Summer is Coming – Be Careful
By Rear Adm. Brian Brown

After what seems like a very long winter, the weather has finally warmed up. It is critical to think about summer safety and personal readiness now especially since we’re in the throes of HURREX. As HURREX prepares the Navy for the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, I want to urge all of you who live in areas affected by destructive weather to also take time to ensure you prepare yourselves and your families. It's better to have a plan and not need it, than to need a plan and not have one.

It is also the season when we spend more time outdoors, on the roads, and socializing with friends and families. While I encourage you to be active and enjoy your summer, it is important to remember the risks associated with these activities. This is another opportunity to take personal responsibility and watch out for each other. As you drive to and from vacation destinations, remember that 81 percent of the DoD's non-combat fatalities in 2012 total took place over the summer – from car and motorcycle accidents to drowning. Alcohol is all too often a component in these tragic accidents. Recognize the risks and make good decisions. We all know that alcohol, even in small quantities, impairs our decision-making.

Now is the time to be extra vigilant in looking out for yourselves and each other. We’re all members of the same team, and I consider all of you – civilian, officer and enlisted – equally my Shipmates. You are all valued as members of Naval Oceanography, and we do not want anyone hurt or impacted – especially if poor decisions or planning has anything to do with it. Plan ahead when it’s time to hit the road or the water. Know your limits, abide by them and don’t put others or yourself in danger.

Likewise, if you see your Shipmates in a potentially dangerous or questionable situation, have the moral courage to intervene. Do not let any obstacles (i.e., peer pressure, fear of retribution, fear of embarrassment, or uncertainty) keep you from acting. Offer a ride if they’ve had too much to drink. Intervene if you see warning signs of sexual assault. Ask questions if they show changes in personality that could indicate reckless behavior or suicide risk.

Each of you plays a vital role in carrying out our mission, so please take every precaution to ensure the safety and well-being of yourselves, your families and your shipmates this vacation season. Let's enjoy the summer safely, and take care of our workforce and Navy families to help make this summer and hurricane season mishap free.
From the Deputy/Technical Director

Looking for Relief on NMOC Civilian Manpower Issues
By Dr. William H. Burnett

In April, Rear Adm. Brian Brown and I attended the Naval Flag Officer Senior Executive Service (NFOSES) meeting in Washington, D.C., and one of the breakout sessions focused on the Information Dominance Corps (IDC). The group dealt with many issues, including officer and enlisted workforce strength but not on the health of the civilian workforce. During the question and answer session, I brought up the fact that while we heard that the officer and enlisted community was healthy in the IDC, the civilian community may not be—especially for the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC). After the meeting, many members of the Senior Executive Service agreed with my assessment, and we decided to focus on the issue at a special meeting of the IDC Senior Executives.

I was given the opportunity to brief the health of the NMOC civilian workforce to the IDC Senior Executives the first week of May. My message was that we are operating at severe risk based on our Full Time Equivalent (FTE) cap of 1,179, which is less than 80 percent of our validated Shore Manpower Requirements (SMR). Our workforce has also been impacted by a lengthy hiring freeze, sequestration and furloughs, limited award possibilities and a growing senior workforce seriously contemplating retirement. Because of all the impacts and limitations to recruit for positions, we are struggling to shape our short term and long term capacity to fit with mission requirements across shore and sea-going scientists, information technology specialists and critical command sustainment professionals.

As a result of the meeting, we discovered that the rest of the IDC is suffering from the same overarching issues impacting all government civilians, but the rest of the IDC is not impacted by the FTE cap. That could be either good news or bad news. My plan is to work with the community to find possible relief from the NMOC FTE cap while quantifying the stresses felt by all our civilians. Mr. Mark Andress, OPNAV N2/N6 Deputy, will take the results and brief the IDC leadership at the IDC June Symposium in Washington D.C. This issue must be addressed by our community now. The first step is to inform the community and develop solutions to fix the problem. I will keep you informed as we continue throughout the year.

