COASTAL COMPASS

The force behind the fleet

September/October 2023
Vol. 11 Issue 5

NSWC Panama City Division

Ensuring Warfighting Dominance in the Littoral Battlespace

September/October 2023
Vol. 11 Issue 5

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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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VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Capt. David Back, USN
Commanding Officer

NSWC PCD Team,
Happy New Fiscal Year!

This fiscal year included several wins and firsts for us as a command. One of our significant wins this year is the initial operational capability (IOC) of the U.S. Navy's mine countermeasures (MCM) mission package.

Achieving IOC of the entire mine countermeasures mission package is the result of rigorous testing and evaluation of each component of the package and then integrating the systems and the mission to ensure the fleet is receiving the best MCM capabilities possible. Rear Adm. Casey Moton, former program executive officer at Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants said it best during his visit to Panama City to congratulate the MCM MP Team: "This significant milestone is a critical step in the Navy's progress towards the hybrid fleet described in Force Design 2045 by providing a modular MCM capability that leverages unmanned technologies to prosecute mines."

While one system is reaching IOC, another team reached a milestone by completing their final test—characterizing Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Assault Breaching System (ABS) or "JABS" performance against a specific foreign anti-landing mine at an operationally relevant water depth. This was the final event in a long series of tests that characterized JABS performance against a range of mine types in different water and

> "This significant milestone is a critical step in the Navy's progress towards the hybrid fleet described in Force Design

burial depths that the fleet may encounter.

As you continue to read this edition of the Coastal Compass, you'll read more about these accomplishments and observe demonstrations of the important work we do and why it matters, along with highlights of those we are proud to serve alongside.

We've had a lot to celebrate over the past couple months. We celebrated the Command's 78th birthday in September and the U.S. Navy's 248th birthday in October. This week, like every week for the last 248 years, our Navy was underway around the world, operating alongside our allies and partners in faraway waters, to preserve the peace while preparing for war. This week, like every week for the last 248 years, our Navy is standing the watch. In times of peace and war, we can be found in and on the sea, the air, space, and in the cyber realm, so that our citizens, and global citizens who are committed to following the rules-based international order, have the chance to live free. We are as critical to our nation today as we were on Oct. 13, 1775, and we can all be proud and honored to serve alongside the greatest Sailors the world has ever known.

Let's keep our underway shipmates top of mind now as always, and may we continue to deliver on the profound trust our nation has put in us to keep it safe.

Capt. David N. Back
NSWC PCD Commanding Officer

2045 by providing a modular MCM capability that leverages unmanned technologies to prosecute mines. "

IN THIS ISSUE

CIVILIAN LENGTH OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

Name	Years
TIMOTHY PRIDE	40
JEFFREY BLANKENSHIP	40
MARY ATCHINSON	35
JOSEPH LOPES	35
TONI MCGEE	35
SUSAN TAYLOR	35
CHARLENE BUDUO	30
TIMOTHY FLOORE	30
TAMMY MILLER	30
WENDELL COX	25
JENNIFER DAVIS	20
JOE LOWRY	20
BRIAN PRIDGEN	20
SARAH BRIDE	15
JOHN CHANDLER, II	15
CYRIL GAZAGNAIRE	15
JEFFREY KISER	15
TYLER MOAK	15
NEIL PATTERSON	15
BRIAN SHARP	15

Name	Years
TIPHANIE SPRADLIN	15
LYNDA THOMPSON	15
JASON ZIMMERMAN	15
DIANE BRUNDIDGE	10
CHRISTINA BURGHARDT	10
DOUGLAS JOHANNES	10
JAMES LEWIS	10
HOWARD MARSHALL	10
MITCHELL MARTIN	10
ALAN PYLE	10
EMILY ANN ASTROM	5
THOMAS BURLESON	5
BILLY COURSON III	5
KEVIN KING	5
MICHAEL KLEINBAUER	5
GABRIEL PEREZ-FIGUEROLA	5
DEMARKIS POPE	5
ANJELICA RIVERS	5
MICHAEL TAVARONE	5

NSWC PCD DAWIA

Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act

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

AUSTIN BARBER
JESSICA CLARK
ABIGAIL DEPIETRO
DECLAN DEPIETRO
MICAH FIERRO
ZACHARY GOLDSMITH
RYAN HODGES
CHRISTOPHER KIRN
EVAN MCCAW
KEVIN MEAUX
DANNY PATTERSON
NITAYA PRATER
SYDNEY ROSS
DELANEY SLATON
CODY SMITH
EMILY SMITH
ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD
CLAUDIA USIS

WELCOME ABOARD!

Name	Code
HAILEY BEACH	0122
CPT MITCHELL HOSFORD	01B1
TINA CURTIS	1063
JACQUELINE DELASALAS	1062
MATTHEW MANNING	1043
SAMUEL CORBIN	A42
NOAH FIELDER	A13
SYDNEY LIESKE	A44
PAUL SCALA	A13
CARLI SCHOENMANN	A42

Name	Code
ROBERT SUCH	A43
JASON ANDERSON	E32
AARON BURGHARDT	E13
SARAH COX	E54
EMILY DODSON	E55
PIPER ELLSWORTH	E15
DONNA KIRKPATRICK	E10
ANDREW MCLEAN	E13
SHELBY SAVELL	E11
MICHAEL STEPHENS	E23

Name	Code
KALEB STUPALSKI	E42
ELIZABETH WALKER	E23
GAVIN WILSON	E43
ANDREW WRIGHT	E51
JOSIE ACREMAN	X22
CONANIAH BOOKER	X22
MANDOLIN BROWN	X22
LAMONT HENDERSON	X12
SAMUEL SHAFFER	X24
JACK SMITH	X21

DIVISION SPOTLIGHT

Leanna Tribaldos

Technician

Division E20
Joint Interoperability and Irregular Warfare Division

Code E26
Coastal and Maritime Systems Branch

Why did you decide to work at NSWC PCD?

I consider NSWC PCD to be a model organization and was grateful for the opportunity to work directly with so many talented and dedicated professionals and to contribute my skill set. Also, having never served in the military, I am so proud and beyond honored to still be able to support my country as a civil servant.

How long have you worked at NSWC PCD?

I have been an employee of NSWC PCD since February 2021, although I have supported various projects on the base as a contractor since around 2006.

