



THE

CHRONICLE

WINTER 2013

Published for the employees of SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic



SSC Atlantic's
E3 lab upgrade
adds new capabilities

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus speaks to SSC Atlantic employees in the atrium of the Main Engineering Center during a visit to Charleston Oct. 19. Story on page 3.



Inside

Winter 2013

Vol. 19 No. 1

3 *Secretary of the Navy visits SECNAV Ray Mabus to SSC Atlantic workforce: "...Thank you for your support to America's 'away team'...."*

4 *E3's new anechoic chamber*
A new anechoic chamber boosts SSC Atlantic's Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) testing capability.

8 *SSC Atlantic and the VA*
Since 2007 SSC Atlantic has provided IT solutions to the VA that have greatly improved delivery of benefits to veterans.



Photo by Joe Bullinger
It's all about trust for members of SSC Atlantic's Mid-Career Leadership Program in this exercise at James Island County Park. Story on page 16.

From the Executive Director 2

Going greener with ESPC 10

WWII crewmen visit 12

Workforce Development Gold 14

Mid-Career Leadership Program 16

Girls Day Out..... 18

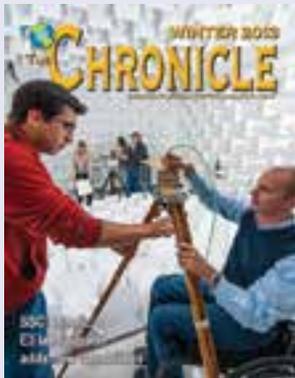
Lighten Up Atlantic!..... 24

Work hard, play hard..... 31

Mailman George retiring 32

SSC Atlantic hosts visitors 34

The final word 36



On the cover
The E3 team sets up for a test in the newly installed anechoic chamber, which gives SSC Atlantic even more capability as they protect warfighters from electromagnetic interference. Story on page 4. Photo by Joe Bullinger.




**Systems Center
ATLANTIC**

P.O. Box 190022
North Charleston, SC 29419-9022

Commanding Officer.....Capt. Mark Glover
Executive DirectorChristopher Miller

SSC Atlantic
Mission, Vision and Values

Mission: To rapidly deliver and support solutions that enable information dominance for our Naval, Joint, National and Coalition Warfighters.
Vision: Make IT Count for the Warfighter and the Nation.
Values: Service to our country, Excellence and Credibility, Transparency in the way we conduct our business, Responsiveness and Accountability, Diversity and Teaming.

THE CHRONICLE

EditorSusan Piedfort
Command PhotographerJoe Bullinger

Goals

Strategic effects that provide innovative solutions for today, tomorrow and beyond. Operations management that delivers solutions with quality, speed, agility and value. Organizational development that empowers each individual to make a difference.

The Chronicle is a quarterly publication designed for SSC Atlantic employees. Its purpose is to inform, educate, entertain and generate new ideas.

Contents of *The Chronicle* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or SSC Atlantic.



From the desk of

CHRISTOPHER MILLER

Executive Director

SSC Atlantic's global presence; Making a difference locally

Our warfighters deploy around the world, and SSC Atlantic has a global presence to support them. One of my promises when I first reported aboard was to visit all of our command's locations. I obviously made quick headway the first year with some of the major sites like New Orleans, Norfolk, Washington D.C., and Pax River. However, there are a number of SSC Atlantic sites that aren't quite as easy to get to. Plus, given our emphasis on reducing travel, I wanted to make sure that I got the most from these visits. I was recently able to visit some of our overseas locations, and in doing so, I now have a much better personal understanding and appreciation of our projects and roles. I also got the chance to meet with many of our great folks working overseas, and to spend some quality time with some of our primary sponsors. Things like VTCs, emails and phones are powerful tools that enable us to work effectively over great distances, but still nothing beats meeting people face-to-face. Our current fiscal environment challenges us to make sure we find the right balance between using technology and meeting face-to-face.

U.S. European Command (EUCOM). We support several long-term, multiple-phase projects in Europe that enable information dominance for warfighters, and in October I had a chance to see them.

In Naples, I looked at the NAVEUR C4I renovation project which is on track for completion next year and will give Commander, Naval Forces Europe-Africa/Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet (CNE-CNA/C6F) a completely updated network infrastructure. Also in Naples I saw the Maritime Operations Center (MOC) watch floor renovation and server room build out. This was successfully completed and turned over to CNE/CNA/C6F in November. In Naples/Lago di Patria I saw the ONENET expansion to NATO facilities. This high visibility project expands ONENET to the new NATO facility in preparation for the movement of the four-star Commander Joint Allied Forces Naples from Bagnoli

to Lago di Patria.

In Stuttgart at Patch Barracks I saw the EUCOM Plans and Operations Center (EPOC) renovation. The EPOC will enable EUCOM's concept for conducting multiple, simultaneous missions spread over its expansive area of responsibility. Also a high visibility project, this is a complete renovation of the current EPOC to included new spaces, workstations, network infrastructure and audio visual systems. In Stuttgart at Kelley Barracks I looked at the U.S. AFRICOM Joint



Visiting the AFRICOM Joint Operations Center at Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart.

Operations Center (JOC) Build Out, a project currently in the demolition/facility construction phase that will provide new C4I systems for the primary AFRICOM command center stand-up. The SSC Atlantic team is working closely with facilities engineers to ensure the building is prepared for C4I systems implementation in 2013.

Also in Stuttgart, I visited the Internet Café Program

Management Office. This highly successful program has provided deployed troops MWR commercial Internet connectivity at forward sites in the Middle East. The SSC Atlantic team has installed and maintained more than 1,200 internet cafés over the last 10 years, giving deployed warfighters a vital link to their loved ones. More than 400 remain in use.

Antarctica. In November I visited Antarctica to see firsthand our teams providing critical command and control services for the stations, aircraft and vessels supporting the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP). During my visit I met with the leadership of the National Science Foundation, which is Executive Agent for the USAP, along with on-site leadership from USAF and the New York Air National Guard (NYANG), and learned about the challenges and complexities of providing support at this most distant location. I was able to see firsthand our team in action in a challenging environment, functioning as an essential cog in a complex logistics system that makes it possible to conduct research

Continued on page 19



SSC Atlantic welcomes SECNAV

*75th Secretary of the Navy
Ray Mabus pays visit
to Charleston campus*

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus visited SSC Atlantic's Charleston campus Oct. 19, looking at a few of the center's top projects supporting the warfighter and addressing the entire SSC Atlantic workforce via a remote broadcast from the atrium of Bldg. 3147.

Mabus said the purpose of his visit was to get a better firsthand understanding of the capabilities SSC Atlantic brings from all its sites. "As Secretary of the Navy I come into contact with a lot that you do, but usually one thing at a time. The scope of what you do -- from VA support, to MRAP integration, from Common Submarine Radio Room, to anything IT-related that goes to the warfighter -- it's pretty staggering. The common denominator is that you deliver outstanding capability to the warfighter.

"Thank you for the skills you bring, for your dedication and for the level of talent you have, and for what you do every day for the warfighter. You help us maintain our technological edge, and make sure our warfighters have what they need to carry out their missions," SECNAV said.

Mabus stressed his first priority as Secretary of the Navy is taking care of the Sailors, Marines, civilians who support them and their families. Noting that the number of ships in the Navy affects all of us, the secretary said the Navy had 316 ships and 377,000 Sailors in September of 2001. When he was sworn in as SECNAV it had 282 ships and 49,000



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Top left, SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover makes a point during SECNAV's tour of the Vehicular Integrated Solutions Facility. Top right, Mabus addresses SSC Atlantic's workforce from the atrium of Bldg. 3147. Above, 633's David Bednarczyk gives the SECNAV a tour of the Common Submarine Radio Room area.

fewer Sailors. During his first year, only three ships were built. Now 43 are under contract. "We will get to more than 300 ships before the end of the decade, and we'll stay there long into the future. The new ships give more capability and

Continued on page 10



From left, Cyril Binnom, Tom Sessions, Guillermo Leiva, Brook Baker and Jeff Lucas in SSC Atlantic's new anechoic chamber.

E3 testing capability enhanced

Most everyone has experienced some sort of electromagnetic interference (EMI) in their everyday lives. When you turn on the vacuum there's interference on the TV. When you plug in your Christmas lights the garage door opens.

All sorts of electronic devices in our homes can electromagnetically interfere with each other and impede performance. With the proliferation of electronic devices -- electronic ignitions, remote controls, mobile phones, MP3 players, tablets, anti-theft tags, wireless printers, routers -- there is a huge potential for devices to interfere with each other. Manufacturers must adhere to standards that minimize EMI among consumer electronic equipment, and to do so they must conduct specific electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) tests.

EMI is also a consideration for IT solutions that SSC Atlantic personnel install on ships and on shore to give

warfighters information dominance. When an SSC Atlantic team installs a rack of equipment on a Navy ship, in a confined area or in a war zone, they must ensure the components and rack itself do not produce electric or magnetic field emissions that would cause interference to nearby electronic

devices, and also ensure the equipment is not susceptible to the electromagnetic environment.

That's where SSC Atlantic's EMI/EMC team and the anechoic (non-echoing or echo-free) chamber come in. The team performs tests on racks, mobile transit case systems and other components for their specific installation platforms to ensure they will not interfere with co-located electronic systems. To accomplish this, they place the devices in a shielded, anechoic chamber and subject them to a series of emissions and susceptibility tests. And thanks to the recent installation of a second

Anechoic chamber

An anechoic chamber is a room designed to stop reflections of electromagnetic waves that is also insulated from exterior sources of electromagnetic waves. The combination of both aspects means they simulate a quiet open-space of infinite dimension, which is useful when exterior influences would otherwise give false results.

Anechoic chambers are designed to reduce reflection and external noise in radio frequencies and are used to test antennas, radars or EMI.

The internal surfaces of the radio frequency (RF) anechoic chamber are covered with radiation absorbent material (RAM). One of the most effective types of RAM comprises arrays of pyramid shaped pieces. As with SSC Atlantic's chamber, sections of RAM may be temporarily removed to install equipment. The RF anechoic chamber is typically used to house the equipment for performing measurements of antenna radiation patterns, electromagnetic compatibility and radar cross section measurements.



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Guillermo Leiva prepares a biconical antenna in SSC Atlantic's new anechoic chamber.

anechoic chamber at SSC Atlantic, the team can provide even more capability protecting electronic devices used by warfighters.

Anechoic chambers are normally designed to meet the electrical requirements of one or more accredited standards. SSC Atlantic's new chamber can test equipment for compliance with military standards such as MIL-STD-461 and commercial standards such as RTCA/DO-160.

