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naval meteorology and oceanography NEWS

March 5, 2014

Commander's Corner

RDML Brown Traveling with CAPSTONE

As you all may know, RDML Brian Brown has been at CAPSTONE for the past month. But what is CAPSTONE?

CAPSTONE is a five-week, joint-service education course for newly promoted brigadier generals and rear admirals conducted by the National Defense University. The course examines issues affecting national security decision making, military strategy, joint doctrine, service interoperability, and familiarizes senior officers with allied nations. The course objective is to ensure the participants are effective in planning and employing U.S. forces in joint and combined operations. The Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 made CAPSTONE mandatory for all newly selected generals and admirals.

The first several days are dedicated to classroom seminars that address understanding of the U.S. defense community, key issues affecting national security and current problems facing today's senior leaders. These are provided through presentations by current and former senior leaders, former combatant commanders, civilian leaders, military critics, and student-led discussions.

Participants then grow their understanding of principal national security agencies in the Washington, D.C., area by visits to the National Security Council, Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, all service headquarters and the joint staff. They then embark on a whirlwind CONUS trip to include visits to all the unified commands headquartered in the United States.

They next divide into groups for OCONUS trips to interact with senior commanders of U.S. unified commands, American ambassadors, allied military leaders, and senior political leaders of foreign governments. These studies explore theater/regional security concerns, U.S. and allied/friendly nation capabilities and theater training and preparation for war. The class is divided into three groups for travel: Europe, Southwest Asia, Pacific and the Western Hemisphere. RDML Brown's schedule included stops in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Uzbekistan. While there, they also participated in cultural events to give the class an introduction to the cultural importance of the countries being visited.

When RDML Brown returns, he will share his experiences and knowledge gained about this unique learning experience.

From the Deputy/Technical Director

Contract Court – Important Tool for Achieving Fiduciary Excellence

By Dr. William H. Burnett

Contract court sounds scary. Then again, any title with the word “court” in it sounds scary – unless it is a food court or a tennis court. However, contract court, ominous as it sounds, is actually an important tool for helping us meet our fiduciary responsibility.

Based on a Vice Chief of Naval Operations tasking, Commander Naval Meteorology and Oceanography established a monthly contract court to review all of our service contracts and ensure leadership is familiar with and engaged in service contract requirements.

Why is this important? Type “ improper navy contracts” into any web search engine and it will return a long, long list of news stories about illegal and improper contracting. Service contracts, which directly engage the time and efforts of a contractor whose primary purpose is to perform an identifiable task, remain the “slippery slope” of contract malfeasance. Contract courts drive awareness, transparency, validation and accountability for contract requirements. Efficiencies are achieved through the proper alignment of contacting authority, promoting ethical acquisition practices, ensuring cost avoidance and achieving savings from best practices.

But, doesn’t CNMOC already have a robust program management process in place? Yes, we perform significant oversight of all our service contracts – IT contract requirements actually have two management processes. I serve as the Milestone Decision Authority for one of two Acquisition CATegory (ACAT) programs of record. All IT service contract requirements are reviewed through the OPNAV NAVy Information Dominance Approval System (NAV-IDAS) process for approving IT procurement requests

Contract court provides leadership and staff with the additional ability to drill down into service contracts to understand the “trip wires” contained in them – for example bridge contracting actions, best value source selection premiums, other direct costs, labor rates and performance and subcontractor awards. By requiring higher level concurrence and notification, the process ensures that conscious decisions are being made and documented before service contracts are executed.

Through the CNMOC contract court, we have already identified a need to better ensure that both Contracting Officer Representatives and Subject Matter Experts understand their roles and lines of responsibility.

So do not fret if you are ever hauled before CNMOC contract court. You are helping us achieve fiduciary excellence. And that’s “Commander’s Business.”

Personnel

Fleet Weather Center Norfolk Chief Qualifies OOD Underway

During the recent *USS Kearsarge* (LHD 3) deployment, Fleet Weather Center Norfolk Strike Group Oceanography Team (SGOT) detachment Leading Chief Petty Officer, Chief Aerographer' s Mate Dean Tunberg, seized a unique opportunity to qualify as an Officer of the Deck (OOD) Underway (U/W).

AGC Dean Tunberg (left) SGOT Leading Petty Officer, receives his Officer of the Deck qualification from CAPT Frederick Nielsen, USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) commanding officer. U.S. Navy photo by MCl Abraham Essenmacher.

Tunberg worked his way through the rigorous qualification process, completing the personnel qualification standards (PQS) and standing all required watch stations including Boat Officer, Conning Officer, Junior Officer of the Deck and finally culminating to OOD U/W.

While earning his OOD U/W qualification, Tunberg was challenged to learn the complexities of the various operations an LHD is capable of, such as launching and recovering Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and amphibious craft, as well as the typical ship maneuvers including underway replenishments, anchoring, and port channel transits that Surface Warfare Officers learn and master.

