U.S. Navy's patent portfolio top among government organizations worldwide

By the Office of Naval Research
Corporate Strategic Communications

Navy scientists rank No. 1 when it comes to newly patented discoveries and inventions, according to a June report published by the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The IEEE annual Patent Power Scorecard, which ranks the relative significance of various organizations' patent portfolios, said the Navy surpassed all international government agencies. IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

The Office of Naval Research, the Navy's science and technology provider, is responsible for policy and direction concerning patents, inventions, trademarks, copyrights and royalty payments (intellectual property).

"Holding the top position is a good performance indicator, but being first also recognizes that the network of naval research labs and partnerships is focused on generating innovations and intellectual property that our Sailors and Marines depend on," said Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Nevin Carr, who leads the Office of Naval Research (ONR). "Patents protect the Navy's research and development investment."

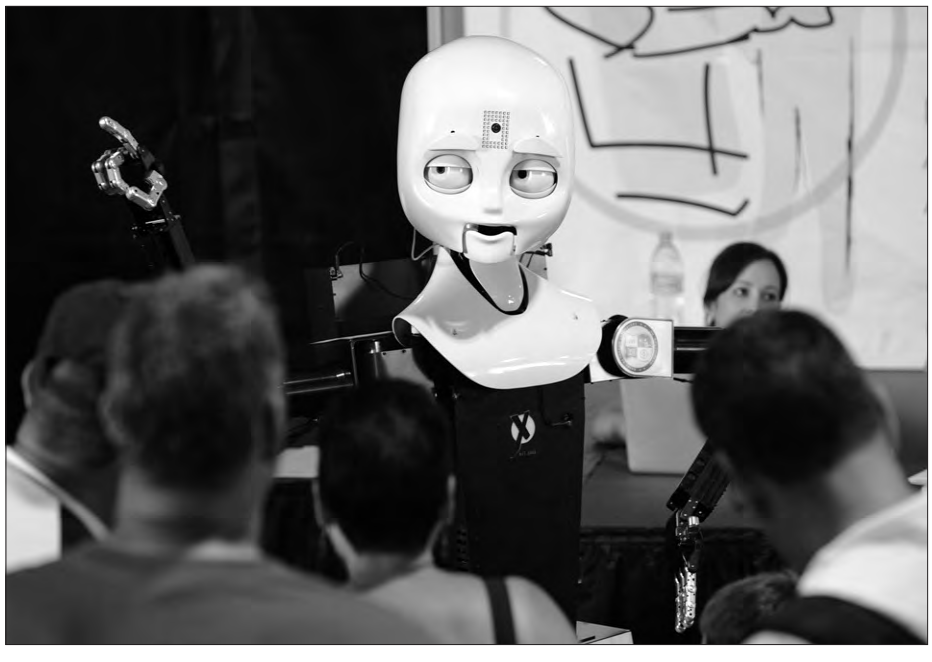
With 232 patents issued in 2009, the Department of the Navy outpaced its closest two competitors by wide margins. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued 121 patents and Japan's Science and Technology Agency distributed 104.

"Numbers are important, but so is quality," Carr said. We're fortunate to have a strong team that produces a diverse patent portfolio."

Along with highlighting the volume of the Navy's world-class scientific work, the ranking underscores the close coordination with the talented ONR legal team to ensure patents are well structured and valid, the admiral mentioned.

One of the Navy's most notable patents is the Navigation System Using Satellites and Passive Ranging Techniques issued in 1974, which led to the development of the NAVSTAR-Global Positioning System (GPS). That technology was invented by Roger L. Easton, a research scientist who worked for the Naval Research Laboratory, ONR's corporate lab.

The Office of Naval Research provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel with additional employees at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.



Visitors interact with the mobile, dexterous, social (MDS) robot Octavia at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) exhibit May 31, during Fleet Week New York 2010. The ONR human robotics interaction research program at the Naval Research Laboratory focuses on the abilities of teams of humans and autonomous systems to communicate clearly, collaborate to solve problems and interact via modality both locally and remotely.

Photo by John F. Williams

Cowpens' namesake hosts 33rd Mighty Moo festival

By MC1 (SCW) Jess M. Johnson,
Defense Media Activity – Anacostia

Sailors from both U.S. Navy ships named for the battle of Cowpens attended a five-day festival in Cowpens, South Carolina, to honor those who have served aboard the ships that have shared a name with the town.

Sailors from CVL 25 and CG 63 traveled from all around the world to take part in "The Mighty Moo Festival."

"We've been doing this for 33 years," said Jan Humphries, the Adopt-a-Crew dinner coordinator. "Each year over Father's Day weekend, we invite the crews from CVL 25 and CG 63 to come here and let us thank them for what they did in World War II and continue to do today."

The Mighty Moo Festival is a time for the townspeople to celebrate their history and to honor the veterans and crew of ex-*USS Cowpens* (CVL 25) and *USS Cowpens* (CG 63). The event brings people from around the region to this hamlet in northwestern South Carolina swelling their numbers from 2,200 to nearly 5,000.

"We are all here to say thank you to our veterans," said Pam Camp, chairperson of the Mighty Moo Committee. "Our World War II vets have been coming here for years and we love having them. We just want these fellas to come here and let us take care of them for a while."

"Words can't explain the joy we have when coming to The Mighty Moo Festival, the battleground and being with our families that have adopted us," said Carswell Wynne, a veteran of *USS Cowpens* (CVL 25) and regular attendee of the Mighty Moo Festival.

Among the many highlights of the event are the Adopt-a-Crew dinner and the parade.

"These people are the absolute finest people you will find anywhere in America," Wynne said. "They wear their patriotism on their sleeve and really open more than their town to us, they open their homes and hearts. Words cannot describe the tremendous emotions involved at this festival. People just have to experience it first hand to really know how much this town loves their country and those who have served in the military."

After the parade down main street featuring a red, white and blue float carrying World War II-era Sailors and their namesake crew members from CG 63, the town sponsors a Walk of Honor, where Sailors representing *USS Cowpens* (CG 63) place a wreath at the Veterans Memorial and then salute the veterans of the area as they come to pay their respects to those who have served before.

The festival continued with a live band and fireworks marking the end of the festivities.

"We're going to be planning next year's festival just as soon as we get cleaned up from this year," said Jamie Caggiano, who along with the crew of both ships and the people of Cowpens, offer this challenge to former *Cowpens* Sailors, "Just try to come to one festival. I am sure you won't be able to stay away the next year."

"You just come down here one time," Camp said. "Let us show you how much we appreciate all you have sacrificed to serve our country and keep our freedom secure. Once you let us show you how much we really do appreciate your service and the sacrifices of your families and just get to say 'thank you' I'm sure you'll want to come back."

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