



NEWS

naval meteorology and oceanography

Aug. 7, 2013

Commander's Corner

A Busy Summer Has Held Challenges and Opportunities

By Rear Adm. Brian Brown

Greetings to all from the Gulf Coast. We've had a busy summer in Naval Oceanography. From direct worldwide operational support afloat and ashore, to participation in experimentation afloat, and dedicated work on maintaining our posture as great stewards of the resources and people entrusted to our care, we are truly making a difference in our nation's security. I look back on our pace of activity and our results with awe – I am blessed to work with such an outstanding total force team.

Of course, it hasn't been without sacrifice and hard work. The challenges we are facing are many, and the burden on our workforce is great. Because of your innovation and dedication, we are keeping afloat through challenging manpower shortages, furlough, hiring freezes, NEC fit issues, increasing compliance demands, and reductions in our budget – the list goes on and on. I'm inspired every day, that despite the short term "alligators near the boat", we're able to keep our eye on the future and move ahead, albeit a bit more slowly than many of us want, but nonetheless we're making progress. For all of this, on behalf of our nation and Navy, I can only say thank you.



This summer has also been one of transition. We've said farewell to a number of shipmates, in and out of uniform, this summer. Please join me in wishing them congratulations on their outstanding careers and fair winds as they transition to the next chapter in their lives. BZ to all for jobs well done!

Transition is also prevalent in our commands – already we've changed command at Naval Oceanography Operations Command and Naval Oceanography ASW Center Yokosuka. In the upcoming month we will have new commanding officers at Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center and the U.S. Naval Observatory. In addition, there have been a number of turnovers in key billets at most commands, most specifically changes in command master chiefs at Fleet Weather Center Norfolk, Fleet Weather Center San Diego and NOAC Stennis. Leadership changes are sometimes stressful, but they also bring new perspectives and OPPORTUNITIES. I look forward to seeing where our new leaders will take us!

Transition has occurred at U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) and OPNAV as well. Nearly every key position below the commander at USFF has turned over this summer; team NMOC is rapidly working to reconnect the dots with our new counterparts on our boss' staff. Fortunately, we've earned a stellar reputation across all areas from those departing USFF, and they have passed a very favorable impression to the incoming leadership, so I'm not expecting any significant bumps in the road. With all the issues we're tackling, if we weren't in such a good

position with USFF, it might have been troublesome for us. Once again, YOUR efforts have made the difference here in a most positive way.

At OPNAV N2/N6, we welcome the new Deputy CNO for Information Dominance (ID), Vice Adm. Ted “Twig” Branch, as he continues the work to integrate the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) within the tenets of ID (assured C2, battlespace awareness, and integrated fires). We have been fortunate to have him visit Fleet Weather Center Norfolk and the U.S. Naval Observatory as part of his indoctrination to ID, and we look forward to hosting him at Stennis Space Center, Miss. As an aviator, he is well versed with portions of our battlespace awareness mission; however, he is keen to learn the rest to help prop up this important pillar of ID that has been recently been in the shadow of cyber, electromagnetic spectrum, and networks/communications. Our work integrating with the intelligence community, both ashore and afloat, especially in our fleet concentration areas and at the Office of Naval Intelligence is absolutely critical to meet this mission. Thank you to all who have worked diligently to close the gap in this area. As the DCNO’s plan solidifies, I will be sure to let you know what this entails for Naval Oceanography.

Again, I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication during these tough times. I recognize that stress levels are rising, so I appreciate all of you watching out for each other. If an operational pause is necessary, make sure you inform your chain of command. While we focus on protecting lives and property in our fleet every day, we can’t neglect the home front. Collectively, we will get through this period in our history – no team is more innovative, flexible, and adaptable than ours. Keep charging!

From the Deputy/Technical Director

Battle Space on Demand (BonD), Tiers 2 and 3... Where Naval Oceanography Meets Warfighting Decisions!

By Dr. William H. Burnett, Mr. John Meyer, Mr. Bruce Gritton, Dr. Pam McDowell, and Ms. Kim Pettway

During the previous two months, Deputy/Technical Director’s articles have explained the foundational layers of the Battlespace on Demand (BonD) concept of operations. From the data and observing layer of the Tier 0 roadmap to the Tier 1 layer modeling roadmap, we have explored the following:

BonD Tier 0 encompasses some 50 satellite or other remote sensor types deployed across 70 satellite platforms, thousands of ocean buoys/drifters, hundreds of ships, hundreds of unmanned sensing platforms, hundreds of radars, and thousands of airborne sensing systems. Collectively these result in tens of millions of observations of the environment to be assimilated into predictive models. BonD Tier 1 yields petabytes of data consisting of hundreds of environmental parameters predicted for dozens of layers (atmosphere and ocean) for dozens of time periods to support mission-tailored forecasts for areas of interest around the globe, tailored to meet Naval warfighting operational and tactical requirements.

