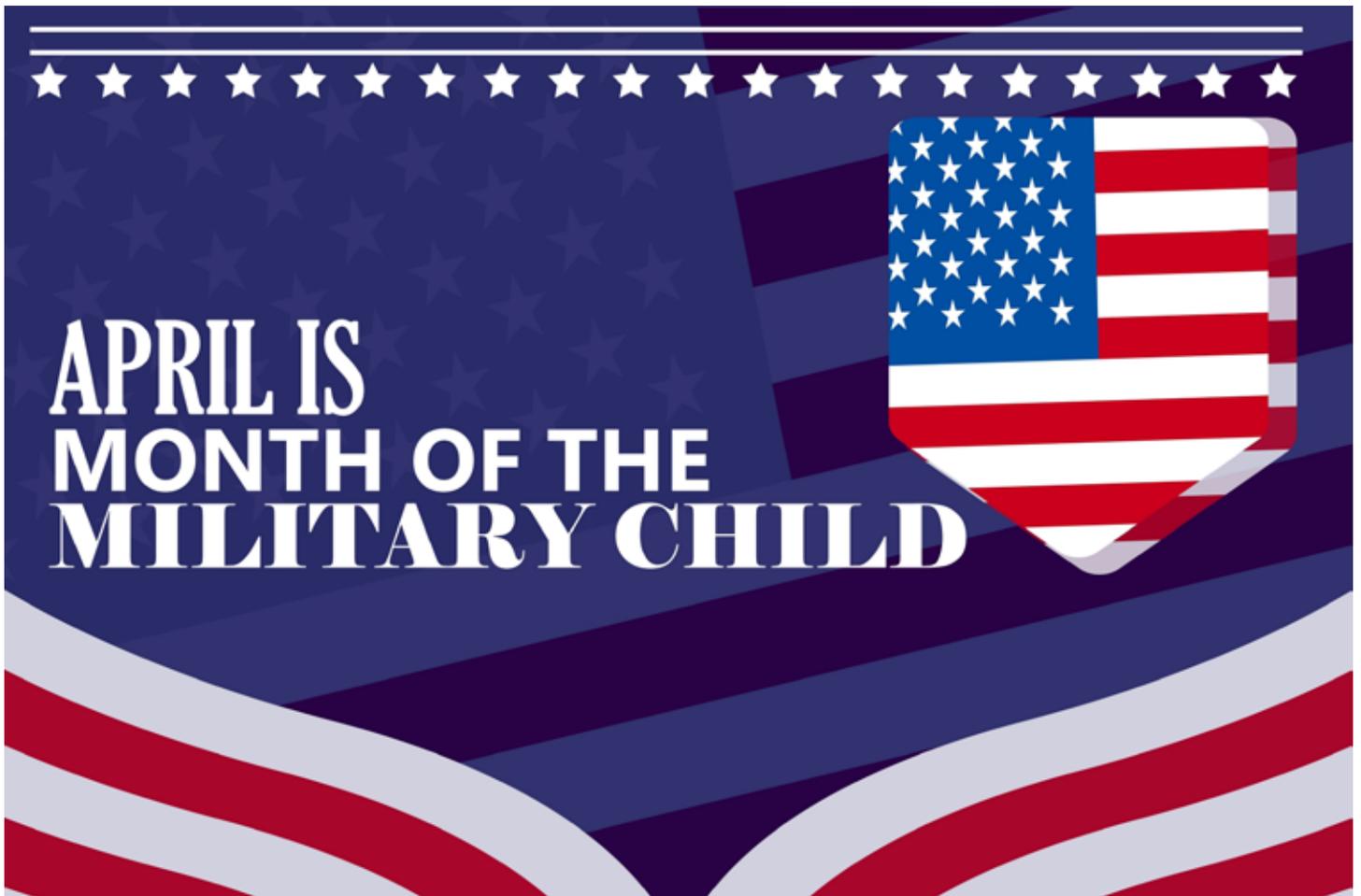
## CODE 102 FACE-TO-FACE

The Naval Sea Systems Command Warfare Centers Division Infrastructure (Code 102) held its community of practice face-to-face at NSWPCD Panama City Division, April 23 - 24. This group had the opportunity to learn about NSWPCD's mission, reconnect with Code 102 counterparts across the enterprise and exchange ideas on how to reinforce the branches who support NAVSEA operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)



## NAVSEA WARFARE CENTERS CHENG FACE-TO-FACE

The Naval Sea Systems Command Warfare Centers Chief Engineers (CHENG) held their Face-to-Face meeting at NSWC Panama City Division, April 23 -24. CHENGs are responsible for ensuring that technical rigor is practiced throughout their respective divisions to help engineers and scientists maximize their productivity on projects. Their visit initiated the sharing of best practices, exchanging important ideas and demonstrating how NSWC PCD supports NAVSEA and the warfighter. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



# COMPTROLLER

## Comptroller Department Innovates with FALCN System and Robotic Process Automation

The Comptroller Department, Code 01, is leaning forward to find innovative ways to decrease processing times and create efficiencies. Recent examples include the Funding Allocated to Locally Controlled Networks (FALCN) system and Robotic Process Automation (RPA), or BOTs, being actively developed.

