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Rear Admiral David Titley

Commander,
Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command

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Commander's Corner



Our Navy is entering a period of fierce competition for talent as the demographics of our nation change. Organizations that fail to see and prepare for a population that is rapidly diversifying do so at their peril. I am happy to say that Naval Oceanography, through our outreach programs, remains in competition for the best people available for all of our jobs – regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

The Chief of Naval Operations recognizes the need for a more diverse Navy, and has set a course to reach out to minority groups. Navy diversity efforts now extend to the recruitment of minorities to fill our civilian positions as well as active duty Sailors. I assure you that our policy now and in the future will always be to hire the best available talent for our positions. However, a growing minority segment of our population is not aware that Naval Oceanography is a great place to start a career.

Our outreach efforts to historically Black colleges and universities and institutions with large Hispanic populations are designed to correct that situation. Interested applicants must apply with resumes into the Navy's CHART system and face screening against position requirements. All qualified applicants are then compared. My charge to all selection officials is to always select the best talent. Doing anything less would be discriminatory and inconsistent with our goals and values.

Our national makeup is multi-racial and multi-ethnic, and that remains a great strength of our country. It has helped make our Navy the best in the world. It is the responsibility of each of us to preserve the vitality that our diversity has given us. Treating all people with dignity, fairness and respect is – quite simply – the right thing to do.

All the best,
David W. Titley, Rear Adm., USN

Change of Command

NAVAL ICE CENTER: Cmdr. Denise Kruse relieved Capt. Ray Chartier, Jr., Dec. 16 as commanding officer of the Naval Ice Center in Suitland, Md. Chartier moved to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and Kruse previously served at Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central, Bahrain. Pictured from left to right: Kruse, Capt. James Berdeguez, commanding officer of the Naval Oceanographic Office, and Chartier.



Items of Interest

TITLEY NAMED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY: Rear Adm. David W. Titley, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, was named one of 28 new Fellows of the American Meteorological Society, the nation's leading professional society for scientists in the atmospheric and related sciences, at the AMS Annual meeting in Phoenix. The Fellow is given to an individual for recognition of outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences, or their applications, during a substantial period of years. Only two-tenths of one percent of AMS membership is approved as Fellow each year. To read the full story, go to http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=41682.



2008 IUSS SAILORS OF THE YEAR: Congratulations to Shore Sailors of the Year: Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Christopher Harding, IUSS Senior Sailor of the Year, NOPF Whidbey Island; and Yeoman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Rishard G. Winters, Junior Sailor the Year, NOPF Dam Neck. Also, congratulations to the Sea Sailors of the Year: Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class (SW) Ryan Barrett, IUSS Senior Sailor of the Year and Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Peter Burnett, IUSS Junior Sailor of the Year, both of NOPF Whidbey Island. Pictured: Command Master Chief (SW) Mike Conran with Harding.

ARMED WITH SCIENCE ON BLOGTALK RADIO: Defense Department officials this week will launch "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military" an online radio show. Armed with Science is a bi-monthly webcast, hosted on BlogTalkRadio.com that discusses various cutting-edge scientific research and development, and applications of science and technology to military operations sponsored by various defense offices. On the first webcast on Jan. 14, Geoff Chester, Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Naval Observatory, will discuss the nature of atomic time keeping, the Observatory's Master Clock system, and why a precise time reference is critical to military operations. Located at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/ArmedwithScience>, the webcast will feature interviews with scientists, administrators, and operators to discuss the importance of science and advanced technology to the modern military. The show will air live Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. ET. Users unable to access the live webcast via their NMCI computers, may call in at 646-716-5354. The program ID number is 379363. This is not a toll-free number. Audio files of the show and transcripts also will be archived and accessible on the Thursday after the show via, DefenseLink <http://www.defenselink.mil/Blogger/Index.aspx>. Archived audio files will also be available on the Pentagon Channel <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/> and on iTunes. The next webcast is scheduled for Jan. 28, where Mike Jeffries, Technical Director/Chief Hydrographer of the Fleet Survey Team will discuss hydrography and techniques and tools of ocean bottom mapping; the use of the expeditionary Fleet Survey Teams and how the data they collect are used to build precise nautical charts.