Why? Because, the physical battlespace impacts the performance of assets and threats that are employed by friendly and enemy forces in the execution of naval missions. It is imperative that our warfighter decision makers have advantage over their enemy by having a deep understanding of the environment (and its effects), and one that is relevant to their mission objectives. How do we support the warfighter in the interpretation of this massive amount of environmental data? BonD Tiers 2 and 3 provide the required bridge to battlespace understanding.

So this month we complete the BonD pyramid with Tier 2 –the performance layer– and Tier 3 –the decision layer. Although these two layers are often combined, called BonD Tier 2/3, they remain very distinct in their concept, application and enabling tools and processes.



BonD Tier 2: Predict Impacts and Responses of Assets and Threats

Definition: The ability to produce data and products that provide assessments of environmental impacts on assets and threats. The environment modeled in Tier 1 will impact sensors, weapons, platforms and people, providing opportunities and restrictions for operations and warfighting. That impact, as seen through the operational system (sensor, weapon, platform, and/or personnel) is the Tier 2 Performance Layer. These impacts can be exploited through influences on planning, force structure, targeting, timing, maneuver, tactics, techniques and procedures.

Examples include asset performance prediction, asset threshold prediction, and asset probability of result prediction.

Asset performance prediction provides a prediction of how an asset is expected to perform in a specified set of environmental conditions, which are also predicted. This performance can be expressed as a quantified or qualified assessment of the impacts on performance envelope specifications or as a predicted response of the asset (e.g., sensor detection range as a function of the signal within environmental noise).

Asset threshold prediction provides an assessment of whether environmental conditions will approach or exceed acceptable operational performance limits of a mission asset (friendly or unfriendly) or some combination of assets (e.g., stop light chart for an asset deployed at a specific location/time).

Asset probability of result prediction – The ocean and atmosphere are made up of random or stochastic processes. How a signal, which is also random, performs within that environment can be characterized using probability mathematics. Probabilities more accurately capture the range of expected results and quantify uncertainty. Examples are products that provide a quantitative assessment of the probabilities of a result given system operating within a set of environmental conditions (e.g., Piracy Attack Risk Assessment Surface).

BonD Tier 3: Provide Recommendations for Mission Courses of Action (COAs)

Definition: The ability to produce data and products that provide assessments of ultimate environmental impacts on mission COAs, generally based on optimization techniques. These include actionable recommendations on the COA supplied as well as alternative COAs that could reduce risk and increase impact of the operations. These products can provide data in the form of comparative time, distance, clearance rates, and other measures that can be used to optimize COAs.

Examples include asset allocation-configuration recommendations, mission COA thresholds and recommendations, and asset route recommendations.

Asset allocation configuration recommendations provide specific recommendations with regard to allocation of assets based upon predicted asset performance within environmental conditions. A product can also provide recommendations with regard to optimal configuration of a specific asset (e.g., sonobuoy optimal locations, search asset locations and altitudes).

Mission COA thresholds and recommendations provide a set of COA recommendations for planned missions. These products include: Go - No Go recommendations and/or alternative COA recommendations, given a specified set of predicted environmental conditions. These products are usually delivered via direct collaboration with the warfighter staff and include a combination of annotated maps, threshold dashboards, etc. Asset Route Recommendations provide specific recommendations with regard to optimal routing for key assets (e.g., ships, aircraft, ingress/egress routes for Naval Special Warfare insertions/extractions).

The Future of BonD Tier 2/3: Adaptive Assessments and Recommendations

Today, the interpretation of predicted environmental conditions for warfighting decisions falls squarely on the naval oceanographer and his/her expert use of tactical decision aid applications. Given the ever increasing volume of information and the decreased timelines for effective decision making, it is clear that BonD Tier 2/3 solutions must be more interoperable with joint/coalition/interagency systems and that automated decision support mechanisms must be deployed to enhance the performance of the naval oceanographer.

