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The Coastal Courier
Naval Support Activity
Panama City

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MCPON Stevens Visits Panama City Sailors

By: Steve Applegate, NSA PC Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens held an all hands call at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City on December 13, wrapping up a seven-day tour of training facilities on the Gulf Coast that commenced in Jackson, Miss.

MCPON addressed a standing-room-only audience of more than 200 Sailors, including students and instructors from NDSTC as well as members of the other 17 commands aboard Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC).

Stevens linked his reason for making this trip with the legacy of the first MCPON, Master Chief Del Black, the first MCPON (1967-1971), as the person who can represent the enlisted community

where it really matters.

"Yours may be the one question that is the tipping point to allow us to take a look at your concerns," said Stevens.

Fielding a question on budget cuts and potential impact on pay and benefits from Hospital Corpsman Theodore Chritton, assigned to Navy Experimental Diving Unit, MCPON focused on making tough decisions.

"We have to maintain a forward presence in this tough time," said Stevens.

Other topics of interest to Sailors at NSA PC included uniform standardization and providing incoming recruits with more training in financial management skills.

Stevens referred to his own career and

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Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens speaks with Hospital Corpsman Theodore Chritton, assigned to Navy Experimental Diving Unit, during an all-hands call held at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center's auditorium. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray

NSA Panama City Chain of Command

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**Commanding Officer
Cmdr. Christopher Serow**



**Executive Officer
Lt. Bobby Kenning**



**Command Master Chief
Petty Officer Hector Sandoval**



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens speaks with Sailors during an all-hands call held at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center's (NDSTC) auditorium. The all-hands call concluded a weeklong tour of Navy Region Southeast training facilities. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)

how he learned from his mistakes. He reiterated the three points he refers to as his foundation for success.

“Work hard, no matter what you are asked to do,” said Stevens. “Stay out of trouble and think before you act. Be a good and decent person to your friends,

your family, and your shipmates.”

In closing, MCPON issued a message of appreciation from himself and his wife to Sailors across the Fleet.

“Teresa and I want to thank you and your families for what you do every day,” said Stevens.



Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) Command Master Chief Steve Mulholland discusses how the Diving Simulation Facilities give students experience in the effects of nitrogen narcosis in a controlled environment at depths of 190 feet with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)



MWR Continues Dedication, Support to NSA PC Families

By: Jacqui Barker, NSWC Panama City Office of Corporate Communications

Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC)'s Morale, Welfare, and Recreation's Youth Activities Center's programs continue to support Department of Defense (DoD) families in Panama City, Fla.

During Fiscal Year 2013, 170 students were registered with the MWR youth programs. At the Nov. 8, 2013 parent-involvement meeting, Youth Activities Director Heather Steinzor discussed the new Child Development Multi-Aged program for children ages six weeks to five years old.

"The new facility has been operating for two months, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this service. We were able to offer this service based upon area military and civil servant requests," said Steinzor. "The multi-aged program is located next to the old base chapel, in the former youth activities modular learning center. In the future, we hope to add another modular learning center so we can have an infant/pre-toddler classroom and a toddler/preschool classroom. We also hope to add a new playground."

Steinzor said YAC will add a Volunteer Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program for preschoolers at the start of the 2014-2015 school years. Additionally, two child development and certified in-home care providers are now available.

"We currently have one provider in

Lynn Haven, and we also have one provider in process that lives in base housing," said Steinzor.

With a successful Halloween Trunk or Treat and costume contest event behind them, the Youth Activities staff now looks toward planning the Thanksgiving, winter and spring break camps. The staff focuses on quality and announced in the Nov. 8th meeting that music classes, to include guitar and violin lessons will be made available in January 2014, through a contract with Fine Arts at the Beach.

Justin Buschman continues to manage a strong youth and teen sports program. In the fall 2013 soccer season, Buschman collaborated with Frank Brown Park's

staff and coordinated three NSA PC soccer teams to play with Frank Brown Park. Upcoming youth sporting leagues include basketball, and baseball.