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

As the Air Cargo area lead for the Adaptive Persistent Awareness Systems (APAS) project, I support Air Cargo Screening Qualification Testing (ACSQT) of air cargo screening technologies, including Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) devices, Visual Image (VI) devices, and Explosive Detection Systems (EDS), for inclusion in the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Air Cargo Screening Technology List (ACSTL). The ACSTL identifies all security systems that are authorized to screen cargo destined for transport on passenger aircraft. When a technology is submitted as a candidate for Stage I qualification (laboratory testing), I conduct a quality review of the Master Configuration Item List (MCIL) and drawing package, then perform a configuration verification audit of the documentation against the physical device and software. I work directly with the vendor to resolve all discrepancies and establish a developmental product baseline of the configuration under test. For Stage II (field testing), I support execution of site surveys for system installation in a real-world operational environment, as well as Site Acceptance Testing (SAT) upon initial deployment. Candidate technologies are deployed to numerous air cargo facilities associated with major airports across the United States and are often relocated to ensure a wide sampling of data collection from various regions and climates, for which I also provide property management support for transfer of sponsor-owned assets and perform Relocation Acceptance Testing (RAT) to ensure continued suitable operation and configuration verification throughout Stage II testing. This effort requires significant coordination with the sponsor, the technology vendors, and multiple partner carriers. The impact of my work is support of the sponsor's mission to protect the United States of America's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

What does your branch do?

The C&MS branch provides a full range of concept and technology development, artificial intelligence and machine learning development, rapid-prototyping initiatives, systems engineering, and integration functions required to provide expeditionary, littoral, and riverine forces with capabilities and decision support that enables their performance across the entire range of military operations. C&MS is predominantly focused on evolving non-traditional missions (i.e., irregular, catastrophic, disruptive warfare); stability, security, transition, and reconstruction operations (SSTRO); anti-terrorism afloat/ashore (AT afloat/ashore); defense support of civil authorities (DSCA); theater security cooperation (TSC) missions, as well as homeland defense missions that occur in an expeditionary context. C&MS is supported through robust involvement in research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs and projects within DoD, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and allied research organizations when they relate primarily to coastal and maritime security related challenges. As part of the C&MS portfolio, the APAS project directly supports efforts to design sensing systems, correlate and fuse sensor data, and test and evaluate sensing systems and platforms.

What does your division do in support of NSWC PCD & the Navy?

NSWC PCD Joint Interoperability and Irregular Warfare Division (Code E20) provides expert engineering and technical support across two primary product lines: Joint and Expeditionary Command and Control (JEXC2) and Coastal and Maritime Systems (C&MS). E20 personnel support the design, build, test, delivery, and sustainment of systems that deliver a wide range of command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) capability to Navy and Marine Corps customers around the globe.

AWARD NEWS

Warfare Center Awards:

Mask Size and Fit Study Team
Jeffrey Blankenship
Allen Harkness
Steen Jensen
Jeffrey Kiser
Eric Pierce
Stephanie Wilson

Special Operations Forces Combat Diving Rapid Engineering
Brandon Bascetta
David Davila
Michael Hodges
Michael Kirke
Daniel Lopez-Gavilan
James McGinley
Jonathan Outlaw
Jason Scott
Christopher Voorheis

The Corporate Warfare Centers Nondestructive Evaluation Team
Adam Ard
Karey Faircloth
Jesse Walton
Nicole Waters

The Operating Materials and Supplies to Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Transition Team
Joshua Peters
Lacie Meeks

The Naval Sea Systems Command Propel Boost Program and Regional Managers
(NSWC PCD Team members)
Alvin Albright

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Technical Achievement Recognition, Executive Achievement Award
Ivan Pereira

Women of Color Technology Rising Star Award
Larriel Hester

2023 Quarterly Awards

Legacy Award
Dr. John Hyland

Spearhead Award
Mr. Joshua Strickland

2023 ANNUAL Awards

NSWC PANAMA CITY DIVISION

Nomination Call

NOVEMBER 1

Nominations Due to Departments:

JANUARY 12

NAVSEA WARFARE CENTERS Panama City

Upcoming Awards

1 November	NAVSEA Excellence Awards Copernicus Awards
3 November	National Society of Black Engineers Golden Torch Award
5 November	Women in Technology Leadership Awards
14 November	Excellence in Practice Awards
15 November	DoD STEM Education and Outreach Advocate of the Quarter Award (Quarterly)
30 November	National Environmental Excellence Awards
1 December	DoD Packaging Excellence and Packaging Achievement Awards University of Rhode Island Distinguished Achievement Award
6 December	DON IT Excellence Awards
19 December	December Association of Govt Accountants National Leadership Training Awards (Elmer Staats - Federal)
20 December	DoN Civilian Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Community Awards for Excellence

Dates provided are due dates for completed package(s) to be received.

Upcoming awards are regularly updated on:
https://wiki.navsea.navy.mil/display/PCD103/Awards

*Non-government agency award submissions now require approved public release documentation.

Contact ***Cierra Burch*** at ***W_PNMA_NSWCPCD_PAO@navy.mil*** for nomination requirements, forms, and questions.

NSWC PCD Past Anniversaries

Send comments to
NSWC PCD Command Historian:
Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch at
shauna.r.love-vonknoblauch.civ@us.navy.mil

Originally established as a mine countermeasure field installation, the activity was designated the U.S. Navy Mine Countermeasures Station (NMCS). At the tenth anniversary in 1955, the occasion was marked by the station's first name change from NMCS to the Navy Mine Defense Laboratory.

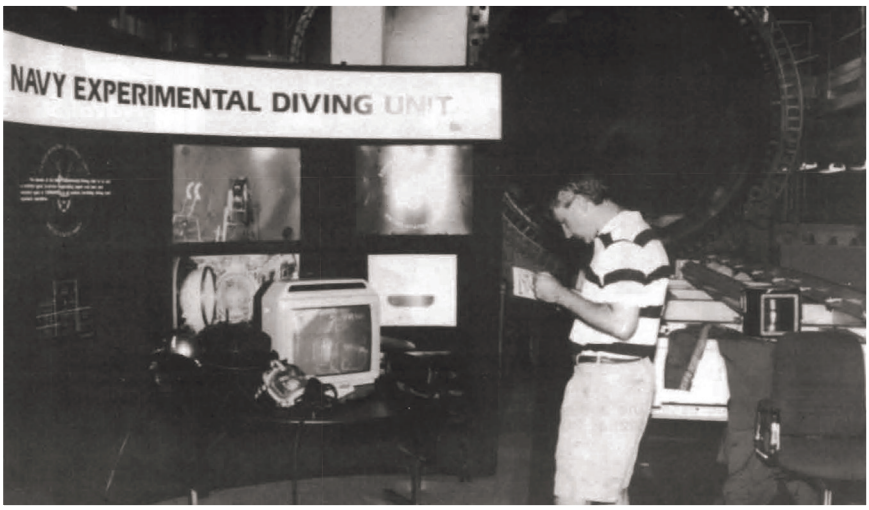
The celebration's centerpiece was the laying of the cornerstone for what would be the main building to house research and administrative functions.