News

Brown Nominated for Second Star

The president has nominated Rear Adm. Brian Brown, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, for appointment to the rank of rear admiral, according to an announcement by Vice Adm. Ted Branch, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance and Director of Naval Intelligence.

“It’s my great pleasure to announce our newest IDC O8s who were selected off the FY15 Board: Brian Brown, Sean Filipowski and Brett Heimbigner," Branch said in the April 12 announcement.

Capt. Tony Miller, Naval Oceanography Operations Command commanding officer and NOAC’s immediate superior, was the guest speaker.

Kennedy received a Meritorious Service Medal. He reports to OPNAV.

Balolong comes to NOAC from Fleet Weather Center Norfolk where he was operations officer.

Balolong Relieves Kennedy as NOAC Stennis Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Richard “Kitch” Kennedy (saluting), outgoing commanding officer of the Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Center (NOAC) Stennis, salutes Capt. Tony Miller (left), commanding officer of the Naval Oceanography Operations Command and NOAC’s immediate superior, during NOAC’s change of command. Looking on (foreground right) is Cmdr. Marne Balolong, NOAC incoming commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo)

Operations

NOMWC’s UUV 1st Platoon is Certified
By AGC(IDW/SW) Lakisha Tate

Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC) Stennis certified its UUV 1st Platoon on April 24.

The evaluation and certification process was a four-day event that included three days of work-ups leading to the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP). Emergent tasking requiring timely employment of UUVs, post mission analysis, lost UUV and personnel casualty drills were all part of the certification.

Cmdr. Ivo Prikasky, NOMWC commanding officer, said that the team’s quick response and execution without losing focus on the mission during the man overboard drill was “the highlight of the certification.”

Capt. Tony Miller, Naval Oceanography Operations Command (NOOC) commanding officer; Cmdr. Charles Eckhart, Explosive Ordinance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 2 commanding officer; and

Photo at left: As part of Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center’s (NOMWC) UUV Platoon Certification in Panama City Beach, Fla., AGAA Tyler Perez (left) and AG2 Travis Baker (right) monitor the MK-18 Mod 1 UUV after lowering it into the water to ensure it achieves a safe operating distance from the boat. (U.S. Navy photo Lt. Colleen McDonald)
During Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center's (NOMWC's) UUV Platoon Certification in Panama City Beach, Fla., AG1 Melvin Lankford (standing) actively monitors boat traffic, ensuring the OPAREA is clear for the day's operations, which included deploying and monitoring the Gateway Buoy (pictured right). (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Colleen McDonald)

representsatives from the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command observed NOMWC's certification process and provided input on future training requirements to include minefield discipline, tactics, and techniques. In preparation for a fall deployment to 5th Fleet, 1st UUV Platoon will participate in integrated events with EODMU 6.

The 1st Platoon is the first unit to achieve certification. The certification came after extensive review of the Navy Mission Essential Task List (NMETL) and establishing mission essential standards and measures.

NOAT Sailors Deploy on DDGs

During the month of March, Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Teams (NOAT) 101 and 103 were deployed on three Arleigh Burke Class DDGs. These teams, while aboard the USS Howard (DDG 83), USS McCampbell (DDG 85), and USS Lassen (DDG 82), supported the 7th Fleet Forward-Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) ASW exercises Foal Eagle and Multi-Sail 14.

The NOATs forecast acoustic and non-acoustic ranges and provided daily weather forecasts for the Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, Philippine Sea, and Western Pacific Ocean.

During their time aboard, the NOAT Sailors made tangible differences to the exercises, ships, wardrooms, and flight crews.

For instance, the NOATs predicted accurate passive and active acoustic ranges that were validated during the exercises and led to consistent submarine contact. They fostered a positive environment in SONAR Control integrating with the SONAR Technicians, acting as one team.