DECISION SUPERIORITY through BATTLESPACE ON DEMAND

These solutions must operate in the context of new technology opportunities, including: geospatial visualization and analytics, “big data” storage and analytics, and cloud computing services models.

Realization of effective BonD Tier 2/3 solutions also requires smart integration with BonD Tiers 0 and 1. Based upon assessments of impacts and uncertainty derived in BonD Tier 2, the ability to task Tier 0 resources to deploy and sample key parameters and to re-run Tier 1 model assessments will be important automation goals. And as BonD matures and advances, a new model that embraces agility, adaptability and responsiveness is emerging. To realize this new operational concept, the BonD Tiers don't just feed each other, they become more cohesive and interrelated.

Adaptive BonD services will require a deep understanding of the warfighter's decision space for a range of specific decision contexts (environmental regime plus mission assets and success objectives). This understanding is then codified and used to automatically task and orchestrate internal and external tactical sampling capabilities (Tier 0), coupled modeling capabilities (Tier 1), force/asset employment optimization capabilities (Tier 2) and even recommendations (Tier 3). Examples of Adaptive BonD Tier 2/3 capabilities include:

- Leveraging cloud computing and “big data” analytics to better predict locations of social unrest that could require the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) support services. With tactical sensors being tasked to make specific targeted observations and with high-resolution models being spun up over regions not previously done, new and higher-fidelity Tier 2 electro-magnetic/electro-optic (EM/EO) assessments will be ready to insert into mission planning for Tier 3 asset lay-down recommendations.
- More effective/efficient utilization of high-performance computing resources to support the heavy-lift computing as needed to complement forward-deployed Tier 2/3 TDAs ashore and afloat. These heavy-lift needs involve surging/expanding or operating at a higher priority, based on mission importance,
- Use of “widgets,” small portable applications that are designed to run on multiple platforms ranging from super-computers to desktops, laptops, tablets and even smartphones. Tier 2/3 widgets, which do not require a METOC professional to use, will be available on demand through a Navy widget store; e.g. a weather impacts service. Tier 2/3 widgets that do require a METOC professional will be available on demand from a NMOC-managed/monitored storefront; e.g. a combat search and rescue service.

This article concludes a three-part series that examined how investments in S&T and R&D are enabling the future BonD, achieving excellence in oceanography through a deep understanding of the risks and opportunities offered by the battlespace environment. Together with a deep understanding of the warfighters' decision space, Naval Oceanography provides the competitive advantage.

Look for upcoming articles which will introduce the command's battlespace sensing strategy and numerical modeling strategy.

From the Officer Detailer

Good-bye, It's Time to Move to Monterey

By Capt. John Okon, Senior Detailer

OCEANO Warriors,

Greetings from the home of the Blues and World's Best BBQ! This is my last column as Senior Detailer. Before I step aside, I want to share a few thoughts and observations I've had over the past two years.

- Have a mentor. A good number of our officers do not have a mentor. I can't overemphasize how important it is to have an officer or officers to discuss, develop, and adjust a career plan. If you don't have a mentor,

seek out an officer either in or out of the community (preferred to have both) who you trust to give you honest, straight-forward advice. They can provide invaluable insight to personal and professional decisions. In the absence of a mentor, the detailers are always available and will gladly fill this role.

- Discussions with the Detailer. Call first, email second, write a letter third. Do your homework before you call. Use the marketplace and your mentor to discuss “the realm of possibility” for your next tour of duty. When you call your detailer, be prepared to have the balanced discussion on personal and profession desires (career timing); be ready and able to answer the bell for the need of the Navy. We are always available to chat, early, late, you name it, and we will be available.
- Record Management. Review your record yearly and fix problems early. Typically, after 18 months a problem in your record is very difficult to correct. Refer to the Officer Records section of the NPC/PERS-475 website or call your detailer if you have any questions. It is your record and the only thing a statutory board will see – take ownership of it.
- Promotion Zones and Statutory Boards. Don’t worry about who is in your zone; you can’t control it, and it doesn’t matter. Use DOPMA 10/16/22 in your initial calculus for your flowpoint. Your detailer can fine-tune your position in the zone (top, middle, bottom). Your competitiveness at the board is based solely on performance and completion of required milestones (read the Convening Order).
- Perform. Every statutory board is a knife fight. Our community is lean and stocked with talent from ensign to rear admiral. There is no guarantee for promotion. Take hard jobs, grow where planted and perform. If you do this, you will build a career of sustained superior performance that will serve you well in competing for promotion.
- Choices create your character, character creates your course. Continue to be committed to making sound choices for yourself, the Sailors, our Navy and our country. Thanks for the great support and teamwork - see you in the fleet!

