



RDP-21 NEWSLETTER



THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MILITARY ON OUR COMMUNITIES

CRAIG HODSON, RDP-21



Communities with a strong military presence have the financial benefit of stable revenue while communities with a dependency on travel, tourism, conventions and related

spending face unprecedented revenue challenges for local government and citizens. You can reinforce the financial contribution of military salaries, spending and investment in your communities. A state impact report is available. Member organizations continue to assess their own communities.

2022 National Security Economic Impact in California

The 2022 California Statewide & Regional National Security Economic Impacts report on federal national security spending was released by the State of California. The California Research Bureau of the California State Library prepared the report for the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Governor's Military Council. The report relies primarily on data from the Department of Defense, Homeland Security and

Veteran's Affairs.

The national security activity (2021 data) results in \$158.2 billion in economic impact and support more than 762,000 full time equivalent jobs in California. Economic activity occurs in every region of the state, from major coastal areas like San Diego and Los Angeles to small, inland communities, like Bridgeport, El Centro and Ridgecrest.

Top counties for civilian and military employment include San Diego (151,000), Los Angeles and San Bernardino (27,000 each) and Monterey and Ventura (11,000 each). Full time equivalent employment for Ventura County is 22,000. The economic output places Ventura County eighth at \$4.1B.

The report is available at:

https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8



CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITITES ALLIANCE

CALIFORNIA DEFENSE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

CRAIG HODSON



CDCA, Association of Defense Communities and the Governor's Military Council jointly conducted the 2022 Defense Leadership Summit August 30 at the Embassy Suites, Sacramento. Speakers included:

- Growth of the Space Force and the Range of the Future
- Defense Innovation
- State and Federal Update, including Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program
- Quality of Life
- Impacts of Housing Shortage
- Energy and Environment
- Grant Opportunities

Governor Newsom shared his perspective during a talk to the Summit participants.



California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Acting Adjutant General of the California Military Department Maj. Gen. Matthew Beevers and Patrick O'Brien, the director of the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation. Topics of interest to the California military community were discussed, including:

MILITARY HOUSING

California ranks as the second highest cost state (or third, including District of Columbia) for housing, based on Zillow Typical Home Value statistics for July 2022. California at \$816K is lower than Hawaii (\$1039K) and District of Columbia (\$826K) but that's little consolation compared, for example with Missouri at \$231K. Although arguments can be made about the exact numbers, the ranking is usually consistent.

The median sale price continues a steady increase illustrated by the 2000 number (\$165K), 2010 number (\$223K), the 2020 number (\$329K) and the 2022 number \$429K). Thus, housing cost is increasing year by year and California is poorly positioned for affordable housing cost.

The trend in construction costs is not encouraging as affordable housing developers face challenges in both material supply and labor costs.

Our military members face Basic Allowance for Housing shortfalls and competition for available housing, with strong competition for available housing adding stress for military members.

The slow pace of permitting, construction combined with zoning restrictions in California are well known, with



a variety of solutions underway. Emerging changes in housings, such as the proliferation of short term rentals, subtract housing from the monthly rental market. California military bases can have hundreds to thousands of short term rentals within easy commuting range, taking housing off the market and no doubt increasing rental costs as properties move out of the monthly rental market.

Discussion of rent control can increase rent as owners position properties should rent control limit future

increases.

Zoning changes to enable housing production, funding streams for affordable development and shortterm-rental regulation can have strong, vocal and effective opposition.

Adding to the overall housing conundrum are increases in utility and transportation costs.

It's easy to conclude that there isn't one solution, no "all it takes is a signature, a stroke of the pen" solution but many moving parts at the federal, state and local level, all not necessarily aligned to the same goals.


Increases in BAH and more timely calculations are planned by the Department of Defense. The rest is up to local,

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CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITITES ALLIANCE

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county, regional and state policies and programs in order to keep California competitive for business.

A variety of solutions are proposed, all with proponents and opponents. For example, proposed bills would fast track housing development in strip malls and commercial real estate. Some cities oppose due to loss of local control (and water usage is more intense in housing than commercial usage). Another ideas is convert excess school lands to teacher housing and even that has opposition. Ultimately solutions may take a form not anticipated in the current discussions. 


FEDERAL DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROGRAM

DCIP is a competitive grant program that addresses deficiencies in community infrastructure that supports military installations in order to enhance military value, installation resilience and military family quality of life.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure, supportive of a military installation, in order to enhance military value, installation resilience, and military family quality of life. DCIP is authorized under Public Law 115-232 Section 2861. The program authorizes the Secretary of Defense to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement funds available under other Federal programs in support of the program. Entities eligible to receive a DCIP grant include States and local governments.

Eligible community infrastructure projects are any complete and useable transportation project; community support facilities (e.g., school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response, or other community support facility); and utility infrastructure projects [e.g., water, waste-water, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility infrastructure (with necessary cyber safeguards)] that:

- are located off of a military installation;
- support a military installation;
- are owned by a state or local government or a not-for-profit, member-owned utility service;
- that will enhance military value, military installation resilience and/or military family quality of life at the supported military installation (definitions of these enhancements are provided in Section E., paragraph 1. of the Notice of Funding Opportunity);
- that are endorsed by the local installation commander representing the installation benefitting from the proposed project;
- are where ground-disturbing work has not yet commenced; and,
- are construction-ready.

For FY2022, no awards were made to any California applicant. In FY2021, three awards were made to California applicants. 

CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITITES ALLIANCE

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS: CALIFORNIA 2021-2022 REGULAR SESSION

CRAIG HODSON



AB305 Veteran's services: notice
Bill Summary: This bill requires specified governmental agencies to include, at their next scheduled update, additional questions on their intake and application forms

AB1623 Personal income taxes: exclusion: uniformed services retirement pay: survivor benefit plan payments
Bill Summary: This bill provides, for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2033, an exclusion from gross income, under the Personal Income Tax (PIT) Law, for retirement pay from

to determine whether a person is affiliated with the Armed Forces of the United States.
Status: Successful.

AB325 Veterans: discharge upgrades

Bill Summary: This bill establishes the Veteran's Military Discharge Upgrade Grant program to help fund service providers who will educate veterans about discharge upgrades and assist qualifying veterans in filing discharge upgrade applications. This legislation assists LGBTQ veterans discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) in updating their records and accessing education, health, burial and other benefits available to honorably discharged service members. Though LGBTQ service members could serve openly following the repeal of DADT, veterans discharged less than honorably under the policy face a burdensome process that can require legal counsel and other assistance to obtain an upgrade to their discharge classification.

Status: Successful.

AB738 Community mental health services: mental health boards

Bill summary: Requires that at least one member of a community based Mental Health Board (MHB) be a veteran or veteran advocate.

Status: Successful.



the federal government for specified military services and annuity payments received from a U.S. Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan. This bill declares the objective of the exclusion and requires, by December 1, 2033, the Legislative Analyst (LAO), in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), to submit a report to the

Legislature on the exclusion's effectiveness.

Status: Not successful.

AB1633 Public postsecondary education: veterans' educational benefits: information sharing
Summary: Requires the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to electronically transmit specified personal information regarding students whose tuition or fees are paid, or intended to be paid, using GI Bill educational benefits to the Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

Status: Successful.

AB1675 Teacher credentialing: spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces: expedited application process

Summary: This bill would require the commission to grant or deny a credential within 7 days of the date that the commission received a completed application if the applicant submits (1) evidence that the

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CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS CONTINUED



applicant is married to, or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with, an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is assigned to a duty station in this state under official active duty military orders, (2) proof of holding a valid, unexpired, professional-level teaching credential, as defined, and (3) fingerprints for purposes of conducting a criminal background check, as provided. The bill would clarify that these requirements for the clear teaching credential are in addition to other existing education, experience, and knowledge requirements for the clear teaching credential. The bill also would require the commission to publish information about credentialing options available to military veterans, members of the military, and their spouses prominently on the home page of the commission's internet website.

Status: Not successful.