For teens who are involved in MWR YAC programs were given a chance to prepare for holiday gift giving on Dec. 7th with a shopping spree trip to Destin, Fla., and Buschman is scheduled to lead the teens on a white wonderland ski trip to Ober in Gatlinburg, Tenn., Jan. 2-5, 2014.

For more information about MWR's award-winning services and events, visit them on Facebook at [facebook.com/nsapcmwr](https://www.facebook.com/nsapcmwr) or watch for updates in MWR's monthly newsletter, High Tide!



(Top) The new Youth Center building. (Bottom) The new Youth Center's playground. Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray

Bay County 2013 Veteran's Day Parade



Cmdr. Christopher Serow was the keynote speaker for the Bay County 2013 Veteran's Day Parade Ceremony. The photos above recap the highlights of the event. Photos by: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray

NAVSEA Warfare Centers Complete Energy Analysis for Marine Corps

By: Jacqui Barker, NSWC Panama City Office of Corporate Communications

The Naval Surface Warfare Centers completed an Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) report on hybrid energy for the Marine Corps Systems Command, the Navy announced today.

The Mobile Electric Hybrid Power Source (MEHPS) AoA provides an analysis of the options available that could reduce U.S. Marine Corps power consumption in the field, ultimately saving lives by reducing the need for fuel delivery convoys.

"The Marine Corps Systems Command is moving forward with the MEHPS program, collaborating with the Army," said Jen Gibson, senior program analyst on the Advance Power Team for the Marine Corps Systems Command. "The analysis provided in the AoA was used to draft a [Capabilities Development Document] that will be staffed through both services. The end product will provide the operating forces with more efficient power generation and storage."

The analysis was performed to specifically address gaps, such as the present lack of existing capabilities that automatically match

loads to expeditionary energy demands, as well as provide options for harvesting energy from renewable or waste sources to power command and control and life support systems.

The analysis evaluated the current state of hybrid power technology in the commercial sector, defining requirements unique to the Marine Corps, defining, analyzing and comparing a diverse set of alternatives, and providing cost and risk assessments of those technologies.

The evaluation included potential commercial or government off-the-shelf solutions, as well as those still in development, including generators, renewable energy sources, energy storage modules, converters and power electronics.

A team of experts from Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Panama City, NSWC Crane, NSWC Carderock, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and the Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O) conducted the analysis.

"This AoA assists the Marine Corps in

developing a detailed and cost-effective way ahead for integrating existing programs with new solutions in support of the overarching [Marine Air Ground Task Force] concept of employment," said NSWC Panama City AoA project lead Steve Gorin.

In addition to analyzing system capabilities, the warfare center team, in conjunction with Marine Corps Systems Command Cost and Analysis Branch, evaluated potential system costs. This review eliminated systems that were not the most affordable systems relative to their effectiveness.

"In the end, the AoA identified the potential for hybrid or micro-grid technologies to close gaps that current [systems] cannot close," said Gorin. "The best alternatives were able to save significant amounts of fuel and extend the life of generators with little additional burden."

The Naval Surface Warfare Centers are field activities of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and are Navy's principal research, development, test and evaluation activities for surface ship and submarine systems and subsystems.

HM-15 Visits Naval Support Activity Panama City for AMCM Training

By: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray, NSA PC Public Affairs

The “Blackhawks” of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) completed a two-week Airborne Mine Countermeasure (AMCM) training session in the Joint Gulf Test Range waters off Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC), Fla., on Oct. 29, 2013.

Part of a tight-knit community, one of the only two remaining MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter squadrons performing airborne mine warfare missions in the U.S. Navy, returned to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD), on board NSA PC for mine warfare expertise and a favorable location. HM-15 is home ported in Norfolk, Va., and the detachment is comprised of approximately 150 Sailors of various job ratings.

NSWC PCD supports MH-53E AMCM training missions with its direct access to the test range, and is also the Navy’s premier technical center for mine warfare and mine countermeasures.