All the best,

Capt. O

News

Miller Relieves Gurley as NOOC CO

Capt. Tony Miller relieved Capt. Van Gurley as commanding officer of the Naval Oceanography Operations Command (NOOC) in a change of command and retirement ceremony on July 12 at Stennis Space Center, Miss.

Miller comes to NOOC from the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command staff where he was the Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Policy and the Deputy Hydrographer. Gurley retired after a 26-year Navy career.



Rear Adm. Brian Brown (left), commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, congratulates Capt. Tony Miller as Miller assumes command of the Naval Oceanography Operations Command from Capt. Van Gurley (center) during a ceremony held July 12 at Stennis Space Center, Miss (U.S. Navy photo by Jenni Ervin)

NOAC Yokosuka Changes Command

By Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class John Bullington



Cmdr. Rachael Dempsey relieved Cmdr. Nick Vincent at Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Yokosuka in a traditional change of command ceremony.

Capt. Van Gurley, Naval Oceanography Operations Command commanding officer, was the guest speaker.

Dempsey, a graduate of Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Fla., came to NOAC Yokosuka from Washington, D.C., where she served as on the Oceanographer of the Navy staff.

Cmdr. Dominick "Nick" Vincent (second from the left) watches while Capt. Van Gurley, (middle) transfers command of NOAC Yokosuka to Cmdr. Rachael Dempsey (right) at Fleet Theater, Fleet Activities Yokosuka on June 20.

Operations

FST Works in Talisman Saber from USS Germantown

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Lindahl, Navy Public Affairs Support Element, Norfolk



SHOALWATER BAY, Australia – A team of hydrographers from Fleet Survey Team (FST) conducted surveys of Shoalwater Bay prior to planned operations in Talisman Saber, July 15-16.

The FST group embarked on dock landing ship *USS Germantown* (LSD 42) to conduct the surveys prior to *Germantown's* amphibious operations.

Hydrographic surveys provide mission critical information about water depth levels and help chart a map of the seafloor to better optimize shore landings during amphibious operations.

"We survey the beach and we find the best possible landing zone for any amphibious assault vehicle," said Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Jacob Tutor. "We give them a safe entry and exit route to the beach."

SHOALWATER BAY, Australia – AG3 Jacob Tutor of Fleet Survey Team launches from the amphibious dock landing ship *USS Germantown* (LSD 42) to perform a hydrographic survey of Shoalwater Bay as a part of Talisman Saber. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Lindahl/Released)

While it is more common to fly a survey team ahead of the ship, Commander Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11, *Germantown's* parent command, prefers to embark an FST group on the ship, where the team has more flexibility to perform surveys from the sea.

"Embarking a survey team with us is a highly effective way of getting the information we need without having to actually be in-country prior to our arrival," said Lt. Dwayne Scott, the ship's boatswain.

Due to the constant change of waters and topographic features caused by weather conditions, surveys require periodic updates to maintain the most up-to-date information.

"It's been a while since we've surveyed here, so conducting this survey is extremely critical to the safety of our crew and security of our equipment," said Scott.

The information from the survey will provide data for PHIBRON 11, the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and the Australian navy during the exercise. *Talisman Saber 2013* is a comprehensive, complex training evolution that combines the U.S. and Australian maritime and sea-to-shore capabilities, aimed to improve combat readiness and interoperability.

Items of Interest

Fleet Weather Center Norfolk Loses a Shipmate



After a courageous battle with cancer, Chief Aerographer's Mate Aaron Paul Brewer died July 28, 2013, at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. In his final days he was surrounded and supported by his wife, daughter, sister, friends and family members, and the officers, chiefs and Sailors of Fleet Weather Center Norfolk. A memorial service was held on Aug. 1, 2013, at Naval Station Norfolk base chapel.