AB1692 Veterans: Mental Health

Summary: Requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to establish a program to fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, an academic study of mental health among women veterans in California, and to submit a report to the Legislature no later than July 31, 2024.

Status: Vetoed by Governor: "This year's budget made an unprecedented \$50 million investment in the well-being of veterans through establishment of the California Veteran's Health Initiative. A key component of this initiative includes \$40 million to expand and support the network of veteran-specific mental health services through the state."

AB1715 Space Force

Summary: This bill amends various provisions of state law pertaining to members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans to include the United States Space Force in the definition of an armed forces entity.

Status: Successful.

AB1731 Postsecondary education: Title 38 awards: postsecondary educational institutions: application for approval or renewal

Summary: Requires the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education (CSAAVE), on or before January 1, 2024, to establish regulations requiring postsecondary educational institutions to provide specified information to CSAAVE as part of an application for approval or renewal. CSAAVE is California's State Approving Agency (SAA), an agency appointed by the Chief Executive of a state to approve institutional programs of education and training for payment of benefits under the various laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. CSAAVE is responsible for the review, evaluation, approval, and oversight of schools and training facilities to ensure state and federal quality criteria are met for veterans using their G.I. Bill funds. CSAAVE also assists the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of the G.I. Bill.

Status: Successful.

AB 1762 State Capitol: Gold Star Families monument

Summary: Authorizes the construction and maintenance of a monument to the Gold Star Families of California on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Status: Successful.

AB2119 Veterans: Medical Foster Home Program

Summary: Authorizes the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a program to issue licenses for medical foster homes for veterans as allowed under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and delineates the administrative requirements for the program.

Status: Successful.

AB2509 Vehicles: vehicle license fee and registration fees: exemptions

Summary: Exempts Purple Heart recipients from vehicle registration fees beginning January 1, 2027.

Status: Successful.

SB837 Driver's license: Veteran designation

Summary: This bill repeals the \$5 fee a veteran is required to pay in order to have the word

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CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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“VETERAN” printed on their driver’s license or identification card as per existing law.

Status: Successful.

SB949 Veterans: California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery

Summary: This bill repeals the requirement that the State Controller annually report to the Legislature on the status of the California Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) at Ford Ord Endowment Fund. This bill also deletes obsolete provisions related to the construction of the CCCVC at Fort Ord.

Status: Successful.

SB984 Military service: leave of absence: pay and benefits

Summary: This bill includes National Guard inactive duty drills as “active duty” and requires the state to pay National Guard state employee members for their inactive drills as if they were serving on active duty (i.e., their state salary or compensation for 30 days, as specified).

Status: Successful.

SB1041 Sales and Use Taxes: General Exemptions

Summary: This bill removes the sunset date for the sales and use tax exemption for goods sold by thrift stores that are both located on a military installation and operated by a “military welfare society.”

Status: Successful.

SB1073 Property Tax: Exemptions: Disabled Veterans

Summary: This bill would expand the disabled veterans’ exemption to allow a reduced exemption for partially disabled veterans. This bill, among other things, would do the following: (1) Expand the disabled veterans’ exemption to allow a reduced exemption for partially disabled veterans, effective for lien dates on or after January 1, 2023. (2) Set the amount of the partial exemption as the percentage of the full amount of exemption allowed to a totally disabled veteran equivalent to the partially disabled veteran’s disability rating percentage issued from USDVA, or the military service from which the veteran was discharged.

Status: Unsuccessful.

SB1182 Family Law

Summary: This bill requires a family court to provide referrals to resources for self-identified veterans appearing before the court, including how to contact the local Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet); requires, when a self-identified veteran files their status on the Judicial Councils military service form, that the Judicial Council transmit a copy of the form to the CalVet, and for CalVet to contact the veteran within a reasonable time; and requires, when a family court that finds the effects of a parent’s, legal guardian’s, or relative’s mental illness are a factor in determining the best interest of the child for purposes of custody or visitation, to put its reasons for the finding on the record and provide the affected parent, legal guardian, or relative with a list of local resources for mental health treatment. This bill’s requirements take effect January 1, 2024.

Status: Successful.

SB1195 Veteran’s Homes

Summary: This bill requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), when reviewing the best continued use of every home, to assess the need for veterans living at or near a Veterans Home to access care at a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility, and the potential for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to place satellite medical clinics on state veteran home campuses and within a 30-minute drive of a state veteran home campus, to serve both residents of the veteran homes and nonresident veterans in the communities where state veteran homes are located.

Status: Successful.

SB1237 Licenses: military service

Summary: This bill clarifies the phrase “called to active duty,” for purposes of various professional license requirement waivers under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

Specifically, this bill defines the phrase “called to active duty” as having the same meaning as “active duty” as defined under federal law and additionally includes active duty in the California National Guard

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due to the proclamation of a state of insurrection, a state extreme emergency, or otherwise being called by the Governor.

Status: Successful.

SB1311 Military and Veterans Consumer Protection Act

Summary: This bill enacts the Military and Veterans Consumer Protection Act of 2022 which strengthens California's existing military consumer protection laws by enhancing existing legal and financial protections for service members and their families by, among other things, prohibiting a person from conditioning the receipt of a military discount on the waiver of any right of the recipient under state or federal law and voiding any such waiver.

Status: Successful.

Notes: SB 1311 would, among other things:

- Establish the right to appear remotely, or through another military member, in small claims cases seeking the return of an improperly withheld security deposit;
- Make it illegal for a business to access the sensitive personal information stored on chipbased military ID cards (called Common Access Cards or CACs), or from using those cards to access sensitive military pay and personnel websites;
- Clarify existing law, which allows members of the Guard and Reserve to defer payments on mortgages and other obligations during a deployment, to ensure that interest is not accrued on a deferred mortgage obligation during the period of deferment;
- Prohibit businesses from offering military discounts that are conditioned on the service member or veteran waiving their rights under federal or state law;
- Amend state law regarding security interests to prevent businesses from taking advantage of a loophole and denying service members the full protections of the federal Military Lending Act;
- Impose enhanced civil penalties for violations of the Unfair Competition Law (UCL) perpetrated against service members and veterans;
- Enhance the ability of service members to terminate

auto leases when they are reassigned or deployed; and

- Provide enlisted service members at the rank of E-5 (an Army, Marine Corps, or Space Force Sergeant, an Air Force Staff Sergeant, or a Navy or Coast Guard Petty Officer Second Class), or below, who are all too often the targets of predatory auto sales practices, with an automatic 30-day cooling off period for auto purchases and leases to allow them to return the purchased or leased vehicle. Military consumer protection: <https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/military>

Status: Successful

SB1395 California Defense Community Infrastructure Program

Bill Summary: SB1395 would require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), with input and assistance from the Governor's Military Council (GMC), to develop and implement the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (CDCIP) to provide grants to local agencies for matching funds and other costs related to community improvements supportive of a military institution, as specified. The bill would appropriate \$50 million from the General Fund for the grant program.

Status: Not successful.

SB1411 Personal Income Taxes: Exclusion: Uniformed Services: Retirement Pay

Summary: This bill would provide an income exclusion for retirement pay received by members of the uniformed services.

Status: Unsuccessful.



CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

MILITARY RETIREE PAY TAX EXEMPTION LEGISLATION

CDCA supports legislation to exclude from gross income retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service performed in the uniformed services, as defined, during the taxable year.

California is currently the only state in the country, that does not provide some form of exemption for military retirement pay from state income taxes.

When military retirees relocate to other states (upon reaching retirement age, average 42 years old) they take federal funds from the Veterans Administration, Social Security, Medicare and Tri-Care to those other states, resulting in loss of those federal funds and service reductions from those agencies in California. An example, fewer number of military retirees receiving treatment at a California VA Hospital results in personnel being reassigned to VA Hospitals with increase in patients seeking treatment.

Military retirees provide valuable “work force development” to the state they choose to retire in. Military retirees who served as Physicians, Nurses, Aero Space Engineers, Nuclear Propulsion Engineers, First Responders, Vocational Trades and others leave military service and bring those skills to the state’s work force.

