



NEWS

naval meteorology and oceanography

Dec. 30, 2013

Commander's Corner

Holidays Are Here – Time for Relaxation, Reflection, Remembrance

By Rear Adm. Brian Brown

I want to extend my warmest wishes to all Naval Oceanography personnel and your families during this joyous holiday season.

On behalf of our Navy, our warfighting team, and our Nation, I thank you for your dedicated service and the great work you continue to do. Each and every day, you ensure the world's most powerful Navy is safe, ready, and combat effective around the world.

You've worked hard throughout the year to meet our mission, and I recognize the dedicated effort. This calendar year has been especially trying at times, and next year will certainly come with its own set of challenges. The holiday season is a time for relaxation, reflection and remembrance – and I sincerely hope you all enjoy some time off – you've certainly earned it.



For those at home, now is the time to celebrate. For those deployed, I want you to know that you and your families are in our thoughts, and we are grateful for what you are doing. Wherever you celebrate the holiday season, stay safe and keep your families and shipmates safe through personal risk management, getting where you are going, having responsible fun, and returning safely are the best gifts you can give.

I am honored to serve with each of you and to witness the undeniable good that Naval Oceanography delivers across the globe every day. I thank you for your service, I thank your families for what they do to support you, and I wish you a wonderfully happy holidays.

From the Deputy/Technical Director

Be Thankful for the U.S. Naval Observatory

By Dr. William H. Burnett

Following Thanksgiving, and after all the commercials and social network posts about giving thanks, I decided to write an article about the topic. Primarily, this article is about taking a moment to appreciate things we take for granted. One of those things is the U.S. Naval Observatory, or "The Observatory," one of the oldest scientific agencies in the country.

The Observatory was established in 1830 as the Depot of Charts and Instruments with the primary mission to care for the Navy's chronometers, charts and other navigational equipment. It is also the birthplace of the Naval Oceanographic Office and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's charting mission. In 1844, as its mission evolved and expanded, the Depot was reestablished as the U.S. Naval Observatory and was located on a hill north of where the Lincoln Memorial now stands in Washington's Foggy Bottom district.

However, by the 1890's, the Naval Observatory had to move out of the city. Unhealthy conditions in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood had taken their toll. In 1893, after nearly 50 years at the site on the Potomac River, the U.S. Naval Observatory moved to the hilly terrain north of Georgetown where it is located today. I've visited the site many times - so often now that I take the visit for granted. I will think, "Oh, the Vice President's helicopter is landing outside again," and forget that he lives right down the hill. Not many people can go outside and watch that occurrence. I was also walking down the marble stairs with Scott Livezey, the Oceanographer of the Navy's Technical Director, and realized how beautiful and sturdy they were after Scott mentioned the cost to build them. The library is a national treasure and a breath-taking mix of science and architecture.



The Observatory has an amazing mission that performs an essential scientific role for the United States, the Navy, and the Department of Defense. Its mission includes determining the positions and motions of the Earth, sun, moon, planets, stars and other celestial objects; providing astronomical data; determining precise time; measuring the Earth's rotation; and maintaining the Master Clock for the United States. This astronomical and timing data, essential for accurate navigation, weapons placement and the support of communications on Earth and in space, is vital to the Navy and Department of Defense. Sometimes vital is too soft a word. Military operations would not occur without The Observatory.

The workforce that maintains and develops these capabilities is similar to our other centers – observatory employees are specialized experts with a highly scientific and technical background/education. They could go anywhere in the U.S. or the world to make much more money, however for the love of the mission and the challenges faced by the nation, they continue to serve. Their mission is growing and the challenges are increasing and, of no surprise, we are finding it difficult to hire people into these positions. Most of the knowledge and expertise takes years to develop. That is why the challenge we are facing with the hiring freeze is so detrimental to our command and our future. We must be able to hire even while we are drawing down our total workforce. The biggest risk is having our experts walk out the door before we can train others to understand all complexities to continue the mission.

So it is certainly a time to take a look around and appreciate our many assets – and for me, that includes all of you who make up this irreplaceable workforce. I wish you all happy holidays

News

DeWitt Relieves Scott as Reserve Commander

Capt. Theresa DeWitt relieved Capt. Carven Scott as commanding officer of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Reserve Activity (NMORA) Headquarters Unit 0282 in a traditional change of command ceremony at Stennis Space Center.

Rear Adm. Brian Brown, commander of the Stennis-based Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, spoke at the ceremony.

NMORA Headquarters Unit 0282 serves as headquarters for and directs the activities of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography reserve forces.

Scott is Chief of the Environmental and Scientific Services Division with the National Weather Service Alaska Region in his civilian job.



DeWitt serves as the Deputy Chief, Staff Resources for Human Capital and Contracts with the U.S. Joint Staff.