Through the subsequent name changes, NSWC Panama City Division has celebrated significant anniversaries throughout the decades featured in these photos.

The centerpiece of the 10th Anniversary celebration was the laying of the cornerstone for the new main building (Building 110). -*The Underseer*, July 1955

The 1945 founders and their wives gathered for the first time in 40 years to "catch up" on one another's activities. They posed with Technical Director Guy Dilworth (top, right) and John Vickers (top, left) after a briefing. -*The Underseer*, December 1985

Coastal Systems Station 50th Anniversary Celebration visitors line up at the gangway to USS Chief (MCM 14) waiting to tour the ship. - *Coastal Courier*, July 1995



Coastal Systems Station's 50th Anniversary Celebration included several displays set up in the air operations hangar, helicopters, and vehicles on the ramp, and Navy Experimental Diving Unit's Ocean Simulation Facility open for inspection, visitors had plenty to keep them busy. - *Coastal Courier*, July 1995

NSWC PCD CELEBRATES 78TH ANNIVERSARY

By Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

Corissa Toombs and Mike Shepherd, (U.S. Navy photo by Jeremy Roman)

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—September 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of the Navy Lab's legacy. Established in 1945 as a mine countermeasures station, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) mission areas have expanded through the years to include diving & life support, naval special warfare and amphibious & expeditionary warfare. But how did the laboratory come to be located in Panama City?

Commander Thomas H. Frost, U.S. Navy Bureau of Ships, was the principal person responsible for selecting the location for the new mine countermeasures research and development station. In 1945, he was tasked with surveying sites that provide a favorable year-round at-sea operations climate with minimal commercial and navy ship traffic. The former amphibious training base on St. Andrew Bay would be selected as the most suitable site.

On July 20, 1945, Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal promulgated a letter officially establishing the new station, and on September 1, 1945, the U.S. Navy Mine Countermeasures Station (NMCS) on St. Andrew Bay was officially commissioned.

Frost was the major advocate and funding sponsor during the early years and was responsible for much of what happened next, including the standup of the station. He began by recruiting military personnel from Navy Mine Warfare Test Station, Solomons, MD, and then recruited the civilian workforce.

Since then, the Navy activity located on St. Andrews Bay has been through several different official name changes. In 2003, the responsibilities of this Navy Laboratory, known then as the Coastal Systems Station, changed when the Naval Support Activity, Panama City (NSA PC) was established. As a result, the Lab became the largest tenant activity onboard NSA PC and was renamed the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City. In 2007, the Lab became an independent research and development activity, and was designated to the name it is known as today: Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division.

For the Lab's anniversary this year, personnel gathered to celebrate its great heritage, Sept. 28. Past employees along with current employees who have been employed here for more than 30 years were in attendance to share their stories. Some got into the spirit of the event by dressing in retro clothing, watching video presentations, participating in a trivia challenge and capturing the moment at the photo booth.

NSWC PCD is the U.S. Navy's leading research, development, test and evaluation laboratory in the littorals. The mission sets may have grown over time, but NSWC PCD's roots in these critical missions remains the same—to rapidly deliver solutions to the fleet to dominate the littorals. For almost eight decades, this Navy Lab has supported the warfighter building on a legacy created by Commander Frost and the 1945 workforce.

You can watch one of the videos presented at the celebration here: https://dvidshub.net/r/4pzdkh

U.S. Navy photo by Sgt. Alex Morgan

NSWC PCD HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SOUNDINGS SPOTLIGHT: *LT. RICH MORALES*

By Jeremy Roman, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

Lt. Rich Morales serves the fleet as the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) acting executive officer and fleet liaison officer. He has been assigned to NSWC PCD for nearly two and half years and is responsible for leading a diverse team of service members to use their unique skillsets to enhance the NSWC PCD mission—to dominate the littorals. By ensuring his team's service backgrounds are correctly applied to a code or project, he leverages their fleet knowledge and experience to provide the Navy with the best technology and support possible.

"I joined the Navy because I wanted to make a difference, and I felt like the Navy provided me the best opportunity to do that, while also allowing me to see the world from a unique perspective that standard tourism couldn't provide."

In 2015, he received his commission and Bachelor's in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and earned his wings within the rotary wing community in 2017. This Chicago native recalls the impact of his upbringing within his Hispanic household and how it helped him get to where he is today.

"The two biggest takeaways were the importance of a strong work ethic and the benefits of a close community and family," said Morales. "The drive to achieve a set goal and having a strong team to help achieve that goal is a proven method for success and I've seen that within the Navy as a whole, as well as in my own career. I've had several family members serve in various branches of the military, and seeing their success during and after their military careers, taught me the value of that drive and persistence."

Prior to his current position, Morales helped manage the NSWC PCD Unmanned Aerial System Program and Airfield Operations. His fleet aircraft was the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and its primary missions were anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, electromagnetic warfare, command and control, and non-combat operations.

"My time in the cockpit has taught me the importance of communication and leadership in order to maximize mission effectiveness and safety," said Morales. "Conversely, my time here has also shown me a vital part of the mission. One of the things I enjoy most about NSWC PCD is seeing people from so many different academic, technical, or military backgrounds come together to help the fleet be the best fighting force possible. During my time in the fleet, something I did not see was just how vast the technical support network that kept us going really was, but now I can share that perspective firsthand."

NSWC PCD MINE COUNTERMEASURES MISSION PACK

By Jeremy Roman, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Naval Surface Warfare Panama City Division's (NSWC PCD) driving force is to deliver combat power to the fleet and helped spearhead a major milestone to usher in a new era of mine countermeasures (MCM), with the declaration of MCM Mission Package (MCM MP) Initial Operational Capability (IOC), last spring.

The MCM MP allows a Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) or a Vessel of Opportunity (VOO) to conduct the full spectrum of detect-to-engage operations (hunt, neutralize, and sweep) against mine threats using sensors and weapons deployed from the MCM Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV), an MH-60S multi-mission helicopter, and associated support equipment.

