



## Best Assumes Command of NAVOCEANO, Lumpkin to Kosovo

**C**APT Jeffrey Best assumed command of NAVOCEANO in a Change of Command ceremony held 2 July.

CAPT Best relieved interim Commanding Officer CAPT R. Parker Lumpkin, who has been selected to serve the United Nations as Senior U.S. Military Observer in Kosovo.

CAPT Lumpkin was appointed interim Commanding Officer from April through July 2004. Prior to that, he served as NAVOCEANO's Executive Officer from July 2002 through April 2004, during which time he played an integral role in the development of the Command's Strategic Plan.

Under Lumpkin's leadership, the Command achieved unparalleled successes in direct fleet support initiatives for forward-deployed, worldwide naval operations. Among those include support for the first-ever operational execution of a Rapid Environmental Assessment in the Persian Gulf to provide oceanographic



*CAPT Jeffrey Best speaks to NAVOCEANO military and civilian guests and employees after accepting command of NAVOCEANO.*

support during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony, CAPT Lumpkin reflected on his time at NAVOCEANO and said, "I have worked with the finest men and women in the Navy. It has truly been a remarkable journey I will treasure for a lifetime."

As a Naval oceanographer, CAPT

Jeffrey Best has served aboard numerous military ships throughout his nearly 25-year career.

During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, Best supported DESRON-22 as oceanographer and staff watch officer aboard the USS CARON, USS TRIPOLI, USS MISSOURI and USS WISCONSIN

See **Lumpkin-Best**, page 11.



*RADM Steven J. Tomaszeski, BGEN Thomas E. Stickford and NAVOCEANO's Acting Executive Officer CDR William Schulz.*

## RADM Tomaszeski, BGEN Stickford Visit NAVOCEANO

**R**ADM Steven Tomaszeski, Oceanographer of the Navy, and BGEN Thomas E. Stickford, the Director of Weather, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, visited Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and NAVOCEANO in late June to learn more about the Command's meteorology and oceanography capabilities.

"After walking around and seeing all of the great stuff you guys do, it really makes me proud to be an American," said BGEN Stickford.

## From the Commanding Officer

### Best Returns to NAVOCEANO as Commanding Officer

I am very honored and proud to hold the tiller of the METOC community's flag ship, the Naval Oceanographic Office. It is ironic that my first tour in the community was as Executive Officer of OCUNIT-1 aboard USNS Bowditch 22 years ago. At the time I never dreamed I would someday be in charge of this great organization.

NAVOCEANO has certainly come a long way over those last two decades. We have moved from a strategic level of support and data collection down to the tactical level. Many recommendations made by this office have saved countless lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism. I am very proud of the many accomplishments of the office and look forward to the future efforts.

I first want everyone to know that I fully support the Command's Strategic Plan. It is very clear to me that the entire Command put a tremendous amount of thought and effort into it and each department is fully committed to its implementation.

The plan really focuses our efforts toward relevancy and impact to the Navy's mission. The plan also aligns perfectly with RDML (Sel) McGee's vision for the community.

During the Change of Command on

2 July, I set forth three goals to accomplish during my tenure here. I would like to reiterate those goals to all of the personnel unable to attend the ceremony. First, I would like to ensure the men and women of NAVOCEANO receive the recognition they so richly deserve. There are so many great accomplishments that are well recognized at the worker level but not at the highest level. I will make sure that the three- and four-star leaders of the Navy are well aware of these many accomplishments.

Secondly, we need to take a hard look at the structure of the Command to ensure we are best organized to move forward as laid out in the Strategic Plan. Over the last year, we have created Program Managers in ASW, MIW and NSW, and we need to decide where to best position them in the Command to be the most effective. We are also moving forward with the Littoral Warfare Team concept and will lead the community in a new way of doing business. We need to position this new part of the organization into the place that makes the best sense.

Thirdly, I would like to ensure a positive Command climate. This week I have signed my policy on Equal Opportunity and Prevention of Sexual Harassment. The bottom line of these

two documents is that everyone will be treated fairly, and I will not tolerate any type of harassment.

There are too many great people and superb ideas coming from the men and women of this Command to let a few poison these efforts.