The most innovative contribution from the NOATs was the Tactical Meteorology Oceanography Kneeboard for MH-60R flight missions. The kneeboard contained acoustic and non-acoustic sensor ranges for various targets at numerous flight levels. As a sign of gratitude, the pilots offered the NOATs feedback on passive and active acoustic ranges upon completion of flights.

“I learned how valuable...
the NOAT can be to provide METOC (meteorology and oceanography) support to exercises and the ships’ missions,” said Technician Airman Douglass Perry of NOAT 103 at the conclusion of the underway.

U.S. 7th Fleet AGs Contribute to Pacific Humanitarian Assistance Efforts
By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Cody R. Babin, U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

Aerographer’s Mates (AG) provided critical support to 7th Fleet’s MH370 search and rescue operations in March and April.

“Our initial mission was to ensure that 7th Fleet understood the weather conditions that would occur during the search,” said Cmdr. Thomas Moneymaker, U.S. 7th Fleet Oceanographer. “During the operation we provided search and rescue ships with oceanic models of where the plane could have possibly crashed and debris drifted.”

Weather support also included reporting hazardous weather states and cloud cover to the P-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon squadrons deployed from Task Force 72.

The work on the missing Malaysian airliner was a new wrinkle on work of the 7th Fleet AGs, who collect, record and analyze oceanographic information throughout the 7th Fleet area of responsibility. AGs provide a plan for all ships before any operation start and keep all equipment in perfect working condition during every mission to ensure completion.

The 15 7th Fleet AGs are closely involved in preplanning and executing bilateral exercises such as Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Key Resolve, Talisman Saber and Foal Eagle. Before each exercise, AGs map the weather forecasts and provide dates for which the exercises can take place. They participate in scenario briefings, weather tracking and oceanographic data management, ensuring that every thing is planned and executed properly during real time events.

“The Western Pacific is notorious for tropical storms,” said Senior Chief Aerographer’s Mate Keith J. Chevalier, 7th Fleet Meteorology and Oceanography Division Leading Senior Chief Petty Officer. “This area of operations has more storms than anywhere in the world.”

They enable U.S. Navy ships operating in the region to plan for potential weather hazards by preparing up-to-date weather maps, issuing weather forecasts and warnings, testing, calibrating and performing minor and preventative maintenance on meteorological instruments including satellite receivers, preparing balloon-carried instruments for flight, evaluating and analyzing data received and operating, programming and maintaining computers and related equipment.

In instances such as the tsunami that devastated Sendai, Japan, AGs provided preemptive warnings to ships. Following the tsunami, AGs provided updated reports on the new sea state of the affected area, allowing the relief efforts of Operation Tomodachi, the relief effort to the victims in Japan.

The AGs also redirected ships that were in the path of Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013 before Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines. Following the typhoon, the AGs provided all the ships involved in Operation Damayan, the relief effort held in the Philippines.

Chevalier said that AGs play a major role even in normal day-to-day operations in the fleet.

“If, for example, an amphibious ship pulls into Hong Kong, we have to take everything into consideration when we provide weather conditions to the ship. If bad weather is headed into the area we let the ship know so it can pull out of the port before the storm hits to ensure safe travel of the ship,” he said.
Personnel

AG One of Six George Washington Sailors to Reach Master Chief
By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Paolo Bayas

Senior Chief Aerographer’s Mate Ty Magowan was one of six Sailors aboard the U.S. Navy’s forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) to be frocked to master chief on May 2.

Magowan was the only AG selected for master chief this year.

Senior Chief Machinist Mate Andrew V. Frederick, Senior Chief Master-At-Arms Katherine A. Knight, Senior Chief Personnel Specialist Gilbert G. Lariba, Senior Chief Logistics Specialist Daniel L. Weaver and Senior Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Gerald M. Williams also were frocked to the rank of master chief petty officer on George Washington.

"This is the best day of my life," said Knight. "I've been waiting for this for a long time. It's been a long road, but I stayed the course and continued to do what I thought was the right thing."

