



# naval meteorology and oceanography

Feb. 12, 2009

## Commander's Corner



You may have seen in the national news recently that Naval Oceanography and Google, Inc. formed a partnership to integrate ocean data into the Google Earth application. This collaboration educates the public on the ocean and its important resources, and expands global digital ocean data holdings. It also enhances the Navy's ability to process, create and search oceanographic products – and therefore better maintain safety of the Fleet and enhance warfighting effectiveness.

This collaboration is a wonderful example of Naval Oceanography executing our Maritime Strategy. We are building partnerships that provide both cost-effective technical excellence and force-shaping/security cooperation.

Naval Oceanography has a long reputation with successful partnerships -- the Joint Typhoon Warning Center is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and in 2011 the Naval Observatory will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of co-producing nautical almanacs with the United Kingdom. A more recent partnership with the U.S. Air Force at the Joint Aviation Hub in Europe has both streamlined and strengthened our European forecasts.

The National Unified Operational Prediction Capability (NUOPC) initiative exemplifies how Naval Oceanography partnerships will make a positive impact on future capabilities. The integration of modeling efforts among the Navy, NOAA and U.S. Air Force, NUOPC will support an unparalleled global modeling capability that can be adapted by individual agencies for specific applications, like warfighting support (i.e., Battlespace On Demand).

As Naval Oceanography strives to tighten the link between forecasting and decisions, it is essential to continue building strong partnerships like these and ensure we capitalize on our position in the nation's ocean, weather, and positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) infrastructure. As always, thank you for your ongoing efforts. They are the reason we stand in a position of excellence today, and the reason we will continue that reputation tomorrow.

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

## Items of interest:



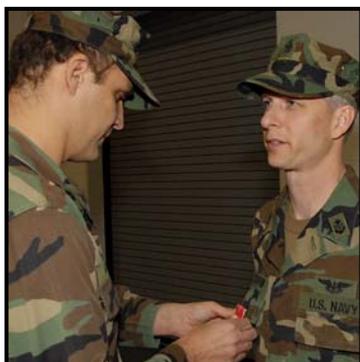
**NEW GOOGLE EARTH VERSION LAUNCHES WITH NAVY DATA:** Representatives of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) were at the launch of Google Earth 5.0 in San Francisco on Feb. 2. The command is working with Google through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA). The new version of Google Earth uses Navy ocean data. During the launch event at the California Academy of Sciences are pictured at left Ed Gough, NMOC Deputy/Technical Director, Dr. Sylvia Earle, explorer-in-residence

at the National Geographical Society, and Barbara Reed, Director of Special Programs and Production Support at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO). Below left Gough; Capt. Jim Berdeguez, NAVOCEANO commanding officer; and musician/author Jimmy Buffet. Below right is former Vice President Al Gore with Berdeguez. Read the full story at [http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=42271](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=42271).



---

**USNO SCIENTIST WINS COPERNICUS AWARD:** Dr. Christopher Ekstrom, chief of the U.S. Naval Observatory's Advanced Clock Development Program, has been named as a recipient of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) / U.S. Naval Institute's prestigious Copernicus Award, which recognizes individual contributions to naval warfare in the disciplines of C4I, information systems, and information warfare. Dr. Ekstrom is being honored for his work in the development and implementation of the USNO's new Rubidium Atomic Frequency Fountain clocks, which will set new standards in defining the Naval Observatory's Master Clock system



**AGC DAVID PERRIN AWARDED BRONZE STAR:** AGC David Perrin was awarded a Bronze Star on Feb. 8 for his work with Seal Team 10 on deployment in Iraq. Perrin, who was with Naval Oceanography Special Operations Center Detachment in Little Creek, managed, coordinated various manned and unmanned aerial collection assets, which are critical to special operations. He also used his METOC expertise to maintain weather awareness in order to maximize specific platform capabilities with collection opportunities to maximize limited resources. He is about to start a tour in the 2nd Fleet oceanographer's office. In the photo at left, CDR John Hoyt, commanding officer of Seal Team 10, pins Perrin with the Bronze Star.

**WEATHER IN THE COUNTERPIRACY FIGHT:** The article, "Weather Poses Tactical Advantage for Counterpiracy Task Force" by MC1 Monique K. Hilley, tells the story of the role of weather in the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Aden on Navy.mil. It also quotes AG2 Angela Fleischer aboard U.S.S. Mahan. Read the full story at [http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=42248](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=42248).

---

**USNA'S OCEANOGRAPHY CHAIR SELECTED FOR AWARD:** David Smith, Chair of the U.S. Naval Academy Oceanography Department, has been selected to receive the 2009 Class of 1951 Civilian Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. He is the first Oceanography Department faculty member to receive the honor. Smith was recognized for excellence in teaching, assistance to midshipmen, personal mentoring of six Trident Scholars and 11 independent research students. Smith overhauled the Naval Academy's Synoptic Meteorology program, introducing real-time data streams and computer modeling systems into the classroom environment. He also has served for several years as the principal investigator and program leader for the Maury Project, designed to assist K-12 teachers and thereby enhance science education in U.S. primary and secondary schools.