“Because NSWC PCD supports AMCM and because they are located here in Panama City, in comparison with the logistics involved in Norfolk, it would be a much higher expense to train out of our home port,” said Lt. Cmdr. Sammy Perrotta, Officer-In-Charge of the HM-15 Detachment.

By training in Panama City, Perrotta said he felt that they could train more efficiently and effectively.

“We have a maintenance detachment here for our aircraft, but if we get an error with our weapons system during training, we have the technical know-how to troubleshoot it right here in Panama City since this is where the systems were developed,” said Perrotta. “There are a lot of people here that help evaluate our gear to make sure it’s working properly, so it’s a mutually beneficial training exercise.”

Two of the weapon systems being employed on the MH-53E during the training exercises are the AN/ASQ-232 Airborne Mine Neutralization System (AMNS) and the AN/AQS-24 sonar system, said Perrotta.

“Before we can do something with the mine, we have to find it first, using the Q24 or as we affectionately call it, ‘the fish,’” said Perrotta. After locating the mine, the aircrewman on board the craft uses the AMNS to neutralize the mine with a shape charge, continued Perrotta.

On top of technical know-how, Panama City has favorable conditions for AMCM training.

“Our systems work more efficiently in Panama City for training purposes,” said Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 1st Class Andrew J. Curtis, HM-15 Detachment Leading Petty Officer. “It allows us to test more of our equipment and personnel in a controlled environment in comparison to Norfolk’s constantly changing environment. Panama

City has a more stable and predictable weather pattern.”

It takes more than simply providing fuel and a place for the aircraft to land; there are also other logistics that go into it.

“We use the base’s facilities for our personnel, such as dining, lodging facilities, and they have been very supportive by providing vehicles to help us save on costs,” said Perrotta. “We couldn’t have kept the costs low without the base’s support, especially during this time of fiscal uncertainty when it is important to be frugal with our funding.”

HM-15 has a lot of training going on during this exercise, with little time to worry about logistical details.

“The support that we’ve gotten from every command here has been outstanding,” said Perrotta. “We could not have done our training as effectively without them.”

Perrotta said that he has been to Panama City several times already on similar exercises and looks forward to continuing his training.

“I can’t wait to come back,” said Perrotta. “It’s a small community and almost everyone knows each other, so it feels like family. The best part is, instead of having to go to the desert to practice, we get to go to Panama City.”

HM-14, the sister AMCM squadron, also home ported in Norfolk, Va., trained at NSA PC for two weeks in November as well.



Two MH-53Es assigned to the “Blackhawks” of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) lift off from the helipad located at Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division. HM-15 concluded a two-week training exercise for Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) ending October 29, 2013. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)

Parental Kidnapping - A Critical Problem

By: LN1 Sharlissa Barefield, USN

Parental kidnapping or parental abduction is defined as the concealment, taking, or unlawful retention of a child by his parent in violation of the rights of the child's other parent or another family member.

In response to the critical problem of parental abduction, steps have been taken on both state and federal levels. The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) was approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and by the American Bar Association in 1968. By 1984, it had been adopted in all states. All states have also enacted criminal parental kidnapping statutes. In 1980, Congress passed the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA), which not only strengthened the provisions of the state laws but also contained additional safeguards against parental kidnapping.

Before the UCCJA and the PKPA, a parent who lost a custody battle could snatch the child, take the child to another state, and seek a court order of custody in that state. The UCCJA was designed to prevent states from giving protection from rewarding parental abductors by

requiring them to decline jurisdiction of custody actions if another state, usually the state from which the child was taken, was a more appropriate forum.

The PKPA deals primarily with the application of the full-faith-and-credit clause to custody decrees. Full-faith-and-credit clause ensures that court decisions rendered by the courts in one state are recognized and honored in every other state. PKPA comes into question only when there is already a custody decree, and one of the parents is trying to enforce it or modify it in another state. The PKPA requires that a state enforce the custody decree of a sister state unless (1) the rendering court did not have jurisdiction; (2) the decree was entered without reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard; or (3) the decree was entered while a case was pending before another court that had jurisdiction.