NMOPDC GROUND-BREAKING: A new era for training began Dec. 11 as the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center in Gulfport, Miss., broke ground at a ceremony onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport. The \$8.75 million facility will be built by Roy Anderson Corporation. The new NMOPDC center will provide a modern facility to meet the current and future mission to advance, implement, and manage the education and advanced professional training for the METOC community's officer, enlisted, and civilian workforce. The 24,000 square foot facility will include: seven unclassified classrooms (general academic and modified academic), two state-of-the-art computer classrooms, two secure classrooms (tactical academic and lab), and a secure curriculum development capability. At full capacity the new facility will accommodate 174 students. Construction is scheduled to be completed in October. Pictured from left to right: Steve Bryant, Vice President of Operations, Roy Anderson Corporation; Cmdr. Frank Schenk, commanding officer, NMOPDC; Rear Adm. David Titley, commanding officer, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command; Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer, Naval Construction Battalion Center; and Lt. Craig Clutts, Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Gulfport.





ACOSTA-GONZALEZ TO COMMAND GULF COAST NAVAL SEA CADETS:

Chief Aerographer's Mate Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez, a chief warrant officer in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, has been selected to be the next commanding officer of the Gulf Coast Naval Sea Cadets in February. He is currently serving as the unit's executive officer and will also be promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade during the ceremony. Acosta's unit drills aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., with all formal training taught at the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center. The six instructors mentor and facilitate classes for 10-15 cadets and have a current recruiting goal of 25 cadets by spring 2009. Training is year-round, usually one weekend per month during the school year, with two-week training opportunities offered during the summer months. After completion of a two-week recruit training camp, a variety of developmental opportunities are

available, including Airman, aviation ground school, and shipboard training. Other options available include submarine, medical, music, and leadership seminars, as well as Seabee and SEAL training. The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit, nautically oriented, youth training and education organization dedicated to developing the principles of patriotism, good citizenship, and self-confidence. "We strive to instill in young people a sense of duty, discipline, and respect for self and others," said Acosta. Since 1958 the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

NSPS – PAY POOL CONCLUSIONS: Deliberations of the pay pool have concluded. This year approximately 650 employees were considered by the pay pool and given a rating of record. Out of the 650, 51 percent received a rating of 4 (Exceeded Expectations) and 47 percent received a rating of 3 (Valued Employee). Two shares were awarded most frequently (47 percent); however 3 (28 percent) and 4 shares (23 percent) were also awarded in significant numbers. The share value is estimated at 1.8438 percent. Although not yet finalized, NSPS employees currently are predicted to have their salaries raised by a 1.74 percent increase. In addition, their performance payout will be the share value times the number of shares they are awarded by the pay pool. However, that figure is split between salary increase and bonus on an individual basis. The rate range adjustment and locality payment are based on their current base salary and the performance payout is based on their base salary as of Sept. 30, 2008.

New Comet Module

WEATHER AND HEALTH: The COMET Program is pleased to announce the publication of Weather and Health. This 2-hour course will help meteorologists and others broaden their understanding of the impacts of weather and climate on public health, including the impacts of heat waves and cold temperatures, winter storms and thunderstorms, flooding, drought, poor air quality, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfire, UV radiation, and others. This course was developed with funding from the National Environmental Education Foundation. This course has been designed for broadcast meteorologists, in particular, who play a critical role in the community by helping the public to protect against weather-related health threats and by promoting good health. The course also describes the public health communication system, and provides information about reliable public health services, tools, and resources. The course also includes many take-aways, including a full Image Gallery of all the images used, the complete narration transcript, and we will soon make available podcasts of each section for mobile use. Please follow this link to start the course: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/broadcastmet/wrx/index.htm>

Detailer's Corner

From: Capt. Jim Pettigrew, PERS 449

I hope everyone had a wonderful and re-charging Christmas and holiday season. Now it's back to work doing the things that our Country and Navy need us to do. One of the things you need to continue to do for yourself is to pay attention to your career. Think about where you want to go from where you are at. Do you want to go to sea next? How about a Joint job or maybe even a challenging job at CNMOC or OPNAV? Think about your progression and the associated timeline. Do you have the time available to get to your milestone tours before your next selection board? These are all things that we are looking out for on your behalf here in Millington but the ultimate responsibility is of course yours. Plan early and plan often.

We appreciate all who continue to step up to fill our high-priority billets. Here are some additional ones. Remember, I can usually go one-up or one-down in rank. If you're interested, give Cmdr. (sel) Chicoine or me a call.

O5	NGA	VA
O4	DIA	VA
O3	NAVICE	MD
O4	CNMOC	MS

That's it for now from Millington. Keep Charging!

About NMOC News

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