



# NEWS

## naval meteorology and oceanography

December 3, 2012

### Commander's Corner

By Rear Adm. Brian Brown



Team Oceano - it's hard to believe that another year is almost over, and we're already heading into the holiday season. My neighbors were breaking out the Christmas decorations the day after Thanksgiving, and I know that means the time is upon me to follow suit. Of course, that also means I'm about to embark on the inevitable "hunt" for the burned out bulb in a string of 300 lights ... oh how I love this time of year.

It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy; our operational oceanography program has certainly had an eventful and productive year. Each of you continued to contribute to our Navy's success in every aspect of our operations around the globe. I can't tell you how proud I am of what you've accomplished for the Navy and our National Defense in 2012, and I know 2013 will present even more opportunities to celebrate our operational successes. Your efforts are part of ensuring our nation can celebrate this season knowing the world's most powerful Navy is on watch around the world.

The year wasn't without its challenges, which will probably continue for the foreseeable future. We're all familiar with the state of the nation and our economy. In the face of these pressures, we must step back and look at the big picture – the plain truth is that, despite budget constraints and other worries, nothing really negates our status as the world's strongest navy. Along with that, I can proudly attest that we also have the world's best military operational oceanography program with capabilities that other organizations can't even imagine. So at the end of the day, we will get through these challenges, together, as the Navy has successfully done for the past 237 years.

My wish this holiday season is for all of you to be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. After a year of hard work, this is the time to relax, reflect, and have fun with friends and families. It's also a time to keep safety first and foremost in your mind with the increased travel and celebrations this time of year. And please look out for each other and keep an eye on your shipmates who may be having a difficult time during the holidays. Each and every one of you is important to our Navy family and our oceanography team. We need you all to return recharged and ready for the new year.

If you are looking for something to read over the holidays, I might suggest one of the following:

- 1) *1812* by David Nevin,
- 2) *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century* by P. W. Singer, or
- 3) *A Sailor's History of the U.S. Navy* by Thomas J. Cutler

All are available through the Navy's e-library on NKO.

As always, it is an honor to serve with and alongside you and see the warfighting advantage you deliver to the fleet every day. Thank you for your commitment and dedication, and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

## From the Deputy/Technical Director

**"It's okay. I'm a meteorologist."**

By Dr. William Burnett

I'm proud to be working in the physical sciences – and I'm very proud to be a meteorologist. I enjoy people's reaction when they ask me what I do and I tell them that I'm a meteorologist. Usually they react startled and say something such as, "Wow, that sounds really exciting." Exciting? Well, maybe once in a while but not too often. People's conceptual idea of a meteorologist is the daring and handsome storm chaser played by Bill Paxton in "Twister." Far be it for me to dash that belief by telling people that I actually work behind a desk.

Even though I work behind a desk, there are many that lead very exciting lives as meteorologists, oceanographers or physical scientists in our community. They may not drive around the plains of Oklahoma trying to get as close as possible to an EF5 tornado, but they do operate in severe oceanographic conditions.

Whether military or civilian, their job is to operate in the environment: collecting ocean and weather observations, understanding the bathymetry and ensuring that the U.S. Navy can conduct warfighting first, operate forward and be ready. Knowledge of the environment – current and future – is critical to successful operations. We provide the home field advantage to the U.S. Navy's away games.

Most of the excitement is out in the ocean, but many can recall what it was like to go through Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I was working at the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center at the time. My family, along with approximately 10 other families, rode the storm out in the high bays of the buoy center. The eye of the storm actually sat over Stennis for over one hour before heading off to the north. During the eye-wall passage, we used the opportunity to make repairs to the building before the winds returned from the other direction. As a meteorologist, I found the entire event thrilling and powerful. However, I was afraid of what the coast would look like after the storm. After Katrina (for those not from the area, we measure time by "Before Katrina" and "After Katrina") many spent the next two months getting agencies at Stennis back in action. I was working around the clock at the buoy center trying to coordinate housing, equipment, supplies and operations since our house was fine and since we had to send the kids to Kentucky so they could attend school.

A week after the storm some state troopers from Florida started patrolling the community where I lived. There were numerous reports of looting and overall chaos in the area, so the state troopers brought a general sense of relief by their presence. My problem was they strictly maintained the 1900 to 0600 curfew along the coast, and I went to work around 0500 in the morning. Early in the week the patrol officers were pulling over



residents as they were leaving for work in the morning, however, I always managed to miss being pulled over. I could tell that one officer in particular was getting frustrated by my avoidance of their presence. Sure enough, on Friday morning as I was leaving the community, the officer caught me and pulled me over. He was a typical huge state trooper and stood up slowly and proudly as he exited the patrol car and walked over to my truck. As he got to the window, I flashed my Stennis badge and said, "It's okay officer. I'm a meteorologist." He acted very startled and for a moment I could see that he was trying to define meteorologist. Then he looked at me and said, "Wow. You must be really busy right now." I said that I was and thanked him for keeping us safe. As I drove away I felt just like Bill Paxton.