The PKPA authorizes FBI investigations of child abductions. Unfortunately, because a court order of custody is a requirement for FBI involvement, most non-marital children are unprotected by this PKPA provision. Marital children are also unprotected if abducted by the

parent before any court order is made regarding custody; commonly this occurs right before the divorce is final. However, many divorcing parents, having been advised by counsel, realize the need for a custody order and request a temporary custody at the time a divorce action is commenced. Single parents who were never married to the other parent, often are not aware of the importance of a custody order; they mistakenly believe they already have legal custody since they have physical possession of the child or children.

For more information on parental kidnapping, please visit the FBI's website at <http://www.fbi.gov>, contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1800-THE-LOST, or contact your nearest legal assistance office.



U.S. Naval Academy 2014 STEM Program Seeks Students

By: LT Teng K. Ooi, PhD, U.S. Naval Academy

Each year in June, the United States Naval Academy launches a Summer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program to expose young people to STEM concepts and technologies. The United States Naval Academy's 2014 Summer STEM Program is designed to encourage 8th-11th graders to pursue a course of study in STEM-related subjects throughout high school, college, and beyond.

The aim is to integrate STEM-focused concepts across the curriculum and pave the way for students to succeed academically in mathematics and science and help put them on a path towards

successful STEM careers. An effective and practical way to stimulate student interest in STEM is to show how mathematics and science are applied to create exciting technologies.

The 2014 STEM program will showcase the latest in technological advances in a wide variety of science and engineering topics to include energy and light, infrastructure, transportation, cybersecurity, environmental challenges, flight and fluids, automation, simulation and modeling, biometrics and robotics.

Students are able to participate in project-based modules using a hands-on, real-world approach to solving design and analysis problems in the Naval Academy's

world-class laboratory facilities. This unique learning environment promotes engineering "habits of mind" such as systems thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity, and team work. It exposes students to a problem-based environment, outside the traditional classroom.

Our 2014 Summer STEM Program will be a great start to your career in science and engineering. APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 6, 2014 at www.usna.edu/admissions/stem.

2014 Session Dates: June 2 - June 7, for Rising 8th & 9th Graders; June 9 - June 14, for Rising 10th Graders; June 16 - June 20, for Rising 11th Graders.

U.S. Navy Native American Speaks at National American Indian Heritage Event

By: Jacqui Barker, NSWC Panama City Office of Corporate Communications

One of the most senior American Indians presently serving on active duty in the U.S. Navy spoke during the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD)'s American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month.

Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Vargas, a Civil Engineer Corps officer assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE), shared Choctaw memories and perceptions in support of the event's theme, *Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions*. The event was hosted by the NSWC PCD Diversity Council onboard Naval Support Activity-Panama City (NSA-PC).

Event attendees were also treated to a special performance by NSWC PCD employee Bobby June who danced a ceremonial

Observance of Sacred Feathers dressed in full American Indian regalia. June, a retired U.S. Navy Hull Technician First Class, from Wind River Reservation in Wyoming and Detroit, Mich., presently works on SEAL Delivery Vehicles at NSWC PCD.

"It is always a good day when you're sharing your culture with people," said Vargas.

"It is always a good day when you're sharing your culture with people."

Prior to giving his keynote speech, Vargas offered prayers to Native American Indian remains that reside on the base. Vargas,

whose hometown is Bridgeport, Texas, thanked NSA-PC personnel for taking care of the ancestral remains and said visiting the site was "like a pilgrimage," but later in his presentation Vargas spoke to the need for American Indian artifacts to be recognized for their historical contributions and precious values, and not to be traded or sold liberally. Additionally, he asked for people to take a moment to walk in his shoes and to consider how modern day practices, like professional sports team names and merchandise, are unfair to his heritage.