Throughout years of rigorous research, development, testing, and evaluation, NSWC PCD developed and matured the MCM MP. These efforts reached fruition when Vice Adm. Scott Conn, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities (OPNAV N9), declared that the LCS MCM MP and AN/AQS-20C Sonar Mine Detection Sets achieved IOC, March 31.

Brett Thach, NSWC PCD Mine Warfare Systems Development Division Unmanned Systems Senior Systems engineer, provides technical oversight for the Unmanned Mission Systems associated with the MCM MP. These include the MCM USV, Remote Minehunt (RMH) System using the AN/AQS-20 Minehunting Sonar, and Unmanned Influence Sweep System (UISS). Thach explained the announcement's importance and his team's impact.

"NSWC PCD's efforts in following systems engineering processes to get these systems designed, tested, produced, and transitioned to the warfighter for their operations are how we achieve our mission of ensuring MCM warfighter dominance and meet the Navy's mission at large," said Thach. "This IOC milestone commences the next chapter of MCM by ushering the transition to an unmanned Navy. I am honored to work alongside such a hard-working and dedicated team of individuals who work tirelessly to deliver, not only a set of systems, but more importantly, a needed capability to our warfighters."

The research, development, testing, and evaluation leading to MCM MP IOC was the product of many years of work before the required Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) was conducted in August and September 2022.

During that time, Amanda Elkins led coordination and direction of both system and test teams across NSWC PCD, NSWC Port Hueneme, NSWC Philadelphia, Operational Test Agencies, and numerous other organizations as the PMS 420 MCM MP Test & Evaluation deputy assistant program manager. She served as lead for all integration and developmental testing, which culminated in MCM MP IOT&E, successfully demonstrating end-to-end mission capabilities of the mission package systems.

"This is truly momentous, as we have been working towards this for more than eight years. In that time, the Remote Minehunting System (RMS) was replaced by the MCM USV coupled with the AN/AQS-20 Mine-Hunting Sonar, and the UISS system was added to the MP. These changes required significant technology development and dedication by the systems teams, as well as vital integration efforts, to rebuild the ability to operate from LCS. While reaching MCM MP IOT&E was the intended milestone, the work the teams put in before that cannot be understated," said Elkins. "The one thing we all have in common is we work for the warfighter. Completing IOT&E, and declaring IOC, is

Personnel from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, the Navy Lab's Littoral and Mine Warfare Systems Department and the Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC) stand together during (then) PEO USC Program Executive Officer Rear Adm. Casey Moton's visit to Panama City, April 24. NSWC PCD's Mine Countermeasures Mission Package Initial Operational Capability would later be announced on May 1. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

KAGE HITS INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY TARGET

a result of countless hours of sacrifice from our teammates to deliver a much-needed capability."

Elkins also noted the vital contributions of NSWC PCD's Modular Integration Division.

"They are key to integration of our MCM MP capabilities and the future system capabilities," said Elkins. "The dynamic teams within the Modular Integration Division demonstrate and apply technical expertise ranging from communications to requirements development for system engineering to shipboard testing subject matter experts. Their rigor and technical merit in working towards fleet solutions ensures we provide the best capability to the U.S. Navy."

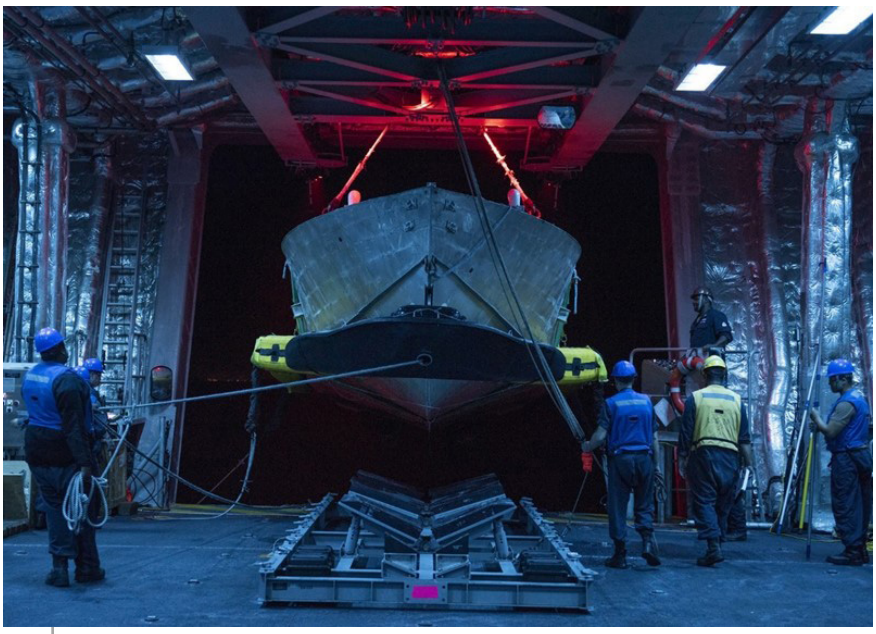
NSWC PCD also hosted a visit for Rear Adm. Casey Moton, then Program Executive Officer for Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC) and leadership from the Littoral Combat Ship Mission Modules (PMS 420) Team, April 24. The tour showcased MCM capabilities for the delegation that included Ms. Melissa Kirkendall, SES, PEO USC Executive Director, Capt. Gus Weekes, PMS 420 Program Manager, and George Saroch, PMS 420 Littoral Combat Ship Mission Modules Deputy Program Manager.

The Mine Countermeasures Unmanned Surface Vehicle (MCM USV) in Minehunt configuration performs launch and recovery operations during Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E), Aug. 2022. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

The success of this NSWC PCD Team should come as no surprise, due to the momentum and foundation they have already established. In addition to this year's IOC for MCM MP and AN/AQS-20C, the team also achieved IOC for UISS last year. UISS is an unmanned, self-propelled, semi-autonomous surface vehicle equipped with the capability to sweep acoustically and/or magnetically actuated naval mines. It is designed to be deployed, operated, and maintained from an LCS, adequately equipped vessel of opportunity, or from a shore site and was the first unmanned system to achieve IOC for the U.S. Navy.

"Most people do not get the opportunity in their careers to deploy the systems they work on, and this team at NSWC PCD has achieved IOC for three systems or systems-of-systems over the past two years," said Thach. "I am proud and blessed to be a part of it all!"

