



RDP-21 NEWSLETTER



RDP-21 BRINGS YOU RECORDED GENERAL MEETINGS TO OUR WEBSITE AND MORE

TRACY BEAVERS

RDP-21 has expanded its website to include recordings of our General Meetings as of January 2022 on Zoom. This will benefit those who can't make it or provide a reference for those who want to go back. We have also put up a page with a photo library with pictures of different commands/city offices checking in at our General Meetings.

The newsletters, such as this, for RDP-21 as well as for the California

Defense Community Alliance (CDCA), also have their own pages.

This month we will be starting a page with links to services that benefit Veterans. We're interested in any services that may serve Veterans in the event you are aware of them. Just email admin@rdp21.org and we will locate the service and provide a link for the benefit of our members.



MILITARY EMAIL CHANGES, PLEASE LET US KNOW

At RDP-21 we are aware of the changes made for email addresses. We're requesting that those of you who have made a change to your email address, to please contact Tracy Beavers at admin@rdp21.org and notify us of your change to your email address.



CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITITES ALLIANCE



CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM LEGISLATION

CRAIG HODSON

California legislation, Senate Bill 1395 (California Defense Infrastructure Program) was introduced by Senators Bates and Melendez. Coauthors: Senators Dahle, Grove, Jones, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, and Wilk and Coauthor Assembly Member Smith. The bill is proposed to complement the federal Defense Community Infrastructure Program. Should this bill not be successful this legislative year, we expect that a similar bill will be introduced next year.

Existing law establishes within state government the Office of Planning and Research as the comprehensive state planning agency for long-range planning and research. Existing law, until January 1, 2026, establishes within state government a Governor’s Military Council that serves under the direction of the Military Department to advise the Governor on efforts to retain military installations and operations within this state that are necessary for the defense of the nation, and to coordinate and focus those efforts.



This bill would establish the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program, which would require the Office of Planning and Research, with input and assistance from the Governor’s Military Council, to grant funds to local agencies to assist with matching fund requirements in applications for funds from the federal Defense Community Infrastructure Program.

This bill would require the office to use specified project criteria, define an eligible project, and require the Military Council to rank the projects, as specified, and forward their recommendations to the office to award the grants, or, if the Military Council is abolished, would require the office to rank the projects based on the available criteria and funds.

This bill would appropriate \$50,000,000 for the purposes of the program. The bill would authorize the office to award these grants without regard to fiscal year and would require funds unencumbered after 3 years to revert to the General Fund July 1, 2023.



MILITARY RETIREE PAY TAX EXEMPTION LEGISLATION

BY CRAIG HODSON

California legislation AB-1623 (Personal Income taxes: exclusion: uniformed services retirement pay: survivor benefit plan payments is in the legislative process) is in the legislative process. As with bill (SB-1395) should this bill not be successful at this time, we expect similar legislation to be introduced in the next legislative year.

Introduced by Assembly Member Ramos (Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Seyarto) (Coauthors: Assembly Members Mathis, Reyes, Salas, and Waldron)



(Coauthor: Senator Jones) bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2033, would 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.

The bill, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, and before January 1, 2023, would also exclude from gross income annuity payments received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, pursuant to a United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan during the taxable year.



CALIFORNIA DEFENSE COMMUNITITES ALLIANCE

FEDERAL DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

CRAIG HODSON



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 FY22 federal budget signed by the President makes \$90M available for DCIP projects in 2022.

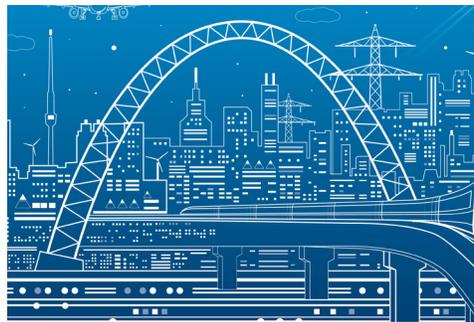
The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the FY22 Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program is open.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program grant opportunity is available on the grants.gov site.

Section 2391(d) of Title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C. § 2391(d)), authorizes the Secretary of Defense to “make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement

funds available under Federal programs administered by agencies other than the Department of Defense, to assist State and local governments to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation.” Community infrastructure projects are transportation projects, community support facilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, police, fire, and emergency response),

and utility infrastructure projects (e.g., water, waste-water, telecommunications, electric, gas, etc.) that are located off of a military installation, support a military installation, and are owned by a State or local government or a not-for-profit, member owned utility service.