The ceremony was held on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier during an all hands call with Capt. Greg Fenton, George Washington's commanding officer, Capt. Carlos Sardiello, George Washington's executive officer and George Washington's Command Master Chief Shaun Brahmsteadt.

"It is quite an accomplishment and one of the most proud moments," said Brahmsteadt. "It is indicative of all of the hard work that is paying off.

According to Brahmsteadt, less than 1 percent of all of the people who join the Navy will become a master chief petty officer.

Family members and fellow Sailors took part in the ceremony by pinning on new master chief petty officer collar devices.

"Making master chief requires the help and full support of a community," said Williams. "That community consists of both your Navy family and more importantly your personal family. All of the support you receive will help you become successful."

Advancement to master chief petty officer reflects not only the hard work of the senior chief petty officer, but also the team of Sailors they lead.

O-6 List Released

The following Oceanography Officers have been selected for promotion to captain: Cmdr. Greg Ireton, Cmdr. Brett Martin, Cmdr Sean Memmen, Cmdr. Cynthia Morgan.

METOC Officer Graduates Postgraduate School in March

Lt. Weston Coby earned a Master of Science in meteorology and physical oceanography along with a 6401 P METOC Operational Sciences subspecialty code in March at the Naval Postgraduate School. He also completed the Naval War College Joint Professional Military Education I series and an additional Graduate Certificate in Anti-Submarine Warfare, earning the 6301L Undersea Warfare subspecialty code.
Items of Interest

NOAC Yokosuka Celebrates ‘Sakura’ with Japanese Counterpart

During the springtime, Cherry Blossom (Sakura さくら) trees bloom beautifully all over Japan. To celebrate, on March 31, Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Yokosuka met with its Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) counterpart, Antisubmarine Warfare Center (ASWC), for the annual Hanami (はなみ) picnic.

Hanami, literally translated as “flower viewing,” is a Japanese tradition that began around the year 700 to commence the rice-planting season.

After climbing a rigorously steep hiking trail to Tsukuyama Park, ASWC sailors greeted the NOAC warriors with smiling faces, warm welcomes, and cold drinks. All were in awe of the view of Mt. Fuji, sparkling Yokosuka Bay, and blushing sakura blossoms.

Cmdr. Rachael Dempsey, NOAC commanding officer, cracked open a ceremonial sake barrel and offered a toast to begin the festivities. Despite the language barrier, NOAC and ASWC Sailors mingled and ate together, promoting positive bilateral relations between the two.

Ichi, ni, san! One, two, three! Cmdr. Rachael Dempsey (far left), NOAC Yokosuka commanding officer, and Capt. Nagai (far right) of the Japanese Antisubmarine Warfare Center strike the sake barrel to commence the ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by AG2 Strickland)
commands. Concluding the event, ASWC gave printed handkerchiefs in commemoration of another successful year of partnership, expressing their excitement for the coming year.

NOAC and ASWC Sailors gather under the cherry blossom trees to commemorate the enjoyable picnic. (U.S. Navy photo by AG2 Strickland)

Command Spotlight: Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center Stennis

Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Stennis is one of two warfare centers that provide global anti-submarine warfare (ASW) support through shore and sea components and globally dispersed detachments. NOAC’s mission is to provide an asymmetric warfighting advantage for ASW forces through the application of oceanographic sciences. NOAC’s shore component is comprised of an ASW Reachback Cell (RBC), in which a team of military and civilian personnel create high-quality oceanographic and acoustic products with the goal of providing decision superiority to on-scene ASW commanders. The sea component of NOAC SSC consists of 10 Naval Oceanography ASW Teams (NOATs) which deploy forward and embed with destroyer squadrons or the staffs of theater ASW commanders, in order to provide direct, real-time support. NOAC’s six Naval Oceanography ASW Detachments (NOADs) provide continuous tactical support to maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft (MPRA) wings and squadrons. NOAC has detachments at Whidbey Island, Wash.; San Diego, Calif.; Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Jacksonville, Fla.; Norfolk, Va.; and Naples, Italy.