Tom Sessions, a government engineer assigned to 59440, manages SSC Atlantic's anechoic chambers. He interfaces with customers who have equipment under test (EUT) in the chamber, initially to help define test requirements, scope, cost/time estimates, write test plans and procedures and share that information with lab personnel. Cyril Binnom and Jeff Lucas are full time contractors who serve as lab technicians and/or test engineers, and help with equipment setup and performance of the EMI/EMC tests. The team utilizes several automated tests using software developed in MATLAB by Lucas. Brooke Baker is a New Professional in the IPT. Another contractor, Vanessa Seal, handles logistics, including shipping and equipment inventory. A fourth contractor, Tony Keys, serves as a technical consultant and helps write and review reports.

"Once the equipment is in the lab, the team performs the testing and interfaces with the system operators," Sessions said. Then they compile the data, which goes to Sessions and the technical consultant contractor to produce a final report. As a follow up, Sessions acts as the middle man between the customer and the technical warrant holder; for example, for ships and submarines, with NAVSEA 05H3.

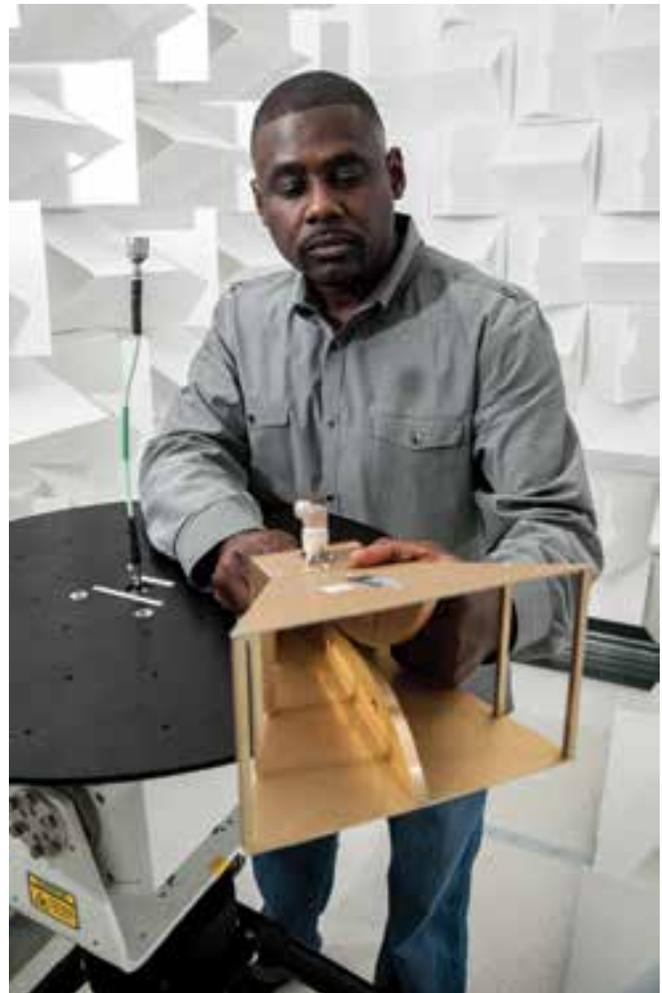
The team is part of the Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) IPT, led by Wayne Lutzen, who also serves as the 5944 Competency Lead. They are a part of 594, Certification and Standards Verification, headed up by Damon Shivvers, and fall under Jeff King, Test Evaluation and Certification Team Lead, 59.

Going back to the shipboard rack and transit cases example, these pieces of equipment would undergo different batteries of tests with different limits imposed specific to the installation platform. They are tested to ensure the rack has no electric or magnetic field emissions, either radiated or conducted, that would cause interference to nearby electronics or be susceptible to the electromagnetic environment.

"The same principle applies with the transit cases. We wouldn't want any significant radio frequency (RF) signals coming from the transit case electronics that could cause interference to a nearby Direction Finding (DF) antenna, for example," Sessions explained.

The recently added anechoic chamber gives the team many new capabilities. For one, they can increase throughput with multiple test enclosure configurations. Previously

Continued on next page



Cyril Binnom sets up an antenna on the computer controlled rotating antenna measurement system.



New chamber

Continued from previous page

they could support the testing of only one EUT at a time, creating a juggling act for the team when supporting multiple programs simultaneously. With the addition of the new chamber they can test multiple items simultaneously. While the former chamber is semi-anechoic, the new chamber can be configured into a fully anechoic test enclosure. Its wall and ceiling are covered with RF-absorbing ferrite tiles and hybrid absorbers, and by adding removable floor panels the team can transform the chamber from a MIL-STD test enclosure into a fully anechoic antenna pattern measurement enclosure.

The test chamber's ferrite tile and hybrid absorber improve performance from 20 megahertz (MHz) to 40 gigahertz (GHz). The hybrid absorber is rated for continuous operation of up to 300 Volts per meter (V/m). Full coverage on the walls and ceiling dramatically reduces chamber resonance below 200 MHz.

“What all of this means is that we will have a lower ambient noise level and we can impose higher electric fields on the EUT,” Sessions explained. “The future of spectrum usage for data and communications signals is pushing higher and higher into the GHz range, and with the new chamber's fully anechoic configuration, we can test antennas that are designed for these higher ranges.”

A normal day in the lab could involve any number of tests, some that take an hour and others that encompass several days. To begin testing a customer's equipment, the team configures the EUT and the chamber in accordance with the applicable test standard, as well as the EUT support equipment required to operate and monitor the EUT. Then they



Installation of the new anechoic chamber started from the floor up and lasted more than a month.



One of the last RF-absorbing tiles is installed on a wall of SSC Atlantic's new anechoic chamber.

perform measurement system checks and calibrations, run the tests and evaluate the results with the customer. When the schedule allows, the team troubleshoots failures and provides engineering solutions.

The work is both challenging and rewarding. With each new EUT the team must learn the system -- how it operates and what it does -- and work with program personnel to understand the ins and outs of the equipment. This allows them to make the equipment perform as closely to operational conditions as possible throughout the testing, and to understand how the system might respond, or is responding, to susceptibility testing.

"So the challenge is to come up to speed on just about every system we test in a very short amount of time," Sessions said. Troubleshooting can also be a challenge when the equipment fails a test. Trying to pinpoint emission locations or harden the system for better shielding effectiveness can be technically challenging.

Through it all, the team gets the opportunity to see many different programs and their systems. "A lot of cutting edge technology comes through from groups within SSC Atlantic and from other military installations," Sessions said.

"It's interesting to see the future equipment and capabilities for the warfighter, and also to interface with the technicians, engineers and program managers from all of these groups. Everyone has their own expertise and background, so getting to meet them and learn what they do is always a reward," he added.

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor

New chamber features

- Capable of MIL-STD-461 and DO-160 RF measurements for bench-mount and free standing systems.
- Configured with ferrite hybrid absorber with full coverage on all walls and ceiling, reducing chamber resonance below 200 MHz and providing greater repeatability for all emissions testing.
- Removable absorber floor panels for free space type measurements required for some military and commercial platforms.
- Certifiable to EN 61000-4-3 Field Uniformity for international immunity testing over the required 1.5m by 1.5m plane.
- Capable of pre-compliance commercial emissions testing for FCC and CISPR at a 3m path.
- With the floor absorber in place, the chamber can be used for antenna measurements.
- 16 feet wide, 22 feet long and 12 feet high with ferrite tile and HYB-12 White Fire Proof Hybrid Absorbers on all walls and ceiling, with a 10 by 12 foot removable floor patch.
- Diamond Engineering Antenna Measurement System includes DAMS 6100 Measurement Platform and software, DFSM-10 and 40 Full Spherical Mount and vertical alignment and positioning laser.
- Two 8 feet long copper top test benches allow bench top testing in several configurations for different sizes of EUT.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

From left, Mark Krause, SSC Atlantic's Veterans Affairs Sub-Portfolio Lead; Gregg Travis, program manager for SSC Atlantic's VA Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill; Judith Shulist, contractor lead for Chapter 33-Finance & Contracts; Jodi Ketry, VA Enterprise IPT Lead; Mandi Lopes, communications specialist for Chapter 33; Kelly Lambert, communications lead for Chapter 33; Leigh Bandy-Ramirez, VA Sub-Portfolio Executive Assistant and Christian LeBourgeois, VA ADRTracker program manager, meet in New Orleans.

SSC Atlantic and the VA

Partnering to support veterans and their families

SSC Atlantic's support to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) goes back to fall of 2007, and since then, SSC Atlantic has delivered various automated IT solutions to the VA which have enabled its transformation to a digital environment and greatly increased its effectiveness in delivering benefits to veterans. SSC Atlantic has provided the VA a full range of technical and project management services to help modernize its IT systems and infrastructure.

More than 830 SSC Atlantic government engineers, program managers and contractors make up the VA Sub-Portfolio team. The team includes approximately 99 government team members from 61, 62, 63, 54, 58, 59, and 10.

Mark Krause is the VA Sub-Portfolio Lead, and the IPT leads are Jodi Ketry, Pete Davenport, Jim Barr and Gregg Travis.

Key personnel include Gregg Travis, program manager of the Post 9/11 GI Bill and integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) efforts; Jim Leonard, chief engineer for Post 9/11 GI Bill project, and Michael Ramirez, chief engineer for iEHR; Jim Barr, program manager of the Veterans Benefits Management

System (VBMS), and Clayton Coleman, chief engineer; Jodi Ketry, IPT lead for iEHR; and John Stubbs, program manager for the National Resource Directory (NRD), a Google-based veteran job search tool.