Rear Adm. Brian Brown, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, congratulates Capt. Theresa Dewitt, commanding officer of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Reserve Activity (NMORA) Headquarters Unit 0282, on assuming command at the change of command ceremony on Dec. 6. Looking on is Capt. Carven Scott, outgoing NMORA commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by George Lammons)

Personnel

Truman Sailors Trade Places With French Counterparts

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Parker, *Staff Writer, The Daily Give 'Em Hell Herald*

Sailors from the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and the French frigate Aconit (F713) switched ships for an overnight stay Oct. 18. The Aconit will be escorting Harry S. Truman while in the Gulf of Oman.

French sailors visited Harry S. Truman, Truman Sailors visited the Aconit.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Daniel Cain, assigned to 1st Combined Destroyer Squadron, was one of several Sailors chosen to cross deck to Aconit and spend the night, said there were similarities to what Sailors do aboard Harry S. Truman to what the French sailors do aboard Aconit.

"The ranking structure is the same," he said. "They have petty officers. They do similar operations as far as mission control. The crew is only 170 people, so the camaraderie is thick there. They had one weather person on board, so I shadowed her, and one thing that surprised me was she used some of the same exact programs we do."

Although similar, there were still some differences between the ships, according to Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Dalton Thompson.

"They steer with a joystick instead of a helm wheel, which is like a steering wheel," he said. "It's pretty fun to drive their ship."

Lt. Cmdr. Thivaue Deligiudice, Aconit executive officer, who has been on a U.S. carrier before, said U.S. Sailors always impress him aboard an aircraft carrier.



Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Daniel Cain learns forecasting techniques aboard the French frigate Aconit (F713). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Lyle H. Wilkie II)

“I was honored to be an instructor with the U.S. Navy during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars,” he said. “The U.S. Navy has taught me a lot of things. It is a great pride to be able to be here, they are great professionals. It is always impressive to be aboard a carrier. It’s everything...the smell, the aircraft, the professionalism and the Sailors are very nice.”

Items of Interest

NOMWC, FST, NOAC and NAVO Participate in KaBOOM! Playground Project

By Aerographer’s Mate Airman Apprentice Jason Moore

On Nov. 1, Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC), Fleet Survey Team (FST), Naval Oceanography Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) and many Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) civilians participated in the KaBOOM! playground restoration project in Diamondhead, Miss.

KaBOOM! is a national non-profit organization that works to bring playgrounds to communities across the United States. Recently, Diamondhead was awarded a grant through KaBOOM! and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group to update its East Recreational Park. The building process relies on community participation.

Eric Glover, NAVO employee and former NOMWC and NOAC Sailor, presented the opportunity to work with the community and more than 90 Sailors and NAVO civilians answered the call. The group spent the day replacing a jungle gym set, assembling a swing set and constructing various playground equipment.

As a tribute to those who helped, the city of Diamondhead placed the command coins of NOMWC, FST, and NOAC in the newly laid cement sidewalk leading to the playground.



East Recreational Park in Diamondhead, Miss., following restoration efforts. (U.S. Navy photo by Aerographer’s Mate 3rd Class Santiago Olmos-Rubiano)

Command Spotlight: Naval Oceanography Operations Command

The Naval Oceanography Operations Command (NOOC), established in 2005, is an Echelon IV command reporting to Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. Consisting of only 17 personnel, NOOC provides warfighting advantage by exploiting the current and future state of the environment. As the Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) for seven Echelon V commands comprising of over 1,100 Sailors and civilians along with an annual budget execution authority of approximately \$15 million, NOOC provides this advantage through 24/7 operational watch floors, underway teams dedicated to on-scene support, teams embedded with Naval Special Warfare, and specialized mine warfare and mine hunting teams.

ET3 Jamie Peck

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jamie Peck reported to the NOOC in July 2013, after completing Information Systems Maintenance C-School in San Diego. Since reporting to the NOOC, ET3 Peck has served as the Stennis Space Center (SSC) NITES Pool Manager. Her responsibilities include maintaining NITES IV equipment, performing Information Assurance via ECB updates, providing SSC NITES Pool updates and information to NOOC N6, and providing technological support to the Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Team (NOAT) SSC teams.



She helped NOOC N6 and Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) in revising the NITES IV Equipment Checkout Process, to not only create a more efficient system but also to provide better customer service to NOAC SSC. She has also earned her Microsoft SharePoint certification and is in the process of taking over duties as the NOOC SharePoint Administrator.

When not managing the SSC NITES Pool, Peck serves as a Senior Advocate for SSC's chapter of the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD), providing information and guidance to her fellow junior Sailors. She also volunteers her time every weekend, caring for animals at the Humane Society of South Mississippi in Gulfport, Miss.

Social Media

Follow Naval Oceanography on Facebook and @navyoceans on Twitter to keep up with all the latest news and images from the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography community.

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The editorial content of this newspaper is edited and approved by the public affairs office of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

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NMOC News is a monthly electronic internal newsletter, distributed by the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Public Affairs Office. To obtain guidelines for contributing information to NMOC News, or for any other questions, please contact:

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