Complete proposals for Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program grants must be received by the

Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation by 5 p.m. PDT on July 18, 2022.



NAVY LEAGUE

BOB QUINN

Navy League is finally catching up on the Military and Youth awards program. The Award presentations had to be rescheduled due to Covid and changing schedules of units and individuals.

We will be back on schedule by 1 July 2022 for award presentations.

Our regular monthly meetings are once again held face to

face at the Bard Mansion on the second Thursday of the month (except July) at 11:30 a.m.

If you are interested please contact Bob Quinn at the following number: 805-276-8474.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY AND PORT HUENEME HELP RELIEVE U.S. SUPPLY-CHAIN CONGESTION



BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS, NBVC · 22 NOVEMBER 2021



U.S. NAVY COURTESY PHOTO/RELEASED

PORT HUENEME, Calif. – The U.S. Navy in partnership with the Oxnard Harbor District (OHD) is providing resources onboard Port Hueneme in direct support of efforts to decrease port congestion in Los Angeles County and reducing the national supply-chain shortage, Nov. 22, 2021.

A standing Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Naval Base Ventura County and OHD, allows the Navy to support commercial supply chain logistics when activated. “Naval Base Ventura County recently welcomed a large cargo vessel,” said Daniel J. Herrera, assistant program director for port operations, NBVC. “Ports of America already off-loaded a large number of forty-foot containers into lot 22 onboard Port Hueneme which is merchandise expected to have direct impact with helping to support holiday supply demands.” The Department of the Navy entered into a JUA in 2002 with the OHD, (replacing the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding) authorizing commercial use of Wharf 3 onboard NBVC, including approximately 21 acres of contiguous land, buildings 546 and 548, and if available, up to an additional 10 acres of industrial land located outside of the Wharf 3 area.

Jason Hodge, President of the OHD which owns the Port of Hueneme (POH), stated that commercial business at the port has increased significantly over the past year and when it comes to moving cargo, the Port’s flexible “Can Do” attitude is similar to the Navy Seabees’ “Can Do” motto of completing a task no matter the condition or situation.

“The Port appreciates the partnership with NBVC and locating additional space to accommodate excess holiday shipments coming through the Port,” Hodge said. “We are delighted to come together to meet the challenge of providing a solution to help keep essential goods moving. Our long-standing history of partnership continues with this call-to-action to address the national supply chain challenge.” The JUA was activated in Nov. as a resource to help reduce the shipping congestion effecting Los Angeles County’s major ports and contributing to the national supply crisis. Vessels would arrive into the port to unload a portion of their containers before continuing on to LA County or chose to unload all their containers at the Port of Hueneme to avoid the backlog of ships farther south.

“The Navy recognizes the importance of being good neighbors with our local communities, and makes every effort to provide support when current operational requirements allow,” said Capt. Robert “Barr” Kinnach III, commanding officer, NBVC. “The joint use agreement between Naval Base Ventura County and the Oxnard Harbor District is in direct support of reducing port congestion and the national supply-chain shortage and demonstrates one example of the positive, long-term partnership between the Navy and the local community.”

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NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

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Kristin Decas, POH Director & Chief Executive Officer stated that the Port and NBVC have enjoyed a strong tradition of partnership and joint use dating back to the 1940s, supporting our economy and national defense.

“This collaboration is in full force today as we work together on ways to address the supply chain crisis,” said Decas. “We are grateful to the base for securing real estate to help stage the backlog of containers, enabling us to take on more cargo,

avoid congestion here at POH and get important commodities to market including electronics, furniture, apparel and our traditional agricultural and automobile products.”

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.



NAVY SAILOR LAID TO REST AFTER 8-DECADES

BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS, NBVC

LANCASTER, Calif. - 81 years after being killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Shipfitter 1st Class Charles F. Perdue, assigned to the Nevada-class battleship USS Oklahoma (BB-37) was laid to rest May 8, 2022.

Perdue, who joined the Navy in Calif., was aboard the Oklahoma, moored at Pearl Harbor, during the surprise attack from the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941, which killed 429 crewmen, including Perdue.

Delivering remarks to the family, Lt. Cmdr. Yoon Choi, chaplain, Naval Base Ventura (NBVC) stated that the attack on Pearl Harbor killed a total of 2,404 Americans.