Because of the NSWC PCD's efforts, the Navy is slated to deploy the first MCM MPs in Fiscal Year 2025, providing much-needed modernized MCM capabilities to the Fleet. This allows the Navy to begin retiring legacy MCM platforms and fielding modernized systems that keep our sailors safer by leveraging unmanned technologies that will take the sailor out of the minefield.



Sailors conduct mine countermeasures (MCM) unmanned surface vessel (USV) launch and recovery (L&R) operations in the mission bay of the USS Cincinnati (LCS 20). (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

Navy MCM IOC press release: Navy Declares Initial Operational Capability of Mine Countermeasures Mission Package

NSWC PCD NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *ANDREW HAWLEY*

By Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

Andrew Hawley, a mechanical engineer in the Threat Analysis Branch at NSWC Panama City Division, has made an immediate impact on the Navy Lab in only 11 months. With a focus in automation and robotics, he uses his comprehensive understanding of electrical and mechanical engineering disciplines to support the warfighter.

"During my time here, I've been deeply engaged in various mechanical engineering projects by applying my expertise and skills to contribute meaningfully to the organization," said Hawley, who is deaf and primarily communicates using American Sign Language. "It's been a rewarding experience and I look forward to continuing to contribute to NSWC PCD's success in the future."

Hawley holds a dual Bachelor's degree in electrical and mechanical engineering technology, and a Master's degree in manufacturing mechanical system integration from Rochester Institute of Technology. His academic skillset — electrical systems, mechanical design, manufacturing processes and system integration — coupled with his previous hands-on experience in systems manufacturing and seamless mechanical components integration, has been instrumental in his role to effectively contribute on various projects.

"I find great fulfillment in applying my knowledge to solve real-world engineering challenges and am excited about the continuous learning opportunities that come with working in such a dynamic field," Hawley said. "Moreover, I have a keen interest in exploring underwater applications, a domain I hadn't previously ventured into. Learning about underwater applications has been a captivating journey, and I am eager to apply this newfound knowledge to my work, showcasing my adaptability and enthusiasm for continuous learning."

Along with his excitement for learning, Hawley said he is also inspired by a quote from Dr. Irving King Jordan, the first deaf president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.: "A deaf person can do anything a hearing person can, except hear."

"That quote encourages (everyone in the deaf community) to think creatively," he said. "This doesn't mean our potential is limited. Instead, it motivates me to illuminate the path for the hearing community, proving that we are capable of the same accomplishments. Our abilities are equal to those of hearing individuals."

LAB SHOWCASES

UMC POOL TEST FACILITY LAB

NSWC PCD Sensing Sciences & Systems Division Acoustic Calibration and Measurement Facility / Underwater Multi-Sensor Test Pool
The team from NSWC PCD's UMS Pool highlighted how they provide support to various stakeholders, including U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and DoD aligned industry and academic partners, Sept. 15. Comprised of nine million gallons of filtered freshwater, the pool provides an ideal environment for diver missions and mine warfare applications, such as vehicle operations, and development of next generation multi-modal sensing systems. The facility can support structures that include a floating surface winch, configurable docking, and real time data analysis and also provides a cost effective way to assess new emerging technology developments. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

A40

TACTICS, ANALYSIS AND SIMULATION

NSWC PCD personnel receive an inside look at the various systems within the processes for Mine Countermeasures (MCM), simulations, warfare analysis and field support during a lab showcase, Oct. 20. Visitors were guided through a tour that demonstrated how this division uses wargaming events, warfare tactics, mission analysis and software testing to support the warfighter. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)

Members from Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's Property Management Division visit Joint Expeditionary Command and Control personnel during their Code 107 Familiar (FAM) Tour, Aug. 25. The FAM Tour provides their team with an on-site overview of their customer's operations and the opportunity for project personnel to engage in face-to-face discussions to exchange ideas and share difficulties. (U.S. Navy photo by Andy Fite)

NSWC PCD

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION IMPLEMENTS KEY PROGRAM TO DELIVER CRITICAL SUPPORT

By Jeremy Roman, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's (NSWC PCD) Property Management Division (Code 107) plays a vital role to the Navy Lab's mission success. They're comprised of several branches: purchasing, supply operations, general equipment, and Naval Sea Systems Command Logistics Center warehousing, along with nearly 70 personnel to support the force behind the fleet.

They are directly responsible for a variety of tasks including purchasing, receiving, disposal, assessment, supply chain deconfliction and tracking, not only for NSWC PCD, but also for other tenants onboard Naval Support Activity Panama City, Fla. On an average day, this division can process up to 100 multiline item requirements forms, resolve frustrated materials and supply discrepancies, perform daily asset inventories, ensure proper financial accounting of Navy Capital Assets, load and offload nearly 13 trucks, pack and ship almost 15 pallets of materials, and send out over 200 material receipt/delivery notifications to alert customers on material status just to name a few tasks. With so many moving parts constantly revolving, Brandt Weilbacher, NSWC PCD Property Management Division head, explains the team's focus on mission success.

"From my perspective, this division is a critical component of the NSWC PCD mission. Simply put, [we deliver using] W3: we get WHAT you need, WHEN you need it, to WHERE you need it," said Weilbacher. "Whether it's fielding customer supply chain concerns, providing liaison services between NSWC PCD customers and warehousing operations or conducting an average of 50 line-item inventories per day in order to meet Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) 100% annual inventory requirement, it's essential to provide our customers what they need to do their jobs."

With many moving parts needing orchestration, this division acknowledged that the key to their success was in the details. Their customer acquisition group, which was designed to help its customers navigate potential challenges within the Navy supply chain, identified an area of opportunity and the division then took action.

"This 107 Familiarization (FAM) Tour initiative holds the fundamental principles a property management operation should have as its foundation. As we embarked on this process, we realized that we were conversely knowledge deficient with not fully understanding the customers we were trying to support," said Weilbacher. "DeAnna Pedersen, NSWC PCD Purchasing Branch head, came up with the concept where she would coordinate a monthly tour of various projects onboard NSWC PCD. It provided our team with an on-site overview of our customer's operations affording our division and project personnel to engage in face-to-face discussions to exchange ideas and share difficulties."

The first 107 FAM Tour was held June 2022 and the overall campaign has grown since then.

"From all the feedback that I have received from my team, the insight into these programs has refreshed their sense of investment into the mission we support," said Weilbacher. "We understood that the tours alone would not capture every customer we support, so we launched two customer feedback paths in order to afford our customers the opportunity to provide real-time feedback so we can continue to improve our services."