"I am not a mascot. My grandfather was not a mascot. My heritage is not a mascot. I am a proud warrior of the sovereign Choctaw Nation on loan to the U.S. Navy," said Vargas. "It's not okay and we just want to play by the same rules."

Although Vargas cited several important dates in Choctaw and American Indian history, a common message was ever present: American Indians have a culture and extensive past that has shaped American history. They, too, should be recognized and embraced for their rich and diverse history and their heritage should not be lost. For the Choctaw, many historic decisions continue to shape Choctaw heritage and way of life today. One example occurred in 1933 when the Mississippi tribe of Choctaw was established apart from the Alabama and Oklahoma tribes.

"We're the same people. We speak the same language, but now we're three different tribes," said Vargas. "We still have very mixed feelings about this."

In American history, Vargas said Choctaw Indians have fought in wars since 1812 and continue to fight for the freedoms enjoyed in the United States today. Vargas, who is one of the most senior American Indians presently serving in the U.S. Navy, is affiliated with the Oklahoma band of Choctaw and calls Bridgeport, Texas his hometown.

Vargas is a 1988 graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington and holds a master's of science in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is an engineer in training in Texas, holds a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer designation, is prior enlisted and served in the Fleet Marine Force. Currently, Vargas serves as the Disaster Preparedness and Contingency Engineering Officer for NAVFAC SE Headquarters at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.



Bobby June, attached to Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD), dances a ceremonial Observance of Sacred Feathers with full American Indian regalia. June, a retired U.S. Navy Hull Technician First Class, is from the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming and Detroit, Mich., and presently works on SEAL Delivery Vehicles at NSWC PCD. (Photo by Susan Trahan, NSWC PCD)

Even in Tough Times, Feds Still Donate to CFC

By: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray, NSA PC Public Affairs

Federal employees attached to various commands at Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC), Fla. donate to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) during the holiday season of 2013.

With almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country, NSA PC and its tenant commands are doing their part to help raise millions of dollars.

“It’s a one-time, once-a-year event for the government and eliminates multiple fund-raising campaigns throughout the year,” said James Fath, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division’s (NSWC PCD) CFC Supervisor. “Instead of getting solicited for donations multiple times a year, we do it once-a-year all at once.”

Fath said he feels that having one campaign a year is a benefit for both the government and the charities because the charities don’t have to advertise, the CFC does it for them. Charities are selected according to the U.S Office of Personnel Management (OPM) screening guidelines according to national, international, and local OPM guidelines.

“It’s a way for federal employees to give back to their community or what they feel is important based on their beliefs,” said Personnel Specialist 1st Class Tina M. Cook, NSA PC’s CFC Key Worker.

Cook mentioned donating to the CFC benefits everyone, not only the donor, but the charities helping the millions in need of assistance as well.

Fath said OPM regulations designate the CFC from September 1st through December 15th each year, with each campaign typically lasting six weeks. The Department of Defense (DoD)-wide campaign was authorized to extend for an additional two weeks due to sequestration and the 16 day government shutdown impacts. The extra time gives people more of an opportunity to donate, added Fath.

“We were ordered to shut down during the campaign, causing people to quit working on the campaign,” said Fath. “Once the shutdown ended, we had to restart the CFC. The shutdown cost people a lot of money and has made it harder to donate. Our personnel’s hearts are in the right place, but their pocketbooks are less full.”

“If you’d like to donate, all you have to do is sign a pledge card,” said Cook. “The payments accepted include cash, check or an allotment directly from your paycheck.”

“Our goal is 100 percent contact with all government employees,” said Fath. “They can choose to donate and are not forced, but we give them the opportunity to do so. We have 14 commands with federal employees on NSA PC, and each command has several representatives. Those representatives will give them a slip to donate or opt out. We ask each branch to nominate a key worker, and it averages to about one key worker per 30 personnel.”

Cook said donation options make giving very easy.

Even with the shutdown, it is still very simple to donate and it comes with its own rewards.