The VA team has increased its government engineering footprint to better support VA's increasing system engineering needs, according to Krause, who added that as SSC Atlantic's VA programs mature and become stable, they are transitioned back to VA for maintenance and sustainment. SSC Atlantic's VA support includes:

Post-9/11 GI Bill

SSC Atlantic's IT solutions are helping the VA more efficiently process, administer and manage educational benefits to service members, veterans and their beneficiaries attending college under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. In fact, in the last three years, more than 768,000 veterans and their family members have received more than \$20.2 billion in financial assistance to help pay tuition and fees as they realize their educational goals. Since December of 2008, SSC Atlantic has



helped the VA contend with a growing backlog of veteran claims by developing a web-based software application to improve the processing and payment of Post 9/11 GI Bill claims. SSC Atlantic's Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Long-Term Solution team used an Agile software development strategy to deliver an IT capability which improved the VA's ability to address future needs, and to respond to legislative and policy changes in the processing of Chapter 33 benefits. The system minimizes manual intervention and maximizes efficiency. SSC Atlantic's Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Long-Term Solution team was honored with this year's Charleston area Federal Executive Association's team award for their efforts. But the Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Long-Term Solution is not the only program SSC Atlantic has developed for the VA.

eBenefits Portal

SPAWAR and the VA have also collaborated on an eBenefits Portal, a website that puts benefits information and self-service capabilities at the fingertips of veterans, service members, their families and their caregivers. eBenefits is a one-stop portal for benefits-related tools and information, with links to information on benefits and entitlements, health, insurance, housing, claims status, and VA and DoD systems. It offers a single location to apply for benefits such as Compensation and Pension, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) and educational entitlements using the Veterans Online Application Direct Connect (VDC) tool. eBenefits users can also check the status of claims, view a history of benefits received, access copies of official military personnel records, and perform a quick eligibility check to see whether they qualify for VA health care benefits. It offers many more capabilities; check them out at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

eBenefits answers the recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors (Executive Order 13426) that DoD and VA make information about benefits and services available online, 24/7, via a password-protected site. With more than 1.6 million veterans and servicemembers registered for eBenefits, it gets 24,000 daily visits averaging 19 minutes from users in 90 countries around the globe. The site has become a go-to source of benefits information previously available only by phone.

Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS)

To help eliminate a backlog of more than a million veteran compensation and disability claims, the VA also requested SSC Atlantic's help in fall of 2011 in designing, developing, testing, deploying and hosting a benefits management



system using an Agile software development approach. VBMS, deployed in July 2012, offers paperless processing and tracking of electronic veterans' disability claims.

integrated Electronic Health Record

SSC Atlantic also has a small footprint in the iEHR, a joint DoD/VA effort to create a single, common health record for all

DoD and VA medical facilities. The program will become the nation's single largest health record system. SSC Atlantic provides two government engineers as consultants and analysts, and 10 architects to help develop an executable engineering strategy.

Thanks in no small measure to its partnership with SSC Atlantic, the VA has made IT a critical part of its fabric. By delivering these IT solutions to provide a paperless, digital disability claims system, SSC Atlantic is helping the VA transform how it operates, eliminating its backlogs and helping it reach a goal of claim completion in less than 125 days with 98 percent accuracy by 2015.

'Find Jobs'

Since November of 2011, SSC Atlantic's VA Web Portal Development Integrated Product Team has also been helping link veterans with veteran-preferred industry job postings with deployment a new job search capability, "Find Jobs," within the Veteran's National Resource Directory (NRD) website. NRD connects Wounded Warriors, service members, veterans, their families and caregivers with those who support them, providing access to over 14,000 national, state and local services and resources supporting recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. To implement the Find Jobs capability, SSC Atlantic worked hand-in-hand with Google and leading national job boards to enable veteran job seekers to search based on keyword, location or Military Occupational Code (MOC).

"Our work with the VA has allowed us to hone skills such as Agile software development that can be applied across the many Navy programs in which we are involved," said SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover.

"I am very proud of the role SSC Atlantic has played in helping the VA change the lives of service members, veterans, their families and survivors by better connecting them to their benefits. It is a great reflection of the dedication and commitment of the SSC Atlantic team," he added.

Besides its IT solutions, SSC Atlantic's commitment to veterans also includes hiring Wounded Warriors. During the first half of 2012 SSC Atlantic hired 38 Wounded Warriors, 13 percent of the 288 hires during that period. SSC Atlantic is leading the SPAWAR claimancy in this effort, nearly doubling the 7 percent hiring goal.

Energy Savings Performance Contract

ESPC lets SSC Atlantic go greener

SSC Atlantic is helping the Navy meet its energy, water and carbon dioxide (CO2) reduction goals by entering into an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) with Johnson Controls Government Systems LLC.

Through the ESPC, Johnson Controls -- under the direction of SSC Atlantic -- will invest private funds to carry out a preapproved set of energy conservation projects in selected buildings. Johnson Controls will guarantee minimum energy savings for each project and will be repaid for their investment from the verified savings.

By entering into the ESPC, SSC Atlantic will meet energy reduction goals while making improvements to the center's heating, cooling and electrical systems and associated infrastructure. This helps SSC Atlantic meet its mission and increase security, and at the same time answer a national need to reduce demand on limited energy resources and reduce pollution and green-house gas emissions.

The ESPC will utilize guaranteed energy and water consumption savings and reduced Operating and Maintenance (O&M) costs to pay for total project design and construction for items on SSC Atlantic's Charleston campus such as a new chiller plant, Direct Digital Controls (DDC) for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, replacing air conditioning package units and lab cooling systems, facility lighting and switching, building envelope upgrades, and water-saving fixtures and faucet installation.

Earlier this year, SSC Atlantic initiated the process with the Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Ala., to enter into an ESPC with one of 15 pre-approved Energy Service Companies (ESCOs). A site visit held in June allowed ESCOs to

see SSC Atlantic facilities and discuss current energy and water requirements. Interested ESCOs submitted proposals later that month, and after evaluation, Johnson Controls was selected. Johnson Controls is now performing energy audits at SSC Atlantic facilities utilizing a long checklist of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). Proposals may also include possible renewable energy projects such as wind, solar and geothermal.

Baseline energy consumption studies will be performed in order to later compare data for energy savings. Individual project proposals will be reviewed and projects will be selected for construction. SSC Atlantic makes payment for the projects over the negotiated term of the contract -- funded totally with the savings derived from accomplishing the work. Future delivery orders are planned for SSC Atlantic facilities in Hampton Roads, Va., and possibly Washington, D.C.

"By practicing efficient energy management, we save taxpayer dollars, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the environment and natural resources," said SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover. "This contract will help us achieve significant energy reductions over the next several years."

The ESPC is an innovative funding mechanism that allows SSC Atlantic to pursue energy and water conservation projects without incurring up-front capital costs or obtaining special appropriations to pay for improvements. SSC Atlantic will continue to implement new, smart technologies in its facilities to maximize efficiency, enhance the workplace, and balance its people, fiscal and environmental responsibilities.



SECNAV visit

Continued from page 3

are better at doing missions than ever before," Mabus said.

Praising SSC Atlantic's energy conservation initiatives, Mabus said the Navy has always led in energy conservation, adding, "We are not doing it to be green, we are doing it because it makes us better warfighters. Dependence on foreign oil is a vulnerability. When oil prices go up a dollar, it translates to more than \$30M more in energy cost to the Navy," he said. The Navy is now turning to homegrown sources of energy that are not affected by world events. A recently developed Navy solar energy facility will produce enough energy to power a city the size of Orlando, with no upfront costs to the taxpayer, he

said. The Great Green Fleet got underway with nuclear power and a mix of diesel and biofuels.

Another emphasis for the Navy, Mabus said, is the use of unmanned systems, because they help keep Sailors and Marines out of harm's way and can be built relatively cheaply. "As the use of unmanned systems rise, your importance will also rise because of what you do to network and integrate them," Mabus told SSC Atlantic employees.

"Thank you for the work you do, for your calling to serve something bigger than yourselves, and for the support you provide to the Sailors and Marines who stand watch, and for all services -- America's 'away team' -- and our coalition partners," the secretary said.

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY



SSC Atlantic fosters a work environment that embraces diversity, demonstrated by hiring policies and practices, training and benefits, and by sponsoring events designed to educate employees of the many different cultures and abilities that make up the fabric of our nation.

Recent events included celebrations of National Hispanic Heritage Month, National Disability Employment Awareness Month and National Native American Heritage Month. Programs included educational information about each special interest area, guest speakers, displays, traditional dances, cuisines and trivia contests.



**Photos by
Joe
Bullinger**





Photo by Joe Bullinger

SSC Atlantic employees listen as Orville Dochterman recounts USS Santa Fe's rescue of USS Franklin.



Photo provided

USS Santa Fe crewmen bring history to life

Seven crewmen from the World War II-era light cruiser **USS Santa Fe** (CL 60) visited SSC Atlantic Aug. 22 as part of the center's Distinguished Visitor Mentoring Program.

The men, all in their eighties and accompanied by a spouse, son or daughter, made history come alive for employees gathered in the command briefing theater in Charleston as they discussed their experiences during sea battles at Marshall Islands, Saipan, Philippine Sea and Guam.

Ivan Cannon, Orville Dochterman, Dave Griffith, Bob Hazelwood, Charles Matta, Ed Wilkes and Stephan Wong were in Charleston for a **USS Santa Fe** reunion. Known as "Lucky Lady," **Santa Fe** never lost a crewman despite 59 enemy engagements during the war. In fact, when the ship went into the drydock in 1945 they found a huge dent in the hull which indicated the ship had been hit by a torpedo which did not detonate.

Wong joined the Navy in Pearl Harbor and worked the evaporator on the ship. "These other guys might tell you they were important, but if wasn't for me, there was no water on the ship," he joked. When his tour was up, they asked him if he wanted to transfer stateside and he said no. "The other guys called me the Crazy Chinaman, but I figured that ship was lucky. Not one of us got hurt, so I stayed on."

Dochterman recounted a kamikaze strike on nearby **USS**

Franklin during one battle. "It was on fire, there were casualties and people were jumping off ... it was just terrible," he said. **Santa Fe** backed into **Franklin**, basically ramming her to keep her afloat. "That was the only damage **Santa Fe** ever got, and we kept **Franklin** afloat for 2½ hours," Dochterman said. They saved more than 800 **Franklin** Sailors, all the while risking fire from nearby Japanese forces. For this **Santa Fe** earned the Navy Unit Citation award.

Sixty days after the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, **Santa Fe** was sent to help. "My most vivid memory was devastation of Nagasaki," said Griffith. "It was hard to



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Ivan Cannon tells SSC Atlantic employees in the command briefing theater that when he joined the Navy in 1943, he thought they would make him an admiral, but instead they made him a fireman third class. "The only thing below that on a ship is the water," said the 87-year-old. Born in Utah, Cannon had just finished 10th grade when he joined the Navy. He reported to USS Santa Fe in 1944.



believe the incredible devastation from one bomb.”

“We should all pray that never happens again and I pray that you will never have to see that,” added Wilkes.

Griffith was 17 when joined the Navy and was a fire controlman. “Basically I aimed fire. We worked below decks where there was a big computer and we sent information to the gun mount,” he recalled. In three years on the ship during the war, he and the **Santa Fe** crew traveled 227,000 miles and fired 13,000 tons of ammunition.

More recently, the men have traveled to New London, Conn., where they met with the crew of the current **USS Santa Fe** (SSN-763), a Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine. “We had dinner with the **Santa Fe** submarine crew,” Cannon said, “and looking at them, I could hardly believe we were ever that young!”