AGC (AW/SW) Brewer was a native of Fayetteville, Ark., and enlisted in the U. S. Navy in April 1998. He attended basic training at RTC Great Lakes and upon graduation, attended AG-A1 school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. Graduating in October 1998, he reported to his first duty station aboard *USS Wasp* (LHD 1) in Norfolk, Va. Upon completion of his tour, he re-enlisted and returned to Keesler AFB to attend AG-C1 school. As a newly minted forecaster, he transferred to Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment Chambers Field where he was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer First Class. In March 2006 he reported to *USS Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) as the OA Division Leading Petty Officer and deployed for 222 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In September 2010 he was pinned to the rank of Chief Petty Officer and transferred to Fleet Weather Center Norfolk to assume duties as Division Watch Section ALPHA's Leading Chief Petty Officer. He also held the positions of Training Department's Aviation Subject Matter Expert and the Educational Services Officer.

NOFS Celebrates 61-inch Telescope's 50th 'Birthday'

The U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station (NOFS) celebrated the 50th birthday of its 61-inch (1.55-meter) Strand Astrometric Reflector in July.

The telescope was designed and built in the early 1960s and was formally dedicated on June 19, 1964. It has been in operation continuously since that time and has produced some of the best ground-based astrometric observations of any observatory. It was re-dedicated in 1997 to honor Dr. Kaj Strand, who was the U.S. Naval Observatory's (USNO) Scientific Director from 1963 until 1977 and the key proponent for the telescope's existence in the late 1950s. It is still the world's largest telescope dedicated to astrometric measurements.



A number of distinguished guests were in attendance at the birthday party, including two former NOFS directors – Harold Ables (1974 – 1996) and Conard Dahn (1996 - 2003) – the former and current directors of the Lowell Observatory – Robert Millis (1989 – 2009) and Jeff Hall (2009 – present) – USNO Superintendent Capt. Tim Gallaudet; and former USNO astronomer Jim Christy (1962 – 1982) and his wife Charlene. Jim was the discoverer of Pluto's largest moon Charon in 1978 using astrometric images taken with the 61-inch telescope.

U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station (NOFS) employees, friends, and family members gather under the 61-inch Strand Astrometric Reflector telescope during a reception marking the telescope's 50th birthday. (U.S. Navy photograph by Dr. Don Hutter, Chief, NPOI Division, NOFS)

Seven Oceanographers Earn Master's Degrees in June

June graduates of the METOC Operational Sciences curriculum of the Naval Postgraduate School are (left to right): Lt.Cmdr. Jeanette Sheets, Lt.Cmdr. John Savage, Lt.Cmdr. Erin Ceschini, Lt.Cmdr. Joseph Ceschini, Lt.Cmdr. Adam Shinabarger, Lt. Thai Phung, Lt. Carlos Zuniga (Chile Navy). Graduating officers earned their Master of Science degree in meteorology and physical oceanography.



Visitors

Prospective DCNO (N2/N6) Tours Visits U.S. Naval Observatory



Dr. Bill Hartkopf (right), U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO) astronomer, explains the USNO's 26-inch "Great Equatorial" telescope operation to Vice Adm. (sel) Ted Branch (second from left), Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance/Director of Naval Intelligence (N2/N6), during Branch's visit to USNO on July 17. Also pictured from left to right are Capt. Tim Gallaudet, USNO superintendent; Dr. Ralph Gaume (back to camera), USNO Astrometry Department director; and Dr. Chris Ekstrom, Clock Development Division Chief in the Time Service Department. Gallaudet and Rear Adm. Brian Brown, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC), conducted the USNO briefing and tour. (U.S. Navy photo by Geoff Chester)

Retirements/Promotions

Lieutenant Commander Selections Released

Twelve oceanography officers were selected for promotion to lieutenant commander in FY 14: Lt. Kristie Colpo, Lt. Matthew Cushmanick, Lt. Laura Dehaan, Lt. Dominic Dimaggio, Lt. Cynthia Henze, Lt. Christopher Morris, Lt. Jeffrey Portell, Lt. James Scianna, Lt. Allison Terray, Lt. Colin Thornton, Lt. David Watson, and Lt. Matthew Watts.

Two Retire in San Diego



Rear Adm. Brian Brown (left), commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, presents Capt. Todd Monroe with a letter from President Barack Obama at Monroe's retirement ceremony in San Diego. Monroe, the first commanding officer of Fleet Weather Center, San Diego (FWC-SD) in 2010, retired on July 9 after 27 years of service. Monroe established a 24/7/365 watch floor and started multi-million dollar renovation of the center. (U.S. Navy photo by AG2 Elise Perdichizzi.)