The San Diego Military Advisory Council engaged the Fermanian Business and Economic Institute to



conduct an analysis considering a full exemption of military retirement pay in California. The study showed a gain of \$518 million to state and local tax revenues, which would continue to grow each year by retaining military retirees in California.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

WHAT REPLACES THE NAVY'S CRITICAL AQM-37 AERIAL TARGET?

BY ERIC TEGLER FOR FORBES



The Navy prepares to launch the final AQM-37 targets Sept. 22 in support of the U.S. Army's Integrated Fires Mission Command operations at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Since 1962, a substantial-looking air-launched missile called the AQM-37 Typhon has played roles replicating enemy air-to-air and air-to-surface threats. Though vital to training and system development operations worldwide, the U.S. stock of AQM-37s has run out. What's in the wings?

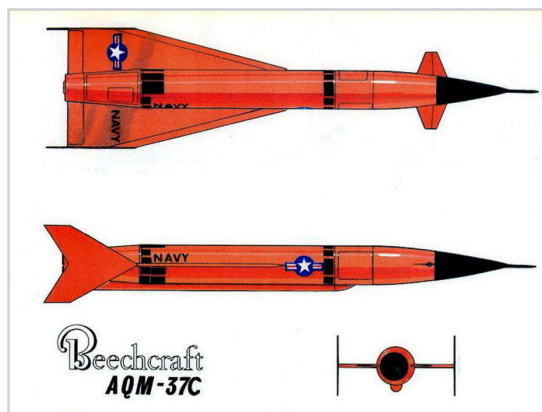
Last month, USAF F-16s fired the last two of over 5,000 Typhons produced. They were expended in a test for the Army's Integrated Fires Mission Command operations at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

The Navy has been the chief steward of the AQM-37 for the last six decades (the Army and Air Force have also employed small numbers) with the inventory managed by NAVAIR's Aerial Targets Program Office (PMA-208) at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland. Built by Beechcraft, and later Raytheon, variants of the AQM-

37 (dubbed the "Typhon") could fly at speeds of up to Mach 4. With such speed and the ability to reach altitudes up to 300,000 feet, Typhons were able to fly simulated ballistic missile profiles. The Navy AQM-37C variant of the obscure but invaluable Typhon test missile.

Thanks to a digital autopilot, a telemetry system for flight evaluation and a command/control system allowing lateral maneuvers for course correction as well as dives and pull-ups, the Typhon was a highly effective live simulation tool. The target missile provided weapons training, development and evaluation for NATO countries as well as the U.S.

Well known systems which the AQM-37 helped advance



THE NAVY AQM-37C VARIANT OF THE OBSCURE BUT INVALUABLE TYPHON TEST MISSILE. BEECHCRAFT/RAYTHEON

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NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY'S CRITICAL AQM-37 AERIAL TARGET CONTINUED

include short range air-to air missiles including the Air Intercept Missile (AIM-9) Sidewinder, ship-borne short range anti-aircraft missiles including the Sea Sparrow Missile (RIM-7) and a variety of ships equipped with AEGIS missile defense systems.

The final roles played by the Typhon included recent exercises in which F-16s from the Air Force's 412th Test Wing launched seven AQM-37 targets to support testing of E-2D Advanced Hawkeye sensors and F-35 Lightning II capabilities at Navy Exercise Gray Flag at the Point Mugu Sea Range. Though largely unheralded, these capped a long career in which the Typhon played a highly important role in U.S. fires and sensors development.

PMA-208 program manager, Don Blottenberger, acknowledged the importance of the AQM-37 but said its final chapter, "provides us the opportunity to start and sustain new chapters with more advanced technology and capabilities that closer resemble the threats we face."

What advanced technology and capabilities the Navy/DoD will replace the AQM-37 with aren't clear. It would be logical

to surmise that along with existing alternative subsonic and supersonic test missiles, interest in missiles capable of simulating hypersonic threats would be high.

Last year, Lockheed Martin LMT opened a new "smart" factory in Alabama where the Air Force's AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) will be

manufactured, along with hypersonic systems for the Army and Navy. The site will also be used to build the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapon and the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike missile.

Interestingly, the two systems have major components in common, including the hypersonic glide body vehicle itself. The Air Force was also a partner on that project (called the Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon), a fact which could suggest the possibility that the common hypersonic glide body vehicle could be semi-cost efficiently developed as a hypersonic test round a la AQM-37.

A spokesperson for PMA-208 suggested that the Navy will use a mix of existing target drone missiles to fill the gap left by exhaustion of the Typhon inventory. Northrop Grumman's NOC GQM-163 Coyote will likely be one. Designed as a non-recoverable sea-skimming supersonic target meant to simulate anti-ship cruise missiles, it can also perform as a diving target with a maximum altitude of 52,000 feet.

The diving portion of the surface-launched Coyote's flight trajectory could be useful in simulating the

terminal phase of cruise missile threats given its speed of Mach 3.8 in this phase of flight. Its low altitude performance at Mach 2.8 when sea-skimming makes it a challenging anti-ship missile simulator but without the air-launch capability



A GQM-163A SUPERSONIC SEA SKIMMING TARGET MISSILE FIRES FROM A SURFACE LAUNCHER. U.S. NAVY

of the AQM-37 it represents a smaller subset of the threat.

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NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY'S CRITICAL AQM-37 AERIAL TARGET CONTINUED

Northrop Grumman was recently awarded a Navy contract to procure 28 additional GQM-163s, which would indicate anticipated use as a follow-on to the Typhon. Theoretically, de-contented versions of existing air to air missiles like Raytheon's AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) or shorter range, triple threat (air-air, surface attack, surface launch) AIM-9X Sidewinder could simulate the air to air threat.

What the Air Force's plans for its emerging Modular Advanced Missile beyond combat employment are, are unknown. However, its rumored capability to integrate different propulsion systems and warhead/seeker payloads might make it a highly flexible test asset.

But with the last two AQM-37s having fired from the rails of an F-16 wing pylon the Navy acknowledges there currently is no direct replacement for it. NAVAIR has also publicly acknowledged that alternative supersonic targets like GQM-163 "are capable of fulfilling a separate limited subset of [AQM-37s] capability."

At the same time, NAVAIR says there is not an anticipated gap in fleet training without AQM-37s. For the sake of future missile and sensor development as well as threat-defeat training, Americans should hope not.



NAVY LEAGUE



BOB QUINN

The Channel Islands Council Navy League has wrapped up the 2022 year by recognizing the Sailor of the Year, Seabee of the Year, Coast Guardsman of the Year, Marine of the Year as well as the outstanding Cadets in the NJROTC program at Hueneme High, the Sea Cadet units at Port Hueneme and Point Mugu and the Navy Leaguer units at Mugu and Hueneme.

We donated baby clothes to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and contributed toys to the Toys for Tots program. We continue to work with RDP21 to inform the public that the US is a maritime nation and a strong Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine are critical for our nation to be successful.



NAVSEA WARFARE CENTERS

Enabling maritime superiority today, tomorrow, and the Navy after next

Virtual Career Fair

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| NSWC Crane
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NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 43 YEARS, PORT HUENEME NAVY EXCHANGE WINS TOP AWARD



BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS

Bingham Award then NEX Port Hueneme,” said Bianchi.

During the ceremony, Bianchi presented the Bingham Award to Capt. Jason Kranz, chief staff officer, NBVC, and Mrs. Nancy DeVore, general manager, Port Hueneme NEX.

“The NEX is an essential part of the base for our families, Seabees, Sailors and this award highlights your commitment to them,” said Kranz. “At NBVC excellence is not optional, it’s an expectation and we are so proud that the Port Hueneme NEX is living up to this standard.”

Photo By Ensign Drew Verbis | 221020-N-AS200-0113 PORT HUENEME, Calif. (Oct. 20, 2022) – Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi (ret.), center right, cuts a cake with staff officers from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) during a ceremony for Port Hueneme Navy Exchange (NEX), which won the 2021 Bingham Award, by the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). .

