



# NEWS

## naval meteorology and oceanography

August 8, 2014

### Commander's Corner

#### I am Honored to Rejoin the Navy's Operational Oceanography Team

By Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet

Shipmates,

I am truly honored to rejoin the Navy's operational oceanography team as commander after my tour at OPNAV. It's fantastic to be back working alongside each of you as we fulfill our warfighting and readiness missions.

Fortunately, due to the small size of our community, I believe we already share a professional relationship built on respect and trust. I certainly already know the tremendous capabilities you provide and have seen firsthand your ability to innovate and adapt. I enter this assignment with the utmost confidence in our team.



I recognize that a new commander always brings some apprehension to the workforce – what will he change? I foresee that together, we will seek increased opportunities to broaden our impact on naval operations worldwide, to sustain our Navy's readiness, and to further strengthen our national security. I am sensitive to the restructuring efforts of the past few years and the uncertainty you've felt as we begin embracing new opportunities afforded by the Information Dominance Corps. Any further changes will hinge on careful observation and study and occur only if the return for the Navy and the community is high.

One thing that will not change is our mission. Naval Oceanography will always provide unmatched environmental information to the warfighter that yields better decisions made faster than the adversary. In all we do, our first priority is always to our warfighting and readiness missions. Particularly, during this time of declining resources and increasing threats to national security, we must ensure continued operational excellence for all Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command missions.

My other priorities are as follows:

- People – Our skilled workforce is our true capital resource. We must invest the time to educate and advance our people while still meeting our mission requirements. Within the next year, I intend to closely monitor the development and execution of an aerographer's mate master's level training curriculum. I also intend to ensure increased civilian professional development opportunities.
- Information Dominance Integration – We must positively and proactively assist the establishment of the Information Dominance Type Commander. I fully believe we can turn uncertainty into positivity. U.S. Fleet Forces recognizes us as role models in information technology, information assurance, financial

management, and other TYCOM roles. We will use our expertise to our advantage and leverage it for future resources.

- Innovation – There’s always room to apply new ideas and develop new products and processes – i.e. the “plastics” that Technical Director Dr. Burnett described in his NMOC news article a year ago in which he referenced the movie, “The Graduate” (NMOC News, November 2012 edition – <http://www.public.navy.mil/fltfor/cnmoc/Documents/News/NMOC%20News%20November%201.pdf> ). In the rapidly changing battlespace, successful execution of our operational oceanography mission depends on it. I strongly value innovation and believe we’re headed in the right direction with current initiatives like developing expertise in electromagnetic maneuver warfare, leveraging our high performance computing capabilities to fuse the physical environment with other battlespace awareness information, and developing a battlespace awareness sensing plan that ensures the Navy leverages our long history of UAV operations.
- Partnerships – We will expand and/or reinforce cooperative partnerships with DoD and U.S. government, as well as those within science, academia, and industry. We’re already leading the development of a national plan for global modeling, and we’ve recently begun talks with U.S. Air Force on partnering to strengthen our weather product delivery. Successful strategic partnerships will ensure we make the best of our resources.
- Messaging – It’s vital to ensure the fleet, the public, other government agencies, industry, scientific collaborators, and academia fully understand the value of our contributions to the Navy and nation. Perception is everything, and we’re all communicators. I ask you to each carefully consider the messages you convey, as our livelihood depends on it.

Together, with your talent and record of achievement, I know we will continue to move operational oceanography forward. Thank you all so much for what you do in support of our Navy and nation. I am proud to be your team captain, championing your cause!

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## From the Deputy/Technical Director

### We Are Working to Remedy the Conference Ban

By Dr. William H. Burnett

The headline read, “The General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Inspector General releases a report on spending abuses at GSA's 2010 Western Regions Conference, a five-day meeting for 300 people outside Las Vegas that cost \$823,000 and involved expenses for a mind reader, tuxedo rentals, and commemorative coins.” As I read the report, I knew that all conferences would be under scrutiny; I just couldn’t imagine how difficult conference attendance would be over the next few years.