The first feedback program was called Kudos and Employee improvements for Your satisfaction (KEY), which focuses on specific purchasing/equipment/supply operations and customer performance. The second was Communication Accountability Satisfaction and Employee Improvement (CASE). CASE concentrates on receiving, warehousing, shipping and Defense Logistics Agency, formerly known as DRMO (Defense Reutilization Marketing Office) operations.

"This familiarization program is the foundation to which we will continue to add to as our mission evolves," said Weilbacher. "We, as a property management team, continue to build on this foundation and forge personal and professional relationships with our customers to better serve them and accomplish the mission together."

NSWC PCD GRADUATES LEADERS FROM NAVSEA NEXTGEN AND JLL PROGRAMS

By Shauna Love-vonKnoblauch, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Four Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) employees recently graduated from two Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) leadership initiatives—the 2023 Next Generation Leadership (NextGen) and the Journey Level Leadership (JLL) programs.

NextGen was created to develop NAVSEA's newer personnel into capable leaders, now and in the future, with the dual goal of preparing civilian employees for future management positions and increasing entry level retention rates. Dan Patterson, NSWC PCD Expeditionary Sea Base Mobile Landing Platform Afloat Network Integrated Logistics Support manager, and Renee Musto, Unmanned Maritime Systems (PMS 420) Mine Countermeasures Mission Package certification lead, both graduated from this program.

"It's important for NAVSEA to develop and retain future leaders. Employees benefit from the leadership development they receive through this program, as well as the relationships they form," said Patterson. "I was just awed by the depth and breadth of the NAVSEA mission. I met and worked with people from all over the NAVSEA Enterprise. Our capstone project even took us to a small command in New Jersey."

NextGen is a self-paced program available enterprise wide. Individuals gain leadership skills through a blended course approach: classroom and online.

"I applied to NextGen to further my professional growth and development and to learn more about NAVSEA and the many opportunities available," Musto said. "I learned about my strengths and weaknesses, and how to frame them in a meaningful way for self-improvement."

JLL is a one-year program for high performing civilian employees with three or more years of NAVSEA civilian experience. Participants selected for JLL gain the opportunity to expand their horizons and leadership potential with classroom instruction, networking, and team building. The NSWC PCD JLL Cadre IX 2023 graduates from NSWC PCD were Allie Williams, Fleet Diving Systems In-Service Engineering Agent project manager, and Daniel Bysina, Integrated Logistics Support manager of Underwater Mine Systems.

"I applied because I wanted to learn more about the NAVSEA Enterprise as a whole and gain program office management experience," Williams explained. "I loved getting the opportunity to do a rotation at NAVSEA Headquarters and in the Naval Special Warfare Program Office. It gave me a better understanding of NAVSEA structure and day-to-day processes that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. I also got to be involved in a lot of cool projects working with the Navy SEAL community."

JLL supports NAVSEA's leadership mission with a talent pipeline, giving applicants a common language and experiences. The program's NAVSEA-centric focus broadens the horizons of participants by connecting them to headquarters, shipyards, warfare centers, regional maintenance centers, and other elements within the enterprise.

"My biggest takeaway from the JLL program is absolutely the networking. I would have never had the capability to meet and interact with such dynamic people and teams throughout the enterprise if it was not for this program," Bysina said.

These recent graduates networked, met new people, and appreciated the opportunities the programs offered.

"I'm grateful to my chain of command for affording me the opportunity to participate in the program," said Patterson.

"This program opens doors and presents opportunities that would not ordinarily be realized," added Musto. "The ultimate satisfaction was not in completing the assignments, but in observing growth in myself and my team."

They also encourage those personnel who are interested in personal growth and want to experience the NAVSEA enterprise from a dynamic perspective to consider this behind-the-scenes look.

"The program builds ones character and truly tests their capabilities in a setting that is not their career field," said Bysina.

Williams concluded, "I'd encourage any employees thinking about taking a rotation to apply! This was one of the best experiences of my career."

The NAVSEA NextGen and JLL programs began October 2022 and graduation was held on Sept. 14, 2023. For more information in this professional development, contact Richard Godfrey, NSWC PCD leadership development program manager.

Panama City NextGen and JLL graduates pose with Ms. Giao Phan, NAVSEA executive director, SES, during graduation ceremonies. Left to right: Daniel Bysina, Renee Musto, Allie Williams, Phan, Jacqui Barker (Navy Experimental Diving Unit) and Dan Patterson. (Courtesy photo)

JABS PROGRAM TEAM COMPLETES FINAL TEST MILESTONE, LEAVING LASTING IMPACT

By Jeremy Roman, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Since WWII, the tactics needed to pave the way through from any surf zone (water depth up to 10 feet) to the shore to conduct a military operation has only grown in complexity, specialization, collaboration and importance. One of the today's major mine countermeasures (MCM) capabilities used to successfully breach mines and obstacles within that littoral (coastal) battlespace prior to an amphibious assault is the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Assault Breaching System (ABS) or JABS.

This system is a combination of 2,000-lb guided bombs (MK 84 or BLU-117 JDAM) paired with Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's (NSWC PCD) lethality database and mission planning software in MINEnet Tactical, to ultimately help the warfighter neutralize identified targets based on mission objectives. JABS has also been a collaborative effort between NSWC PCD, NSWC Indian Head Division, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and support contractors from Innovative Professional Solutions, Inc.

Twenty-one years since the program's inception, this team reached a milestone by completing their final test—characterizing JABS performance against a specific foreign anti-landing mine at an operationally relevant water depth—at Eglin AFB's shallow water explosive test pond, Sept. 20, 2023. This was the final event in a long series of tests that characterized JABS performance against a range of mine types in different water and burial depths that the fleet may encounter.

"For the final test, and the test series in general, we were very happy with everything we have learned, as every test helped us understand performance against that mine type and improved our predictions against future similar targets. The final test results are being analyzed and will be delivered to MINEnet Tactical for use in assault breach mission planning," said Jonathan Millhollon, NSWC PCD ABS project engineer. "Without the final test, the fleet would have less confidence planning against this threat type, and would either have to accept additional risk to the landing force or drop an excessive number of munitions to be confident that the threats had been cleared."