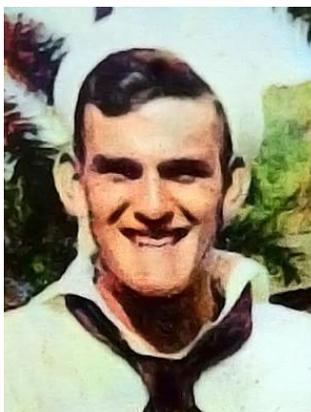
“Everything happens for a purpose under heaven,” said Choi. “Without the sacrifice of Petty Officer Purdue aboard the USS Oklahoma, there would not be a surrender aboard the USS Missouri. Those brave Sailors who died during Pearl Harbor are the cornerstones of what we are today.”

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced Perdues remains had been recovered and identified in a press release issued Jan. 24, 2022.

To identify Perdues exhumed remains, scientists from DPAA conducted dental and anthropological analysis aided by scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System providing autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

“It’s a great honor to show respect for this American hero who died serving his country and reflect on what it means to be a

patriot,” said Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski, Reserve Vice Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. “I assure you that the legacy of Petty Officer Perdue who perished on a day of infamy, will be carried onward by those young men and women who serve today.”



Members of the NBVC Honor Guard, a selectively manned unit that provides Naval ceremonial customs and courtesies, conducted a rifle-salute, and stood watch over Perdue’s silver casket.

“Our shipmate gave his life for our country, and he deserves to be brought home,” said Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Timothy Gardner, assigned to NBVC honor guard. “This memorial sends a clear message that we will

honor and remember the sacrifice of our shipmates, even if it’s 81-years later.”

Perdue was laid to rest beside his widow who lived to be 92 and never remarried.

“We can finally offer closure to the family and re-unite our Shipmate with his wife, Helen,” said Choi. “As a Chaplain and Naval Officer, this is my highest-honor.”

U.S. NAVY COURTESY PHOTO/RELEASED



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NBVC SUPPORTS MOVEMENT OF TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP AT POINT MUGU

BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS



Photo By Ensign Drew Verbis | 211203-N-AS200-0047 (Dec. 3, 2021) POINT MUGU, Calif. – U.S. Air Force E-4B National Airborne Operations Center is staged onboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu in support of movement for The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense during the 2021 Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF), Dec. 3-4, 2021. NBVC supports and enables the Fleet, Fighter and Family by providing effective and efficient readiness from the shore and is home to the Pacific Coast Seabees, the Westcoast Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers and the U.S. Navy's "Ghost Fleet," unmanned air and sea vehicles.

POINT MUGU, Calif. (NNS) – Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) supported logistic movement of The Honorable Llyod J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), Adm. Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and other senior military leadership as they attended the 2021 Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF), Dec. 3-4, 2021.

Lt. Cmdr. David Reynolds, air operations officer, NBVC stated the optics of these operations from an outsider's perspective may resemble scenes from a Hollywood movie – with convoys of black SUV's transporting dignitaries, secret security details and police escorts.

“However, the reality is that we remain professional and mission-focused to provide critical shore readiness and logistic support while executing with precise and coordinated details,” said Reynolds. “Team NBVC trains like we fight and has planned and prepared for every contingency as we strive to provide top echelon service.”

According to NBVC, Sr. Airfield Manager, James Conley, the base also received Gen. Laura J. Richardson, Commander, Southern Command; Gen. David H. Berger, Commandant, Marine Corps; Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., Chief of Staff, Air Force; members of Congress and their staff.

“This operation highlights the diverse capability of NBVC,” said Capt. Robert “Barr” Kimmach III, commanding officer, NBVC. “Whether we are engaging the community in direct support of reducing port congestion and the national supply-chain shortage, or growing operations to support unmanned

Fleet assets in the maritime domain, NBVC is demonstrating the critical services provided by Navy shore commands.”

RNDF brings together leaders from across the political spectrum and key stakeholders in the defense community, including members of Congress, current and former Administration officials, senior military leadership, industry executives, technology innovators, and thought leaders.

Austin delivered the keynote address at the RNDF Saturday.

“After decades of service in the military, Secretary Austin is leading the Pentagon through a pivotal new-era for U.S. national security,” said Roger Zakheim, Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. “We were privileged to have him speak at the RNDF.”

“We are honored to have the SECDEF, the CNO and other key military members onboard,” said Kimmach. “NBVC has a strong relationship with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and supporting their effort to discuss policies that strengthen American's national defense is in everyone's best interest.”