## From the Command Master Chief

By Master Chief Aerographer's Mate (IDW/AW/SW) Ken Walker



NMOC Team,

First of all, congratulations to all those that were selected for advancement this month! I can honestly say that I do not remember the numbers ever being that high for AG since I have been in the Navy. I am confident that each and every one of you will step up to the challenge of taking on the increased leadership that comes with your promotion. I ask that while you are going through your required leadership courses, be thinking of ways you can use what you are being taught to improve things at your command. Also, ensure that your training is properly documented in FLTMAPS upon completion.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season! The holidays are a great time of the year to enjoy time with your friends and family, so please take time to do so. I know that there are Sailors on our team that are deployed or stationed overseas and are unable to be with their families this year. Some of these Sailors are away for the first time and are apprehensive about being away from home for the holidays. Please reach out to them and ensure they have a plan. Every member of this command, this Navy, should feel like they always have somewhere to go; they are never alone. Some of these Sailors are missing yet another holiday season away from their significant others and/or children. If you are stationed with them, please make sure their families are taken care of back home. I have found that, from an emotional perspective, it is often more difficult being the one left behind on a deployment than being the one on deployment.

As we roll into the New Year, I ask that we all focus on positive decision making processes. It requires more than just making a plan before going out; it is about understanding the decision points in that plan and following through on them wisely. We often look at getting a DUI/DWI as one bad decision, but if you really break it down, there are several decision points where the incident could have been prevented. This applies to more than just alcohol-related incidents; it applies to everything that we do.

Next month, I will provide an update on the status of the Enlisted Community Health IPT.

Again, have a Happy Holiday Season -- Have fun; be smart!

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By Master Chief Aerographer's Mate Mark Mageary

NMOC,

Happy Holidays! Are you ready for C-School? If so, what are you waiting for?

There seems to be some confusion on whether or not a Sailor can go to C-School due to not having PTS approval. The real scoop is that if you are ready for the next challenge in your career, AG-C1 School, then you need to have your chain of command contact the AG detailer to find out if you are eligible.

Each Sailor's situation is slightly different, and we have other avenues available, such as short-term extensions that we can use to facilitate your transfer to C-school. You don't know, unless you ask.

As we all should know by now, detailing has changed over the past few months. What does this mean for you? It means that if you are in your CMS-ID window you need to apply for more than one billet, if possible, up to five billets.

This gives me a better idea of what you really would like to do in our community.

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## Personnel

### CELP Selectees Begin Training

Members of the first Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Civilian Executive Leadership Program (CELP) meet at lunch during their first week of training at Stennis Space Center. Pictured (l-r) are: Dr. Rich Jeffries, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC) Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Education and the program's administrator; Marc Bourgeois of the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) and a class member; Dr. Bill Burnett, NMOC Deputy/Technical Director; Dr. Jennifer Bartlett of the U.S. Naval Observatory and a class member; Melody Owens of NAVO and a class member; Heather Wall of NAVO and a class member; and Daniel Banks of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center. CELP is designed to train future civilian executives in the Naval Oceanography program. Trainees are selected from the ranks of Naval Oceanography civilians by the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Senior Civilian Leadership Board after being nominated by their supervisors through their command's technical director or equivalent. This year's class started this fall.



### Provincial Reconstruction Team Uruzgan Transfers Authority

By Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama, Combined Team Uruzgan Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. Ron Piret, an oceanography officer, relieved Navy Cmdr. Geoffrey James as commanding officer of Combined Team Uruzgan for the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) on Nov. 1, in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

"To be given command is an honor. I can think of no greater privilege than to be given a mission centered around service to others," Piret said.

The PRT is designed to improve stability in Afghanistan by increasing the host nation's capacity to enhance and strengthen local governments' ability to deliver public services such as security and health care. Piret formerly served as executive officer at the Naval Oceanography Operations Command.

Cmdr. Ron J. Piret, incoming commander, meets with Amir Mohammad Akhundzada, provincial governor of Uruzgan, Nov. 1 at Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama



## FWC-SD Command Master Chief Retires



Master Chief Aerographer's Mate (AW/SW) Matthew V. White, former Command Master Chief, Fleet Weather Center, San Diego (FWC-SD), retired Oct. 26, after 27 years of service.

A New Jersey native, White enlisted in the Navy in 1985. He became the Command Master Chief of Fleet Weather Center San Diego in 2011.

Senior Chief Aerographer's Mate Eric Windell (left) and Chief Aerographer's Mate Mike Garza (right) present Master Chief Aerographer's Mate Matthew White (center) with his shadowbox.

## Items of Interest

### Rear Adm. Brown Explores New CZMIL System at Stennis Airport

By Bob Pope, Airborne Coastal Surveys Programs Manager, Naval Oceanographic Office

Rear Adm. Brian Brown, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, and other personnel, received their first look at the Navy's latest airborne lidar mapping and charting system on Nov. 5 at Stennis Airport.

The Coastal Zone Mapping and Imaging Lidar (CZMIL), system has replaced the retired Compact Hydrographic Airborne Rapid Total Survey system that was used for the past nine years.