The World War II **Santa Fe** crew once 1,300 strong is now dwindling, but the men intend to keep getting together for as long as they can. As they gathered for the 66th reunion, Matta noted there are only about 140 of them left. “That’s today,” he joked, “we don’t know about tomorrow!”

“You can’t put into words what these guys dealt with,” said SSC Atlantic’s ETC Dan Gibbons of 55310 when introducing the group to a standing-room-only command briefing theater crowd. “I just know I wouldn’t be standing here without you and your service. I can’t thank you enough.”

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor

Clockwise from top, a standing-room-only crowd in the command briefing theater listens as Steven Wong reminisces; Ivan Cannon and Dave Griffith look at MRAP vehicles; USS Santa Fe crewmen, their wives and SSC Atlantic Sailors pose for a group shot; and some of the USS Santa Fe crewmen show off beards they grew while on deployment in 1943.



SSC Atlantic brings home the Gold

By Diane Owens
Editor, Chronicle Lite

SSC Atlantic officials were notified Oct. 26 that the center was selected to receive the 2012 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD(AT&L))

Workforce Development Gold Award for large organizations. The award recognizes SSC Atlantic as a Department of Defense acquisition, technology and logistics organization with more than 500 employees that has made exemplary contributions to career-long development of its acquisition workforce, promoting the goal of a high quality, agile and ethical workforce. The award program

also identifies best practices for other USD(AT&L) organizations to follow.

Maintaining and enhancing previous learning and development programs and being proactive in providing employees with additional career-development activities enabled the center to advance from recognition as a silver award recipient in 2011 to achieving gold status in 2012.

Local Total Force Management (81) competency leads submitted the award application which described the center's CAO/IPT organization, and noted that SSC Atlantic's fiscal year (FY) 2012 Tactical Training Plan and Budget exceeded \$7.3 million and included tuition assistance, graduate programs, process improvement, leadership development programs, development of business processes, and specialized training focused on building capability to deliver new

technologies to customers. More than \$1 million of that budget was invested in academics and \$1.5 million was expended (as of the Aug. 1 application date) on labor costs for the acquisition workforce to attend training. More than 500 employees have pursued undergraduate and graduate course-

work with an investment exceeding \$6 million since fiscal year 2008, and the number of employees who have earned degrees has increased to a historic high of more than 65 percent of the workforce.

A strategic partnership with Defense Acquisition University (DAU) resulted in more than 17 weeks of on-site courses being offered, which greatly

reduced travel costs since no DAU campus is within commuting distance of Charleston and more than 1,500 members of the AT&L workforce were previously required to travel to obtain classroom training.

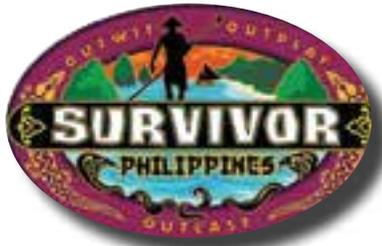
Other initiatives to provide learning and development opportunities to employees, supervisors and executives included new employee onboarding and orientation sessions, the Mid-Career Leadership Program (*see page 16*), executive coaching, the Council of Supervisors, leadership development workshops, telework, employee yes/no surveys, strategic communications, the IPT lead accreditation program, a variety of mentoring programs, New Professional programs, and community outreach focused on science, technology, engineering and math careers.



Photo by Erica Kobren, Defense Acquisition University

SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller is presented the USD (AT&L) Workforce Development Award by Katrina McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition) (ASD(A)) during a Dec. 17 ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

The 2012 Survivor: Philippines cast included former MLB MVP Jeff Kent, actress Lisa Whelchel, who played Blair on The Facts of Life, and SSC Atlantic's own Artis Silvester, third from right, of New Orleans.



Photos courtesy "Survivor: Philippines 2012"

SSC Atlantic's Artis Silvester

Real life survivor on 'Survivor: Philippines'

An SSC Atlantic employee in New Orleans was one of 15 castaway contestants on "Survivor: Philippines 2012."

Persistence paid off for Artis Silvester, an information technology specialist in Code 5431, who applied for the show more than a dozen times.

He missed out on several seasons while he was battling stage 4 cancer, which he beat.

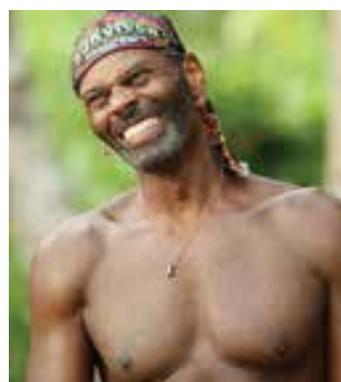
"I'm actually a real life survivor playing on 'Survivor,'" Artis said, adding that he believes he has a guardian angel watching over him.

Thousands of people apply for the show each season, and from that group more than 800 were interviewed for the 25th season of the reality show. Fifty semifinalists were chosen, and from them, Artis and the other 14 castaways were chosen for "Survivor: Philippines 2012."

Filming took place from March to April 2012. Artis was eliminated from the merged Dangrayne tribe and became the third jury member during the ninth episode of the reality series.

Artis has been a part of the SPAWAR team in New Orleans since 2001. He is currently the deputy program manager for the VA Chapter 33 program.

The Terrytown, La., resident enjoys



martial arts, motorcycle riding and bowling, and relied on his physical and mental strength, creativity, adaptability and sense of humor to survive his time on "Survivor."

"I'm an incredible manipulator and I have an uncanny ability to remain calm in stressful situations," he said before embarking as a contestant.

"When the odds are stacked against me, that is when I shine the most. No one has been more persistent than me to be on the show and it is because I know I can win if given the chance," he said at the beginning of the competition.

Like most all contestants on the show, the million dollar prize is what drove him to "Survivor," along with what he knew would be the experience of a lifetime.

"I enjoyed myself out there even though it wasn't detected. It took surviving cancer and [building] myself back up to be strong enough to play," he said.

"Once I recovered and was strong enough, I got the green light from the doctor to go ahead and do these physical things.

"I had a blast," he said. "It would've been a lot more fun with a million dollar check in my hand, but I did have a great time."

Mid-Career professionals start program

More than a year and a half of planning came to fruition as SSC Atlantic's Mid-Career Leadership Program (MCLP) kicked off in Charleston Aug. 29.

SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover spoke to the first gathering of MCLP selectees and emphasized that SSC Atlantic leadership is committed to providing opportunities for everyone to reach their potential and make a difference.

MCLP candidates were selected from a competitive application and selection process and were announced by SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller in July.

According to program coordinator and facilitator Dave Hillman, 81300, the greatest challenge in developing the program was the application and selection process.

"The command went to great lengths to ensure the process was as fair and equitable as possible. Equal Employment Opportunity, Employee Relations and Office of Counsel representatives were key contributors to the application and selection process," Hillman said.

The MCLP is based on the SSC Atlantic Leadership Competency Development Model, and aligns with the DoD Civilian Leader Development Framework and DoD Civilian Leader Development Continuum. The goals of the program are to develop leaders who model command values, apply leadership to influence and effect positive change, empower each individual to make a difference, and instill a teaming culture.

The program is comprised of six modules over six months and incorporates a variety of learning activities and experiences. Guest speakers and shadowing opportunities are designed to build a broad understanding of the leadership challenges Portfolios and Competencies both face under the Competency Aligned Organization



Photos by Joe Bullinger

SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover kicked off the first gathering of the Mid-Career Leadership Program Aug. 29.

and Integrated Product Team (CAO/IPT) construct. Each module carries a theme: The Truth About Leadership, The Art of Communication, Teambuilding, Lessons in Leadership, Modeling the Way and the final module's theme, The End is Just the Beginning.

During the first module, "The Truth About Leadership," candidates explored leadership theories and models, the SPAWAR Leadership Competency Development Model, DoD civilian leadership competencies, and a guided discussion on the book "The Truth About Leadership," by Kouzes and Posner. Command Executive Coach and Talent Management Lead Scott Dreyer of 81100, facilitated a Hogan Assessment activity that explored personal values and motivations and proved to be the highlight of Module One.

MCLP candidates gathered again Sept. 18 and 19 in Charleston for the second module of the 6-month program.

Module Two introduced "The Art of Communication," since communication is a critical enabler of effective leaders. Candidates explored the Naval and SPAWAR Correspondence Manuals along with effective business writing processes and techniques that will help them write clear and concise messages.

Glenn Stafford and Joe Schepisi of SSC Atlantic's Toastmasters chapter spoke with candidates about the Toastmasters program and the opportunities it offers its members to develop public speaking, presentation and leadership skills. MCLP candidates learned that, regardless of the communication method, a thorough understanding of the audience's perspective is necessary to deliver clear, concise and effective messages. The candidates will have several opportunities to practice and refine their communication skills throughout the program by completing written and presentation assignments.

Special Operations Sub-Portfolio



Lead and Sub-Portfolio/Integrated Product Team (SPL/IPT) chair John Chap, 63300, also shared his leadership experiences with the class as guest speaker for Module Two. He gave his perspective on the leadership challenges he and the command face. Chap also spoke about his leadership influences and style, and answered questions about career development.

The second day of Module Two moved outside to the James Island County Parks and Recreation Challenge Course. Though Mother Nature threatened the event, participants were able to successfully navigate the low

and high courses, gaining hands-on experience in building trust, teamwork, communication, esprit, critical thinking and problem solving along the way. Each activity concluded with group discussions tied directly to learning objectives of the program. Most splinters had been removed and most bruises healed shortly after the event, Hillman reported.

Check future *Chronicle* stories as MCLP classes delve deeper into interpersonal communications, and building and leading high performing teams during future modules and throughout the program.



Clockwise from top, MCLP participants pause for a group shot, build trust and teamwork in a group exercise, and navigate the high course at the James Island County Parks' Challenge Course.



Above left, Lt. Cmdr. J.D. Judd talks to the girls about opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math. At right, girls stop at one of the many displays featured in the day-long camp.

Girls Day Out!

Girls Day Out, an educational outreach program presented by SSC Atlantic, drew more than 50 young women ages 12 to 14 to the new Science and Mathematics Center at the College of Charleston Aug. 4. The girls and their parents learned about various science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) career opportunities, degree programs and admission requirements. The event, which was hosted by the College of Charleston, was held in collaboration with The Citadel and Charleston Southern University, and was tailored to rising 8th and 9th grade female students from various local schools.

