



naval meteorology and oceanography

May 18, 2009

Commander's Corner



Thomas Jefferson famously wrote that “the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.” The foundation of the Navy is built upon round-the-clock readiness. To maintain this level of readiness and presence, watchstanding is a fundamental part of our culture in Naval Oceanography. It doesn't matter if you are afloat or ashore, standing watch to forecast the impact of the ocean and atmosphere on Naval operations is of vital importance to our Navy and our nation.

At any given time, day or night, our watch teams (made up of military and civilians) are ensuring the safety of all Navy aircraft, all USS and USNS ships at sea, and naval installations worldwide. Additionally, we provide direct support to combat operations and enable reachback support for ASW, MIW, NSW, and forward-deployed staff operations. Our watchstanders are part of the decision-making process and have proven themselves as an essential asset in mission planning.

As a watchstander, your effectiveness depends on your understanding of science as it applies to Naval and Joint operations, and on your watchstanding habits. As you stand your watch, remember to set the example in appearance and conduct, and hold true to the key tenets of integrity, foresight and initiative, and always maintain a questioning attitude.

It is easy for the watchstander to feel as though his or her efforts go unnoticed or unrecognized unless something goes wrong. I can assure you that I truly appreciate your dedication, and I understand the significant impact you have on Naval operations – every minute of every day. While you stand the watch, your ship and your shipmates are depending on your “eternal vigilance.” Thank you for the exemplary work you perform – whether at sea or ashore – that proves once again that Naval Oceanography's greatest asset is its people.

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

Anniversaries

JTWC CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY: Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) celebrated its 50 anniversary in a ceremony on April 29. The guest speaker was Rear Tom Copeman, U. S. Pacific Fleet Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Training and Readiness. Adm. Robert Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet made note of the



occasion in his blog, Rat-Pac Report. said that he is “proud of the Sailors and Airmen at JTWC and their dedication and service to protect lives and property.”

Copeman was guest speaker for the event, held at the Ford Island Conference Center in Pearl Harbor. Follow the link to read Adm. Willard’s tribute: <<http://rat-pac.blogspot.com/2009/04/50th-anniversary-of-joint-typhoon.html>> .



Capt. Grant Cooper, commander of the Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center, acknowledges the hard work of his Sailors and Airmen, with support from Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, U. S. Pacific Fleet Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Training and Readiness (seated to the left), and Capt. Dean Sadanaga, Director of Weather Services at the Naval Oceanography Operations Command (seated to the right).

A joint US Air Force and US Navy color guard brings forward the American flag to start the ceremony for JTWC's 50th Anniversary.

Promotion/Selections



EDWARDS PROMOTED TO MASTER CHIEF: Keith Edwards, Naval Oceanography Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NOASWC) senior enlisted, was promoted to Master Chief in a ceremony on April 29 at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO). In the photo, Edwards is congratulated by Cmdr. Tony Miller, his commanding officer, after being promoted.

SANTIAGO COMMISSIONED ON ‘MIGHTY MO’: In a ceremony held on the fantail of the Battleship Missouri, “Mighty Mo,” AGC Cesar A. Santiago was commissioned as an ensign by Cmdr. Greg Ireton, executive officer of Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center (NFCM/JTWC). Santiago first reported to NMFC Pearl Harbor as the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center Training Liaison, where he provided total force training, education, and skills management to NMFC Sailors. The ceremony took place in front of family and friends. As an officer, Santiago will serve as a division officer and command duty officer for NMFC Pearl Harbor. At right AGCS David Martinez and AGC Duane Hutchens assist in a traditional LDO ceremony by removing Santiago's chief anchors in preparation for his new ensign bars.



SELECTED FOR CAPTAIN: The following oceanography officers were selected for promotion to captain during 2009-2010: Joseph R. Brenner, Paul S. Oosterling, Timothy C. Gallaudet and Greg A. Ulses. The selections were announced last month.

Visits

JTWC SAILORS WORK WITH LOCAL SCHOOL: A group of Sailors from Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center (NMFC/JTWC) in Pearl Harbor, recently volunteered for Moanalua Middle School's Health and Safety Fair and later in the classroom to further the students' understanding of weather.



The following week, NMFC/JTWC partnered with the Air Force 17th Operational Weather Squadron (OWS) to teach "Weather in the Classroom" to all of the eighth grade science classes. This series has been a vital component of the Personal Excellence Partnership Program and involves an individual from NMFC/JTWC or 17th OWS volunteering time to teach a 55-minute lesson on weather.

NMFC/JTWC has had a long relationship with Moanalua Middle School.

