



naval meteorology and oceanography

July 1, 2009

Commander's Corner



Over the past decade, the Arctic has warmed twice as fast as the rest of the globe. Many scientists now believe the Arctic may experience nearly ice-free summers as early as the 2030s. This opening of Arctic waters offers simultaneous opportunities and challenges for growth, access, natural resources, new transportation routes and environmental stewardship. Our Navy will play a key role managing this change through peaceful means and internationally recognized processes.

To address future Navy action regarding the Arctic, the Chief of Naval Operations has established Task Force Climate Change (TFCC), a matrixed organization across multiple Navy staff codes and warfare enterprises. As Oceanographer of the Navy, I will lead this new task force. TFCC will consist of a Flag-level steering committee, several working groups led by Captains (or O-6 equivalent), and participants from interested joint and interagency stakeholders, including the Office of Naval Research, U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of the Secretary of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review, and Center for Naval Analysis.

TFCC's primary deliverable will be a roadmap for Navy action that will provide a timeline to guide future strategic and policy discussions. Critical elements of this roadmap will answer the following questions: What is the timeline for Naval Arctic access? Are there threats to national security in the Arctic, and if so, what are they? Will the Navy be required to increase engagement in the Arctic? What does the Navy need to invest in to meet expected Arctic requirements?

One of the first tasks in the Navy's Arctic Roadmap will likely be to better assess and predict timing, severity, and types of impact on Arctic environmental change. This will be accomplished by improving our current capability to monitor sea-ice extent in the region, which our National Ice Center performs in concert with the US Coast Guard, NOAA, academic, scientific, and international partners.

Another critical component is enhancing our ability to better predict, at both tactical and seasonal scales, ice amount, concentration, geographical location and thickness. This may be one of the most challenging forecast problems we have undertaken, as it requires a truly coupled air-ocean-land-ice modeling system. In a future column I will discuss our plans for developing and implementing the next generation of numerical prediction guidance.

Efforts are also underway to verify and validate (V&V) our atmospheric and ocean models in the Arctic. The Arctic Roadmap is expected to be completed by the end of this summer and the initial V&V model

reports should be available in November.

At this time, the nation's Arctic policy implies no new mission for the Navy, but it does imply that the Navy must be prepared to operate in the region with greater frequency. I told CNO the Arctic is a challenge -- but not a crisis. Naval Oceanography has, and will continue, to play a key role as we move into the future of Arctic operations; our expertise will be critical in ensuring our Navy makes the right decisions at the right time.

As always, thank you for your efforts and all that you do, everyday, keeping our fleet safe and ready for any mission.

All the best,

David W. Titley, Rear Adm., USN

Items of Interest

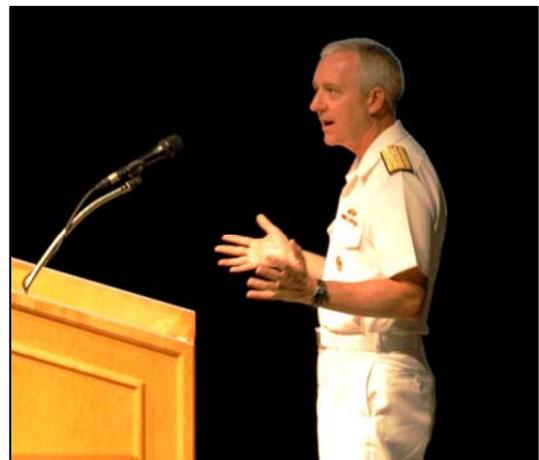
AG2 Nicholas Wissler, Fleet Survey Team, briefs Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel during a visit to the Naval Oceanographic Office on June 30.



Rear Admiral David Titley Speaks at Arctic Symposium

Rear Adm. David Titley, Oceanographer of the Navy and commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, speaks at the 3rd Symposium on the Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing Arctic on Naval & Maritime Operations earlier this month at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The symposium brought together about 150 arctic researchers, operators, and policy makers to listen to each other, discussing and sharing their perspectives, needs, and expectations related to changes in the accessibility and other impacts created by a retreating ice pack. Titley was charged by Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations, to establish and lead Task Force Climate Change (TFCC) to help the Navy decide how to respond to an ice-diminished Arctic.



Rear Adm. David Titley

USNO Change of Command

On Tuesday, June 30 Capt. Steven Warren, was relieved by Capt. Scott Steadley as the 52nd Superintendent, U.S. Naval Observatory. Capt. Steadley was formerly the Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy. Capt Warren will be working with the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System.



From left to right: Capt. Warren, Cmdr. Raymond Houk, Rear Adm. Titley, and Capt. Steadley

NAVOCEANO Promotes Motorcycle Safety

According to the Naval Safety Center, there were 139 motorcycle-related fatalities in Navy and Marine Corps in fiscal year 2008.