Additionally, the NBVC color guard participating in the RNDF.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY



NAVY COUNTERS DRONE THREATS AT POINT MUGU

BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS



The Pacific Target Marine Operations (PTMO), a division Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division's Threat/Target Systems Department, recently deployed small-drones over Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu to provide cost-effective unmanned aerial system (UAS) familiarization and threat training.

"The Low Speed Aerial Target- Small (LSAT-S) program developed a cost-effective target training and deployment program that directly represents the UAS threat the fleet faces daily," said Pete Pena, PTMO Program Lead. "UAS are classified by their size, range, and speed, and are broken into five groups based on those attributes. We're flying group 1 drones which are considered to be the greatest threat to military forces across the globe due to their unique range of capabilities as well as their relatively low cost and small size."

In 2021, speaking at a U.S. Senate Committee, Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, commander, U.S. Central Command referred to the proliferation of small drones as the "most concerning tactical development" since the emergence of improvised explosive devices.

Groups 1-3 can range from over-the-counter handheld drones to medium sized drones with sensors and the capacity to deliver weaponized payloads. However, the main threat that comes from groups 1-3 is intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). These drones can be difficult to detect and destroy due to their low flying altitude and small size.

"Point Mugu is a no drone zone," said Fire Controlman 1st Class Petty Officer Michael Jordan assigned to NBVC.

"It is difficult to obtain authorization to operate drones in this controlled airspace, even for military units; so, this demonstration provided a rare opportunity for watch standers to experience live drone flights and provide identification, which is the first step in countering threats."

In 2019, Ellen Lord, the former undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, established a waiver system to authorize drone operations on military ranges in highly controlled conditions, to test the U.S. military's counter-UAS capabilities.

Civilian and military operators had a chance to fly multiple different scenarios onboard Point Mugu, Pena added. Each test presented a range of conditions, spanning from the direction a UAS was flying to a variance in flight patterns, altitudes, airspeeds, and representative threats.

"This demo is a force multiplier which allows us to offer more frequent and robust counter-UAS presentations to the fleet and installation commanders," said Cmdr. Todd "Jazz Hands" Faurot, LSAT-S pilot. "This increases our defenses during peacetime and also providing for a war time surge capability."

The first step in countering the rising threat from UAS is target acquisition and identification. The proliferation of UAS (especially group 1-3), the downsizing of the technology, and its decreasing costs of production will make threat detection difficult.

"Our demonstrations provide the fleet with important UAS familiarization and training to face this increasing airborne threat," added Pena.



NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

NAVY OPENS MULTIUSE RECREATION CENTER ONBOARD SAN NICOLAS ISLAND

BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ENSIGN DREW VERBIS/RELEASED

220216-N-AS200-3984 SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, Calif. (Feb. 16, 2022) – Capt. Robert “Barr” Kimnach III, commanding officer, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), center, cuts a ribbon during the grand opening of the “Fox Den” multiuse Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) food and beverage facility onboard San Nicolas Island (SNI) Feb. 16, 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-2C Hawkeyes, 3 warfare centers and 80 tenants. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Drew Verbis/Released)

SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, Calif. (NNS) – Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) celebrated the grand opening of the “Fox Den” multiuse Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) food and beverage facility onboard San Nicolas Island (SNI) Feb. 16, 2022.

A ribbon cutting ceremony welcomed all Sailors and civilians working on SNI, the most remote of the Channel Islands, off the Southern California coast.

“This has been years in the making,” said Cdr. Keith “Fudge” Buckingham, officer in charge, SNI. “The Fox Den is a big improvement to food service, morale and the quality of life on the island.”

The building was originally opened as a military galley in 1952. The Navy decided to repurpose it as a multiuse MWR facility in 2018, and broke ground on the project one year later. The

construction was a gut-renovation that included major layout changes.

“There are incredible logistic challenges to working and living on an island,” said Buckingham. “The means of getting construction materials is a barge or C-130 multi-mission transport aircraft. However, the barge method is unreliable because the island does not have a harbor. Deliveries are made to our wharf from a free-floating vessel that are dependent on calm ocean conditions.”

The Fox Den was funded as a Long-Term Maintenance (LTM) Special Project that cost approximately \$7 million dollars.

“I work at SNI between 4 to 11 days straight,” said Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Petty Officer Olivia Lujan, assigned to the NBVC. “This is vital to Sailors like me who depend on this facility for food and basic needs, especially during the difficult duty weekends when we feel isolated from the mainland.”