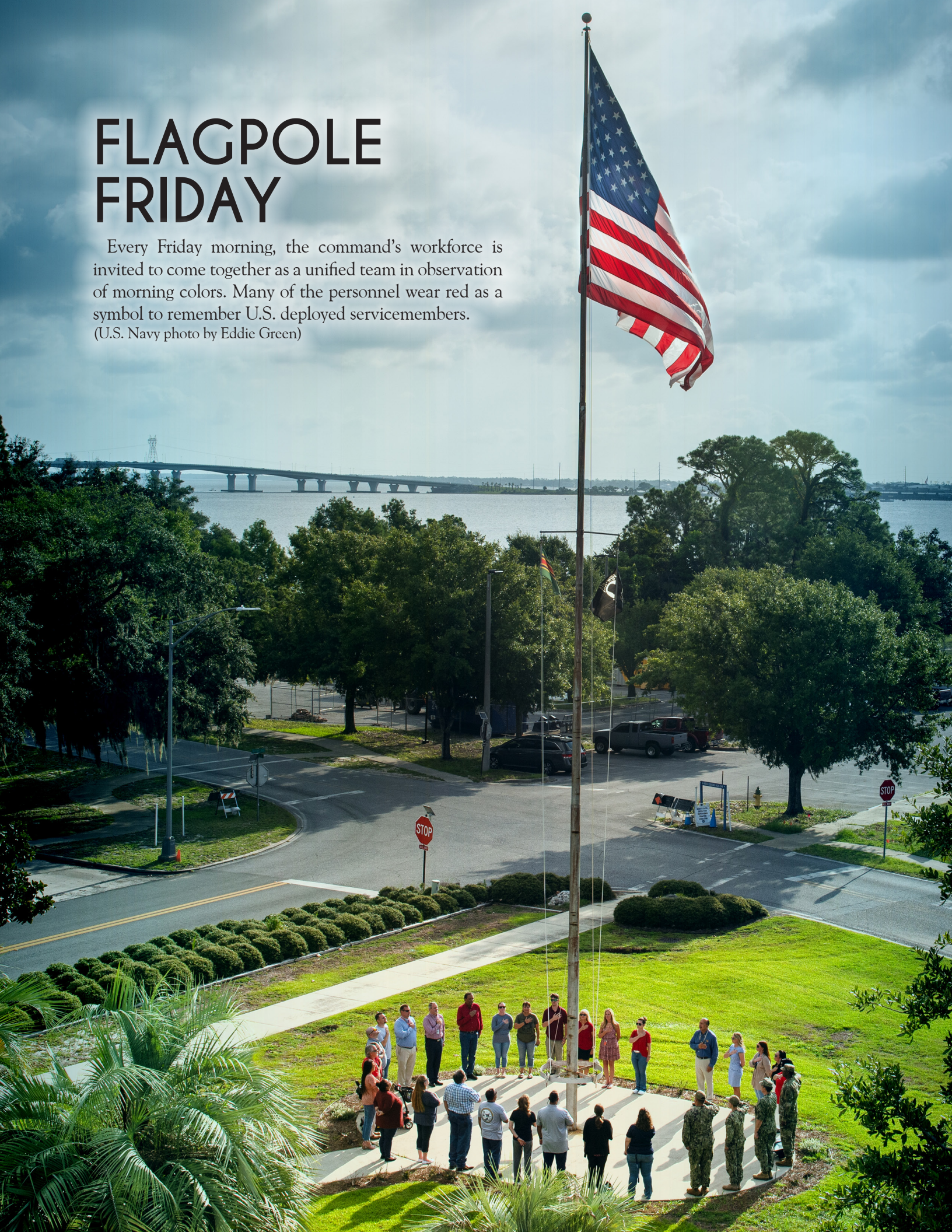
In 2002, the program started when the Office of Naval Research began evaluating multiple technologies for assault breaching mission consideration. In 2006, the MK 84 JDAM was selected as a non-materiel solution by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and assigned to the assault breaching mission via a DOTmLPF-P (also known as doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy) change recommendation.

"NSWC PCD was involved from the beginning; testing and evaluating the performance of the various technologies against mines and obstacles. After the selection of the MK 84 JDAM as the JABS munition, NSWC PCD continued characterizing JABS against various foreign anti-tank and anti-landing mines in different water and burial depths since 2006," said Millhollon. "NSWC PCD also developed and fielded JABS mission planning software for MEDAL and MINEnet Tactical, and developed tactics and doctrine for employing the system."

Although the final test was completed, this collaborative team of professionals will still make their impact felt.

"[This fiscal year], the program will be transitioning to sustainment. We are wrapping up the data analysis from FY23, delivering our final lethality prediction curves to MINEnet Tactical, and archiving the past decades of data for future reference," said Millhollon. "NSWC PCD is the mine warfare center of excellence, and JABS is the system of record for mine countermeasures in the surf zone and on the beach. During the interim, we will be standing by to support the Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center as they review the updated JABS tactical memorandum for transition [to] doctrine, and we will maintain a reach-back capability for tactics or software support."

The Joint Direct Attack Munition Assault Breaching System (JABS) Test and Evaluation Team is made up of personnel from Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, NSWC Indian Head, Innovative Professional Solutions, Inc. support contractors and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. NSWC PCD also developed and fielded JABS mission planning software for MEDAL and MINEnet Tactical and developed tactics and doctrine for employing the system. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)



FLAGPOLE FRIDAY

Every Friday morning, the command's workforce is invited to come together as a unified team in observation of morning colors. Many of the personnel wear red as a symbol to remember U.S. deployed servicemembers.
(U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)

WELCOME NSWC PCD VISITORS

CENTRAL PANHANDLE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

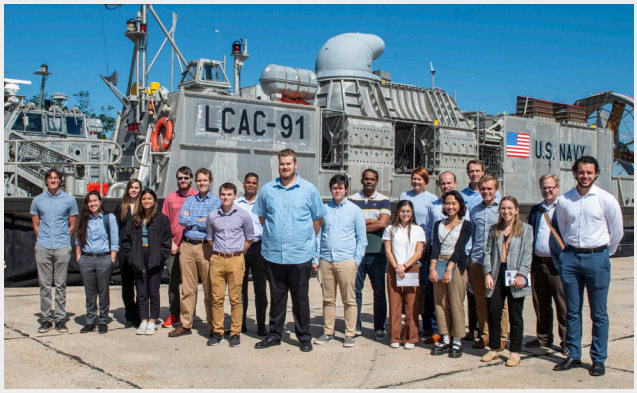
The Central Panhandle Association of REALTORS visited NSWC PCD, Sept. 12. By witnessing these Navy operations and capabilities, the realtors gained valuable insights into the Navy's work and dedication to the Panama City area. (U.S. Navy photo by Maj. Allison Burns)