“You can do an upfront one-time donation, based on what you want to give,” said Cook. “Or, you can set up a monthly donation that will be taken directly out of your paycheck. By donating more than \$240 dollars, you receive a gift, but it’s a way to give back to your community and help someone else without having to directly help them. It makes you feel good.”

“It’s a very rewarding experience,” said Fath. “Our people are very generous and it’s a good thing to do and helps a lot of people. We almost exceeded our goal and the trend has been exceeding each previous year. It’s very rewarding.”

In the 2012 campaign, the donations of federal employees raised base-wide were a combined total of \$139,925.86. NSWC PCD won one of two awards in the 2012 CFC category of “Largest Dollar Campaign” at the United Way of Northwest Florida’s annual meeting held in March 2013.



Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast Comments on CFC

Our goal is very simple. We want everyone to at least have the opportunity to contribute to charities of their choice through the CFC. For more than 50 years, the CFC has given us the opportunity to join together and help those in need, and to bring about dramatic change in the communities that need it most. The objective remains the same. This year has been different. While we’ve been faced with unprecedented budget challenges, but our commitment to public service and our community is still there. Many people say, when times are hard, expect to have a bad campaign. During my 28 years in the Navy, I have found this to be untrue. Each year we’ve always had good campaigns. I see no reason to expect that the trend will be reversed. I think it’s a great thing that the campaign has been extended for another month, and with it, I expect that our campaign will be successful.

I hope by now everyone has been approached by their CFC keyperson. The keyperson has the catalogs of charities who participate in CFC and the forms you’ll need to designate your contribution. Your keyperson can even help you fill out the paperwork. Not only do you have the flexibility to decide to which charity you give, you can also make one lump-sum payment or set up a payroll deduction. And don’t forget, your donation is tax deductible. So if you’ve not heard from your keyperson, ask your supervisor who it is. And do so soon, as the campaign ends on January 15, 2014. The smallest donation can go a long way towards improving the lives of many. I hope that each of you will consider lending your valued support to this worthwhile campaign. Together we can continue the success of CFC.

Navy Personnel Host Christmas Party for Kids-in-Need

By: Dan Broadstreet, NSWC PCD Public Affairs

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City (NSWC PCD) Children's Christmas Party Committee (CCPC) held its annual 64th Children's Christmas Party Dec. 12, 2013 treating 100 underprivileged Bay County Children to traditional Christmas music, songs, toys, a magic show and a meeting with Santa Claus, which resulted in each child receiving a bag of clothes, toys and treats that were as big as some of the children trying to carry them from Santa's stage.

NSWC PCD employee Kevin Klamser said volunteering for the occasion was a rewarding experience, especially having witnessed the awestruck reactions.

"I talked with one little boy who was looking at all of the bags behind the chairs and asking if he had one. He was told, 'Yes,' by one of the other volunteers. He then asked me, 'Is that the real Santa?' I told him that was indeed the real Santa. He said he thought that Santa only said Ho-Ho-Ho and didn't know if he talked. By the time Santa was departing, I noticed that same little boy was one of a group of children that rushed up to give Santa a goodbye hug. This was an occasion that was both amazing and a privilege to watch," said Klamser.

CCPC Chair Eric Weber explained the party is really a volunteer effort by Navy personnel comprised of military and civilians who raise funds and organize the event with the support of local community support on their own time.



Santa Claus makes an appearance for elementary students during the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's (NSWC PCD) 64th Annual Children's Christmas Party. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)

"The people who are a part of the CCPC and all the volunteers that help to organize and coordinate this event do so on their own time," Weber said. "If there are funds being raised or presents being wrapped, it's because these folks are taking their own personal time to make it happen. Some are working the event after work hours and others are doing so by using their personal leave."

Weber said there are many Navy members who simply wish to give back to their

community who have shown strong support for their local military service men and women.