I contrasted the description of the GSA conference with all of the scientific/technical conferences I have attended throughout my career. My conferences usually started very early in the morning, around 0600, when the scientific committees met to discuss their issues and objectives for the year. Except for the keynote speeches that are held in auditoriums at the beginning of the conference, most of the day is spent going from small conference room to small conference room, either standing up or trying to find a seat in a dark environment while the speaker is giving a talk on a very complex topic within the allotted 20-minute timeframe. This continued for about nine hours for three to five days, depending on the conference. The evenings are spent back in committees or, my favorite, nighttime panel sessions that can’t be scheduled during the day. A normal conference day ends around 2100.



## DECISION SUPERIORITY through BATTLESPACE ON DEMAND

Certain groups and those in the public have accused all conferences of being glamorous affairs that resemble Hollywood award's nights. Out of all the conferences I have attended, I have tried to imagine anything remotely glamorous or spectacular.

The main reason scientists attend conferences is to increase and/or disseminate their knowledge. Scientific and technical knowledge becomes outdated almost as soon as you leave the college environment. When I accepted the job at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) in 1988, I knew my meteorological understanding and awareness would quickly degrade because of the lack of academic resources devoted to the atmospheric sciences at Stennis Space Center. Together with James Rigney and others, we started an American Meteorological Society chapter to bring in speakers and keep our information up to date. I also attended conferences to maintain my awareness in the specialties I had developed. Without those resources, I would not be able to support the U.S. Navy adequately when trying to describe how dust storms will move in certain areas, how wind events will impact flight operations, or how tropical storms might impact fleet safe havens. We do not know everything about meteorology – so we shouldn't behave like we do not have any more to learn.

As we talk to the workforce and survey our civilians, it becomes very obvious that the denial to attend scientific/technical conferences is creating one of the largest stressors to our community. Last year, NAVO began holding in-house poster sessions to keep the intellectual juices flowing. The Oceanographer's Technical Director, Mr. Scott Livezey, has even taken this issue to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Dominance and the Director, Navy Staff to inform them of the impact to our community. After Mr. Livezey's brief, Vice Adm. Ted Branch said, "The scientists in my organizations are suffering disproportionately as a result (of denied conference attendance). For their continued career progression and for the good of the Navy, they have to attend and present at these types of meetings." I, along with your technical directors, will continue to push this issue up the chain of command until we find some relief to attend conferences.

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## Personnel

### AGC Berger Retires



Chief Aerographer's Mate Michael Berger retired in a traditional Navy ceremony on July 18, following a 20-year career.

The guest speaker was Mr. John Rath, Information Technology Director for the Naval Oceanography Operations Command, also based at Stennis.

Berger, a native of Washington state, most recently served with the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command at Stennis Space Center. He received the Navy Commendation Medal.

### Chiefs Announced

Oceanography community first class petty officers selected for chief are Derrick Pickens, Maria Alfaro, Wesley Bell, Nathan Bizzle, Richard Byerley, William Cady, Nicklous Carnes, Joseph Crow, Jennifer Davies, Rebecca Flowers, Derron Gee, Joseph Gilmore, Craig Hawkins, Gina Hegg, Kevin Heisler, William Herin, Corey Hudson, Abdul Kasimcarew, Curtis Lester, Afeefah Louis, Joseph Mcgonis, Quintron Perry, Carl Porter, Lisa Sherry, Michael Staten and Stella Swartz.

## O-4 List Released

The following oceanography officers have been selected for promotion to lieutenant commander: Lt. Brian Breshears, Lt. Alexander Cullen, Lt. Lynne Edwards, Lt. Kyle Franklin, Lt. James Fritz, Lt. Mark Hebert, Lt. Carter Johnston, Lt. Colleen McDonald, Lt. Thomas Mills, Lt. Kyle Obrock, Lt. Michael Papa, Lt. William Sauer, Lt. Jeffrey Scooler, Lt. David Trampp, Lt. Gary Vines, Lt. Robert Wendt, Lt. Walter Young, Lt. David Ziemba.

