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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 15, 2018**

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## **THREE WARFARE CENTERS HOST ‘ENGINEERING CHALLENGE’ FOR LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

POINT MUGU, Calif. — In honor of National Engineers Week, more than 100 local students will exercise their engineering skills at Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu Feb. 22. Representing 18 schools from seven school districts, eighth graders will compete to see who can build the strongest bridgehead using a crucial warfighter material—linguini.

Hosted annually, this year’s competition is the first time Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) and Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) will join forces with sister command, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD) to host the ultimate engineering challenge. It also marks the first time the Navy “unofficially” requested a structural component be built from pasta.

Aided by a school teacher and a Navy engineer, students will engage in a variety of technical and engineering concepts to design and execute a bridgehead displaying the best ratio of weight to strength. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded to teams with the sturdiest design.

Dating back to 2000, NSWC PHD developed the competition as a way to help local students with an aptitude for math and science discover the world of engineering while exposing them to the types of problem-solving challenges engineers face on a daily basis.

Schools scheduled to participate include Anacapa Middle School, Balboa Middle School, Briggs School, Cesar E. Chavez School, E.O. Green Jr. High School, Fillmore Middle School, Fremont Middle School, Haydock Academy of Arts and Sciences, Isbell Middle School, Juan Lagunas Soria School, Las Colinas Middle School, Los Primeros School of

Science and Art, Monte Vista Middle School, Rio del Valle Middle School, Rio Real Elementary School, Rio Vista Middle School, and Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School.

NSWC PHD is a field activity of NAVSEA and provides the global United States Navy fleet with integration, test and evaluation, lifecycle logistics, and in-service engineering for today's and future warfare systems. Located at Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., NSWC PHD employs more than 2,500 personnel.

NAWCWD is an organization within Naval Air Systems Command dedicated to maintaining a center of excellence in weapons research, development, test, acquisition and evaluation for the Department of the Navy. NAWCWD employs nearly 8,000 people in two Southern California naval installations: Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Naval Base Ventura County.

NAVFAC EXWC is a command of more than 1,100 dedicated federal employees, contractors, and military personnel who provide specialized facilities engineering, technology solutions, and life-cycle management of expeditionary equipment to the Navy, Marine Corps, federal agencies, and other Department of Defense supported commands.

Media wishing to attend should RSVP to NBVC Deputy Public Affairs Office Vance Vaquez at (805) 989-9234 or [Vance.Vasquez@navy.mil](mailto:Vance.Vasquez@navy.mil) by noon on Wed., Feb. 21.

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