"It wasn't that long ago when the Wounded Warriors Beach Retreat paraded by the Navy base. Anyone in attendance could see an overwhelming turnout of local citizens raising flags and waiving hands high in support of our men and women in uniform. To see how our community's citizens are showed their appreciation for our veterans, and doing so in some very tough economic times, was inspiring. Well, the Children's Christmas Party gives us a chance to show our appreciation in return to our local Panama City families," Weber said.

The atmosphere was festive, not just with Christmas music, songs and gifts, but also with Noah Wells performing magic trick and illusionary wonders for the children. Wells, winner of the Merlin Award 2011 and 2012 Illusionist of the Year Award from the Gulf World Marine Park, said he couldn't possibly miss the opportunity, especially after having seen how much the children appreciated the event from his last year's performance.

"These children are a wonderful audience," Wells said. "And it's not just because they're getting all these toys and gifts either. You can see the joy and wonder on their faces and hear it in their cheers. It's evident that many of these kids are experiencing a Christmas like they've never had before."



Lt. Tatyana Yetto opens gifts with elementary students during the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division's (NSWC PCD) 64th Annual Children's Christmas Party. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin B. Gray)



Navy's ND1 Stephen Colford hands the ball over to the Army's 1SG Brett Boyer at 12 feet in Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center's (NDSTC) Aquatic Training Facility. Photo by ND1 Kimberly Carver.

Divers Take Army-Navy Spirit To A New Level

By: CWO4 Dale Kasztelan, Center for Explosive Ordnance Disposal And Diving Public Affairs Officer

It was a brisk fall morning at Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City Beach, Florida. The sun was shining, a stiff breeze blowing, and a bit of steam was rising from the field where the warriors were about to do battle. Sounds like the setting for a football game, right? But this football game was like none you have ever seen.

Commanding Officer Cmdr. Hung Cao, Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC), had challenged Navy Diver Master Chief Petty Officer (MDV) Bill Costin to execute a project integrating training, flexing school house capabilities, esprit de corps, and a little fun. Costin took the ball and swam with it.

NDSTC has the distinction of conducting dive training for all DOD services, the US Coast Guard, and numerous Federal agencies. On 29 November, with all branches of service

on deck, and just in time for the Veterans' Day holiday, what better way to celebrate than with a friendly game of underwater football!

Since the Army-Navy game was just around the corner, NDSTC used this as underlying motivation for the day's events, putting together a video 'Spirit Spot' that could be aired during the nationwide broadcast.

"As an alumnus, I love the rivalry between the Naval Academy and West Point," Cmdr. Cao pointed out. "But it ends there, because in the water and on the battlefield, we are all one team."

With orders given, the NDSTC staff put their heads together and developed a script for an Army-Navy football game spot. Dive School used all staff assets, with military and government civilians, even past students, volunteering to make the best spirit video possible. Navy Diver 1st Class Mariano Lorde accepted

the challenge to assist, editing and splicing nearly two hours of topside and underwater video courtesy of NDSTC's underwater video team, Boatswains Mate 1st Class Robert Foucha, USCG and EOD Senior Chief Scott Crawford, USN, along with hundreds of still photos, for the 30-second video submission.

To integrate training value into the project, the dive teams prepared for the task at hand just like they would for any military dive. The teams were made up of Army and Navy First Class Divers and students, Second Class dive students, SCUBA divers, Master Divers, and Diving Officers. US Marine Corps Recon divers, US Air Force Combatant divers, and US Coast Guard divers at the school also gathered on the deck of the Joint Forces Aquatic Training Facilities (ATF) in support of the evolution. The ATF, a 40-foot deep pool, served as the gridiron

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for the underwater matchup.

Much like a real football game, NDSTC's staff and students readied themselves by listening to the final pep talk (a dive job/safety brief), geared up with KM-37 diving hard-hats and SCUBA gear, and took direction from the coach to take the field as the Diving Supervisor gave the order to 'splash the divers and move out.'