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (NNS) – For the first time in 43 years, Port Hueneme Navy Exchange (NEX) onboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), won the 2021 Bingham Award, by the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM), the highest honor a store can receive.

“At NEXCOM our purpose is to sustain and supply Naval forces with quality-of-life benefits,” said Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi (ret.), Chief Executive Officer, NEXCOM. “The Port Hueneme NEX epitomize who we are as an organization and what we stand for each and every day.”

The award recognizes outstanding performance in operations, excellence in customer service, financial performance, and community support. Established in 1979, the Bingham award is named after the late Capt. W.H. Bingham, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve who was the chief executive officer of the R.H. Macy’s company and was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy in 1946 to lead an advisory board for establishment of what is now the NEXCOM.

“It’s about delivering comfort and sense of home for these military families and there’s no group better deserving of the

“Our stores are viewed as mission essential to the U.S. Navy and cannot do what they do without the support of the base Commanding Officer,” said Bianchi. “It is a great partnership, and our military, Veterans, retirees and families are the beneficiaries.”

A total of nine sales category award winners were announced throughout the NEXCOM enterprise (200 stores). Port Hueneme took first place in Category 3 (\$19-28 million) while eight other NEX stores worldwide won in the remaining categories, and nine runners-up were mentioned.

“It’s a great day to be a Navy Exchange associate,” said DeVore. “It took extra effort to be the best; customer engagement, asking for feedback, being responsive, and always thanking them.”

NEXCOM is headquarters for the worldwide NEXCOM enterprise. Its mission is to provide authorized customers quality goods and services at savings and to support Navy quality of life programs for active-duty military, retirees, reservists, and their families.

NBVC is home to Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, San Nicolas Island, the Pacific Coast Seabees, the West coast Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers, and 80 tenants. It is the largest employer in Ventura County and actively protects California’s largest coastal wetlands through its award-winning environmental programs.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY PINS SIXTY-FIVE VENTURA COUNTY CHIEFS



BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS TYLER KNOTTS | 221021-N-KD414-0501 PORT HUENEME, CALIF. (OCT. 21, 2022) – SIXTY-FIVE SAILORS ASSIGNED TO PERSPECTIVE COMMANDS ONBOARD NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY (NBVC) DONNED A PAIR OF GOLD-FOULED ANCHORS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO BECOME THE 129TH CLASS OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS, OCT 21, 2022.

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (NNS) – Sixty-five Sailors assigned to perspective commands onboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) donned a pair of gold-foiled anchors for the first time to become the 129th class of chief petty officers, Oct 21, 2022.

The pinning ceremony marked the culmination of six weeks of indoctrination and initiation into one of the most exclusive professional fellowships in the Navy, the Chiefs Mess. During the initiation, dubbed the chiefs season, first class petty officers (E6) selected for chief are trained, mentored, and tested in leadership, core values, and an array of other professional and personal development areas before accepted into the Chiefs Mess.

“No other armed forces have a rank equivalent to that of the Navy chief petty officer,” said Senior Chief Equipment Operator Braylon Dorsey, assigned Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Three. “Although the pay grade of E7-E9 [rank] is equivalent, the Navy gives more responsibility and authority while demanding more performance and results; and even the uniform changes.”

Chiefs are considered the backbone of senior enlisted leadership and advocates for the best interests of junior Sailors. The chief removes barriers and handles adversity to allow Sailors to do their jobs while demonstrating the humility to take a back seat when a good job is rewarded.

“As the Chiefs Mess goes, so does the command,” said Capt. Peter Maculan, commanding officer, Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE) and the Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS). “A chief’s leadership not only sets a highwater mark for our Sailors on the deck plates but drives our Navy forward. So, in many ways, the CPO is the

master of the Fleet’s fate.”

“The last six-weeks have taught me the weight of these anchors,” said Chief Culinary Specialist Shawn Payne, a newly-pinned chief assigned to NBVC. “It can be a heavy burden and I’m so honored to be selected, but I recognize there’s no time to reveal in my accomplishment, it’s time to pay it forward.”

Being selected as a chief represents the most significant change in an enlisted Sailor’s career. Less than 10 percent of all who enter the enlisted ranks will be selected. The level of responsibility they assume reflects their leadership potential as well as technical prowess.

“Chiefs owe a great debt, and today is day number-one of repayment,” said Maculan.

The CPO grade (E-7), traditionally unique to the Navy, was first mentioned during the Revolutionary War through the promotion of Chief Cook Jacob Wasbie in 1776, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command. The Chief was formally established through executive order by President Benjamin Harris on April 1, 1893; starting a tradition that consisted of the senior, most experienced, rated sailor as the “chief,” who was designated by the commanding officer as the one in charge of his peers.

NBVC is home to Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, San Nicolas Island, the Pacific Coast Seabees, the West coast Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers, and 80 tenants. It is the largest employer in Ventura County and actively protects California’s largest coastal wetlands through its award-winning environmental programs.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY OBSERVES VETERANS DAY IN VENTURA COUNTY



BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS

PHOTO BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS | 211111-N-AS200-0835 VENTURA COUNTY, CALIF. (NOV. 11, 2022) CAPT. ROBERT "BARR" KIMNACH III, COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY (NBVC), DELIVERS A HAND SALUTE DURING A VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT VENTURA COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL NOV. 11, 2022.

VENTURA COUNTY, Calif. (NNS) – Capt. Robert “Barr” Kimmach, commanding officer, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and additional staff officers participated in Veterans Day ceremonies in and around Ventura County, Nov. 11, 2022.

“California has more military bases and personnel than any other state,” said Kimmach, delivering the keynote remarks at Port Hueneme’s City Hall. “California has produced over 2-million veterans and pausing to reflect on their service brings into sharper focus the deeds and needs of those living alongside us.”

Separate from Memorial Day, which honors American’s who died in while in military service, Veterans Day celebrates the country’s living sons and daughters who swore an oath to defend the Constitution.

Another military holiday that also occurs in May, Armed Forces Day, observed on the third Saturday in May, honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.

Capt. Jason Kranz, chief staff officer, NBVC, delivered remarks from Oxnard’s historical Plaza Park.

“Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens,” said Kranz. “They may differ by gender, race, age, national origin, or profession, but they share a common bound and love for our great nation, with a willingness to sacrifice themselves to guarantee the way of life we enjoy today, and secure that way of life for tomorrow.”

“Veterans Day is an important Oxnard tradition to honor

our local service members for their bravery in defending our freedom,” said John C. Zaragoza, Mayor, Oxnard. “As someone who comes from a family with generations of members who’ve served in World War II, and more recently in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are forever grateful for their selfless service to our country. We are honored to recognize all who have served in the US Armed Forces on this holiday.”

Veterans Day traces its origins to the celebration of Armistice Day in 1918, at the end of WWI, at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. An act of Congress in 1954, changed the name to “Veterans Day”, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower calling on all U.S. citizens to observe and remember the sacrifices of those who served their country.

The NBVC Color Guard supported an event at the Capt. Rosemary Bryant Mariner Veterans Affairs (VA) Outpatient Clinic, in Ventura, Calif., while other members attended various flag raising ceremonies, or spoke at local schools.

Eight Sailors appeared on the Kelly Clarkson Veterans Day Show in Los Angeles featuring Jonathan Majors, star of the Naval biopic war drama, Devotion.

“While it’s honor to represent the Navy on the Kelly Clarkson Show today, I want to thank my shipmates who served before me, and those who are standing the watch today; locally and forward-deployed,” said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Tyler Knotts, assigned to NBVC air operations.