## Rich Hayes, Former Oceanographer's Office Employee, Dies

Richard Michael Hayes, 67, of Wilmington, N.C., former director of the Programming and Assessment Division at the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy died June 24.

Hayes, a native of Philadelphia, retired in 2007, after 35 years on active duty and as a civilian.

He joined the Oceanographer's staff in 1988, serving as the Interagency and Polar Affairs Branch chief and deputy director of Programs Integration Division before becoming the director of the Programming and Assessment Division.

Hayes is survived by his wife, Tuula; daughters Jennifer and Catherine; grandson, Jackson Richard Bosserman; and son-in-law Patrick Bosserman.

## 10 Oceanographers Earn Postgraduate School Degrees

Ten oceanography officers graduated at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, Calif., this quarter. Six earned master's degrees in meteorology and physical oceanography, one earned a Ph.D. and two international officers earned master's degrees in physical oceanography. Lt. Dominic DiMaggio, Lt. Travis Wendt, and Lt.j.g. Emre Tukenmez (Turkish Navy) were recognized as graduating "With Distinction." DiMaggio also received the Monterey Council Navy League Award for Highest Academic Achievement, a campus-wide academic achievement. While in residence at NPS, Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Baden, Lt. Dominic DiMaggio, Lt. Joseph Oxendine, Lt. Colin Thornton, and Lt. Travis Wendt completed the Naval War College Joint Professional Military Education Phase I sequence.



Lt. Cmdr. Doug Pearman was awarded his Ph.D. after defending his dissertation, "Wave Evolution in River-Mouths and Tidal Inlets." Pearman is a former aerographer's mate and limited duty officer.



Pictured at left: Front Row (l-r)—Lt. Travis Wendt, Lt. Colin Thornton; Middle Row —Lt. Cmdr. Kate Woodall (Royal Australian Navy), Lt. Joseph Oxendine, Lt. Kyle Franklin, Lt.j.g. Emre Tukenmez (Turkish Navy); Back Row —Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Baden, Lt. Matthew McKenzie, Lt. Dominic DiMaggio

## Items of Interest

### Fleet Numerical Remembers Christina Williams

By Lt. Wesley Davis

Along a lonely stretch of Imjin Road in Monterey, Calif., there is a small memorial to a young woman who was the victim of a tragic death. Her name was Christina Williams, the daughter of Chief Aerographer's Mate Michael Williams, assigned to Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center at the time. She was remembered on June 16 by Sailors and civilians of Fleet Numerical.



Her disappearance 16 years ago was sudden and shocking. Last seen taking her dog, Greg, for a walk at approximately 7:30 p.m., she never returned home. Her parents notified the police at 8:20 p.m. that evening when Greg came home alone, trailing his leash. There was an intense search and investigation, but Christina was never seen alive again.

Seven months later, in an area previously searched, her remains were discovered and positively identified. As of today, the perpetrator(s) have not been apprehended.



Christina was a child of a military family, born overseas. Her abduction and tragic death sent shockwaves through the community.

As the anniversary of her disappearance neared, the command took action and organized a memorial service.

"We should never forget Christina," said Capt. John Okon, Fleet Numerical commanding officer. "She was a member of our military family when she was taken from her parents. It's just as

easy to remember as it is to forget, so taking the time together as a command to remember was just the right thing to do."

The ceremony included both present and past command members, many of whom took the time to share their own remembrances of the event and the Williams family. One of the speakers was a woman who, upon seeing the cars along the side of the road, knew exactly what the ceremony was for and stopped to share her memories of that day, 16 years ago. Bouquets of flowers were laid by Fleet Numerical's White Hats Association and the Wardroom. Fleet Numerical will continue to maintain the memorial to remember Christina and her family, and to remind those who pass by that we must do all we can to ensure tragic events like this never happen again.