PROPEL LAUNCH

NSWC PCD served as the host site for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) 2023 PROPEL Launch course and this milestone was captured at the Navy Lab's Landing Craft Air Cushion vehicle, Sept. 14. Propel Launch provides, both, an introductory level of the NAVSEA expectations for supervisors, and an interactive class to aid a new supervisor to be successful. (U.S. Navy photo by Ronnie Newsome)

DEANE BOZEMAN SCHOOL

NSWC PCD hosted Deane Bozeman School 8th grade students, Sept. 28. The tour allowed these students to see present capabilities and potential future opportunities for themselves with summer internships. (U.S. Navy photo by Anthony Powers)



NAVAL ENGINEERING EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (NEEC)

NSWC PCD hosted students and faculty from Brigham Young University, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Iowa, The University of Alabama, Huntsville, the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, and the University of Florida as part of the NEEC Program funded by Naval Sea Systems Command, Oct. 17. Their Navy Lab visit also included a tour of Diving and Life Support and the Landing Craft Air Cushion facility. (U.S. Navy photo by Eddie Green)

INVISIBLE INJURIES
HEARING LOSS

If you suffer from permanent hearing loss, it can lead to more than just a lifelong nuisance.

It can negatively affect all facets of life by leading to feelings of:

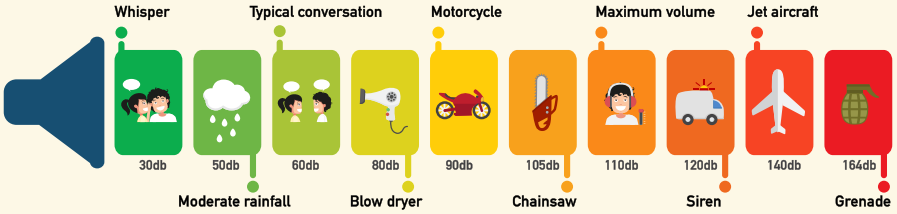
FRUSTRATION **DEPRESSION** **ISOLATION**

And is a significant impairment to work negatively affecting:

PERFORMANCE	SITUATIONAL AWARENESS	MISSION EFFECTIVENESS
READINESS	SURVIVABILITY	SAFETY

The use of hearing protection devices and follow-up audiology tests has become the mainstay of preventing noise induced hearing loss. Exposure to intense sound can cause hearing thresholds to become elevated temporarily or permanently.

Any negative change in hearing capacity of 10 decibels or more across a range of frequency levels is referred to as a significant threshold shift (STS).



Chronic exposure to **high levels** of noise can lead to noise induced hearing loss and/or tinnitus (buzzing or ringing in the ears).

Since 2004 the VA has paid out over **$180 million** in disability payments as a result of hearing loss and tinnitus to service members.

26% 13%

26% of male and 13% of female veterans serving in Iraq & Afghanistan have suffered hearing impairments.

Reversible hearing loss is referred to as a temporary threshold shift (TTS). Depending on the duration of exposure, recovery from a TTS can occur over a period of minutes, hours, or days. If a patient does not recover from a TTS, then the hearing loss is classified as a permanent threshold shift (PTS).

COMPTROLLER

G-INVOICING IMPLEMENTATION

Government-Invoicing (G-Invoicing) is a Government wide solution to enhance government-wide financial management and improve the quality of Intra-governmental transactions.

MANDATES

All Federal Activities are required to send all Reimbursable Work Orders (funding documents) through the Department of the Treasury's G-Invoicing system. Navy will do this using an electronic interface between Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and G-Invoicing.
Additionally, all Navy activities are required to positively "Receive & Accept" billings/invoices for work or material received using Reimbursable Work Orders. Navy will accomplish this using the same G-Invoicing interface. This is a new requirement and will impact the workload of individuals with knowledge of work received or performed within the technical, service cost centers, or overhead project.

LIMITATIONS

- Only includes new orders (and amendments to those orders) with trading partners that have implemented the G-Invoicing mandate,
- Does not include amendments to funding documents accepted prior to implementation (those will be converted in the future),
- Does not include Financial Management Services(FMS), Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures (MILSTRIP), or Direct Cite,
- Organic repair, per diem, and fixed price orders will be implemented in the June/July 2024 timeframe.

WHEN

Implementation will have three stages, phased over approximately seven months, with an increase in the number of funding documents ("orders") in each stage. Advertised as the "Crawl – Walk – Run" concept.

CRAWL

November 26, 2023 through February 2024

Initial implementation of two-three new Navy/Marine Corps Orders per Navy activity.

WALK

February 2024 through May/June 2024

All new Navy/Marine Corps Orders, plus a small number of non-Navy DoD and other Federal agencies orders.

RUN

Approximately May/June 2024

All new orders. As trading partners implement G-Invoicing, new orders will use the new process.

TRAINING

"Train-the-Trainer" concept. Navy ERP Program Office (PEO for Manpower, Logistics and Business Solutions/PMW 220 Navy Enterprise Business Solutions) will provide training materials and train a small number of people at each Navy Systems Command (SYSCOM). Each SYSCOM will tailor the training to their specific business rules, and provide training to their personnel via a mixture of in-person and virtual classrooms.

PMW 220 to SYSCOM training was scheduled for September 2023. NAVSEA training has not been scheduled yet, but is tentatively scheduled for the November timeframe.

GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF FUNCTIONS

ORDERS/AMENDMENTS

GRANTOR/ BUYER

Create Purchase Request (PR)/ Outgoing funding document (OFD)

Technical approval of OFD

Comptroller approval of OFD – No Obligation is created

OFD sent to Performer via G-Invoicing

When Performer accepts Order, Obligation is posted

PERFORMER/ SELLER

Incoming funding document (IFD) received from Grantor via G-Invoicing

Technical acceptance of IFD – Blocked Sales Order is created

Comptroller acceptance of IFD – Sales Order unblocked and ready for use

Acceptance sent to Grantor via G-Invoicing

EXECUTION & INVOICES/BILLING

PERFORMER

No change in how execution is performed or recorded/posted

Bills/Invoices sent to Grantor via G-Invoicing on a regular basis

Invoices sent to non-Navy ERP commands will have a ZRSBI0022 expense report automatically attached

GRANTOR

Technical/Business code "program official" will perform Receipt & Acceptance on invoices within 30 days of receipt

ZRSBI0022 expense report can be run to view detailed information for invoices from Navy ERP commands

Navy Policy: Invoices must be accepted or rejected in full; partials are not allowed. Reach out to Performer with questions/concerns before rejecting.

NSWC Panama City Division

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