NBVC is home to Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, San Nicolas Island, the Pacific Coast Seabees, the West coast Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers, and 80 tenants. It is the largest employer in Ventura County and actively protects California’s largest coastal wetlands through its award-winning environmental programs.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

VENTURA COUNTY GETS NEW “NAVY SHERRIF”



PHOTO AND STORY BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS

220823-N-AS200-0201 POINT MUGU, Calif. (Aug. 23, 2022) – Lt. Casanova Love, a native of Alexandria, Louisiana, relieved Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michelle Hamilton as Security Officer (SECO) of Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Aug 23, 2022. NBVC is a strategically located Naval installation composed of three operating facilities: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme and San Nicolas Island. NBVC is the home of the Pacific Seabees, West Coast E-2D Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers and 80 tenants.



LEGACY SAILOR IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO AND STORY BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS

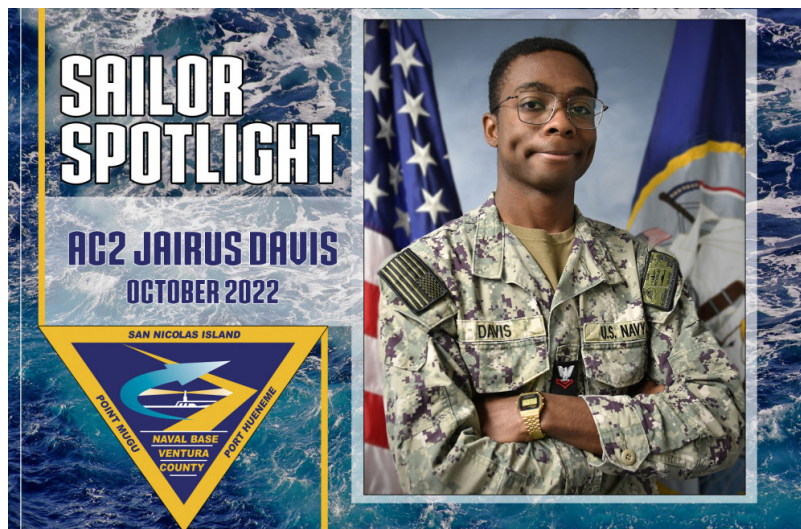
POINT MUGU, Calif. – Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Jairus Davis, from Oak Harbor, Washington, assigned to Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), has been recognized as the October 2022 Sailor in the Spotlight.

“Davis accepts challenging tasks and completes them flawlessly and ahead of schedule,” said Air Traffic Controller Master Chief Megan Donnell, air operations leading chief petty officer, NBVC. “His motivation is contagious to his peers, and he sets the example for others to emulate. He is deserving of recognition.”

Davis has served for three years, reporting to NBVC in 2020. His jobs include ground control, radar associate, clearance delivery, flight data, and Flight Planning Supervisor.

“My dad was stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and retired after 20-years of Navy service,” said Davis. “I attended college before joining so I thought it would be smart to continue my family’s military legacy while also working on eliminating college debt.”

The Sailor in the Spotlight is a program that recognizes Sailors who display outstanding drive and dedication.



“Next I’m working on my graduate-degree in the area of educational counselling,” said Davis.

“Sailors are our top priority,” said NBVC Command Master Chief William Kumley. “Petty officer Davis is leading the change for mission readiness and supporting our tenant commands.”

NBVC is comprised of three distinct operational facilities: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme and San Nicolas Island. It is Ventura County’s largest employer and protects Southern California’s largest coastal wetlands through its award-winning environmental program.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY F-35C SURFACES WEARING NEW MIRROR-LIKE SKIN (UPDATED)

BY JOSEPH TREVITHICK, TYLER ROGOWAY FOR THE WARZONE

Another U.S. military stealth jet has been spotted wearing a metallic-looking coating. This time it's a U.S. Navy F-35C Joint Strike Fighter sporting a mosaic of panels with mirror-like finishes. This is different from another 'chrome' coating previously seen on one of the service's F-35Cs, but is very similar to one that has been observed on a U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor in the recent past.

raptor-covered-in-mirror-like-coating-photographed-flying-out-of-nellis-afb

A second 'chrome' Raptor emerged around March of this year with a different coating pattern characterized

Author's note: for full context check out our last major report on these mysterious 'chrome' finishes that have now shown up on a variety of stealthy aircraft here.

The jet in question belongs to the Navy's Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9), the "Vampires," and has the Bureau Number serial number 168842. The aircraft – seen in the pictures at the top of this story and below taken by Fred Taleghani of FreddyB Aviation Photography, who goes by the handle @cvvhrn Twitter – has been flying from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Point Mugu in California since at least last week.

The aircraft also has the modex number 105, which is painted on the outside of both of its twin tails, along with the VX-9 tail code XE. A subdued variation of the VX-9 logo, consisting of a bat and twin lightning bolt motif with four stars arrayed above, is also seen on the outside of the left tail.

The markings are, of course, much less interesting than the mosaic of rhombus, triangle, and square-shaped tiles arrayed around the airframe. This is distinct from the pattern seen on the F-22 with the mirror-like finish that emerged last year, which featured a mix of square, trapezoidal, and somewhat triangular-shaped panels, as you can find out more about that at : <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/43228/f-22->



FRED TALEGHANI / FREDDYB AVIATION PHOTOGRAPHY

by arrays of smaller rectangular, trapezoidal, and triangular tiles. This application has more in common with that of the F-35C in this post than the earlier Raptor mirror-like coating.

The coating that 168842 currently has is also different from one that was seen previously on at least one other VX-9 F-35C, which had distinctive scalloped edges mid-way across both wings and a much larger area covered with more of sheet-like material in areas, similar to the first 'mirrored F-22.'

There has been some suggestion that 168842 may have previously had this earlier coating. However, the jet that was seen with it while flying in an area along the California-Nevada border in January had a different

continued on next page

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY F-35C SURFACES CONTINUED

modex number, 100. Of course, more than one of VX-9's F-35Cs could certainly have had this other coating applied at one time or another.

Regardless, we definitely know now that at least two of VX-9's Joint Strike Fighters have had at least one of the metallic-looking finishes applied. The earlier



MONTHS AGO, ANOTHER NAVY TEST F-35C FROM VX-9 APPEARED WITH ITS OWN 'CHROME SKIN' THAT LOOKED SIMILAR TO THAT WORN BY THE FIRST 'CHROME RAPTOR.' CREDIT: ELIJAH DELGADILLO

F-35C coating had appeared as if it might be translucent, looking either reflective or matte depending on the viewing angle and reversing the contrast of the markings beneath it as the perspective moved from front to rear. It's not entirely clear whether the coating on the 168842 has similar qualities.

In addition to the two different styles of mirror-like coatings for the F-22, we've seen at least one of the Air Force's not-so-retired F-117 Nighthawk stealth jets with a similar finish recently. Even one of Scaled Composites' Model 401 demonstrator jet was seen wearing a similar coating over NAWS China Lake long before the F-22s appeared with it. Similar coatings can be traced even further back to the fully operational era

of the F-117 program.

We still don't know the exact story behind these finishes, but they are believed to help reduce the signature of these already stealthy aircraft, particularly in the infrared spectrum, without dramatically impacting the aircraft's radar cross-section. It may also have to do with making the aircraft's sensitive low-observable skin more maintainable and robust over time. Whether these particular coatings are designed to be representative of something that could be applied to operational aircraft, or are just being used for research and development and test and evaluation purposes in their current form, is unclear.

Why 168842, specifically, is in Point Mugu is also not entirely clear. Earlier this month, Naval Base Ventura County did issue a somewhat cryptic press release regarding increased flight activity at the base starting on August 22 and ending on September 2.

"NBVC Point Mugu will host approximately 50 aircraft. Aircraft supporting multiple test events are expected to operate during airfield hours out of NBVC Point Mugu from August 22 to September 2, with the larger segments of flying between August 22-26," the release said.

"No night operations are scheduled at this time."

However, the press release also described whatever would be happening as a singular "exercise" that is intended "to provide unit-level training for pilots and aircrews on the Point Mugu Sea Range."

The War Zone has reached out to the Navy for more information.

