Team Navy–Coast Guard names 2012 Warrior Games ultimate champion athletes

By MC1 Katherine Hofman,
Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Team Navy–Coast Guard has chosen which athletes will compete for the title of Ultimate Champion during the 2012 Warrior Games, May 1-5.

They chose retired Navy Lt. John Edmonston and Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Chris Suter to compete in the paralympic-style pentathlon event, where athletes compete in cycling, shooting, swimming and track and field events, earning points in each event. The athlete who accumulates the most points is crowned the Ultimate Champion.

Selection for the Ultimate Champion is not always an easy process. "Just because an athlete does well in one sport doesn't make him [an ultimate champion]," said Navy Safe Harbor adaptive sports coordinator David Pennington, adding the ultimate athletes are "diversified across all sports. We are not pulling out elite athletes from one sport, but looking for people who have the ability to do well in each event."

As far as how the athletes are prepared for the challenge Pennington describes how the team coaches come together. "All of the disciplines have their own coach. The individual team coaches encompass the ultimate athlete to help train," Pennington said.

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Lt. John C. Edmonston, a member of Team Navy/Coast Guard, participates in the 30-kilometer upright bike road race at the second annual Warrior Games May 20, 2011. Warrior Games is a Paralympic-style sport event among 200 seriously wounded, ill and injured service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Andre N. McIntyre

Fleet Imaging Command Pacific begins disestablishment

By MCSN Adriana J. Cantu, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific

SAN DIEGO – The next step in the disestablishment process of Fleet Imaging Command Pacific (FICP), came April 27 when the unit's final commanding officer relinquished command.

Cmdr. Brad Fagan relinquished command during a ceremony at Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI).

After 25 years of providing still images and motion imagery to Navy's combatant commands, FICP will be officially disestablished Sept. 30, 2012.

"I was there from 1995 – 1998," said Chief Mass Communications Specialist (AW) Daniel Taylor, American Forces Network, Yokosuka, Japan station manager officer-in-charge. "It's a transition for the Navy from photographer's mates to MCs (Mass communication specialists) and serving customers through NPASEs (Navy Public Affairs Elements). The custom printing we used to do back in the day is gone; it's either been outsourced or it's not necessary anymore with the advent of digital photography, people can do it at home now. We were specialized back in the day."

FICP has completed more than 40 deployments and multi-national exercises during Fagan's tenure.

Fagan said the ceremony marks an appropriate end of a successful tour.

"The thing I'm most proud of is the command being awarded the meritorious unit commendation," Fagan said. "It is fitting to recognize these combat cameramen and women for the enormous success they've achieved over the last four years."

Deputy Chief of Information Capt. Greg Hicks was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Hicks presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation award to Fagan for the recognition of Fagan's Combat Camera service.

"There are few Meritorious Unit Commendation awards given. It takes extraordinary, superior, sustained, performance on behalf of everyone in this command in order to merit that award and each and every one of you who have played a role in receiving this should be justifying proud in receiving this award," said Hicks.

The Meritorious Unit Commendation was given to Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific for service from March 1, 2007 to March 1, 2010. During that time the unit's personnel participated in more than 600 combat missions providing vital imagery in support of various combatant commands.

Fagan, who was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, will report to Navy Region Southwest in San Diego as Director of Public Affairs.

"I am encouraged about the state of the mass communication specialist community knowing that I worked with the most highly trained and skilled individuals here at Combat Camera," Fagan added.

According to Fagan, Combat Camera will continue to provide its Sailors with the most effective training for their mission readiness.

One Sailor at the command mentioned the importance of effectively preparing for combat situations.

"For me to work at Combat Camera I must be prepared to constantly challenge my abilities as a mass communication specialist, and be prepared to use the skills attained under any situation required. This means that I have the opportunity to document exclusive situations but I have to be physically and mentally sound to do so," said Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jamar X. Perry.

Combat Camera provides visual information services to all fleet units in the Pacific Command and other joint combatant command areas of operation as tasked. They maintain trained still and video teams, combat camera crews and specialized imaging equipment to provide fleet commanders and combatant commanders with specialized imaging capabilities for the attainment of naval and national objectives.

For more news from Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific, visit www.navy.mil/local/fccgp/.