Beyond these policies, I would like to empower everyone from the senior GS-15 to the junior student hire to make suggestions for the betterment of the organization. Please don't be afraid to run fresh ideas and suggestions through your supervisors. Everyone's ideas are important, so supervisors keep those ideas flowing up the chain.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you. NAVOCEANO is a tremendous team, and I am very honored to be part of it. Together we can lead the entire METOC community in the right direction and become an integral part of the warfighters' decision making.



*CAPT Jeffrey Best  
Commanding Officer*

### Welcome aboard CAPT (Sel) Andrew Brown III

CAPT (Sel) Andrew Brown III will report to NAVOCEANO as Executive Officer on 23 August, relieving Acting Executive Officer CDR Monty G. Spearman.

CAPT (Sel) Brown, a native of San Diego, Calif., graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in physical geography in 1982 and received a Master of Science in oceanography and meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1995.

CAPT (Sel) Brown's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and various unit and campaign awards.

CAPT (Sel) Brown most recently served as Commanding Officer at the U.S. Naval European Meteorology and Oceanography Facility (NAVEURMETOCFAC) in Naples, Italy.

CDR Spearman will return to NAVOCEANO's Ocean Projects Department.



*CAPT (Sel) Brown*

## Fleet News

### USNS Henson Awarded Navy Unit Commendation

One of NAVOCEANO's T-AGS 60 oceanographic survey ships, USNS Henson, recently received the Navy Unit Commendation (NUC). The award was presented as part of the Fifth Fleet Strike Force for operations 1 January 2003 to 1 May 2003.

Established by the Secretary of the Navy in 1944 and awarded by the Secretary with the approval of the President, the NUC is awarded to any ship, aircraft, detachment, or other

unit of the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps that, after December 6, 1941,

distinguished itself by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy.

The NUC is also awarded for extremely meritorious service not involving combat but in support of military operations that are outstanding when compared to other



*USNS Henson*

units performing similar service.

The commendation is the unit equivalent of an individual's Silver Star when awarded for heroism or the Legion of Merit when awarded for meritorious service.

## NAVOCEANO News

### 4th Fleet Oceanographic Support Workshop Ends Successfully

By Christine Jarrett, Director, Customer Support and Requirements Division

NAVOCEANO and Commander, Fleet Forces Command (CFFC) co-hosted the fourth annual Fleet Oceanographic Survey Workshop (FOSW) on 18-20 May at Stennis Space Center.

The goal of this conference is to bring together the customer with the pertinent production departments to candidly discuss oceanographic, hydrographic and bathymetric product requirements in specific areas of responsibility and to consider priorities and assets to address these requirements.

The FOSW, held in the NAVOCEANO Survey Operations Center, was well-attended with over 50 invited guests. Participants included representatives from CFFC, COMPACFLT, FIFTHFLT, COMLANTFLT, NETWARCOM, CNO N61, SECONDFLT, SIXTHFLT, COMNAVSUBFOR, NGA, USSTRATCOM, USSOUTHCOM, USNORTHCOM, NSA, and SPAWARSSCOM in addition to NAVOCEANO Fleet Representatives,

COMNAVMETOCOM Staff, Work Acceptance and Prioritization Panel representatives and personnel from across NAVOCEANO's production departments.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the Meteorology and Oceanography Requirements Working Group and Meteorology and Oceanography Requirements Board of Directors chaired by CFFC, which provided a synergy of issues between the two meetings that required the same participants.

RDML (Sel) Timothy J. McGee addressed the workshop with opening remarks, emphasizing the significance of the gathering as well as the importance of spending resources wisely to accomplish the Fleet's requirements.

The first day of the workshop included a general session of briefs from the departments on new capabilities; combatant commander theater briefings on requirements for products; requirements briefings from Customer Support and Requirements

Division (N81); and workshops.

The second day was dedicated to continuing the workshops across the disciplines (Warfighting Support Center, Hydrography and Bathymetry, Oceanography, and Acoustics and Geophysics).

Breakout sessions allowed the attendees from each theater to interact and discuss with each of the production departments the product support provided in the past year and any future production. Action items from the sessions were captured and then briefed to the general audience on the last day.