Girls Day Out is one of many activities SSC Atlantic has undertaken in its STEM outreach program aimed at students in elementary, middle and high schools. The out-

reach addresses the United States' need for a scientifically, mathematically and technologically literate populace. Once a world leader, the U.S. now lags behind other nations in STEM education from elementary school to the college level. SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller told attendees, "We need to engage and attract the future naval scientists and engineers who will fill the pipeline for tomorrow's high tech jobs in government and defense."

"SSC Atlantic is one of the largest technical employers in the state," Miller told the room full of 8th and 9th grade girls and their parents. "The idea here is really to get out and engage and inspire some of our young ladies," he added.

Rebecca Ufkes, president of UEC Electronics, a multidiscipline electrical engineering firm based in Hanahan, S.C., also spoke to the students. A panel discussion featured female engineers from government and industries such as Bosch and Boeing. Female SSC Atlantic engineers were on hand to explain the work they do in their positions, share

Continued on page 21



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Above left, students help fly a hover drone using a tablet, and at right, the current from a plasma ball lights a small LED bulb.

SSC Atlantic's global presence

Continued from page 2

in this harshest, most remote location on earth. SSC Atlantic supports USAP through the SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs (SOPP). Managed by Matt Rushing, SOPP provides critical support in the core functional areas of air traffic control (ATC), meteorology (MET), ground electronics maintenance (GEM) and systems engineering support for a variety of related systems. These services all support the safe and continuous scientific endeavors of the U.S. government in cooperation with many international partners.

My visit began with a required stopover in Christchurch,



Skis take the place of traditional landing gear for flights to the ice.

New Zealand, to meet with SPAWAR and NSF representatives and to be outfitted with the extreme cold weather clothing required for everyone visiting Antarctica. Then I was on my way to the ice on a C-17 resupply flight to McMurdo Station.

The 40+ SSC Atlantic government and contract employees who deploy to McMurdo Station each year are part of an integrated team that includes an operations center in Charleston, base operations in Christchurch, the Operations Center in McMurdo and facilities on the Ross Ice Shelf. Antarctica is the highest, driest, coldest, most inhospitable continent in the world. Runway facilities must be constructed each year on annual sea ice beginning in August to support operations during the austral summer operating season October through February. SSC Atlantic's staffing in winter months shrinks to four while the Antarctic experiences total darkness from approximately April through August each year.

While on the "Ice" I saw our operations and toured our facilities in McMurdo and on the nearby ice shelf, meeting the government/contractor team which -- along with Charleston and Christchurch -- provide ATC services for all USAP aircraft operating below 60 degrees south latitude; weather forecasting services for all U.S. stations, remote field camps, aviation and ships operating in the Southern Ocean; and maintenance support for all equipment necessary to support those operations. To see the impact of that support I visited several locations. At the Amundsen-Scott

South Pole Station, I toured the new state-of-the-art facility that replaced the former South Pole Dome facility. We had a hand in the design of the new station as the HF, UHF and much of the satellite communications equipment, along with all of the MET equipment, was designed and installed by SPAWAR engineers and technicians.

In one of the highlights of my trip, I was a passenger on a helicopter mission to the Dry Valleys in the Transantarctic Mountains. Cutting edge research being conducted in these remote valleys and the rest of the continent centers on the formation of life on the planet and the impact of

climate change on the environment. As we flew from one science camp to another delivering much needed supplies, the scenery was absolutely stunning ... the Ice Falls in Wright Valley, the rust colored Blood Falls in Taylor Valley, and the ventifacts in Bull Pass carved by the extremely high winds and blowing sand.

While in McMurdo Station, I saw a sign that caught my attention. It was a stop sign on which someone had written "Don't" and "Believin" above and below. Besides making me think of one of the greatest rock bands of all time, it also reminded me that we need to stay focused and committed. It is easy in challenging times like these to get distracted or wonder what our priorities should be. We've been through a lot of change the past couple years with NERP, STRL and CAO/IPT. We are a stronger organization and need to keep believing in our people and processes to make sure we are doing the right things for our warfighters.

These trips were very informative, and left me with an even greater appreciation of the SSC Atlantic team's ability to support our customers and respond to the needs of the warfighters, wherever they are. The value of our global presence has been repeatedly demonstrated, and it was especially rewarding for me to see it firsthand. There are still places left on my list ... Bahrain and Djibouti, and a few places in the states like San Antonio. I look forward visiting these sites in the future, given our schedule and budget permitting.



Photos provided

It's hard to detect under all the extreme cold weather gear, but that's me at the Geographic South Pole.





September 11, 2001 remembered

SSC Atlantic personnel at all of the center's sites paused to honor the memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11 during a Patriot Day ceremony, Sept. 11. Held in the atrium of Bldg. 3147 on the Charleston campus, the ceremony was streamed to all sites.

Patriot Day is an annual observance held Sept. 11 in memory of the nearly 3,000 people who died during terrorist attacks in New York, Washington D.C., and Shanksville, Penn., in 2001. The ceremony featured musical selections by a bagpipe band and patriotic music sung by the SSC Atlantic choir. Nominees for the James T. Lynch Freedom Award were also announced in a speech by SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover.

"There are certain events in a nation's history, events that are so extraordinary, so significant that they are indelible in our minds and we remember exactly where we were and what we were doing at that time. September 11 2001 is one of those events," the captain said. "Just as most Americans on a typical day, Jim Lynch got up and went to work that morning."

Lynch worked for what was then-

SSC Charleston as an electronics technician in the Pentagon's Navy command center. He had 35 years of government civilian service, 32 of those in the Pentagon. The 55-year-old was one of 26 killed in the Navy Command Center, one of the 125 people killed in the attack on the Pentagon that day.

"James Lynch connects all of us at SSC Atlantic on this very somber anniversary. He is a reminder of our shared loss in one our nation's darkest moments. We honor him today, not because of how he lost his life, but because of how he lived it, as a proud American who loved his country and

Continued on next page



SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover addresses the crowd, at left. Above, a local affiliate television crew tapes Kirstin Tanner as she sings the National Anthem.

supported our warfighter and our nation, who in the end, gave the ultimate sacrifice,” Glover said.

It is fitting, the captain said, that the SSC Atlantic team comes together to honor him and present the James T. Lynch Freedom Award to an SSC Atlantic employee who embodies Lynch’s loyal dedication and patriotism.

This year’s finalists for the James Lynch Freedom Award were announced: Michael Le of 41 in Hampton Roads, Chester Alonzo of 54 in New Orleans, Mike Shirley of 56 in Charleston, Jeff Bullock of 58 in Washington, D.C., Jason Goss of 59 in Charleston, Karen Quasny in of 81 Charleston, and Chris Connell of 8.3 in Charleston. The James Lynch Freedom Award was presented at an SSC Atlantic end-of-the-year awards ceremony Nov. 15. *(See story below.)*

The captain noted that 11 years ago, September 11 forever ceased to be just another day on the American calendar. “September 11th is a stark reminder that there will always be those who are impervious to reason or accommodation, adversaries who will stop at nothing to do harm to freedom and democracy,” Glover said. “That is why what we do here at SSC Atlantic is so important. We know that our solutions are making of difference for warfighters and our nation,” he added.

“In spite of what happened 11 years ago today, America continues to be what it has always been: a beacon of hope to millions around the world struggling against tyranny or abuse. We are a nation founded on good, solid principles and built through shared values and a commitment to a way of life that aggression will not and cannot destroy.”

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor

Girls Day Out

Continued from page 16

their backgrounds and offer encouragement for pursuing STEM careers. At one station, students navigated through a 3-D computer simulation, while others controlled a robot used in the First Robotics competition by teams from Summerville and Ashley Ridge high schools.

Other students helped a SPAWAR programmer control a remote flying hover drone using a handheld tablet computer. The operator could see on the tablet’s screen what the drone was seeing to help maneuver the vehicle. In another demonstration, students saw the inside of a remote-controlled rover that could be used in reconnaissance missions to dangerous areas while keeping troops at a safe distance.

Miller said that kind of hands-on interaction and support from educators is critical in drawing students into STEM fields early on, and in 8th and 9th grades students begin laying the foundation for such a career. “What we have found is that it really comes down to interactions and knowing people, whether it’s your teacher or your friends or someone in the community who can really show you the opportunities that are out there,” Miller said.

In addition to hands-on exhibits and interactive learning stations, the girls and their parents also toured the College of Charleston campus and new science center.

Lynch Freedom Award presented to 81’s Quasny

Karen Quasny, a senior personnel management advisor in SSC Atlantic’s 81, was presented the James T. Lynch Freedom Award in a Nov. 15 awards ceremony. At right, SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover, Quasny and her husband Dan Williams, and SSC Atlantic Executive Officer Cmdr. Mike Trovato pose after the presentation. Quasny was praised for consistently delivering innovative Human Resources practices and excellent products and services superior in quality, quantity, timeliness and command impact. “You serve as a role model for the HR staff and others across the command and have made significant contributions in the competencies’ ability to meet hiring demand signals and support the mission of the warfighter,” the citation noted.



Photo by Joe Bullinger



What a Day! (of Caring)

SSC Atlantic employees showed their community spirit by taking the day off from work Sept. 7 to be a part of the National Day of Caring.

Twenty-one hard working volunteers took part in a project at North Charleston High School (NCHS).

They built two vegetable gardens and two herb gardens in planters, then outfitted them with lots of vegetables and herbs, and marigolds to keep the bugs away. They pressure-washed and painted two baseball dugouts; mowed and spread mulch in a picnic area; weeded; laid pine straw; and pressure-washed three concrete picnic tables. According to Project Organizer Stephanie Stewart of 80, more than \$408 was raised for the event and numerous other items were donated.

"Thanks especially to everyone who came out to help," Stewart said. "We really made a difference that day in the lives of the NCHS students!"



Photos by Joe Bullinger

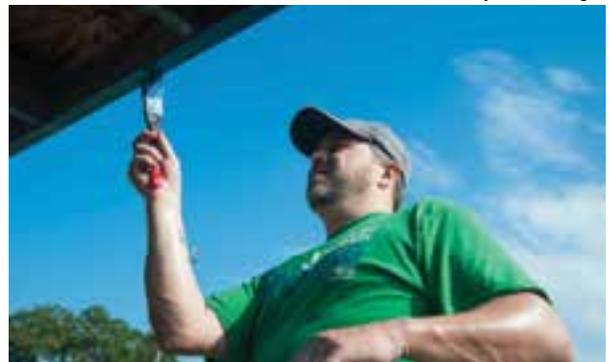




Photo by Joe Bullinger

SSC Atlantic employees, guests and media representatives celebrate the center's MRAP accomplishments Dec. 10.