It is all but certain that 168842 is at Point Mugu to take part in this test/exercise plan, whatever it might entail. A number of other aircraft from the Navy's test and evaluation community, as well as similar Marine and Air Force units, look to have now descended on the

continued on next page

NAVY F-35C SURFACES CONTINUED

base for the same reason. Photographer Matt Hartman was able to grab shots of a number of these other jets, and there were some of particular interest.

Additional aircraft from VX-9, including F/A-18E and F model Super Hornets and at least one EA-18G Growler, were among them. Another EA-18G from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23 (VX-23) touched down, too.

As seen in the picture on this page, VX-23 Growler arrived carrying two new AN/ALQ-249(V)1 Next Generation

Jammer-Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) electronic warfare pods under its wings. These are one part of a suite of new electronic warfare

pods being developed for the EA-18G, which you can read more about at: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/24475/navys-next-gen-jammer-is-three-pods-not-one-and-competition-for-one-of-them-just-heated-up>

Two Air Force F-117s, which are now being regularly used in major exercises and test events often as surrogates for low observable (stealthy) aircraft and cruise missiles, are now at Point Mugu, too. One of the service's new F-35A aggressors assigned to the recently reactivated 65th Aggressor Squadron has touched down at the base, as well.

Two Marine F-35Bs from Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VMX-1) were also among the recent arrivals.

Whatever test and/or training event Point Mugu is

now hosting, a wide variety of specialized assets are participating that are capable of presenting, or least mimicking, an equally diverse array of threat profiles. Of the other aircraft beyond the mirrored F-35C, the EA-18G with the NGJ-MB pods is particularly notable given that the Navy has said in the past that it expects this electronic warfare system to reach initial operational capability by the end of Fiscal Year 2022. The 2022 Fiscal Year ends on September 30.

It's also important to remember that the aircraft noted in this story are just the ones that have been seen in

the open. The NBVC press release mentions 50 aircraft, so there are definitely others taking part in the testing/training that haven't necessarily

been observed

visually. For example, online flight tracking software recently showed an Air Force B-52 bomber conducting a mission off the coast of southern California the day after the test/training activities at Point Mugu were said to have started.

It is also worth noting that this would not be, by any means, the first time the elements of the Navy and the Air Force have conducted advanced joint test and training activities areas off the southern California coast. At the same time, these kinds of events have been occurring more frequently, and have been growing in size and scope. This is in no small part a product of efforts to better incorporate representations of higher-end threats, and do so at larger scales over greater distances. In June, for instance, the two



MATT HARTMAN/SHOREALONE FILMS

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NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY F-35C SURFACES CONTINUED



ONE OF THE TWO F-35BS FROM VMX-1 THAT RECENTLY ARRIVED AT POINT MUGU. MATT HARTMAN/SHOREALONE FILMS

services notably joined together in the Southern California range complex to conduct a major multi-faceted training exercise that also involved fighter jets, bombers, and an aircraft carrier strike group, among other assets, as you can read more about at: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/mysterious-exercise-off-baja-brought-nellis-afb-uss-nimitz-aircraft-together>

All told, from what we have seen, it would certainly seem very possible, if not probable, that the test/training activities being conducted from Point Mugu are intended, at least in part, to evaluate a variety of different sensors and countermeasures in larger-scale and more operationally representative environments. In many ways, what has been observed so far from aircraft operating out of the base feels very similar to previous Air Force Orange Flag and Black Flag large force test and evaluation exercises, which have generally taken place within the airspace over the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR), albeit this would be Navy-led.

It will certainly be interesting to see what details, if

any, subsequently emerge about the metallic-looking F-35C and the test/training events at Point Mugu it is now taking part in. What now seems certain is that are basically two flavors of ‘chrome’ coatings for stealthy jets that are increasingly being put to the test by both services.

UPDATE:

Another F-35C with a ‘chrome’ coating has now arrived at Point Mugu. This is the same one we reported on in January, a VX-9 jet with the ‘100’ modex, wearing a very similar coating as the first ‘chrome’ F-22 that appeared last year. So both types of coatings are now in play for this large test exercise, which matches USAF efforts out of Nellis AFB in the past where both coatings were being flown on F-22s.



NAVFAC EXWC

NAVY COMMAND CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING, AND SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT TO WARFIGHTERS



(L. TO R) DR. BRETT A. SEIDLE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND ENGINEERING WITH NAVY CAPTAIN SCOTT RAYMOND NAVFAC EXWC COMMANDING OFFICER

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – This year, the U.S. Navy’s, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) based at Port Hueneme, CA, celebrates its ten-year anniversary.

Building on a history that started with support of the U.S. Navy Seabees in 1942, NAVFAC EXWC has become key to Naval warfighting, enabling warfighter readiness to deploy and win decisively. NAVFAC EXWC currently employs more than 1,300 civilian, military, and contractor personnel engaged in approximately 1,000 projects. The command executes an annual budget of more than \$1 billion in support of some of the most scientific and technologically challenging activities for the Department of the Navy - underwater, afloat, and ashore. In the past two years, NAVFAC EXWC has awarded contracts in excess of \$2 billion.

“Throughout our ten year history, NAVFAC EXWC has continued to expand its capabilities to serve the warfighter,” said NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer, Navy Captain Scott Raymond. “In 2014, we established

the Technical Director position to provide long-term stewardship of the command’s technical capabilities. Our designation as a Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory (STRL) in 2018 grants us authority, responsibility, and flexibility to innovate technologies that support critical warfighter needs.”

NAVFAC EXWC combines the capabilities of seven previous Navy research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E)

organizations. The command provides products and services in the three major domains – Oceans, Shore, and Expeditionary. Examples of our capabilities include renewable energy and energy resiliency, ocean and seafloor engineering and equipment, airfield and port damage repair, construction equipment provisioning and sustainment, and environmental engineering and science.

“Since becoming Technical Director in 2014, I have seen NAVFAC EXWC mature our capabilities to provide technical solutions in the oceans, shore, and expeditionary domains,” said Mr. Kail Macias, EXWC’s Technical Director. “Joining the Naval Research and Development Establishment in 2017 solidified our position among the military’s RDT&E organizations and raised our profile in the R&D community. The quality of our people and the breadth and depth of their scientific, engineering, and business expertise increases our agility and enables us to meet customer and warfighter needs in the areas of readiness, capabilities, and capacity.” For more information, please visit <https://exwc.navfac.navy.mil>



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

CAPT. TONY HOLMES BRINGS EXTENSIVE FLEET SUPPORT EXPERIENCE AS NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

BY THOMAS MCMAHON, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FROM LEFT: INCOMING NSWC PHD COMMANDING OFFICER (CO) CAPT. TONY HOLMES AND OUTGOING CO CAPT. ANDREW HOFFMAN REPORT RELIEF AND ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND TO REAR ADM. KEVIN BYRNE, COMMANDER OF NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND'S NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER AND NAVAL UNDERSEA WARFARE CENTER, AS NSWC PHD TECHNICAL DIRECTOR JEFF KOE LOOKS ON DURING THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY IN THE BUILDING 1388 AUDITORIUM ON DEC. 2. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY DANA RENE WHITE/RELEASED)

After serving two tours with NSWC PHD earlier in his career, Capt. Anthony “Tony” Holmes has returned to take on a new role: commanding officer.

Holmes relieved Capt. Andrew Hoffman on Dec. 2 in a change of command ceremony bedecked with naval customs, from saluting sideboys to a piping boatswain and a clanging bell.

NSWC PHD Executive Officer Cmdr. David Cho described the ceremony as “a time-honored tradition among the sea services” that demonstrates the transfer of complete responsibility from one officer to another — in this case, from Hoffman to Holmes.

The formal change of command commenced with a time-honored phrase, uttered by watch officers around the world each day as they pass responsibility to their relief.

“I am ready to be relieved,” Hoffman said to Holmes.

As Holmes takes the helm, he brings deep experience with a variety of naval outfits, including NSWC PHD.