After the conference, a draft prioritized list was sent to combatant commander representatives to finalize within the requirements process schedule. Once finalized, the list is used to generate a two-year ship survey schedule. Action items were compiled and will be tracked throughout the year with the departments and briefed at next year's FOSW.

See **FOSW**, page 11.

## Safety Matters

### School Bus Safety

**N**ow that school is back in session, many children will be relying on school buses to get them to and from school safely every day.

The greatest risk for them is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Know the rules to ensure everyone arrives home and at school safely.

- When backing out of a driveway, watch for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be focused on getting to school but may not be thinking about safety.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops or walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

Parents, make sure your children know the rules, too.

- Children should be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, have them stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb and line up away from the street.
- Instruct children to wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If children have to cross the street in front of the bus, instruct them to walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before they cross. Be sure the bus driver can see them, and they can see the bus driver.

*From Naval Safety Center SafeTips.*

## Strategy In Action

### Strategy? What Strategy?

By Richard Kren, Office of the Technical Director

**A**fter a year and a half of intense strategic planning and efforts to embed the Strategic Plan within the fabric of NAVOCEANO, it has been a little quiet over the past few months. Be careful not to draw the wrong conclusion! The Strategic Plan is not dead or even dormant. It is alive and has been at the center of Command-level decision-making.

Since earlier this year, representatives from various departments have been working to different degrees to "cascade" the strategy into the departments. Using Balanced Scorecard Collaborative techniques, the strategy has been localized through the creation of department strategy maps and scorecards.

The degree to which this has happened in each department has been a function of how committed the leadership is to the Strategic Plan. To be fair, the NAVOCEANO Strategy Team has been a little preoccupied with another project. Again, be careful not to draw the wrong conclusion.

On the day before his retirement, CAPT Philip G. Renaud called together the department heads for a review of the Strategic Plan. The group looked at events that have had or may have an impact on NAVOCEANO in the near future and then reviewed the Strategic Plan and the assumptions upon which it is based. The group felt the Strategic Plan was still valid but that the timing of the implementation of individual strategic objectives needed more consideration.

There were three particular objectives that needed to be emphasized in Fiscal Year (FY)

2005:

- Objective 1.1 (Dealing with the Warfare Program Managers)
- Objective 2.1 (Finding ways to increase use of the T-AGS survey fleet for operational purposes)
- Objective 2.2 (Mainstreaming other sources of data acquisition into the NAVOCEANO production process)

Originally, 1.1 was to be emphasized in FY04 only while 2.1 and 2.2 were to be dealt with in FY06 and beyond. The thought process behind these decisions was that the Program Manager concept for areas outside Mine Warfare was still in its infancy and needed to mature. Additionally, the program manager roles, with respect to workload and resource allocation, needed to be defined.

With regard to 2.1 and 2.2, it was felt that the emphasis being placed on Antisubmarine Warfare and the Littoral Warfare Teams by RDML (Sel) Timothy McGee could be served by these objectives.

Having just completed two days of intense Investment Review Board planning, I can tell you that the strategy was front and center as far as guiding the Technical Director and department heads in making difficult decisions with regard to our limited fiscal resources. They reviewed the Strategic Initiatives that were undertaken in FY 2004 with an eye toward deciding which ones to continue this coming year.

They also considered how much of the budget to dedicate to initiatives in FY 2005, and what new initiatives might be pursued. As of the date this article was written, those final decisions have yet to be made. However, it was clear in the

See **Strategy**, page 9.

## Department News

# Geophysics/Acoustics (N5): Working Everywhere for the Navy

**G**eophysics is a science dealing with the earth's physical processes and phenomena. Acoustics is a science that deals with nearly all aspects of sound.

These two branches of science are of special importance for Navy divers, submarines and ships involved in undersea, antisubmarine and surface warfare. That's why NAVOCEANO's Geophysics/ Acoustics Department (N5) collects and provides data relevant to these sciences to Navy warfighters.

Sounds travel five times faster in water than in air, so it's important that Navy submarines know how much noise they create, how to move through the ocean quietly and how to detect other sea vessels by their sounds.