If you have any information regarding this case, please notify the FBI at: <http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>

Also please see the following websites for more information: <http://www.fbi.gov/wanted/seeking-info/christina-marie-williams/view>; <http://www.cmwilliams.org/index.html>

## NOMWC Sailors Adopt a Highway

Sailors from the Stennis Space Center-based Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC) joined together on July 3 to clean up their adopted two-mile stretch of road, located south of Interstate 10, along Miss. Highway 607 near Bay St. Louis, Miss. The Sailors filled 40 bags – about 550 pounds – with unsightly debris.



Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center Sailors gathered around their Adopt-a-Highway sign on Miss Highway 607. (Photo by AGAN Jason Moore.)

NOMWC Sailors picking up trash along their adopted section of Miss. Highway 607. (Photo by AGAN Jason Moore.)



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## Command Spotlight: Naval Oceanography Special Warfare Center – San Diego

Naval Oceanography Special Warfare Center, San Diego (NOSWC), located on Coronado Naval Amphibious Base in California, characterizes the environment in order to provide tailored METOC information and recommendations to optimize route planning, platform selection, gear load-out, execution timeline, sensor

employment/placement, and actions at the objective in support of Naval Special Warfare (NSW) mission planning and execution.

Composed of 100 percent sea duty deployable and screened billets, NOSWC has embedded expeditionary forecasters supporting SEAL Teams, Special Boat Teams, and SEAL Delivery Teams. NOSWC has five geographically dispersed detachments and components, located in Virginia Beach, Va., Stennis Space Center, Miss., San Diego, Calif., and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Most NOSWC personnel deploy with multi-mission duties that are defined by SEAL leadership, but all are expeditionary forecaster qualified prior to deployment.

NSW is a dynamically fluid organization in terms of operational commitments (mission set and locations), training, and capabilities and requires NOSWC support to be equally fluid. NOSWC personnel often deploy to data sparse or denied environments and rely on man-portable, stand-alone expeditionary sensors to produce tailored forecast products.

NOSWC forecasters are environmental experts specializing in near-shore oceanography, riverine hydrography, and coastal meteorology. NSW-embedded forecasters provide micro-scale support for operational planning and mission execution decisions with global responsibility. NOSWC maintains a unique, specialized METOC training pipeline to support certification for a diverse set of mission critical environmental factors. NSW operations highlight the importance of METOC manning (quality versus quantity) to provide continued organic support. The future NSW operating environment (beyond theater campaigns) will pose more environmental risks and require greater organic METOC support and operational knowledge of forecasting for oceanographic elements, especially in the mission critical near-shore, surf, and littoral combat zones.

If you are a highly motivated forecaster and want to become part of the Naval Oceanography Special Warfare team that provides critical mission support to Navy SEALs and experiences the deep camaraderie that accompanies specialized duty, please call NOSWC Command Senior Enlisted at 619- 537-1210.

## **AG2(NAO) Justen Knaebel**

Since reporting to Naval Oceanography Special Warfare Center San Diego (NOSWC) from AG-1C School, Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Justen Knaebel has proven himself a valuable asset and an established subject matter expert (SME) in the IVER2 UUV system.

Due to his extensive knowledge of the littoral environment, he was hand-selected to attend the first-ever IVER2 familiarity and training class at Naval Research Lab, Stennis Space Center, Miss. After successful completion of the training course he demonstrated his expertise at Green Flash Phase I, in Navarre Beach, Fla., and Green Flash Phase III at Camp Pendleton, Calif.



During the exercises, he successfully launched and recovered the IVER2 vehicle from both small boat and ashore platforms utilizing a wireless handheld controller. He additionally ensured mission completion by monitoring mission progress via an acoustic modem, iridium tracking, and radio communications.

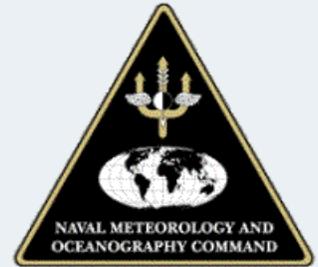
Knaebel is routinely sought for his IVER2 knowledge, and displays unparalleled initiative and maturity as he pioneers the way for AUV utilization in the NSW Community. He is currently attached to Cross-Functional Troop Bravo (CFT-B) and scheduled to deploy this fall.

## 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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