SSC Atlantic's MRAP milestones lauded

A celebration to commemorate SSC Atlantic's integration of more than 27,000 Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles was held Dec. 10 at SSC Atlantic's vehicle integration facility in Charleston. SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover and Executive Director Christopher Miller spoke, as did David Hansen, Joint Program Office (JPO) manager for MRAPs, and Paul Mann, former JPO manager and currently Assistant Director, Land Warfare and Munitions, OUSD (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics).

A common theme throughout the celebration, besides the countless lives and limbs saved by these vehicles, was SSC Atlantic's outstanding ability to equip the warfighter to win, with persistence and speed, despite obstacles.

SSC Atlantic's contribution to the MRAP production and fielding effort since 2007 was also lauded in an Oct. 1 Pentagon ceremony marking the end of production of the vehicle.

Vice President Joe Biden and Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter spoke at the ceremony, which was attended by Glover. In his remarks, Carter mentioned Glover and former SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Red Hoover by name, noting that all members of Team MRAP should take pride that in the roles they played to help save warfighter lives.

SSC Atlantic's MRAP C4I integration team illustrated their ability to deliver innovative solutions with speed, qual-

ity and agility, as they ramped up integration of vehicles from 5 a day to 50 a day in four short months. The SSC Atlantic team worked around the clock to meet all milestones and answer the demand signal.

There are seven MRAP variants, with 24,059 life-saving vehicles fielded to Iraq and Afghanistan. Ninety-five percent of all MRAPs in theater were prototyped, integrated and deprocessed by approximately 800 SSC Atlantic professionals providing engineering and integration support in the U.S., Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Carter noted that at peak production more than 1,000 MRAPs – each weighing between 26,000 and 56,000 pounds – arrived in Iraq or Afghanistan in a month. Carter read a message from former Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates that noted the MRAP team “implemented the largest defense procurement program to go from decision to full industrial production in less than a year since World War II.”

The members of that team, Gates continued, can look back on their MRAP work and know “that your work truly saved the lives and limbs of many men and women in uniform.”

The transition formalized during the ceremony moves MRAP oversight and management at the Defense Department from the Joint Program Executive Office, which had focused on production, to the services and Special Operations Command.



DoD photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter presents Vice President Joe Biden with a model of an MRAP vehicle during a transition ceremony at the Pentagon Oct. 1.



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Numerous dignitaries, including then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, left, and then-Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, above, visited SSC Atlantic's MRAP integration facility as the team worked 24/7 to answer the demand signal.

Lighten Up, Atlantic!

By Diane Owens, Chronicle Lite Editor

'Keep it Off' contest helps employees avoid holiday weight gain



The holidays are enjoyable for most people...until they step on the scale on New Year's Day, after indulging in holiday sweets and scaling back their exercise routine, and get an unpleasant surprise.

To motivate employees to eat healthfully through the end of the year (and on) and to help them curb holiday weight gain, SSC Atlantic is sponsoring a "Keep it Off" contest. Participants at all sites weighed in Nov. 14 to record a "before" number, and will weigh in again Jan. 8 for an "after" figure, with a goal for the final weight to be equal to or less than the initial weight.

To support and encourage participants, Quality of Work-Life Coordinator Jessica Malcolm will provide information about healthy eating, and will send weight control tips and motivational messages throughout the contest period to participants in a weekly newsletter.

Although stepping on the scale in January without gaining a pound will be a prize in itself, individuals registered for the contest are also eligible to win free registration for the second annual SSC Atlantic 2013 Biggest Loser Contest (in late

January) or \$10 off an order of one SSC Atlantic logo item for staying on course and achieving their goals.

Best of luck to the 37 people who have accepted the challenge in Charleston, New Orleans, National Capital Region, Hampton Roads and Stuttgart!

CFC incorporates fitness, fun, financial support

Charleston's 2012 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) included several athletic contests designed to give employees a chance to move their feet and lighten the load for those in need at the same time.

At a dodgeball contest Oct. 10, 22 teams took aim at their opponents with round, rubber balls. Members of the winning team were Chris Zack, Fred Cupo, Billy Escoffier, Joshua Jordan and YN2 Tim Thurman.

A doubles tennis tournament was also held Nov. 6-8, and the winning team was Harold Verble and Paul Cooper.

Congratulations, and thanks, to the athletes who helped raise funds for a worthy cause!



Harold Verble, left, and Paul Cooper

How do YOU stay fit, eat healthy, and reduce stress?

Share your tips with coworkers!



Joe Whiteley, Charleston

I am a triathlete and a marathon runner and I swim, bike, run, strength train, and paddle board. I eat whole foods, and that helps me to recover and feel great!



Kathryn Murphy, Charleston

I enjoy slalom waterskiing, and to do that, I crosstrain. I lift weights, take a weekly Pilates class, ride my bike, power walk and use the elliptical trainer.



Dan Kadans, Charleston

Soccer gives me the workout I need. I play in two adult leagues in the winter and summer that each have two games a week, and coach my three children's teams, too.



Toyya Howell, Hampton Roads

I stay in shape by walking an hour a day 3 days a week. I also roller skate 2 days a week for 3 hours each day. They're both great activities to do with my children.

Allie Delaney: Awesome athlete



Allie (far left in red top) leads a Body Pump class.

She looks like a mild-mannered employee in 813, the Organizational Development and Training Management competency, and you've seen her name many times on Daily News blog posts over the past few years — but Allie Delaney (formerly Allie Burnett) has another life outside work — as a fitness instructor and a competitive athlete.

Growing up in a family that was big into sports (they even had a batting cage in the basement), Allie played softball, basketball and volleyball from the age of four. During college she taught fitness classes. She achieved professional certification after that and has led spinning classes and Les Mills Body Pump® classes at a local gym for several years.

Body Pump® is choreographed weight-lifting (using a barbell) synchronized to music. The routines incorporate a high number of repetitions of each move and cover every major muscle group, resulting in a challenging workout.

Spinning involves an hour of nonstop riding on special stationary bikes with adjustable resistance knobs, alternating between intervals of moderate and high intensity. The goal is to periodically increase the heart rate to the top of the target range and then lower it while remaining in the active zone. Spinning classes incorporate energizing music, and are sometimes done in darkened rooms, areas lit by black lights, or spaces where a projector displays images of scenic hills and valleys on the wall to simulate a brisk trek in the rolling hills.

Allie also participates in women's fitness competitions, which are similar to bodybuilding contests. Participants compete by performing standard poses, and they're judged individually and against other competitors.

She prepares for competitions, which focus on overall muscle definition, symmetry and leanness, by doing daily weight training and cardio work, following a strict diet of protein and green vegetables, and by reducing salt intake to lower her body fat percentage (the leaner the participant is, the more defined the muscles will be). She began competing during her senior year of college in an amateur status, but later became nationally qualified to compete on the professional level.

In addition to teaching classes and entering competitions, Allie was also featured in a local fitness magazine, and her photo appeared on the cover.

Allie's next athletic adventure involves running long distances — starting out with the recent Kiawah Island half marathon. She trained with her sister-in-law for her first-ever half marathon.

Allie loves to push herself to conquer unique athletic challenges, she loves fitness, and she loves the fact that she has the power to change and improve her body. When she teaches fitness classes, she appreciates when participants approach her afterwards and thank her for pushing them to improve themselves, too.

SPAWAR 'Bad Boys' hoops highlight



"Bad Boys" front row, from left are William "Z" Neely, YN2 Timothy Thurman; second row, Prescott Burden, Asa Mungin, Jeffrey Stewart; third row, Fred Cupo, Dominic McKelvey (coach), top row, Reggie Bishop, Kirk Brown and Brian Reese. Not pictured are Jeffrey Cuttino, Travis Taylor, Theodore "T.C." Allen and Douglas McKee.

SSC Atlantic's intramural basketball team in Charleston, the SPAWAR "Bad Boys," had high hopes when they made it to the championship game in the Joint Base Charleston-Weapon Station's summer league Aug. 15. They lost the final game with a heartbreaking score of 53-47 and finished the season with a 10-2 record.

We're looking for employees' stories about how athletic activities improve their lives. Do you play on a golf league? Enjoy stand-up paddleboarding? Love to Zumba? Tell us what you enjoy doing and how it enhances your life and makes you healthier. Send your information to Diane Owens, diane.owens@navy.mil (843-218-5888) or SSC Atlantic Quality of Work-Life Coordinator Jessica Malcolm, jessica.malcolm@navy.mil (843-218-2440).



CFC combines philanthropy and fun

SSC Atlantic celebrated another successful season of giving through the 2012 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Volunteers sponsored various activities this year ... everything from chili cookoffs, bake sales, dodgeball, golf tournaments, raffling of parking spaces, penny wars, pizza sales, tennis tournaments, themed basket raffles, an engineering/building challenge and other events ... all to raise money for the campaign.

SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover commended this year's team of CFC leaders. Candy Gray, Antoinette Montgomery, Jessica Malcolm and YN2 Timothy Thurman were co-chairs in Charleston, and Mark Durham was loaned executive at the Trident United Way, supporting the CFC; LS1 Kathy Roberts and Ashley Savage were co-chairs in Hampton Roads; Brenda Vincent in New Orleans; Sue Morgan and Gloria Callahan were co-chairs in Washington, D.C.; and in Tampa, Michaela McCormic led the campaign.

"I want to thank all of our great CFC

chairmen, co-chairmen and volunteers ... because this is the kind of job that really requires enthusiasm and the courage of conviction," said Glover.

See related story on page 36.





Photos by Joe Bullinger

History of UHF SATCOM

By Paul W. Foster
Head, Narrowband SATCOM
Engineering Competency, 5523

UHF SATCOM was developed by the U.S. Navy and has been providing service to mobile users throughout the DoD and other government agencies for more than 30 years. Over these years, the Navy has been employing different generations of UHF satellites — Lincoln Ex-

perimental (LES), Marisat Gapfiller (shown at left), Fleet Satellite (FLTSAT), Leased Satellite (LEASAT) Gapfiller, and UHF Follow-On (UFO).

Narrowband communications

In the past, the term “narrowband” implied data rates of less than 64 kilobits per second, but a higher boundary could apply in the future as higher data rates to small terminals become possible. Mobile and other small terminal users depend on high-power, low-data-rate satellite systems to receive data via broadcast (as in the Navy and USCG Fleet Broadcast) and for two-way communications. Narrowband needs -- generally transmitted in the ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) range -- are supported by the UFO Constellation, which will be replaced by a component of the Advanced Narrowband System.