During the work week, contract construction crews lived through a combination of temporary construction trailers and Navy Gateway Inns & Suites lodging.

“This is what the Sailors deserved,” said Jacob Munyon, director, Fleet and Family Readiness. “The renovation encompassed a complete reconfiguration to support a new club/restaurant/bar concept that looks and functions beautifully and provides a much-needed upgrade to the difficulties of island life.”

The Fox Den, named in honor of the indigenous population of protected Island Foxes, includes 2 kitchens, 2 large dining areas, game room, conference room, storage, scullery, offices, bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, study area, 8-large monitors, and full-service bar.

“This facility is a symbol of the commitment the U.S. Navy has to our Sailors and civilians working on the island,” said Capt. Robert “Barr” Kimnach III, commanding officer, NBVC. “A commitment we can never lose sight of, and one which helps to maintain or mission readiness.”



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

RESERVISTS LEND HELPING HANDS TO NAVY'S ONLY REMOTELY CONTROLLED TEST SHIP AHEAD OF UPCOMING INSPECTION



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY DANA RENE WHITE/RELEASED

BY LATASHA BALL, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Reservists with the U.S. Navy's Surge Maintenance (SurgeMain) program are providing time,

effort and additional skills to Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division's (NSWC PHD) Self Defense Test Ship (SDTS) to help her crew prepare for an upcoming in-service inspection (INSURV) later this year.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit the country, SurgeMain leaders at a national level started seeking additional sites to send their sailors for training. The team then discovered NSWC PHD's SDTS and saw it as an opportunity to provide its sailors hands-on training while also assisting the ship's project team with accomplishing tasks needed for its INSURV.

Since SurgeMain reservists first began providing INSURV

U.S. NAVY RESERVIST PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS STEVEN JARAMILLO (LEFT) WORKS ON THE SELF DEFENSE TEST SHIP'S MAIN ENGINE AT NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER, PORT HUENEME DIVISION WITH THE HELP OF HULL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN 1ST CLASS FELICITY TREJO ON FEB. 3. BOTH JARAMILLO AND TREJO ARE PART OF THE NAVY'S SURGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. ESTABLISHED IN 2005, THE SURGE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM HAS SAILORS WITH SPECIALIZED MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SKILLSETS THAT ALLOW THEM TO SUPPORT THE NAVY'S FOUR SHIPYARDS DURING PEAK WORKLOAD PERIODS.

support aboard the SDTS in July 2021, rotating teams of typically five to nine sailors have corrected

discrepancies and provided other assistance, working between 12 to 29 days depending on available funding and annual training requirements for the reservists.

So far in fiscal 2022, starting in the second quarter, team members have worked nearly 2,200 hours with the test ship crew and are predicted to exceed 1,000 days or 9,000 hours. SurgeMain is able to expand its support across the entire Navy for ship maintenance, thanks to the new Chief of Naval Reserves Warfighting Instructions in support of Battle Damage Assessment and Repair capabilities. The SurgeMain program has supported the Navy's four shipyards during peak workload periods since 2005.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER, PORT HUENEME DIVISION'S ALAN JAEGER EXPLORES STARTUP CULTURE, INNOVATION IN U.K.'S PERCY HOBART FELLOWSHIP

BY THOMAS MCMAHON, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

From embedding in a British startup focused on sustainable agriculture to collaborating with creative thinkers from the U.K. military, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division's (NSWC PHD) Alan Jaeger experienced new approaches to innovation during an immersive educational program in London.

Jaeger, director of the Ventura Tech Bridge at Fathomwerx Lab, was one of three U.S. Navy representatives taking part in the U.K.'s 2022 Percy Hobart Fellowship, named after a British military engineer whose modified tanks played a major role in the D-Day Normandy invasion during World War II.

The fellowship brings together a diverse cohort from the defense sector for three months of learning about startup culture, business principles and technological transformations, with the end goal of helping the fellows develop innovative solutions for their own commands.

Alan Jaeger, manager of the NSWC PHD's Office of Research and Technology Applications and director of the Ventura Tech Bridge, is one of three U.S. Navy representatives taking part in the U.K.'s Percy Hobart Fellowship, which operates out of the



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALAN JAEGER

London Tech Bridge.



STUDENTS BUILD STEM SKILLS IN HACKATHON BY THE SEA, WITH SUPPORT FROM NSWC PHD

BY THOMAS MCMAHON, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

From an app that coordinates carpools to a study tool with video game perks, local students tapped technology to create solutions for common challenges at the Ventura County Office of Education's (VCOE) Hackathon by the Sea.