Above, AG2 Stephen Joblon and AG3 Brian Kohler teach some 8th grade students about severe weather.



Above left, students ask AG2 Joshua Siegel and AG3 Chainey Alder difficult questions during "Weather in the Classroom."

Above right, AGC Brian Warren with a group of 8th grade students he was teaching "Weather in the Classroom."

SGOT-SAN DIEGO SAILORS TOUR SCRIPPS: Bruce Applegate, now fleet manager of Scripps Maritime Facility guided a group of Aerographer's Mates from Strike Group Oceanography Team San Diego (SGOT San Diego), on a tour of Scripps and one of the Scripps ships. The ship is preparing for a research run on the California current off Point Conception. Applegate gave the young Sailors an overview of the multiple careers available to those who desire a life at sea.





In photo at left, AGAN Travis Hahn, AGAN Andrew Gutierrez, AGAN Terra Kern tour the Scripps ship.

At right Bruce Applegate explains ship equipment to AGAN Anthony Bastinelli.

who participated in the Scripps tour are the (l-r) Bruce Applegate, AG3 Brooke Blevins, Spencer Caldwell, AGAN Travis Hahn, AGAR Cress, AG3 Leonard Ruiz, AG3 Andrew AGAN Terra Kern, AGAR Anthony Bastinelli, Brandy Snyder, AGAR Kevin Ruiz, AGAA Lee.



SGOT San Diego Sailors following: AG1 Terry Gutierrez, AG1 Neville



PDC OFFICERS VISIT PENSACOLA

MUSEUM: The officers of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center (PDC) visited the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla., on a farewell trip for CDR Angie Walker, the outgoing PDC executive officer.

Pictured (l-r) are Ens. Tom Newman, Lt. Cmdr. Bryan Blankenship, Cmdr. Angie Walker, Lt. Cmdr.

Dan Butler, Cmdr. Frank Schenk, Ens. Marc Fryer and Lt. Matt Henigin.

U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY HOSTS REGIONAL WINNERS IN NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCES BOWL COMPETITION:

On April 25, staff members of the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO) and the Oceanographer of the Navy played host to regional winners of the 2009 National Ocean Sciences Bowl competition. The National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®) is a collaborative effort between the Consortium for Ocean Leadership and the NOSB host institutions. Students representing 13 of the 25 regional-winning schools attended the event, which consisted of a special “behind-the-scenes” look at the various ongoing research projects of the USNO’s four scientific departments as well as an overview of the Observatory’s mission and history.



Above right, Dr. Rachel Dudik of USNO’s Astrometric Satellite Division describes the Focal-Plane laboratory to visiting NOSB finalists.



Right, finalists in the NOSB competition on the steps of the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Left, U.S. Naval Observatory Librarian Sally Bosken describes rare books by Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton in the James M. Gilliss Library.



APS STOPS FEATURE METEOROLOGY CLASSES: The activities of Africa Partnership Station 09 on board USS Nashville (LPD-13) included meteorology classes at stops in Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon. The sessions, led by Aerographer's Mates and oceanography officers, helped with two fundamental tenets of APS – contributing to the professional growth of maritime professionals and building situational awareness in the maritime domain.

In Senegal classes included representatives of Senegal's National Agency of Meteorology, Center for Oceanographic Research, Dakar University's Atmospheric Department. Ghana officials enrolled seven staff members of Ghana's Meteorological Agency. Nigeria had 12 from the Nigerian Meteorological Institution. Cameroon had three members of the armed forces and six staff members of the Department of National Meteorology. And 10 staff members of the Gabon Meteorological Service attended.

Items of Interest

JTWC HELPS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT PEARL: In a story by MC2 John Wallace Ciccarelli Jr., AG2 Class Horace Mai, of Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center (NMFC/JTWC) says, "Celebrating Earth Day during Spring Fest is a chance to raise environmental awareness around the Navy community by educating and giving them the skills to learn ways to preserve and protect Hawaii's fragile environment." The story is about the Earth Day celebration at Pearl Harbor during Spring Fest. See the complete story at http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=44758.



ADMIRAL ATTENDS SOY LUNCHEON: Rear Adm. David Titley attended the recent Fleet Forces Sailor of the Year Luncheon. Pictured with Titley at the luncheon are AGAN Patricia S Douglas, Naval Aviation Forecast Center Norfolk (NAFC), AG1(AW/SW) Robert L Vonggonthong, Strike Group Oceanography Team-West (SGOT), Rear Adm. David W Titley, AG2(AW/SW) Leilani T Rojas, SGOT, AGAN Soweto S Hawkins, NAFC.