UHF advantages

The UHF frequency spectrum has many unique military advantages that have made its use essential to the modern tactical warfighter. The relatively low frequencies and data rates provide terminal hardware advantages including small size, light weight, ruggedness, simplicity and relatively low cost. Because no other satellite system shares the UHF frequency allocation, non-directional antennas can be used, greatly simplifying mobile communications. These hardware advantages allow terminals suitable for ships, vehicles, aircraft, manpacks and even handheld use. Performance advantages include signal penetration, worldwide coverage, broadcast networks, and assured access. UHF penetrates heavy weather, jungle foliage and urban environments much more reliably than SHF and EHF frequencies. With a UHF terminal, a warfighter can fight and communicate in all types of weather while using foliage for concealment.

Advanced Narrowband System

The Advanced Narrowband System is DoD’s next-generation narrowband tactical satellite communications system, and its goal is to provide global narrowband communications services to tactical users (who are typically quite mobile). The Advanced Narrowband System consists of six segments: DoD space; commercial space; telemetry, tracking and command; network control; user entry; and gateway.

The Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) is the DoD’s next generation military UHF Satellite Communication (SATCOM) system being designed to augment and eventually replace the UFO system. MUOS adapts a commercial third generation (3G) Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) cellular phone network architecture and combines it with geosynchronous satellites (in place of cell towers) with the goal of providing a more capable UHF SATCOM system. MUOS’s ability to offer a higher level of quality of service, assured access and increased capacity will enable more tactical users to share timely information while reducing the uncertainty that they will be able to communicate with their intended recipient. Faster service data rates reduce delays in relaying information during time critical operations.

The system represents a paradigm shift in UHF SATCOM from circuit-based, assigned networks to on-demand, global IP-based, net-centric networks. MUOS can provide a level of system performance that will place the system in a pre-eminent role for the network-centric operations critical to the mission effectiveness of today’s military.

UHF DAMA

One of the widely used satellite channel access protocols is Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA). This tech-



MUOS satellite

Lockheed Martin photo

nique matches user demands to available satellite capacity. Satellite channels are grouped together as a bulk asset, and DAMA assigns users variable time slots matching user information transmission requirements. While the user notices no change in channel quality, the result is a dramatic increase of up to x4 in communications capacity, number of supported users and networks. DAMA is most effective where there are multiple users operating at low to moderate duty cycles, which is the typical military usage pattern. The network can assign different priorities or serve users on a “first come, first served” basis. DAMA standards were introduced in an attempt to make more efficient use of limited UHF MILSATCOM resources. DAMA provides multiple access to a UHF channel through the use of time division multiple access (TDMA). DAMA is a channel access scheme composed of demand assigned TDMA. Demand assigned

refers to the dynamic assignment of channel resources based on user demand. Service is temporarily assigned, and when the service is no longer needed the user relinquishes the resource to the control authority for reassignment.

DAMA network architecture

The Joint MILSATCOM Network Integrated (JMINI) control system provides integrated network control terminals (NCT) that centrally handle all 5-kHz/25- kHz DAMA and non-DAMA channels on UFO satellites in each footprint. Three Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Stations (NCTAMS) and one Naval Computing and Telecommunications Station (NCTS) house JMINI control system hardware and software suites. These stations are located in two adjacent satellite coverage areas with the ability to control satellite channels in two satellite coverage areas, providing redundant control capability for each coverage area. The operational JMINI system located in the SATCOM lab also provides additional redundancy capability to NCTAMS.

MUOS

MUOS departs completely from operation over individual 5-kHz and 25-kHz bandwidth UHF transponders. The system actually modifies a commercial 3G WCDMA cellular phone architecture by using military satellites in place of terrestrial cell towers. MUOS is being designed to provide global coverage from a geosynchronous orbit via



Photo by MC2 John W. Ciccarelli Jr.

In 2008, Sailors assigned to NCTAMS Pacific install the first of three new state-of-the-art Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellite dishes.

a four satellite constellation, one in each of the four geographic footprint areas covered by the current UFO constellation. The constellation also includes one in-orbit spare. Each satellite is displayed over its respective coverage area and labeled accordingly as Pacific (PAC), Continental U.S. (CONUS), Atlantic (LANT), and Indian Ocean (I.O.).

In addition to the satellite constellation, the MUOS system includes a terrestrial network comprised of four ground sites (Hawaii, Norfolk, Sicily and Australia) and two switching/network management facilities (Hawaii and Norfolk). The two switching facilities in Hawaii and Norfolk each have connections with the Defense Switching Network (DSN) and the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN).

MUOS legacy support

Each MUOS satellite also carries a legacy payload similar to that flown on the currently

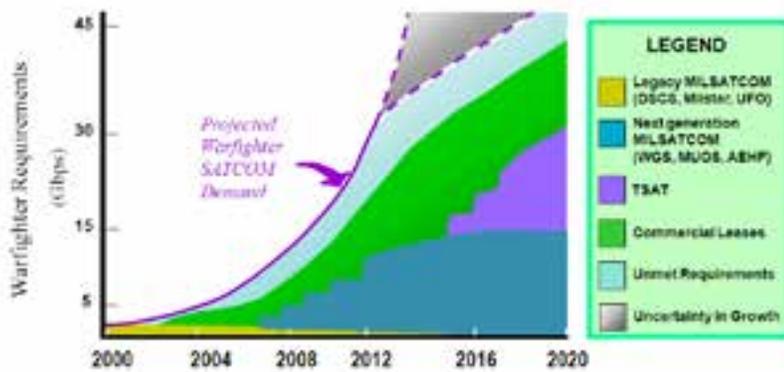
deployed UFO F11 satellite to extend the useful life of the legacy system and allow for a gradual transition to the MUOS WCDMA waveform.

Integrated Waveform

IW is the latest in DAMA waveform standards and provides system enhancements that has the potential to more than double the present system capacity (with widespread use) and greatly improve quality of service. IW enhancements over the DAMA waveform provide better voice quality and link closure. Also, terminal set-up procedures and user operation are vastly simplified, higher channel throughput is provided, additional networks are supported per channel, and there is additional configuration flexibility, as well as backward compatibility with legacy DAMA.

IW is a two-phased upgrade for fielded legacy terminals as is currently in Phase Two. Phase One supported single access (one NET per channel using MIL-STD-188-181C) and multiple access (multiple networks per channel using MIL-STD-188-183B). Phase II implements MIL-STD-188-182B to provide demand assignment capability, or ad-hoc services. These services can be activated and deactivated by user terminals using orderwire messages. IW Phase II improves demand assigned services by permitting assignments across a larger pool of resources. Capitalizing on this simplified and easier to use service-on-demand capability

Continued on the next page



A U.S. Strategic Command graphic shows the increasing military SATCOM demand.

will enable commanders to maximize their allocated narrowband resources.

Future opportunities

In addition to the MOUS, the Navy is keeping other alternatives open for meeting advanced narrowband system requirements. One alternative would be to field or lease commercial systems, if the commercial market proves sufficiently mature. Another option would be to field additional evolved UFO satellites to allow the commercial sector to mature and improve government options. The Navy has dubbed this alternative “UFO-E,” indicating that the Navy would consider continuing the UFO constellation with gradual improvements.

The Defense Information Systems Agency’s (DISA) Program Executive Office for Communications kept its feet planted firmly on the ground in fiscal 2012, with space-based assets appearing to take a back seat to terrestrial networks. “One of the new thought patterns in DoD is resiliency, but when they talk about it they usually talk about resiliency in space and tend to forget about the ground segment,” said Bruce Bennett, DISA’s program executive officer for communications. “I’m trying to increase the resiliency in the ground infrastructure at the satellite gateways.”

The Defense Department began a new era in its satellite communications capabilities in 2012. The need for military SATCOM demand will continue to rise exponentially. The launch of the first MUOS satellite in February marked a major step forward for the military’s communications-on-the-move projects. There will be opportunity for new technology developments that exploit this new capability of mobile communications. Smaller, more software configurable devices using programmable touch panel control is one such possibility.

In order to accommodate future demand, opportunities may include joint efforts with other DoD activities, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Current efforts include a MILSATCOM sensor system under development for MARCOSYSCOM, support to the intelligence community, USCG MILSATCOM support, Department

of State, Department of Homeland Security and White House Communications. Future potential efforts include collaboration with the Operationally Responsive Space Office (ORS) for TACSAT, a growing requirement for UAV support, fly-away VSATs, comms on the move terminals, manpacks and airborne terminals, or cognitive radios that use computer intelligence to automatically adapt to user needs and band conditions.

The leveraging of commercial satellites and use of smartphones and other commercial technologies. Intelsat is in the middle of a two-year plan to launch six satellites which carry optimized Ku-band mobility coverage.

The Software Reprogrammable Payload (SRP) is a collaborative effort between the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the Naval Research Laboratory and the Marine Corps aviation. SRP plans to transform a small radio receiver designed for space applications into a full-featured radio frequency system.

Lab Requirements

New technology developments will require more MIL-SATCOM lab space at SSC Atlantic. As older systems are removed, expansion for new developmental evaluation will be required. Additionally, as legacy systems continue toward obsolescence, it will be challenging to support and interface these devices seamlessly with next generation systems. Additional lab space will be needed to support prototyping of designed interface hardware and software solutions.

Efforts continue for joint Integrated Waveform (IW) Phase Two activities with the DISA. These efforts will continue with the completion of phase two and any follow-on phases. Current lab space allocated for these efforts will continue and increase as new requirements are implemented and MUOS comes online.

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Work hard, play hard

*Squirrelworks
annual picnic
celebrates
team milestone*



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Squirrelworks team members and their guests pause to pose during their recent reenergizing picnic.

“Work hard; play hard” is a familiar adage most people have heard.

For members of the Battlespace Awareness and Information Operations Program Office (PMW 120)-sponsored AN/URC-148(V) program, it is a way of life. Over the project’s duration, the SSC Atlantic team has responded to multiple requests to support fleet training, provide operational input on the battlespace and implementation of the developing Integrated Communication and Data System (ICADS), and remained within budget and schedule of the program office’s direction.

This last point was underscored by a successful program review by PMW-120 that culminated with a morale-boosting picnic. Steve Cruz, AN/URC-148(V) deputy program manager, Frank Kacer, AN/URC-148 Lead Systems Engineer, and Nolan Cooper, AN/URC-148(V) program support, of PMW-120 were invited to the picnic. SSC Atlantic members of the AN/URC-148(V) and associated projects -- affectionately termed “Squirrelworks” (an homage to Lockheed Martin’s Skunkworks) -- hosted the picnic and invited their

managers to join the festivities.