The transmission of sound is affected by several variables including water salinity, pressure and temperature. N5 works closely with the Oceanography and Hydrography departments who gather this

information to account for these variables.

The ocean bottom also affects sound paths (rays). The composition of the seafloor (rock, shale, sand, mud, silt) affects how the sound waves travel in water. Therefore, it is vital for acousticians and geophysicists work together to compile an accurate accounting of the ocean floor, its properties and processes and its effects on the transmission of sound.

Busy with programs that are an alphabet soup of acronyms, N5's 125-person workforce spends approximately 15 man years at sea each calendar year aboard NAVOCEANO's fleet of oceanographic survey vessels collecting samples, of the seafloor, analyzing the water column and collecting gravity data.

Back at the office, the data are loaded into databases such as OAMLand used in Fleet tactical decision aids such as, PCIMAT, GFMP and MEDAL. The Geology

Lab analyzes the properties of bottom sediment samples, and the gravity data are fed directly into submarines' navigation systems.

N5 also provides very-high-resolution databases used for mine-hunting operations.

According to Rhumb Lines, an online newsletter published for senior Naval leadership during Operation Iraqi Freedom, "the Naval Oceanographic Office supported Mine Warfare Command, which resulted in revising tactics from mine-sweeping to mine-hunting operations. The revised tactics increased the mine clearance rate from 50% to 80% and decreased hunting time by 75%."

The Strategic Plan is implemented on a daily basis by every code in N5.

For instance, in the past year N5 has arranged for a Bottom-Mapping Workstation (BMW) to be installed on a high speed vessel. The workstation collects raw data from tactical mine-hunting side-scan sonar, allowing data

See **N5**, page 9.

## Employee Spotlight

### "Our products and analyses make a difference."

**C**raig Kelly knows first-hand the value of NAVOCEANO data, and he is able to offer a unique perspective on how customers use those data.

This is because as a former enlisted Navy Electronics Technician and now NAVOCEANO's USW Environmental Analysis Support Branch head, part of Kelly's job is analyzing data and supplemental elements and preparing information in support of the warfare mission and tasks within the mission.

"I know NAVOCEANO's products and analyses make a difference for the Navy," said Kelly, a biology graduate of Old Dominion University.

A Norfolk, Va., native, Kelly came to NAVOCEANO in 1991 as a physical scientist in the Bathymetry/ Navigation Branch. Today he is actively involved in implementing the Strategic Plan by examining operations analyses and Navy doctrine to see how NAVOCEANO can improve analysis and assessments.

"The events of Sept. 11 can't be reversed," said Kelly. "But what if all law enforcement and intelligence agencies had a fusion environment to assemble information fragments before the event took place? What if we can do this with superior environmental information for the military by

*Craig Kelly, Code N521, knows what it's like for users and providers of products.*



building an integrated view of all information and knowledge about a potential battlespace?"

Kelly believes in the Strategic Plan and encourages his coworkers to get involved.

"Challenge the status-quo," said Kelly. "Our managers need enthusiasm and new ideas."

## NAVOCEANO Technology

# NAVOCEANO, Woods Hole Partner for WESTPAC Glider Survey

**W**oods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and NAVOCEANO recently partnered to use a new type of survey technology—gliders.

Gliders are small, easy-to-deploy autonomous vehicles that transit at speeds of about 0.5 knots by moving up and down the water column in a saw-tooth pattern. Water is used to adjust the ballast, and the wings transfer vertical motion to horizontal. Data are collected on each downward path, and the instruments are turned off for the upward path to save energy. "Gliders move slowly, but use little power to propel themselves; therefore, they can offer much higher endurance than powered AUVs," said John Lund of WHOI.

The glider transits to operator-specified waypoints using an onboard global positioning system (GPS) and a tail-mounted rudder. Approximately every two hours, the glider surfaces for 5 to 7 minutes to obtain its location through GPS and transmit data via an Iridium satellite phone. Ocean currents are measured based on the previous position, and the steering direction is adjusted for the next dive.

The gliders used in this survey were equipped with photosynthetic active radiation (PAR), conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD), and



*A WHOI Coastal Glider is prepared to be deployed from USNS Heezen.*

fluorometer/backscatter sensors. They were manufactured by Webb Research Corporation and are owned by WHOI.