In October, Chief Tunberg successfully completed his OOD U/W qualification board with *Kearsarge's* commanding officer, executive officer and department heads, earning their trust with his judgment and ability.

Tunberg led the nine-man SGOT detachment deployed with the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) – composed of *USS Kearsarge*, *USS San Antonio* (LPD 17), *USS Carter Hall* (LSD 50), Amphibious Squadron Four and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit – and safely returned to Norfolk on Nov. 7, after a successful eight-month deployment to the 5th and 6th Fleet Areas of Responsibility. The team worked 24/7 to provide tactical Naval Oceanography products and safety of flight/navigation support to the ARG, while simultaneously achieving warfare specialist qualifications and building professional knowledge as aerographer' s mates.

Acosta-Gonzalez Graduates from CMC/COB

Senior Chief Aerographer’s Mate (IDW/AW) Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez graduated from the Command Master Chief/Chief of the Boat (CMC/COB) course in Newport, R.I., in February.

"The CMC/COB course is the pinnacle of an enlisted member’s training. I am both fortunate and privileged to have attended this course, and now I aim to help others understand the importance of seeking this level of education" Acosta said. "It is an honor to represent my community in this way and to open the doors for more AG chiefs to pursue the kind of education needed for a successful tour as a CSEL [command senior enlisted leader]."

Established in 1995, the Command Leadership School is comprised of the Major Commander, Prospective Commanding Officer, Prospective Executive Officer, Prospective Commanding Officer Spouse, Command Master Chief/Chief of the Boat Spouse and CMC/COB courses.

Acosta has served as CSEL for Fleet Survey Team, Naval Oceanographic Office and is currently serving as CSEL at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii. He also is a 2010 graduate of the Senior Enlisted Academy.

AG1 Benjamin Hyre Reenlists at General Patton's Grave Site

AG1 Benjamin Hyre recites his Oath of Enlistment from LT Coriandre Johnson

Aerographer's Mate1st Class Benjamin Hyre of Fleet Weather Center Aviation Detachment Germany reenlisted for six years at the grave site of Gen. George S. Patton Jr in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, on Jan. 15. The cemetery is a beautiful memorial and resting place for the Americans who lost their lives during the Battle of the Bulge and the advance to the Rhine River during World War II. Hyre chose this cemetery for his reenlistment because his grandfather served as a sonar technician in World War II and inspired him to join the Navy.

Items of Interest

High Performance Computing Modernization Program Expands HPC Capabilities

The Navy Department of Defense Supercomputing Resource Center (Navy DSRC) at Stennis Space Center is getting another upgrade as part of a $50 million acquisition by the Department of Defense (DOD) High Performance Computing Modernization Program (HPCMP).

The acquisition will include multiple supercomputing systems and hardware as well as software maintenance services. At nearly three petaFLOPS of computing capability, the acquisition constitutes a more than 50 percent increase in the DOD HPCMP's current peak computing capability. The purchase includes three systems that will collectively provide more than 114,000 cores, more than 307 terabytes of memory, and a total disk storage capacity of almost nine petabytes. The competitive government acquisition was executed through the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., which selected Cray, Inc. as the HPC vendor.

"Supercomputing is a key enabler across the broad spectrum of efforts in the science, technology, test, evaluation and acquisition engineering communities of the DOD as they continue their critical work to improve both the safety and performance of U.S. military forces," said John West, director of the HPCMP. "These newly acquired systems ensure that DOD scientists and engineers can continue to take advantage of a robust computing ecosystem that includes the latest computational technologies."

The Navy DSRC will receive two Cray XC30 systems built upon the 2.7 GHz Intel Xeon E5-2697 v2 processor and the 1.05 GHz Intel Xeon Phi Coprocessor 5120D. These two systems are identical, each consisting of 29,304 compute cores, 124 coprocessor cores, and 78 terabytes of memory. The systems are designed as sister systems to provide continuous service during maintenance outages.

The other supercomputer will be installed at the Air Force Research Laboratory DSRC at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The HPCMP partners with the DOD's science and engineering communities and serves as an innovation enabler. The use of HPC in the DOD is quite broad and includes capabilities in fluid dynamics, structural mechanics, materials design, space situational awareness, climate and ocean modeling, and environmental quality.

NOAD Kaneohe Bay Sailors Host Wounded Warrior

Naval Oceanography ASW Detachment Kaneohe Bay's Sailors hosted Wounded Warrior Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Andrew Johnson, from San Antonio, Texas, during the 2014 Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials in January. More than 100 Wounded Warriors participated in the trials, representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Special Operations Commands. Each warrior athlete participated in up to three sports, including cycling, seated volley ball, track and field, wheelchair basketball and swimming events. Andrew represented the Navy team while participating in cycling, seated volleyball and relay track.

NOAD Sailors train alongside the warriors during volley ball and track and field camps.