The picnic is destined to become an annual tradition among the collective Squirrelworks team. Having seen the effects of an aggressive, unrelenting schedule over two years (including the holidays) that culminated in major direct support of the fleet, Frank Smyth, then-SSC Atlantic IPT Lead, and Mike Shirley, then-SSC Atlantic Lead Engineer, wanted to reward their hard charging team.

Organized by Jennifer Voepel, Susan Larson and Jessica Smith, the first picnic reenergized the team and lifted spirits as they temporarily suspended focus on work and got to chance to make connections and get to know each other as individuals and friends.

Two years after the team formed, Mike Shirley is now the IPT Lead and Mike Pereira is the Lead Engineer. The team shrank and then expanded to become part of the collective Squirrelworks team.

Thanks to this team, the tradition of the annual picnic after a milestone has continued. Why? Because organizations change, teams change; but the taste of a great burger doesn’t.



The grillmaster needs little supervision at the Squirrelworks picnic.



There was food aplenty to reenergize the team.

‘Mailman George’ to retire after 42 years of government service

SSC Atlantic will say goodbye to 834’s George E. Makridakis -- for 16 years a fixture in Charleston’s Main Engineering Center, Bldg. 3247 -- when the mail technician and supply delivery clerk retires in January with 42 years of federal civilian service. A true SPAWARRIOR, Makridakis has served all of his 42 years with SPAWAR and its predecessor commands.

Born in Hackensack, N.J., Makridakis grew up in New York. He started his government career at Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center (NAVELEX) Great Lakes, Ill., Dec. 16, 1970, doing photo and reproduction work. In December of 1978, he took on duties as a file keeper and reproduction artist. He also served as assistant editor of the NAVELEX Great Lakes **Newsbuoy** newspaper from 1975 to 1978.

“Your main assignment was first a copy machine operation; however, due to your desire to be continuously productive and helpful to your fellow workers your functions were extended well beyond those originally anticipated,” Makridakis’ supervisor noted on one of his early evaluations. He answered phones, sorted mail, operated a telecopy machine, picked up pay checks and messages, filed invoices, sorted and filed plans, and inventoried and moved materials. He made security checks of Bldg. 3209 at Great Lakes twice daily, even through one of the worst winters in their history.



Makridakis has an uncanny ability to remember names, dates, numbers and places, which has come in handy when delivering the mail.



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Makridakis retires his mail cart when he ends his government career in January, 2013.

On May 1, 1979, he moved to Charleston, and two days later he started working at NAVELEX Charleston. He was a duplicator operator and kept thousands of drawings in filing cabinets and on microfilm to document all center projects. He received a Letter of Appreciation in June of 1980 that noted the responsible manner in which he provided “quality reproduction, transparencies, microfilm aperture cards and other assistance, contributing materially to the successful completion of design and installation projects by the Communications Systems Department.”

In June of 1994 he became a mail technician and supply delivery person at Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance, In-Service Engineering, East Coast Division (NISE East). In October of 1997, NISE East became SSC Charleston, and Makridakis moved into a brand new Bldg. 3147 with other plankowners in May 1998.

From then until now, he has provided mail and consumable office supply delivery twice a day throughout the building. His performance evaluations have consistently praised his pleasant attitude, diligence in providing excellent customer service, friendliness and dedication.

In 2003 Makridakis was the first recipient of then-SSC Charleston’s Execution Excellence Award, which recognized him as a role model for his execution and follow-through, going above and beyond the call of duty. “With great efficiency and expediency, George not only delivers the mail

Continued on page 36



Historic Huey has new home at Military Magnet Academy thanks to SSC Atlantic

A retired Vietnam-era U.S. Army helicopter with a rich history of wartime flights and rescue missions has found a new home at the Military Magnet Academy (MMA) in North Charleston, thanks to SSC Atlantic.

MMA students, faculty and SSC Atlantic volunteers spent the day Oct. 13 restoring and preparing the UH-1 (Huey) helicopter for display in front of the Norman C. Toole building on the MMA campus. The helo, which had been identified as surplus by the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO), was donated to the school as part of SSC Atlantic's partnership with the school.

Designed to answer the U.S. Army's need for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter, the Huey first flew in 1956. Ordered into production in 1960, it was the first turbine-powered helicopter built for the U.S. military. The first combat operation of the UH-1 was during the Vietnam War. Approximately 7,000 Hueys saw service in Vietnam.

MMA students researched the helicopter's serial number and learned that it flew missions in Vietnam, Germany, Thailand and Alaska. One of MMA's instructors flew the same type aircraft during his active duty service.

SSC Atlantic has been an education partner with the MMA since 2009. The partnership enhances the educational experience for MMA students by providing access to the staff, expertise, facilities and equipment related to naval



Photos provided

At top, MMA Commandant Lt. Col. Joseph Dawson, seated at center, is surrounded by the Huey display prep team of students and SSC Atlantic volunteers Oct. 13. Above, students sand the helo to ensure it will be a people-friendly, safe display.

warfare systems technology available at SSC Atlantic. It also promotes students' interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers.

Established in 1997, the MMA includes students in grades 6 through 12. Its mission is to prepare cadets to become academically competent, disciplined and responsible citizens.

SSC Atlantic's education partnership agreement (EPA) with the MMA is in accordance with public law which authorizes defense laboratories to enter into EPAs with U.S. educational institutions in order to improve science, mathematics and engineering education.

Ex-NSA director, retired admiral McConnell speaks on cyber, policy

Retired Vice. Adm. Mike McConnell, now executive vice chairman of Booz Allen Hamilton, visited SSC Atlantic for several days in August, speaking at the center's leadership symposium and talking to employees about cybersecurity and the intelligence community.

McConnell retired from the Navy in 1996 after serving for 29 years as a naval intelligence officer. He served as director of the National Security Agency from 1992 to 1996, and as Director of National Intelligence from 2007 to 2009. He is widely sought out as a speaker on topics such as signal intelligence, cyber security and policy.

McConnell spent the day with Mike Kutch, then-Portfolio Manager for Integrated Decision Superiority, Aug. 21 as the admiral received briefs on the center's efforts in information assurance, cyber forensics, cyber range, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Scientific and Technical Intelligence Liaison Office (STILO) and Integrated Communication and Data System (ICADS), along with a tour of Poseidon Park and Complex D.

While in Charleston McConnell was also keynote speaker at a Palmetto Roost Chapter of the Association of Old Crows (AOC)-hosted dinner at The Citadel Aug. 23.

His informative and entertaining speech about future cyber requirements also highlighted critical events while he was intelligence officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, giving CNN briefings on Desert Storm, and recollections of his time as NSA Director, and National Intelligence Director for Presidents Bush and Obama.

McConnell also discussed the need for

McConnell poses with Citadel cadets who attended the Palmetto Roost Chapter of the Association of Old Crows (AOC)-hosted dinner at The Citadel Aug. 23.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Retired Vice. Adm. Mike McConnell gives the keynote speech at SSC Atlantic's Leadership Symposium Aug. 23.

strong cyber capabilities – both offensive and defensive – and the critical need for our military to be on the forefront of cyber warfare.

He also stressed these themes as keynote speaker at SSC Atlantic's Leadership Symposium Aug. 23.

Before departing the area, McConnell spoke at a "Town Hall" intelligence community meeting Aug. 24 held in the command briefing theater at SSC Atlantic.



Photo by Bob Miller



Photo by Joe Bullinger

General views integration ops

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Edward F. Dorman III, director for Logistics Operations, Readiness, Force Integration and Strategy, chats with SSC Atlantic's Joe Rodgers, Ground C2 IPT Lead, during a visit to the Vehicular Integrated Solutions Facility in September. Accom-

panying Dorman was Brig. Gen. Duane A. Gamble, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command. SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller accompanied the visiting generals during the tour.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Poseidon Park capabilities showcased

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Hughes, director of Systems of Systems Integration (SoSI) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), center, learns about vehicular radio frequency tests at the Poseidon Park Test Facility during a visit to SSC Atlantic Oct. 15. Hughes also received a command brief and toured Bldgs. 3637 and 1602.

Good doggie!

This inquisitive little pooch was just one wet snout away from finding a new owner during a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) informational event at SSC Atlantic highlighting some of the charities offered in the annual drive.

To help employees learn more about the many charitable organizations to which they may donate through the CFC, volunteers brought out representatives from Water Missions, the Medical University, Ronald McDonald House, Guide Dogs and Service Animals, My Sister's House and many other great charities.

"The CFC gives us a chance to make a difference in the lives of people who need it," said SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover. "You and I are greatly blessed, and I thank all of you who have shared those blessings by giving to the CFC."



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Makridakis

Continued from page 32

but also greets everyone and remembers countless names of employees in all of the codes," said then-Executive Director James Ward when presenting the award. "Like the old saying goes, through 'rain, sleet or snow,' the mail is always there on time. George is the 'Mailman' and he never fails to see that we get the mail we need so we can all accomplish our jobs," he added.

During a Nov. 15 all hands awards ceremony, SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover presented Makridakis the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award for "distinguishing himself by exceptional service to the Navy, SPAWAR and SSC Atlantic for 42 years.

His keen eye for detail and uncanny ability to remember names, dates and details have served Makridakis well

throughout his years of government service."

In retirement, he will have time to enjoy his favorite celebrities (Miley Cyrus, Miranda Cosgrove, Sarah Hyland, Ashley Madekwe, Carly Rae Jepsen, Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, Jennifer Lawrence and Jeanette McCurdy,) his favorite foods (fried chicken, turkey and dring, macaroni bowties and custard) favorite holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter,) favorite TV show (Modern Family) and favorite music by Miley Cyrus, Miranda Cosgrove, Debby Ryan, Zendaya, Jackie Evancho, Rebecca Black and Demi Lovato.

Makridakis' hobbies include collecting watches, Hannah Montana clocks, CDs and cassettes. His favorite countries, besides the United States, are Greece, Puerto Rico, Guam, Ireland and Japan. His favorite seasons are fall and spring, and his favorite colors are red, purple, maroon and violet.

- By Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor

THE CHRONICLE PHOTO CONTEST

Thank you to all who submitted!

And the winner is...



Grand Canal, Venice
June 2012

Rick Nelson
Code 621

Hit us with *your* best shot

We are now soliciting submissions from
SSC Atlantic employees for next issue's contest.

Send your best shot to *susan.piedfort@navy.mil* or
joseph.bullinger@navy.mil.

David Bednarczyk of 633, right, explains SSC Atlantic's Common Submarine Radio Room project to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, left, as SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Glover listens in. Story on page 3.