The PAR sensor is located on the top of each glider and measures how much light penetrates the water to the glider depth. The fluorometer/backscatter sensor is located on the side of the vehicle and emits red and blue light to excite any nearby chlorophyll-a, the concentration of which is measured by the backscatter sensor.

The recent survey in the western Pacific Ocean was the first time gliders were deployed from a Navy survey vessel as part of a normal survey operation. NAVOCEANO used the data collected by the gliders for model validation and data assimilation tests.

"There is interest in gliders because, when deployed as a fleet, they provide near-real-time information about the ocean volume, either as an adjunct to ship surveys or for access to areas denied to normal ship traffic," said Dr. Rob Lorens, N3 Technical Lead. "If their potential is

realized, they will play a significant role in characterizing the battlespace environment."

Glider technology offers NAVOCEANO many opportunities. Gliders supply ocean volume data in near-real-time to NAVOCEANO via satellite communications, which provides the potential to update the battlespace environment immediately prior to or during Navy operations. This ability may allow NAVOCEANO to be more directly engaged in the battle space without immediate risk.

When used in large numbers, gliders provide a synoptic view of the ocean volume critical for evaluating and adjusting ocean prediction models that provide inputs to Tactical Decision Aids. Gliders can provide a better understanding of day-to-night variability in ocean parameters that affect acoustic performance, visibility of hostile targets and detectability of assets.

Currently, gliders are being developed to include bioluminescence meters, Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers and many other sensors.

NAVOCEANO plans to deploy a University of Washington Seaglider as part of a Navy exercise this fall and complete another glider survey in conjunction with WHOI next year.



*A WHOI Coastal Glider is deployed from a USNS Heezen Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB).*

## PIT Aids Space Modification Efforts

By Mike Killam, Manager, Facilities, Safety and Environment

**F**urniture installations and workspace modifications are common occurrences at NAVOCEANO.

NAVOCEANO normally spends about \$500,000 per year toward this effort.

Facilities, Safety and Environment (Code N123) and the Communications Branch (Code N621) plan and execute these types of projects.

To execute plans more effectively and provide better customer satisfaction, a Process Improvement Team (PIT) was established to evaluate the Space Modification/Room Renovation process. The team held a series of meetings to discuss the current process and make improvements where needed.

The main objective of the study was to find better ways to communicate between the executing groups as well as the codes being impacted by the changes. Several operations within the process were identified as possible

improvements, including: (1) generation of a space modification assessment form to be filled out by the impacted group, listing computer and telephone information; (2) identification of key points of contact for reviewing and coordinating the activities within the various shops; (3) identification of critical approving points within the process; and (4) a customer satisfaction survey for the shops once the project is completed.

PIT results were briefed to and approved by the commanding officer, executive officer, technical director and department heads.

The PIT was a success from the team's point of view. Now the real test is applying the improved process to this year's furniture installation plan.

PIT members included Malisa Greenlee (Chair), Mike Killam, Sandra Owen, Rich Borel, Michelle Mehaffey, Debbie Price, Jerry Core, Cecile Ingram and Charles Hartfield.

## Upcoming Events

NAVOCEANO employees and contractors are encouraged to attend a **Patriot Day Ceremony** on 10 September. Watch for flyers on specifics for the event.

The **International Hydrographic Science Applications Program (IHSAP) Graduation** will take place at the Lynn Cartilage Forrest County Multipurpose Center in Hattiesburg, Miss. on 9 August at 2:30 p.m.

The annual **Coastal Clean-Up** will occur on 18 September. NAVOCEANO is in charge of cleaning up East Ship Island and will provide transportation. To volunteer, call (228) 688-4002.

The NAVOCEANO Navy Ball Committee will sponsor a **bath and beauty product sale** 22-23 September in the Building 1100 atrium. Come support your Navy Ball.

**Celebrate the Gulf**, a marine education event, will take place 25 September at the Pass Christian Harbor in Pass Christian, Miss.