RHODES PROFILED IN SQUADRON PAPER: AGAN Jason Rhodes was profiled as the Impressive Person of the Day (I.P.O.D.) in the May 13 issue of First Call, the publication for military members serving aboard USS Wasp and the ships of Amphibious Squadron 8.



Training

FST USING ONLINE SYSTEM: The Fleet Survey Team (FST) and Expeditionary Warfare (EXW) Directorate are now using the METOC Naval Training Online Records (MENTOR) system (<https://asm.kpt.nuwc.navy.mil/MENTOR/>). The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center (NMOPDC) worked closely with organizational leaders to establish training pipelines that detail the METOC courses and qualifications for personnel based on duty assignments. All Naval Oceanography Operations Command training pipelines are under review and will also be made available in MENTOR upon directorate approval. NMOPDC plans to expand system roll out to support pipelines for production centers and all remaining METOC units in Fall 2009.

All METOC units may now use MENTOR to assign and track FY09 General Military Training (GMT) and AG-C1 School prerequisites. To request a MENTOR user account, receive system training, or for more details on how your command can begin using the system, you may contact the launch team at 228-871-2342 (DSN 868) or send an e-mail to: GLFP_NMOPDC_ASM@navy.mil

Meetings

COMPTROLLERS MEET AT STENNIS: The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) and the Navy Construction Battalion Center Gulfport co-hosted the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Mississippi Sound Chapter General Session Luncheon at Stennis Space Center and installed officers for the new year.

Officers for 2009-2010 are (l-r) Maj. Robert Paleo, president; Ashley N. Denson, vice president – Pascagoula; Alfreda Jackson, vice president – Stennis Space Center; Marcella LeBlanc, secretary; Dave Bethea, vice president – Gulfport; and Lt. Robert Carter, treasurer.



COMET News

UNIT 9 IS PUBLISHED: The COMET Program is pleased to announce the publication of "S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, Unit 9: Observing the Weather." This module covers procedures for taking accurate weather observations using belt weather kits and descriptions of other common weather observing equipment used in fire weather. It requires approximately 30 minutes to complete and is the fourth of 13 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 9: Observing 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, Type 2 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/unit9/>

Detailer's Corner

1800 DETAILER

From Capt. Jim Pettigrew, PERS 449

First, let me offer CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Oceanography Captain selections: Capt.(sel) Paul Oosterling (CO, NOMWC, Stennis Space Center, Miss.), Capt.(sel) Tim Gallaudet (OPNAV/N84, Washington, D.C.), Capt.(sel) Greg Ulses (OPNAV/N84, Washington, D.C.), and Capt.(sel) Joe Brenner (OPNAV/N43, Washington, D.C.). These four officers represent the next generation of leadership for our community. We are in good hands.

As promised, here are some thoughts from board members this season:

-Maintaining your service record is YOUR responsibility. Now that your record and OSR/PSR can be viewed online (via BOL), updates are even easier. Please review your record periodically to ensure it is always up to date. Remember that promotion boards look for potential deep selects. It pays to have your record up to date before the board, even if you are Below Zone.

-Letters to the board should be used to add missing material or explain key elements of your record. Don't expect the board to guess why words say one thing but the marks say another. If you ask a current or former boss to write a letter, make sure they add specifics as to why they are writing the letter. A lukewarm letter of recommendation also sends a signal to the board. After the board, all correspondence is destroyed, so you must still submit missing fitreps or awards through the normal process.

Here are some high-pri fills, and remember, I can usually go one-up or one-down in rank. If you're interested, give CDR(sel) Towle or me a call.

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

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

ENLISTED DETAILER

From AGCS (AW/SW) Bobby Picchi, PERS 404 DH

If a career counselor submits a 1306 requesting "PRD to match EAOS, intent to separate at EAOS," the Sailor's record is flagged to separate at EAOS by PERS. This takes away my ability to write orders for the member. In the past, the opportunities for members to change their minds and decide to "Stay Navy" were available, and as you might have assumed already, those opportunities are gone. With that understanding, please make sure you understand the finality of the decision.

Due to fiscal constraints I'm releasing only below type orders:

GSA outs

Accessions

No cost LIMDU/pregnancy

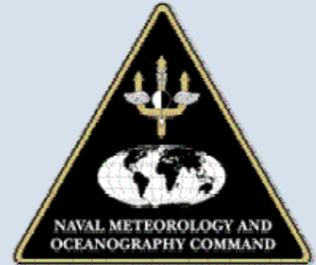
No cost (shore to sea only)

Rear Admiral David Titley

Commander,

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command

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