From 2011 to 2014, he led the command’s former Land Attack Department. From 2016 to 2019, he served as

officer in charge at NSWC PHD’s White Sands Detachment in New Mexico, which specializes in missile testing and suborbital rocket launches. In the fleet, Holmes has served aboard nuclear-powered aircraft carriers USS Enterprise (CVN 65) and USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), and the guided-missile frigate USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49). Ashore, Holmes’ assignments have spanned the nation, from positions with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program Office in Dahlgren, Virginia, to Supervisor of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast

in New Orleans, Louisiana, to NSWC PHD. He also served an overseas tour in Umm Qasr, Iraq, where he worked as project manager for Swift-class 35-meter patrol boats that the U.S. was building for the Iraqi Navy.

As commanding officer of NSWC PHD, Holmes will lead a workforce of more than 3,600 Navy civilians, contractors and Sailors tasked with ensuring the surface fleet’s weapons are always ready and operating.

“This is a fantastic workforce that gives the fleet and its Sailors 110%, every day, and I can’t be happier, or feel more honored and privileged, to take the helm,” Holmes said. “I recognize that I’ve got big shoes to fill, and I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

Holmes enlisted in the Navy in 1988 and commissioned as a naval officer in 2002. He holds a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering technology, a Master of Arts in computer resources/information management and a Master of Science in mechanical engineering.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

UNREP ENGINEERS SEE THEIR NEW SYSTEM DESIGN INSTALLED ON FIRST-IN-CLASS OILER

BY TERI CARNICELLI, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



THE UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT (UNREP) FUEL AND CARGO DELIVERY STATIONS ABOARD USNS JOHN LEWIS (T-AO 205) USE THE NEW ELECTRIC STANDARD TENSIONED REPLENISHMENT ALONGSIDE METHOD (E-STREAM) TECHNOLOGY, DESIGNED BY NSWC PHD UNREP ENGINEERS. USNS JOHN LEWIS IS THE FIRST OILER TO HAVE THE NEW E-STREAM SYSTEMS ON BOARD. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY DANA RENE WHITE/RELEASED)

After more than a decade of research, design and testing, members of NSWC PHD's Underway Replenishment (UNREP) engineering team recently saw firsthand their new UNREP fuel delivery system installed aboard USNS John Lewis (T-AO 205).

The first-in-class oiler, delivered to Military Sealift Command (MSC) in July, stopped by Port Hueneme for a visit in early November for a ship stores resupply and for minor repairs by builder representatives who traveled from the shipyard in San Diego.

The civilian-manned ship sports the new Electric Standard Tensioned Replenishment Alongside Method (E-STREAM) UNREP system that the team at NSWC PHD designed, and it was the first time the engineers saw it completed and installed.

"The UNREP team at Port Hueneme Division is not only the In-Service Engineering Agent for the Navy's UNREP system, but also the design agent for that system," explained Rich Hadley, the command's UNREP division manager. "This means when a new system is desired, or something

new with the system needs to be developed, we are in charge of developing it here, and the design ends up on Navy drawings, signed by our Port Hueneme Division engineers." NREP systems deliver cargo and fuel to ships via wire cables and fuel hoses when two ships are tethered together. The standard hydraulic UNREP system, first introduced to the fleet in the 1980s, takes specialized training to operate and is expensive to repair, particularly as parts become harder and harder to find, Hadley said.

The new electronic

E-STREAM system has multiple sensors that can monitor ship separation, line tension, cargo speed and various system components. The sensor feedback improves system performance, displays system status and warnings to the operator, and allows for automatic control of cargo landing, ensuring a greater degree of safety and ease of operation. Donny Campbell, UNREP technical project manager at NSWC PHD's Virginia Beach Detachment in Dam Neck, Virginia, visited the oiler while it was still under construction in San Diego.

"It is amazing to finally see what NSWC PHD's UNREP division has been working to develop for many years come to fruition on the John Lewis-class ship," Campbell said. "It is exciting when something new comes out and provides the customer with a more efficient system to accomplish their core task out at sea.

"This is the dawn of a new era in UNREP, for both the speed and operation of the equipment and for the life cycle management of the equipment," Campbell added.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

NSWC PHD RECEIVES CORRFOSS PATENT; LICENSE AGREEMENT IN THE WORKS

BY TERI CARNICELLI, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FOREGROUND TO LEFT: NAVY ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN 2ND CLASS (ET2) OSCAR WARD, A RESERVIST WITH NAVAL INFORMATION WARFARE SYSTEMS COMMAND'S CONFIGURATION VALIDATION TEAM, PATRICK CHEN (HOLDING CABLE) WITH NASA ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER, BRIAN BARNES (WITH HAT) WITH NSWC PHD, LT. MATT MARSH AND RESERVIST ET2 CONRAD HEINZ WATCH CHEN ASSEMBLE A MICROFOSS UNIT AT NASA'S ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER, JAN. 22, 2020. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO/RELEASED)

NSWC PHD successfully patented the process of applying a “smart” fiberoptic system between a metal surface and its protective coating in order to detect the beginnings of corrosion at the microscopic level, opening the door for wider applications through a licensing agreement with

In 2019, NSWC PHD partnered with NASA's Armstrong sFlight Research Center in Edwards, California, to build and test a type of micro-sized FOSS, called microFOSS.

“NASA developed FOSS; what I did is create a spinoff of that technology specifically for corrosion detection,” which later became known as CorrFOSS, Kvryan explained. Tiny sensors live inside FOSS, an optical fiber cable the width of a human hair, which can be affixed to the surfaces of ships beneath the paint layer and connected to any commercial-off-the-shelf data collection system. CorrFOSS can be used to measure slight changes in surfaces, such as when metal starts to oxidize, which makes them able to watch for and track corrosion.

“This smart fiberoptic system can detect even the smallest of changes,” Kvryan said. “The sensitivity of that fiber is extremely high since it is based on shifts in wavelength, and not physical appearance.”

Now that the CorrFOSS corrosion detection process has received its patent, the next step is to find funding to develop it — in this case, outside of the Department of the Navy.

“The Navy hires scientists and engineers to come up with solutions to some of its problems, but once a solution is determined, someone actually has to create the technology to implement it,” Kvryan said. “So, who is going to actually develop and produce that technology? That's where our partnerships with industry really come into play.”

a commercial company.

The patent was awarded in November to Armen Kvryan, NSWC PHD's materials subject matter expert, as the primary contributor, and the late Lt. Cmdr. Todd Coursey as the secondary contributor.

“Todd did a lot of early work on this project and I felt it was important that his name be on the patent,” Kvryan said. The patented corrosion detection process makes use of NASA's Fiber Optic Sensing Systems, or FOSS. FOSS is a technology that utilizes specialized, commercially available optical fiber combined with a data collection device to gather real-time information related to pressure, temperature, weight, deformation and strain on complex systems and equipment.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

NSWC PHD SURPASSES SMALL BUSINESS OBLIGATION GOALS FOR FISCAL 2022

BY TERI CARNICELLI, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



NSWC PHD DEPUTY FOR SMALL BUSINESS DAN MAHAN DELIVERS A PRESENTATION AT THE SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE ON NOV. 16 AT THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN CAMARILLO. MAHAN LAUNCHED THESE MONTHLY ROUNDTABLE EVENTS IN EARLY 2021 AND HAS HAD GREAT SUCCESS WITH CONNECTING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES WITH POTENTIAL NSWC PHD CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ERIC PARSONS/RELEASED)

NSWC PHD continues to break its own records for small business contracts awarded each fiscal year as well as set benchmarks for other Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) organizations in the quest to not only meet but exceed NAVSEA small business goals in a variety of categories.

For the fiscal year that closed in September, NSWC PHD achieved just over \$309 million in small business contracts, an impressive jump of nearly \$40 million from the previous year's record of \$270 million, and an even larger increase from the \$247 million of fiscal 2020.

“The command’s fiscal 2022 small business obligation rate was 68.5% — the highest obligation rate in the NAVSEA enterprise, across all 22 contracting activities,” said NSWC PHD Deputy for Small Business Dan Mahan.