This fall marks the beginning of a new school year, which means a new year of **Personal Excellence Program (PEP)** activities. NAVOCEANO employees participated in more than 60 PEP events in the 2003-2004 school year—20 more than the previous year! Be on the lookout for PEP activities this school year. For more information or to volunteer, contact Public Affairs.

## In the Community



## NAVOCEANO's Sub at Lynn Meadows Looks Fishy

**T**he NAVOCEANO submersible on display at Lynn Meadows Discovery Center in Gulfport, Miss., for the past seven years got a whole new look in June.

N121 Graphics co-op student Jonathan Lopez and Daniel Saulpaugh developed and painted the submersible's whale design.

Mary Cordray, associate director for the Center, was happy with the result.

"The partnership it creates with NAVOCEANO—to be able to give something back to the community—is truly valuable," said Mary Cordray.

Great job to the Graphics and Facilities personnel involved with the project!

## NAVOCEANO Outreach

# NAVOCEANO Helps COSEE Teach Teachers Marine Science

By Rebecca A. Smith, Operations Branch

The Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) held their second annual course from 20-25 June.

Ten middle and high school teachers from Texas, Mississippi and Alabama interacted with 11 visiting scientists and instructors, including three NAVOCEANO employees.

The teachers learned about marine science and the importance of teaching this curriculum in their classrooms.

COSEE is a network of seven regional centers that promote better public understanding of the ocean and the roles it plays in global environmental cycles and processes.

COSEE strives "to promote the development of effective partnerships between research scientists and educators." Funding for COSEE has come from the National Science Foundation with additional support from the Navy, the Office of Naval Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NAVOCEANO employees who participated in COSEE this year were Quent Burge, James Robinson and Rebecca A. Smith.

Former NAVOCEANO employees Kevin McKone, who now teaches at Copiah Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Miss., and Bruce

*NAVOCEANO's Rebecca Smith discusses dissolved oxygen with teacher Kay Rogers on a COSEE field trip to Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve just east of Pascagoula, Miss.*



Leybourne also participated. Scientists were given 15 minutes to tell how they became interested in marine science and also gave overviews of their jobs.

During the weeklong course, teachers and scientists heard from Dr. Sharon Walker, Dr. Shelia Brown and Kay Baggett of the University of Southern Mississippi about subjects such as water quality parameters, marine ecosystems, coral reefs, methane seeps, hydrothermal vents and fish biology.

Field trips were to the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve just east of Pascagoula, Miss., and Horne Island.

During these trips, water quality parameters such as temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen were tested. Trawling and species

identification and an opportunity for the teachers to collect specimens for their classrooms followed during the return from Horne Island to shore.

Teachers were required to create a staff development and class activity around some of the subjects that had been presented during the week. These included broad topics of marine technology, organisms and habitats and physical parameters.

After the week was over, the teachers returned to their school districts to share what they learned by presenting their staff developments and activities to other teachers. They will also have the opportunity to give their presentations at conferences of their choice. Their education will also continue through online seminars that are broadcast throughout the summer.

## Navy Knowledge Online: A Useful Tool for Navy Employees

Did you know that NAVOCEANO employees now have a tool for gathering Navy-wide career, education and training information?

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) is the Navy's online resource that allows military and civilian personnel to

access information to excel personally and professionally. NKO is easy to use and is arranged by neighborhoods of preparation and learning centers.

NKO users can view multiple resources such as technical assistance, communication methods and other links.

Using NKO requires registration at <http://www.nko.navy.mil>. NKO accounts are available to the Navy and Marine Corps: active duty, active reserve, civil service, delayed entry personnel, retired military and retired reserve.

**Strategy**, continued from page 4.

discussions during those two days that the strategy is still valid and the executive leadership of the Command is committed to our Strategic Plan.

I should also add in closing that I have had numerous, unsolicited feedback comments ranging from people up our chain of command to our contract partners regarding the Strategic Plan. Without exception, the comments have been favorable. These people are encouraged that our organization does have a direction and focus.

Yes, the Strategic Plan lives and is doing well. I encourage each of you to refresh yourself with the Strategic Plan and continue to look for ways to apply its principles to your individual jobs and the decisions you make on a daily basis.

**N5**, continued from page 5.

to be collected from places white ships may not be able to reach.