The new CZMIL is undergoing testing and evaluation by the Naval Oceanographic Office Airborne Coastal Surveys Branch before deployment early next year.

The system is mounted in a DC-3 aircraft, specifically designed for the testing of sensors. This configuration provides an opportunity for several people to experience the data collection and undergo system operation training at once.

The new system is capable of simultaneously collecting hydrographic and topographic data along with RGB and hyperspectral imagery. It is specifically designed to work in more turbid water than the previous system.



From left to right: Bill Elenbaas, Rear Adm. Brian Brown, A.J. Reiss, Capt. Tony Miller, Scott Klingenger, Bob Pope and Steven Harrison. Brown and guests were given a briefing by Elenbaas prior to participating in a calibration flight over the Diamondhead Airport and a survey over the Ship Island area in the Gulf of Mexico.

## JTWC Sailors Help Restore the “Mighty Mo”

Five Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) Sailors spent their Veteran’s Day volunteering to restore and preserve the USS Missouri.

The Missouri, commissioned during World War II, served as the location for the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender in Tokyo Bay. The ship’s final resting place is in Pearl Harbor.

Efforts have been made to restore the historic battleship to "Flagship" condition since her return to Pearl Harbor as the centerpiece of the Battleship Row Memorial.



Today, less than a 25 ship staff maintains the vessel, so volunteers like the Sailors at JTWC have joined the “Mighty Mo” teak team, to restore her decks to flagship condition.

From left to right: Aerographer’s Mate Airman Bristol Rigby, Aerographer’s Mate 2nd Class Matt Spruill, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class William Lacy and Aerographer’s Mate 2nd Class Nick Vojak, Joint Typhoon Warning Center, help restore the teak deck of the USS Missouri.

## Command Spotlight: NOOC

The Naval Oceanography Operations Command (NOOC), established in 2005, is an Echelon IV command reporting to Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. NOOC, with 21 personnel, is the operational nerve center of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography. The command is responsible for overseeing seven subordinate commands, comprised of over 1,100 Sailors, ranging from mine warfare and anti-submarine warfare commands in Mississippi and Japan, to special warfare and maritime support in San Diego and Norfolk. NOOC provides warfighting advantage by exploiting the current and future state of the environment with 24/7 reachback to production centers and with a small military footprint forward.

It is organized around focused warfare support in four capability areas:

- Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)

NOOC provides ASW Commanders with environmental knowledge that enhances their understanding of the ocean and acoustic battle space and informs them on their sensor and weapon performance in the battle space.

- Expeditionary Warfare (EXW)

NOOC provides environmental knowledge to aide warfighter decision-making from launch point to target to determine optimum fleet maneuvers, ingress and egress routes, amphibious landing points and times, flight operations, weapons load outs and target selection.

- Mine Warfare (MIW)

NOOC provides MIW commanders environmental knowledge required to allocate assets and plan and evaluate missions. System performance and side-scan sonar change detection are highly dependent on environmental conditions such as bottom type, sediment thickness, and bottom currents.

- Weather Services (WX)

Teams of forecasters and meteorologists analyze environmental conditions and utilize computer models to forecast atmospheric and oceanographic phenomena that impact operations.

In addition to providing ongoing support to operational commanders and the warfighter, NOOC has provided humanitarian aid/disaster relief support in response to the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile as well as the Japanese earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster, the Deep Water Horizon oil spill, and as recent as hurricanes Isaac and Sandy.

## NOOC Spotlight Employees



### **Maj. Travis Longmire, USAF**

Longmire is the Air Force liaison advising on Air Force operations and capabilities and has served as the Deputy Director of the Weather Services Directorate since 2011. He is responsible for providing staff guidance to five commands with over 500 personnel in support of Joint and U.S. Navy METOC operations worldwide. Last year, he conducted a review of fleet-wide requirements of space-based environmental sensing parameters and the specifications needed for weather-related tools and products. His review helped identify satellite sensing requirements that will aid weather forecasters in protecting personnel, installations, and equipment.



### **John Pope**

Pope began his government career with the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command as a financial management intern in 2005 and transferred to the NOOC in September 2009. He is responsible for the execution and oversight of the annual budget authority for the NOOC and all subordinate commands and also serves as the NOOC's POC for the new Financial Improvement Audit Readiness (FIAR) initiatives. He has recently completed the USFFs Civilian Professional Development Program (CPDP) and the Grad School's Executive Leadership Program. He has also earned the American Society of Military Comptrollers Certified Defense Financial Manager-Acquisition certification. His expertise related to the travel card program, accounting, execution, purchase card program, and reimbursable program directly impacts the command's continued fiscal and operational success.

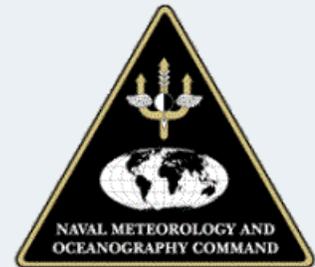
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