FALCN, a web-based workflow and data repository application used to process funding for our Warfare Center, was created as a Funds Management software system collaboratively between Comptroller, Technical Financial Managers, and Code 1044. In April 2023, the system was tested on a sample of users and went into production in June. Prior to the development of FALCN, the Comptroller Budget Division used a Microsoft Access database to track and move funding packages from folder to folder on the share drive.

The Access database was managed

by one employee and required routine updates to maintain functionality. FALCN, extensively used by our Technical Financial Managers, significantly enhances our Financial Management tasks by providing a robust capability for managing funding documents. The continuity of our operations is important to the success of achieving our Command’s mission.

In addition to reducing system downtime, FALCN streamlines operations by eliminating the need to transfer data between folders on the share drive and SharePoint. The system offers role-based user views, providing immediate insight into the status of funds awaiting acceptance. This feature not only enhances transparency for our customers, but also reduces the volume of emails and phone calls to Comptroller employees inquiring about fund status.

Since the implementation of FALCN, we’ve seen a 16% decrease

in overall funding processing time. Given that Comptroller handles over 2,300 funding documents annually, FALCN plays a crucial role in enhancing our Command’s financial management proficiency.

In March, the FALCN application underwent a significant update to incorporate necessary changes for the implementation of G-Invoicing. A notable feature in this update is the digitalization of the Statements of Acceptability and Certifications (SOAC) process within FALCN. The new electronic process allows approvers to directly access and approve the SOAC within FALCN, effectively routing the record to the next step in the funding approval process.

In addition to FALCN the Comptroller Department is also working on developing RPAs or BOTs. Robotic Process Automation is a software tool that is configured to mimic or emulate human interaction on a computer.

Prepared by:  
Cory Bruckschen,  
NSWC PCD  
Comptroller Data  
Analytics lead

### WHAT RPA CAN DO

- Fill in forms
- Copy and paste data
- Move files and folders
- Read and write to databases
- Open email and attachments
- Log into web/enterprise applications

- Make calculations
- Connect to system Application Program Interface
- Scrape data from the web
- Follow “if/then” decisions/rules
- Extract structured data from documents
- Benefits of Process Robotics

- Improves Efficiency** – Employees are able to complete processes quicker with consistent, high-quality outputs
- Refocuses Employees** – Process robotics allows employees to focus on higher value tasks by shifting them away from manual tasks
- Enhances Flexibility** – Process robotics mitigates the impact of seasonality or other surges in process demand
- Traceability** – Process Robotics has the capabilities to produce comprehensive audit logs, documentation, and credential management
- Decreases Processing Time** – Process Robotics has the ability to drastically reduce processing time of tedious, manual tasks
- Improves Accuracy** – Process accuracy may be improved up to 99.9%, reducing the risk of human error
- Increase Available Capacity** – Process robotics augments the workforce by allowing more to be done with the same workforce

The Comptroller Department is in the process of developing a BOT to streamline operations in the Payroll Department. This BOT is designed to configure ERP reports, identifying any instances of missing time, unapproved time, or timesheets exceeding eighty hours. Upon configuration, the BOT will automatically send notifications to the affected employees and their supervisors. Currently, this process is performed manually, making it time-consuming and labor-intensive. The introduction of the BOT will not only expedite the process, but also free up payroll analysts to focus on other important tasks.

# APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

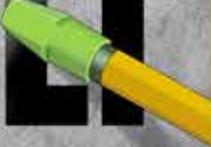
Sexual Assault Awareness  
and Prevention

## ELIMINATE

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

KNOW YOUR PART  
DO YOUR PART

For additional information:  
[sapr.mil](http://sapr.mil) | [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)



Sexual assault has no place in our military. Let's work together during April...and every day of the year...to prevent and respond to this crime.

Our Service Members deserve nothing less.

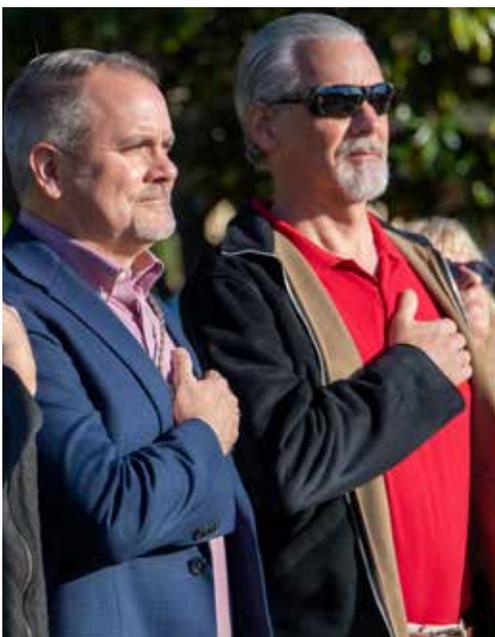


**We own it...We'll solve it...Together.**

## In Recognition of 50 Years of Service



Timothy J. McTrusty was recently recognized for 50 years of service in the government of the United States of America. McTrusty is an electrical engineer, SEAL Delivery Vehicle pilot and dive supervisor. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



## FLAGPOLE FRIDAY

U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green

The Command's Flagpole Friday, is an intentional effort to come together once a week and stand together as a unified team to observe morning colors.