“The work we’re doing right now directly ties in to every aspect of the Strategic Plan,” said Steve Lingsch, N5’s director since 2001. “The BMW was installed so we can respond to tactical timescales.”

Partnering with nearly every code at NAVOCEANO and several organizations outside NAVOCEANO, N5 can be found all around the globe.

N5 recently participated in Combined Joint Task Force Exercises in North Carolina and Florida, which help the Department of Defense prepare for eventual deployment in support of real-world operations, and plans to participate in other activities in the Pacific and Atlantic. N5 also is heavily involved in the Shallow Water Assessment Survey Initiative, which keeps it active around the globe.

N5’s primary partners within the United States are Coastal Systems Station and Naval Surface Warfare Center in Pensacola, Fla., and the Naval Research Laboratory.

When asked what does N5 do for NAVOCEANO, “We work for the Navy,” said Lingsch.

Indeed they do.

## For Your Benefit

### Life Insurance 2004 Open Season

By Cynthia Warner, Human Resources

The Office of Personnel Management recently announced the first life insurance open season since 1999. The Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) 2004 Open Season will be held from 1 September through 30 September 2004.

During open season, federal employees who are eligible will be able to enroll in the FEGLI program, increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

If you elect to change your life insurance during the FEGLI Open Season, your coverage is effective September 4, 2005. New life coverage premiums will be reflected on your Leave and Earnings Statement dated September 23, 2005.

Enrollees wishing to continue current coverage do not need to take any action during this open season. Coverages waived previously will remain waived.

Employees are encouraged to review the information on the types of coverage available at [www.opm.gov/insure/life](http://www.opm.gov/insure/life). An employee must elect or already have Basic coverage in order to elect any optional coverages.

Effective 1 September 2004, employees will elect to enroll in life insurance or make a change by using The Employee Benefits Information System (EBIS), an Internet-based application at <http://www.donhr.navy.mil/> or by calling the Benefits Line at 1(888) 320-2917.

For employees nearing retirement age to continue life insurance into retirement, you must be insured for the 5 years of service immediately before the date your annuity starts, or for the full period(s) of service during which you were eligible to be insured, if less than 5 years. The earliest most employees can retire or start receiving compensation and carry new coverage from FEGLI 2004 into retirement or compensation is 3 September 2010.

Call the Benefits Line with questions concerning your life insurance. Select option 4 to speak with a Customer Service Representative.

Operating hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Hearing impaired employees should call the TTY line for their servicing Human Resource Service Center.

All employees who are eligible for the FEGLI Program can participate. If you need more information about exclusions, please consult the FEGLI Handbook at [www.opm.gov/insure/life](http://www.opm.gov/insure/life).

Employees in nonpay status can participate in the Open Season; however, any coverage elected during the Open Season will not become effective until the employee is back in pay and duty status.

To change your open season election within the open season, simply submit a revised FE-2004.

## Navy Ball



*NAVOCEANO's Mark Null purchases a pizza at a Navy Ball pizza sale fundraiser in late June. Be on the lookout for more Navy Ball fundraisers as the event approaches.*

## Military Award



*CAPT Parker Lumpkin, interim Commanding Officer (left), presents CDR Roy Ledesma (right) with the Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding achievements as Executive Officer of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center in Gulfport, Miss.*

## Military Award

*CAPT Parker Lumpkin (right) and interim Executive Officer CDR William Schulz (left) pin bars to Fleet Survey Team member LT Christopher Esposito's uniform after his promotion.*



## PEP Outreach

*N1 Director Mary Jones speaks to ninth-grade girls about NAVOCEANO and the importance of scientific education and careers as part of a marine science camp conducted by J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi, Miss.*



**Lumpkin-Best**, continued from page 1.

and as oceanographer aboard the USS RANGER.

Most recently, Best served as first Commanding Officer of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center in Gulfport, Miss., and completed a second tour at the Naval Personnel Command as Senior Meteorology and Oceanography Office Detailer, Assignment and Placement Officer and Community Manager in March 2002.

CAPT Best graduated from the

U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in oceanography. Other degrees include a Master of Science in meteorology and physical oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School and, most recently, a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

Best's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Navy

and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with three gold stars and various campaign and unit ribbons.