Recent support and developments at NOAC include assistance to the forces conducting the ongoing Malaysia Airlines MH370 search effort. The ASW Reachback Cell, with the assistance of its talented Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) civilian team members, provided drift modeling and an acoustic assessment that focused on aiding in the search. The NOAC team stands ready to provide 24/7 support for as long as necessary.

Additionally, NOAC recently added a new function, Submarine Weather Advisory Forecasting (SUBWEAX). This function, which was previously under the auspices of the Fleet Numerical Meteorological and Oceanography Center, provides safety of operations and navigation through 24/7 support to submarine forces. The SUBWEAX watch team creates specialized weather forecasts specifically to support to naval maritime subsurface assets in global operational theatres throughout the globe.
Aerographers Mate 2nd Class (IDW) Jeffrey B. Irwin

Aerographer’s Mate 2nd Class Jeffrey Irwin’s professionalism and devotion to his shipmates while serving at NOAC have earned him the respect of peers and superiors alike and recently led to his recognition as NOAC Junior Sea Sailor of the Quarter, Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2014. Irwin demonstrated unparalleled dedication in the execution of his duties as ASW Reachback Cell (RBC) Oceanographic Journeyman Forecaster and Duty Section Leader.

He is always eager to contribute to the command’s mission. To help alleviate a critical manning shortage, he put forth the extra effort required to qualify as a Journeyman Forecaster on the RBC - after returning from a nine-month deployment with Destroyer Squadron 23. He is routinely sought for his superior knowledge and experience and has conducted 120 hours of training for 20 Sailors, increasing NOAC’s overall training and manning readiness by 20 percent. Additionally, he committed 21 off-duty hours to assist four different Sailors with personal financial matters. His assistance helped them remain in good financial standing and thus focused on the mission.

Irwin was also an exemplary U.S. Navy ambassador to the community. He organized and led a team of Sailors to serve as judges at the DeLisle Elementary Science Fair, and he dedicated 12 hours of community service to the Martin Luther King Park in Waveland, Miss.

AWO1 Moira R. Zivotofsky

Aviation Warfare Operator 1st Class Moira Zivotofsky's outstanding performance at NOAC’s Detachment in Jacksonville has set her apart. Recently selected as the NOAC Senior Shore Sailor of the Quarter, Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2014, Zivotofsky continues to demonstrate dedication to her duties as the NOAD Jacksonville Leading Petty Officer. She has enabled the Sailors at her detachment to produce 215 METOC products, support the execution of numerous multinational exercises conducted by Command Patrol Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 11 in the Fleet Forces Command, 4th Fleet, and 6th Fleet areas of operation, and contribute to the critical operational readiness of 250 combat aircrews during 2,500 mishap-free flight hours.

As the ASW Liaison for the detachment, she is consistently sought by CPRW-11’s Integrated Training Center instructors and P-8 squadron aircrews to provide ASW tactical decision aid training. Her efforts in this regard enhanced the operational in-flight ability to exploit environmental and acoustic changes and impacts.

As a leader within the community, she volunteered more than 115 hours to various causes, and continues to be a solid model of a U.S. Navy Sailor in the community. Zivotofsky’s outstanding performance has a substantial impact on the lives of the Sailors she supports, and on the positive reputation of the Jacksonville detachment.

Command Spotlight: Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center Yokosuka

Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Yokosuka, Japan, provides mission-essential support to 7th Fleet’s Forward Deployed Naval Forces. NOAC’s two Naval Oceanographic Anti-submarine Warfare Detachments (NOAD) in Kadena and Misawa, provide similar support tailored to maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft (MPRA). NOAC’s primary mission involves anti-submarine warfare (ASW) support. However, resource protection (RP), NOAC’s secondary mission, is arguably just as vital.
Japan is subject to devastating natural disasters including typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Most recall the catastrophic tsunami in 2011. NOAC Yokosuka was instrumental in providing timely and accurate forecasting support to Naval Forces Japan, which aided in the ultimate decision to evacuate our military personnel and their families. NOAC Yokosuka serves a vital role in typhoon forecasting for 7th Fleet and general daily forecasting for Yokosuka and Sasebo. Therefore, NOAC works very closely with Joint Typhoon Warning Center and Fleet Weather Center-San Diego in an effort to provide advanced warnings and tropical cyclone conditions of readiness recommendations for resource protection throughout the 7th Fleet AOR.