The command surpassed its goal of 50% small business obligations by awarding a total of 691 small business actions in fiscal 2022, meaning that each individual contract

may involve incremental funding actions over the course of the fiscal year.

The federal government’s Office of Small Business Programs sets goals for the Department of the Navy (DON), as well as the Army and Air Force departments. The DON then sets the small business goals for NAVSEA as well as other systems commands with procurement authority, such as Naval Information Warfare Systems Command and Naval Air Systems Command.

NAVSEA in turn devises the goals for its 22 organizations, including 10 warfare centers, shipyards, regional maintenance centers and more. The goals are for the fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

NAVSEA also sets its own enterprise goal, which for fiscal 2022 was 10.7% of all contracts awarded to go to small businesses. NAVSEA came in just below its goal at 9.8%, with small business obligations totaling \$3.8 billion.

NAVSEA and each of its enterprises also set goals for small business socio-economic categories, which include small disadvantaged business, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, women-owned small businesses, and historically underutilized business zones (HUBZone).

“The NSWC PHD small business office continues to diligently mine the industrial base for small business contractors in an effort to always exceed the goals placed upon us by NAVSEA,” Mahan said. “Fiscal 2022 was an exceptional year in the fact that NSWC PHD exceeded all

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NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

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five small business goals.”

Of particular note is the command’s success in the challenging HUBZone category involving businesses in economically distressed communities. The purpose of a federally designated HUBZone is to assist in promoting job growth, stimulate investment in the zone and promote economic development.

“There are HUBZones in Ventura County, but generally they do not perform the services NSWC PHD requires,” Mahan explained.

The types of small businesses the command mostly handles include professional, scientific and technical services most common to NSWC PHD, transportation and warehousing, utilities, construction, manufacturing and several other categories.

For fiscal 2022, the command nearly doubled its goal of .3%, achieving .56% in HUBZone obligations.

NSWC PHD also surpassed its 10% goal in the Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) category, achieving just over 12% small business obligations for the fiscal year.



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HOLLYWOOD GUARD HOSTS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR REVOLUTIONARY AIR NATIONAL GUARD C-130J SIMULATOR



PORT HUENEME, CA, UNITED STATES / PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER 146 AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

U.S. Air National Guard Lt. Col. John Love, a religious affairs chaplain assigned with the 146th Airlift Wing, delivers an invocation prayer during a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the beginning phases of construction for the wing’s new C-130J simulator at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California, Jan. 5, 2023. The new simulator or Weapons System Trainer Reconfigurable C-130J flight simulator (also known as WST 12R) will showcase a myriad of capabilities that will separate it from other simulators across the United States.

A Department of Defense contractor, U.S. Air National Guard Maj. Timothy Chow, commander 146th Civil Engineer Squadron, Col. Lisa A. Nemeth, commander 146th Airlift Wing, and Col. Christopher Dougherty, vice commander 146th Airlift Wing, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the wing’s new C-130J simulator at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California, Jan. 5, 2023.

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AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HOLLYWOOD GUARD *continued*



U.S. Air National Guard Col. Lisa A. Nemeth, commander 146th Airlift Wing, delivers a celebratory speech marking the occasion for a groundbreaking ceremony for the wing's new C-130J simulator at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California, Jan. 5, 2023. The new simulator or Weapons System Trainer Reconfigurable C-130J flight simulator (also known as WST 12R) will showcase a myriad of capabilities that will separate it from other simulators across the United States.

PORT HUENEME, CA, UNITED STATES / PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER
146 AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

AN ILLUSTRATED IMAGE (BELOW) DEPICTS AN ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE FUTURE BUILDING THAT WILL HOUSE A C-130J SIMULATOR AT THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA. (PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY COURTESY SUBMISSION)



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

U.S. AIRFORCE LOADMASTERS AND AERIAL PORTERS ASSIGNED TO THE 115 AIRLIFT SQUADRON LOAD A U.S. FOREST SERVICE MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM (MAFFS)



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER

U.S. Air Force Loadmasters and Aerial Porters assigned to the 115th Airlift Squadron load a U.S. Forest Service Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) inside a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California, Sept.

7, 2022. MAFFS is a portable fire retardant delivery system inserted into an aircraft, temporarily converting it into a fire fighting airtanker that provides a critical “surge” capability to bolster wildfire suppression efforts when commercial airtankers are fully committed or not readily available. ★

VENTURA CO. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

SARENE WALLACE

The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) and our colleges — Moorpark, Oxnard, Ventura, and Ventura College East Campus — take pride in educating a diverse community of students and partnering with area businesses and organizations to enhance the economic vitality of our county.

As Hispanic-Serving Institutions, our colleges offer over 200 programs to choose from and classes in-person, online, and hybrid. The campuses welcome people of all ages and backgrounds, helping them learn new skills to enhance their careers, retrain for a new career, or be more competitive in the job marketplace. The colleges provide comprehensive support services to assist students throughout their educational journey.

At VCCCD, helping veterans succeed in their education and career pursuits is a priority. Veterans' success benefits not only active duty and veteran students and their dependents who attend our colleges but also the Ventura County community by adding highly skilled and motivated individuals to the local workforce and enhancing the area's overall economic and social well-being.

Additionally, Chancellor Rick MacLennan, who is a military veteran, has joined the California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus (CCCVC), which represents military veterans at California's community colleges.

Get to Know the Ventura County Community College District

Moorpark College



Grounded in a students first philosophy, Moorpark College

has been empowering learners from diverse backgrounds to complete their degree, certificate, transfer, and career education goals since 1967.

Moorpark College is dedicated to helping veterans successfully transition from military to academic life and achieve their educational and career goals. The Veterans Resource Center offers a wide range of services, such as academic advising, counseling, and financial aid services.

Serving over 14,000 students annually, Moorpark College has the highest six-year completion rate within the California Community College System. An Aspen Institute Top 10 Finalist for 2023, the college has also been named a 2020 Champion of Higher Education by The Campaign for College Opportunity for the Associate Degree for Transfer Pathway.

Oxnard College



Oxnard College has served students for nearly a half-century and offers over 60 disciplines for students interested in university transfer or career education. The college was named an Equity Champion of Higher Education for Excellence in Transfer for Latino students through Associate Degrees for Transfer.

The college is ranked among the nation's top 150 community colleges by the Aspen Institute and offers classes from its main campus located near the Naval Base Ventura County and through auxiliary sites in Camarillo and the Channel Islands Harbor.

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VENTURA CO. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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The Veterans Resource Center on campus provides resources, support, and community for veterans, active duty service members, and reservists.



Ventura College

Ventura College was the first institution of higher education in the county. The college offers over 70 disciplines of study at its main campus in Ventura and Ventura College East Campus in Santa Paula.

The college lives its mission by placing students at the center of learning with support from caring advisors and professors, a textbook lending program, and opportunities for affordable or free quality education. Additionally, the VC Veterans Resource Center (VRC) offers personalized service to veterans, active-duty members, and dependents of veterans.

Faculty and classified staff work hard for students and are proud of the many prestigious accolades the college has received. To illustrate, the college was awarded the Aspen Top 150 recognition for Community College Excellence and ranked 4th for Best 2-Year College in California by EDSmart.

VCCCD Division of Economic and Workforce Development

The Division of Economic and Workforce Development partners with businesses and organizations to provide upskill training for their employees. Relevant and customizable trainings are delivered by subject-matter experts and held at Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, or the employer's site.

Popular training categories include:

- Business skills
- Computer skills
- Continuous improvement
- Training skills for a particular industry (example: blueprint reading)

VCCCD is developing a Career Education Pipeline that will fulfill the community's training and education needs. After



employees complete a training, they can work with a Career Navigator from the district who will provide information and support services for a company's employees to further their education and be connected with wrap-around services at the colleges.

A Business Developer will work with local industries to identify existing and future education and training needs. The Business Developer will work with the colleges and district to create the curriculum and trainings to meet industry needs.

To learn more about the Ventura County Community College District, visit VCCCD.edu.