Students from First Class Diver and Army Second Class Diver classes handled the bulk of diving and tending, which allowed the staff instructors to supervise the evolution. Army Master Diver SFC Weston Cox was instrumental in the topside supervision of the massive array of divers. Army Second Class dive student PV2 Dustin Meredith enjoyed participating in the production.

"It was an awesome, unique experience, and I had the pleasure helping out with it," Meredith said. "Where else in the world can you get 12 guys underwater wearing dive helmets playing football?"

The energy around the ATF rivaled that at Lincoln National Field in Philly, with four surface-supplied dive stations, one SCUBA station, one remote-operated vehicle (ROV) team, one underwater

camera team, and numerous topside camera teams. The entire operation related back to duties or tasks that meet training requirements at NDSTC. Divers operated an ROV, supervised numerous divers, conducted underwater photography, practiced umbilical management, and even moved heavy obstacles! NDSTC trains divers to work in very challenging environments, but even a crystal-clear pool is a foreign environment, especially when simulating the effect of a 'Hail Mary' pass underwater. The NDSTC crew made this look easy.

"It meant a lot to move out of the student status for a bit and see how everybody worked together, said Seaman Cody Stikeleather, a Navy second-class dive student. "This is how a real dive happens... 2C students, 1C students, Chiefs, Master Divers, Army Divers, and the rest of the services working together on a dive side... It was nice to experience and be a part of it."

In the end, Navy Master Diver Costin took a vision of things that he is passionate about: athletics, competition, diving, the military, striving to be the best, doing what it takes to succeed and orchestrated the diving evolution. "It was great to see all the services motivated to participate

and assist in making this happen," Costin said.

With the help of Army Master Diver Brett Boyer, from NDSTC's Army Detachment, Alpha Company, 169th Engineer Battalion, Costin led 50 staff and student divers in the production of NDSTC's Army/Navy Spirit Video. Unlike the outcome of the real game, the video version game, by design, ended as a draw.

If you missed the spirit spot during the broadcast on CBS, it can still be viewed at:

<http://www.navy.mil/viewVideo.asp?id=19065>

Center for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Diving (CEODD) and NDSTC, both located in Panama City, Fla., provide oversight and control of the career progression of Navy EOD Technicians and Divers, as well as lifelong learning opportunities in areas of both personnel and professional development. Additionally, CEODD, under the DOD Executive Agent Directive, manages and executes all DOD diving and EOD training as single manager for both military Diving and EOD.



Sailors and Soldiers pose for a group photo at 12 feet in Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center's (NDSTC) Aquatic Training Facility. Photo by ND1 Kimberly Carver.

NSA PC Awards and Recognition



LS1 Aisha Ross receives Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of third award) from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



RP2 Brett Persinger receives Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of second award) from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



MA2(SW) Gary Hall is congratulated by Cmdr. Christopher Serow for being selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter (Fourth).



Todd Landon receives a letter of commendation for being named Civilian of the Year in the Supervisory Category from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



Angelina Carter receives a letter of commendation for her achievement of Category I Civilian of the Year from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



Anthony Meekins receives a letter of commendation for earning Category II Civilian of the Quarter from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.

NSA PC Awards and Recognition (Cont'd)



Charles Helms receives a letter of commendation for being named Category I Civilian of the Quarter from Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



LS1 Calvin Willis is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



CS2 Michael Canavan is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by Cmdr. Christopher Serow.



MM1 Charles Ater receives Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of fourth award) and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Ater was also frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by Lt. Bobby Kenning.



LS1 Tiffany Montgomery (right) is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by LS1 Aisha Ross.



MM1 Marcel Chapman is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by his spouse.



MM1 Thomas McMaster is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by his spouse.



MM1 Darnell Allen is frocked to Petty Officer 1st Class by his fiancée.

Remember to
DRINK RESPONSIBLY
 every time.

- 1 Plan ahead for a safe ride home.
- 2 Don't try to "keep up" with others.
- 3 Know your limit before you get there.

DRINK RESPONSIBLY
KEEP WHAT YOU'VE EARNED
www.nadap.navy.mil