This initiative stemmed from responses within to the Defense Organizational Climate Survey and other comments made by personnel within the organization. Each week, this gathering unites the workforce to ultimately remember why we all do what we do every day, to honor those who have come before us, those who are currently serving, and our nation. During Flagpole Friday, personnel

are encouraged (not required) to wear RED (Remember Everyone Deployed), colors/shirts from units military branches they/their family currently serve or has served in, or PCD gear.

This takes place every Friday morning at Bldg. 110, but if you can't make it to the site, just note that you can see the flag from almost every location on base, just step outside your building, face the flagpole and be part of honoring together from where you are. Grab a friend (or a few) on your way out the door.

# MANAGING RISKS

“An office is as safe as the people in it and sometimes those people can drive you to do crazy things to show the dangers of the office.” – Michael Scott, *The Office* TV series.

Our safety management system is about managing risks and hazards to avoid people getting hurt or breaking things. While operational risk receives a lot of attention, safety hazards exist in any environment, including the office. In this edition of office mishaps we combed the database and found that our office warriors still hurt themselves similarly. As with our earlier research, judgment and inattention were the top two leading human factors.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), falls are the most common cause of office injury—go figure, that’s the number one cause of injuries in any environment. Other common causes are muscle strains and hitting objects. The naval services closely match the CDC’s findings. Here are some examples and key takeaways from the mishaps of our “Argonauts of Admin”:

## **The Office Python**

An employee was sitting at her computer and, as she stood up to answer the phone, her foot became tangled in the computer wires under her desk. With the serpent of cabling now firmly holding her leg, the employee had no place to go but the floor or her chair, which she missed and injured her knee. – We’ve all likely seen it at some point: the snake nest of cables and wires under the desk. A few well-placed cable ties could have prevented this mishap. Check your workspace for trip hazards before you become the office python’s next victim.

## **“Breaking” Bad**

While returning to their workstation from stowing their lunch in the breakroom, an employee struck his right foot against a door frame, fracturing his fifth toe. He received two days of Sick in Quarters and seven days of restricted duty. In the immortal words of famous radio broadcaster Paul Harvey, “Now for the rest of the story.” As the employee departed the breakroom, he was distracted, thinking that his lunchbox had fallen, so he turned to confirm. In a classic loss of situational awareness, he continued down the hallway while looking back into the break room when BAM! — While we sometimes feel like our bodies are on autopilot (figuratively speaking), they’re not self-driving. Inattention is one of the leading causes of office mishaps, so keep your eyes forward when you’re walking, please. For more, see our safety awareness product, LL 20-24 Distracted Walking.

## **Chairs Aren’t Ladders**

A sailor placed items on a high shelf while standing on a chair. What happened next shouldn’t be a surprise, but we’ll continue, so you might think twice before using a chair as a ladder. The sailor took a step back, lost his balance and fell, striking his head on the tile floor. He received SIQ for 24 hours and light duty for five days. This fall could have had a much worse outcome. Using the nearest chair as a step or a ladder may be tempting, but the risk isn’t worth it. The time you think you will save may be spent in the emergency room or worse.

## **A Falling Out**

A sailor sat in a chair and decided to lean back. Seems normal, but... As the sailor leaned back, the chair “fell out,” according to the report and the Sailor hit her head on the floor. After the impact, the Sailor claimed loss of feeling in her lower back and leg (Yikes, that’s not good). She was treated at the local hospital for a concussion. While the chair was of the type that leans back, the report noted that it might have needed adjustment or repair. Chairs with moving parts can wear out just like any other equipment. Check your office chairs and other equipment before they launch someone onto the floor.

These are four examples of office mishaps. Please look for the Safety segment in May-June edition of the *Coastal Compass* for a continuation of our office safety mishaps with four more examples! In the meantime, visit the Naval Safety Command’s CAC-enabled site at <https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/navsafe> and select “on duty” then “workplace safety” for simple office safety checklists, tips and training.

# SAFETY

Prepared by:  
Patrick Beacom  
NSWC PCD  
Safety Specialist



Commanding Officer &  
Technical Director

**Annual Award**

Presented to

*In Service Mines  
Project Team*

for  
Outstanding Fleet  
Support



2023



## NSWC Panama City Division

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