Primarily an ASW command, NOAC generates ASW products and tactical recommendations for the fleet through in-depth environmental analysis of the ocean and atmosphere. Specifically, NOAC directly supports Destroyer Squadron 15 (CDS-15), Commander, Task Force 54/74 (CTF-54/74), and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF). Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Teams, or NOATs, consist of a team lead, forecaster, and one or two ASW technicians who are frequently deployed on CDS-15 units and USS George Washington (CVN 73). In order to provide this vital support to the fleet, NOAC receives oceanographic support from subject matter experts (SME) at the Naval Oceanographic Office and ASW Reach Back Cell at Stennis Space Center, Miss.

NOAC sailors are involved in many bilateral JMSDF operations in Japan. Primarily, Sailors collaborate with JMSDF for joint exercises and meet weekly with the Japanese Navy Anti-submarine Warfare Center (ASWC) for oceanographic model comparisons. NOAC recently received a Letter of Appreciation from Japanese-American Navy Friendship Association (JANAFA) for cooperative efforts with ASWC.

Furthermore, there are numerous community relations opportunities, fostering positive relations with Japan, NOAC’s host country. NOAC sailors organize beach, Mochi (Japanese candy), Halloween, and Holiday parties with Shunko Gakuen, a local Japanese orphanage. NOAC and ASWC celebrate positive cultural and joint military relations with annual softball games and cherry blossom-viewing picnics.

NOAC Yokosuka provides vital ASW and RP support to 7th Fleet, while promoting positive cultural and joint military relations.

**AG2 Kymberly Smith**

Aerographer’s Mate 2nd Class Kymberly Smith understands operational forward-deployed naval forces first hand. She served aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and showed exemplary leadership and initiative in the Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Team (NOAT). Smith directly supported the Destroyer Squadron 15, HSM 77, and HSC 12. Furthermore, she was vital in generating oceanographic and meteorological products that proved essential in the humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) Operation DAMAYAN after the passage of super typhoon 17W in the Philippines. During a separate deployment onboard USS McCampbell (DDG 85), she assisted in real world submarine prosecutions and trained two fellow AFDOs, directly resulting in the successful qualification of both Sailors.

She was recognized recently as Junior Sailor of the Quarter, 2nd quarter 2014. Smith plans to transfer her leadership skills and outstanding work ethic toward a career in K9 unit training upon completion of her active duty service this year.

"I believe my work here has not only made me a better leader but also helped my ability to work in a fast-paced and sometimes stressful environment. NOAC has definitely allowed me to grow as an individual, and I know that the skills I’ve learned here will help me as I transition back into the civilian workforce," she said.
AG1 Brandon Long
Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Brandon Long has always been a high achiever. When he reported to NOAC Yokosuka, he brought a contagious go-getter attitude. After diligently pursuing his forecast duty officer qualification, Long trained others while acting as leading chief petty officer and division officer for several months. Furthermore, Long's care for Sailors is evident in his involvement as Command Career Counselor: mentoring junior Sailors with programs such OTIEP and US Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP). His industrious work ethic recently paid off, as he was named Senior Sailor of the Quarter, 2nd quarter 2014. He was recently selected for limited duty officer.

"Every day on the job I get to see, firsthand, the hard work and effort that my teammates put in. In the face of that kind of motivation, being positive is infectious," Long said about his positive attitude and high energy in the face of his normal workload and collateral duties.

Social Media

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