In light of these startling statistics, on June 15, The Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) worked to shed light on the importance of motorcycle safety by participating in the 18th annual, National Ride to Work Day. To read the full story visit http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=46316

M80 Stiletto on Display

Officers, sailors, and civilians from the Naval Maritime Forecast Center in Norfolk, Va. (NMFC-N) recently toured the prototype naval ship, M80 Stiletto. The Stiletto was constructed by the M-Ship Co. for experimental testing by the Department of Defense and U.S. Special Forces.

Its carbon fiber construction and hull configuration give it unparalleled speed, ride quality and payload capability. The tour served as a vivid reminder of the vital roles Naval Meteorology and Oceanography play in ensuring the safety of the fleet.



NAVOCEANO Joins Humanitarian Search Effort Off Vietnam Coast

The longstanding cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) on accounting for Americans missing from the Vietnam War broadened June 11 with the deployment of a U.S. Navy oceanographic survey ship to conduct search operations off the coast of Vietnam. During the 95th search mission in Vietnam, May 25 – June

24, and is scheduled until June 24, representatives from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) boarded the USNS Bruce C. Heezen for the humanitarian operation.



JPAC Rep Mr. Rich Wills, NAVO Data Manager Mr. Roger Meadows, NAVO Surveyor, Mrs. Diane Meadows, VNOSMP Rep Mr. MIMH, VNOSMP Rep Mr. HOANG, VNOSMP SENIOR COL SY, JPAC Rep Mr. Bob Maves, NAVO SNR Mr. Robert Delgado

Although joint U.S.-SRV search teams have investigated and excavated underwater sites off the coast

of Vietnam using Vietnamese boats before, this will be the first time Vietnam has allowed the use of a U.S. Navy ship for underwater searches. USNS Bruce C. Heezen is staffed with civilian oceanographers from the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) at Stennis Space Center, Miss. U.S. merchant mariners crew the ship.

"The use of a U.S. Navy oceanographic survey ship on JPAC's search operations in Vietnam could significantly expedite the discovery of underwater crash sites," said Lt. Col. Todd Emoto, commander of JPAC's Detachment in Hanoi. "Vietnam's cooperation in allowing the ship to operate in her waters is a big step forward and greatly appreciated by the U.S. government and the families of those Americans still missing."

Navy Exchange Grand Opening



The new Navy Exchange (NEX) at Stennis Space Center, Miss., opened its doors for business after a ribbon cutting ceremony June 30. The speakers included Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, the Commander and CEO Naval Exchange Service Command, Cmdr. Robert Lyonnais, the Commanding Officer of Special Boat Team 22, Capt. Jon White, Chief of Staff, CNMOC, and Rick Nelson, the General Manager of NEX Pensacola.

The NEX will provide service and quality goods to both military personnel and civilians.

From left to right: Capt. Jon White, Dr. Rick Gilbrech, Director SSC, Michael L. Oatman, General Manager of the Naval CBC, Pattie Ferguson, Branch Exchange Manager, Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, Patrick Scheuermann, Deputy Director SSC, Cmdr. Fitz Gerald, Executive Director CB Base, and Cmdr. Robert Lyonnais

Training

Team Participates in Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore Exercise

A three person mobile environmental team from Strike Group Oceanography Team, Norfolk (SGOT-N) participated in a Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) exercise at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in June. The purpose of JLOTS is to provide expeditious response to crisis situations.



From left to right: Chief Aerographer's Mate Gary Rosenbaum, Aerographer's Mate Second Class Jacqueline Knew, and Aerographer's Mate Third Class Christopher McKenna

Education

Joint METOC Officer Course This Fall

The next Joint METOC Officer (JMO) course will be held Oct. 20-23, 2009, in Norfolk, Va. at the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Detachment Atlantic (PDD LANT) facility.

The class size will be 16 with priority given to those deploying. Once the class roster is finalized, additional class information on security clearance instructions, agenda, location info, etc., will be forwarded to registered students.

Please provide student name, contact information (unit of assignment, email address, and phone number), and priority (i.e. deployment status and dates) no later than 22 September 2009 to elia.sanjume@js.pentagon.mil and john.dumas@jfc.com.mil.

The next course offering for the JMO course is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2010. The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center and its detachments can provide current course information and schedules for other upcoming courses.

Detailer's Corner...

What is the difference between a Global Support Assignment (GSA) and an Individual Augmentation (IA)? A GSA is handled by PERS 449 and is detailed just like any other set of orders as it constitutes a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) with all the associated benefits a PCS gives you. An IA is promulgated from USFF down to CNMOC and eventually to individual commands for fill and has nothing to do with PERS 449. PERS 449 currently details the following GSA assignments, which are both out of the Norfolk Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command (ECRC):

1. JTF HOA – 210 days
2. CENTCOM – 365 days (new requirement beginning Mar 2010)

If interested in either of these assignments, please contact CDR (sel) Towle.

In closing, here are some high-visibility billets that are high-priority fills. 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
O3	NAVICE	NOW	MD
O4	CNMOC	NOW	MS
O3/O4	USNA	DEC 09	Annapolis
O4	CNFK	Feb 10	Seoul

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

Capt. Jim Pettigrew, PERS 449

Rear Admiral David Titley

Commander,

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command

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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:

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