At the ceremony, CAPT Best commented, "I am very honored and proud to be given this tremendous opportunity. The Naval Oceanographic Office has the finest group of people in the Department of Defense. No one in the world does oceanography better than this Command. I look forward to guiding the organization in the challenging years ahead."

## Command Picnic, Open House: Great Way to Celebrate July 4



**H**eld at the Stennis Space Center Cypress House after the Change of Command on 2 July and in conjunction with the Open House, the Command Picnic was full of good food and great fun!

*Children of NAVOCEANO employees were entertained with the spacewalk, soccer, volleyball, hula hoops and water toys.*

*Don Lancaster, Comptroller, made sure he was equipped with the proper safety gear for the Command Picnic's dunking booth. What a great sport!*



## Awards

### *Military*

#### **Meritorious Service Medal**

CDR Roy R. Ledesma  
CDR William J. Schulz Jr.

#### **Navy Achievement Medal**

AGC Stephen A. Fouts  
SK1 Bethella L. Philips

#### **Promotions**

LT Christopher J. Esposito  
LT William D. Taggart

#### **Sailor of the Quarter**

CTA2 William Yates

**FOSW**, continued from page 3.

Progress has been made each year in refining the conference to better serve the customers and satisfy the production requirements by using assets that best suit the mission. These can include a T-AGS 60 ship, Littoral Warfare Team, LIDAR, data exchange agreement, memorandum of understanding or data already in-house.

The N81 team consists of

Christine Jarrett, Director; Requirements Management Group: Laurie McCosh, Bobby Wheatley; Warfighter Response Group: Marty Doody, Maggie South, Mary Marlow, Brenda Gilbert and Bonnie Martino.

Feedback, comments or suggestions on how FOSW 2005 can be improved should be e-mailed to Christine Jarrett at jarrettc@navo.navy.mil.

## NAVOCEANO Outreach

### Students Dive Into OCEANS ALIVE

**M**ore than 40 students from across the nation took part in educational three-day sessions this summer aboard USNS Pathfinder in the Gulf of Mexico as part of the Naval Oceanographic Office's (NAVOCEANO's) annual OCEANS ALIVE program.

The Oceanographic Career Enhancement and Naval Science: Adventurous Learning in Variable Environments (OCEANS ALIVE) program is designed to stimulate students' interest in science and math by teaching them practical applications as they examine the ocean from sea surface to seafloor.

"It was interesting to learn how all the systems we studied are applied to the safety of our troops," said Kathy DeWein, a teacher at Clarksville High School in Clarksville, Tenn.

While onboard the ship, students were introduced to geology, marine biology, bathymetry, meteorology, physical oceanography and acoustics through classroom lectures and hands-on projects. Students also learned how the Navy collects and processes oceanographic data.

"Children learn best with hands-on

*NAVOCEANO geologist Allison Dean shows OCEANS ALIVE students a mud sample they "grabbed" from the ocean bottom. In geology class, students felt the differences among sand, clay and silt, learned about rock formation and examined their mud samples under microscopes.*



learning and by being able to relate what they learn to life experience," said Frances Hamilton, a teacher at Blanche School in Blanche, Tenn. "They get that with OCEANS ALIVE."

Additionally, the program provided the opportunity for NAVOCEANO scientists to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with students and teachers in the community. The program also provides a potential recruitment base of future oceanographers, mathematicians and engineers.

"I think this program is a great opportunity for us to see firsthand how the science and math we're learning in school is used in real

life," said Danielle Boetcher, a student participant from Hartford, Wis.

Since 1998, more than 350 students and educators nationwide have participated in the OCEANS ALIVE program. Teachers receive Continuing Education Units from the University of Southern Mississippi for their participation.

This year's instructors included NAVOCEANO's Carolyn Philan, Ernie Wiley, Kelly Fougerousse, Allison Dean, Mark Jarrett and ENS Chris Tuggle and AG2 Chris Morrison from Naval Station Pensacola.

For more information on OCEANS ALIVE, visit [www.navo.navy.mil](http://www.navo.navy.mil).

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