Pathfinder Visits Guatemala as Part of OSPS

USNS Pathfinder (T-AGS 60) visited Puerto Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala on Feb. 5, as part of the U.S. Southern Command's (USSOUTHCOM) Oceanographic Southern Partnership Station. The mission was led by Giovanni Morris, Senior Naval Oceanographic Office Representative, with a crew of civilian surveyors who conduct the collection and processing of data.

At right: Eric Villalobos (extreme right) of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command conducts a tour of *USNS Pathfinder* for Guatamelan naval officers during a reception on the ship as part of Oceanographic Southern Partnership Station during the ship visit to Guatamela. (U.S. Navy photo)

At left: Eric Villalobos (center) of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command explains the data collection and analysis system on *USNS Pathfinder* for Guatamelan naval officers during a reception on the ship as part of Oceanographic Southern Partnership Station during the ship visit to Guatamela. (U.S. Navy photo)

Multiple activities took place during the visit, including daily tours for civilian, military and academic institutions; subject matter expert exchanges in hydrography, geodesy/tides and nautical charting; and a reception aboard *Pathfinder* hosted by CAPT Marc Eckardt, Deputy Hydrographer of the Navy, in representation of USSOUTHCOM, Commander, U.S. Fourth Fleet, and Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

Command Spotlight: Naval Oceanographic Office

The Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO), located at the John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) in south Mississippi, is responsible for providing oceanographic products and services to ships, submarines and special operations forces worldwide. With nearly 1,000 civilian, military and contractor personnel, NAVO's mission is to optimize America's sea power by applying relevant oceanographic knowledge in support of United States national security.

Led by commanding officer, CAPT Paul Oosterling, the command uses a variety of platforms, including six, forward-deployed, multi-mission (T-AGS 60) survey ships, to collect and analyze oceanographic and hydrographic data from the world's oceans. These data are then analyzed and utilized in products that support the warfighter. A seventh T-AGS ship, the *USNS Maury*, was launched in March 2013 at Halter Marine in Pascagoula, Miss. Sea trials are expected to be completed in late 2015.

In 2013, NAVO realized a significant advancement in the Navy's operational ocean forecasting capability when it officially transitioned to the Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (HYCOM). HYCOM is the new basis for ocean circulation modeling and is the result of over 10 years of development and testing under a National Ocean Partnership Program funded through the Office of Naval Research.

Also in 2013, the Coastal Zone Mapping and Imaging Lidar (CZMIL) system replaced the retired Compact Hydrographic Airborne Rapid Total Survey system, which had been used for the past nine years to collect oceanographic data. The new CZMIL survey system underwent testing and was deployed to U.S. Southern Command to support safety of navigation survey requirements.

NAVO reports to Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, also located at SSC, aligned under United States Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.

ITC Contrail Allen

Chief Information Systems Technician Contrail Allen has been recognized by the executive officer for his leadership and his value to the command despite his relatively short tenure at NAVO, less than a year. As Information Assurance (IA) Officer, Allen is responsible for maintaining network security of three classified and unclassified networks. He also serves as a leader and mentor to seven Sailors and as vice president of the Chief Petty Officer Association at SSC. Allen serves as sexual assault prevention and response victim advocate, command financial specialist, motorcycle safety officer and casualty assistance calls officer**.**

Allen enlisted in October 1994 in Great Lakes, Ill. NAVO is his 10th duty station.

Since reporting to NAVO, Allen said he has gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the naval oceanography community. “Having served onboard five different platforms and in four warfare communities (sea, sub, air and mine warfare), the military has afforded me the opportunity to see how the vital products that NAVOCEANO produces enable the Navy to safely navigate the globe to achieve operational success. It’s truly amazing to see how it all comes together,” he said.

Eileen Jones

Eileen Jones, technical team lead in NAVO's ocean model operations branch, saw significant increases in the number of model domains and large data transfers across the Trusted Gateway System in the last year. She worked with NIPR/SIPR bandwidth challenges, daily model operations monitoring and maintenance, evolving operational reporting requirements, and continuity of operations plan efforts. She also directed the Oceanographic Department's portion of the Navy Defense Supercomputing Resource Center (DSRC) transition to new hardware systems.

The DSRC transition required the re-hosting of all numerical ocean models to the new systems from the legacy hardware. Jones initiated and led the team software process, the management tool used to aid the transition, and successfully used these concepts to lead a team of scientists from multiple departments and the Naval Research Laboratory. Her planning focused the team's work on phased and manageable objectives. As result of her leadership, the office's wave, surf, tide and ocean models, with a new assimilation module, are now successfully running on the operational systems.

Social Media

Follow Naval Oceanography on Facebook and @navyoceans on Twitter to keep up with all the latest news and images from the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography community.

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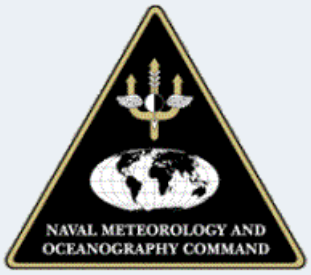

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