Lt. Scott Spilker, Assistant Operations Officer at Fleet Weather Center San Diego (FWC-SD), is "piped ashore" for the final time at his retirement ceremony on July 12 after a 23-year career. Spilker was a limited duty officer who became an aerographer's mate in 1995 and was commissioned as an ensign in 2003. (U.S. Navy photo by AG2 Elise Perdichizzi.)

Lane Leaves After 27 Years

Cmdr. Tim Lane retired on July 2 at Stennis Space Center after a 27-year career.

Lane was military deputy for the Technical Director of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC). His guest speaker was Capt. Scott Steadley, military deputy for the Ocean and Atmospheric S&T Directorate at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.



Command Spotlight: NOMWC

The Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC), located at Stennis Space Center, Miss., provides information dominance as a member of the U.S. Mine Countermeasures (MCM) forces by reducing risk and tactical execution timelines through the fusion of oceanographic sciences, intelligence preparation of the operational environment (IPOE) in support of mine warfare, tactical mine hunting, and data analysis. This is accomplished through a combination of expeditionary unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) platoons, reach back support, data fusion, and forward-deployed components embedded with key MCM nodes around the world (Bahrain, Norfolk, San Diego, and Sasebo, Japan). These components provide METOC support and serve as the eyes and ears of NOMWC to ensure environmental support for mine warfare missions.

Composed of sea and shore billets, NOMWC has four primary divisions: the reach back cell (RBC), the UUV platoons, the mission analysis divisions (MAD), and the components. The NOMWC RBC and the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) work hand-in-hand to provide tailored environmental support to MIW organizations around the world. These IPOE products are used during the planning phase of MCM exercises and operations, with tactical oceanography products provided on a daily basis during MCM operations.

UUV Platoons deploy worldwide to support MCM exercises and geographic combatant commanders according to global force management (GFM) requirements. The platoons can operate MK 18 REMUS 100 UUVs from an afloat forward staging base (AFSB), a vessel of opportunity or from shore, depending on the scenario. The platoons also use UUVs to survey strategic Department of Defense ports around the world in support of NAVO maritime homeland defense (MHD) missions.

During MCM operations, NOMWC may also deploy a data fusion cell (DFC) in order to provide a higher level of sonar analysis on MCM data from all platforms supporting MCM objectives. NAVO mine warfare subject matter experts (SMEs) are a critical element of the DFC, updating environmental characteristics and providing data analysis software support during MCM exercises and operations.

With the growing importance of mine warfare (MIW), NOMWC will soon inherit the MK18 REMUS 600 UUVs and have a constant presence in the 5th Fleet AOR. As NOMWC grows and enhances operational capabilities, advanced training in a high-tech environment has become the forefront for NOMWC Sailors. If you would like to become part of the Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center Team, please contact AGCS David Fishbaugh, NOMWC Command Senior Enlisted @ 228-688-5672 or email david.w.fishbaugh@navy.mil.

Spotlight Employees

AG2 Dustin Brashears

Since reporting to the Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC) in January 2011, Aerographer's Mate Second Class Dustin C. Brashears has played a crucial role in unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) platoon operations. Due to his rapid qualification as an advanced UUV Operator and his proven leadership ability, he was designated as the lead petty officer (LPO) of NOMWC's first UUV platoon. As LPO, Brashears led the platoon during a six month deployment in the 5th Fleet AOR, qualifying his peers for advanced qualifications. During his time at NOMWC, he has executed over 150 UUV missions covering over 1,000 miles of survey and mine hunting data. Brashears also plays a vital role behind the scenes as the Logistics Petty Officer and the Assistant Command Fitness Leader where he continues to lead, motivate, and challenge his peers.



AG3 Elizabeth Tran

Aerographer's Mate Third Class Elizabeth K. Tran joined the Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC) in August 2012. Soon after reporting to NOMWC, she qualified as a tactical post mission analyst and as an environmental data analyst, becoming a key member of the NOMWC Mission Analysis Division (MAD). She also has qualified for her Enlisted

Information Dominance Warfare Specialist pin in record-breaking time. Her peer leadership and eagerness to learn landed her the additional duty as the MAD Training Officer. As a participant in five mine countermeasure (MCM) exercises, she has executed over 400 hours of side scan sonar analysis and has become a vital representative for the NOMWC mission, briefing the fleet on NOMWC's capabilities. Tran also serves as a member of Stennis Space Center's Honor Guard and volunteers her free time at the Biloxi Veterans Hospital, the Gulfport Armed Forces Retirement Home, and during the Stennis Space Center Special Olympics.

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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