---

**FORMER NPMOCW/JTWC BUILDING GETS NEW LIFE:** Building 200 on Nimitz Hill in Guam was formerly home to Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center West/Joint Typhoon Warning Center will get a new life as a home to the Joint Region Staff and the Marine Corps Joint Guam Program. After the METOC center closed in 1996, the building was used as the DODEA High School for 10 years and was then boarded up after a new high school was built at Naval Hospital. A \$19 million renovation will give it new life.

---

#### **THIS WEEK'S 'ARMED WITH SCIENCE' ON BLOGTALKRADIO**

AG1 Gary Primo, ice analyst with the National Ice Center, discussed the role of the National Ice Center in monitoring sea ice for safety of navigation and operations on this week's Armed with Science on BlogTalkRadio. To listen to the show download audio files and/or transcripts at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/Blogger/Index.aspx> and <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil> From non-NMCI computers: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/ArmedwithScience>. You can also download audio files and transcripts from archived shows. Armed with Science is a bi-monthly audio webcast, hosted on BlogTalkRadio.com that discusses cutting-edge scientific research and development, and applications of science and technology to military operations sponsored by various defense offices.

---

## **New COMET Modules**

The COMET Program is pleased to announce the publication of "S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, Unit 8: Keeping Current with the Weather." This 30-to-45 minute module describes fire weather information and products available from Predictive Services and the National Weather Service. Summaries of the products, including significant fire potential, monthly and seasonal outlooks, fire weather planning forecasts, and spot forecasts, are presented. The unit also outlines the types of support available from by Fire Behavior Analysts and Incident Meteorologists assigned to a fire and provides guidance for receiving updated weather information using the Internet. This is the third of thirteen units that will be released as part of the Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior Course. The entire course will be available by early 2010.

The intended audience for "S-290 Unit 8: Keeping Current with the Weather" includes fire personnel, fire managers, fire weather forecasters, and others seeking to complete the S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior course offered through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The course content is required for those planning to work as a Fire Fighter Type 1 or Fire Effects Monitor on wildfires, fire use fires, and prescribed burns. Please follow this link to start the module: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/fire/s290/unit8/>

The “Using Climatology in Current Operations” module is intended for DoD weather personnel and others interested in learning about the climate data and products available from the 14th WS. The module teaches users how these products can assist them in their jobs and helps them become more informed users.

The module is the third and final one in COMET’s *Climatology for Forecasters* series. It builds on the preceding modules:

- [Introduction to Climatology](#), which provides background information on climatology: what it is, the factors that create an area’s climate, and the sources and uses of climate information
- [Introduction to Statistics for Climatology](#), which explores the basic statistical parameters used in climatology and identifies the statistical parameters that best summarize some weather and climate variables

---

## Detailer’s Corner

*From: CAPT Jim Pettigrew, PERS 449*

I’ve been hearing rumblings of “alternatives” to our approved education process, so I want to take a moment of our time to ensure we all have the same understanding.

There is only one (SINGULAR, UNIQUE, NO OTHER WAY) community- and Navy-approved process to receive your METOC Subspecialty Code. That process is to attend Naval Postgraduate School and complete the Meteorology and Operational Oceanography Program, which results in a master’s degree in meteorology and physical oceanography and ultimately, a 6401P Subspecialty Code.

Additionally, selection to the highly competitive MIT course of instruction will result in a master’s degree in oceanography and the 6402P Subspecialty Code. Because of the caliber and the fact that it is a community- and Navy-approved course of instruction, this is the only other current way to not attend NPS and still continue to progress.

Many of our lieutenant billets and all of our lieutenant commander and above billets are coded for a 6401 Subspecialty Code; which means all of our O4 milestone sea tours. No O4 milestone sea tour completion means you are incurring significant risk in promoting past O4.

You may hear scuttlebutt that so and so attended ODU or some other institution of higher learning on their own time and earned a master’s in oceanography. That is true. HOWEVER, to date, zero of those folks have been awarded our subspecialty code for their efforts. The Navy is very strict in the awarding of subspecialty codes, and all programs are measured against the standard of the established program at NPS.

Even as the detailer, I cannot lie. There certainly have been a few instances of this office sending officers to sea prior to their attendance at NPS. These assignments were made on a case-by-case basis, balanced against operational priorities, career timing, and with the involvement of the leadership of the NOOC and CNMOC.

Let me close by ensuring you understand exactly what I am saying: YOU WILL ATTEND NPS TO RECEIVE YOUR MASTER’S DEGREE AND METOC SUBSPECIALTY CODE. THIS IS THE APPROVED PROCESS FOR THE OCEANOGRAPHY COMMUNITY AND THE NAVY.

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

**Rear Admiral David Titley**

Commander,

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command

1100 Balch Boulevard, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

---



*NMOC News is a biweekly 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:*

Tel: (228) 688-4384 • Fax: (228) 688-4880 • E-mail: [cathy.willis@navy.mil](mailto:cathy.willis@navy.mil)