More than 60 students from 27 high schools across Ventura County teamed up to design problem-solving technology products while building skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the fifth annual event, held virtually and in person at the VCOE conference center in Camarillo from March 11-19.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD) supported the Hackathon, a computer coding competition in which teams collaborate on projects like



apps, websites and games, by providing prizes and a judge. The prizes included tech gear like a keyboard and mouse set, headphones and speakers.

An Educational Partnership Agreement between the command and VCOE allows the command to transfer materials to VCOE. VCOE's Hackathon by the Sea, which is open to high school students of all skill levels, offered a week of technology-focused virtual

workshops and mentoring opportunities to complement the competition. Mentors from big-name technology companies—namely, Google and TikTok developer ByteDance Ltd.—and academia gave presentations on topics such as web design, game development and cybersecurity, and they helped students with their projects.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER PHD

FATHOMWERX LAB NAMED CALIFORNIA 'IHUB2' TO LEAD TO MORE INNOVATION

BY PAT MAIO, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY DANA RENNE WHITE/RELEASED

ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM VENTURA COUNTY AND THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE COME TOGETHER ON APRIL 12 WITH STATE OFFICIALS FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FATHOMWERX LAB RECEIVED A CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE (CALOSBA GRANT) AND DESIGNATION AS AN IHUB2, OR INCLUSIVE INNOVATION HUB.

Fathomwerx Lab, a collaborative, innovative partnership between Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD) in California and local private and public organizations that researches emerging technologies to potentially transition to the Navy fleet, has been designated an Inclusive Innovative Hub, or iHub2, from California's Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), a department within The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz).

The state designation gives Fathomwerx Lab the ability to pursue venture capital funding from outside investors for individual projects that promote inclusivity and a diverse network of innovators. The designation also supports the partnership's work on potential new technologies with the hiring of a full-time program manager for the lab, and lines up possible future government funding sources that could

help attract more local commercial businesses to the lab and its capabilities.

The program manager would work with companies that are typically underrepresented but have unique capabilities or technology solutions which would benefit the Navy and regional ecosystem, and build engagement programs related to capabilities and needs. The iHub2 designation comes with a \$250,000 grant—the size of which could become a down payment for future grants—from the Office of the Small Business Advocate's Inclusive Innovation Hub program, according to Tara Lynn Gray, CalOSBA director.

The iHub2 grant supports an inclusive ecosystem for entrepreneurs and small companies over the next three years by providing them with high-technology services, workshops and mentoring and networking events.





NSWC PHD

NSWC PHD SPARKS INTEREST AT HIGH SCHOOL CAREER EXPO

BY PAT MAIO, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

After the Oxnard Union High School District had cancelled its annual in-person career expo due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two years, NSWC PHD and other employers attended the first face-to-face event since 2019 to form new connections. The sprawling 17,300-student Oxnard district reported more than 600 junior and senior students attended the 37th Annual Career Expo at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on April 27.

The district identified 52 career pathways for its students that require obtaining academic degrees with two- and four-year universities, as well as trades jobs in carpentry and automotive repair. The district gave each student a brochure with a list of questions to guide their discussion with the mentors and help identify a presenter to follow up with for career advice.

Ramon Flores, STEM coordinator with the NSWC PHD's Office of Technology, told several students who inquired about job prospects at the NSWC PHD booth that the command offers civilian

opportunities in business operations, computer science, cyber engineering, engineering, human resources, cybersecurity, and test and evaluation. Besides Oxnard, NSWC PHD has ties with other school districts in the area that encourage careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. Those districts include Ventura Unified High School

District, Camarillo Heights STEM Academy, Santa Clara High School and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish School. Besides NSWC PHD, other participants included the Amazon fulfillment center in Oxnard; California Aeronautical University in Oxnard; memorabilia manufacturer Jostens Inc.; banking giant JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Oxnard Police; Ventura County Fire Department; Civil Air Patrol; Oxnard College; Charter College in Oxnard; and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, a Simi Valley-based nonprofit organization that runs the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and the affiliated organizations.



220427-N-SR235-STEM_CAREER_DAY 006 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FILL A BANQUET HALL AT THE OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WHERE THE OXNARD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD ITS 37TH ANNUAL CAREER EXPO ON APRIL 27, THE FIRST IN-PERSON EXPO SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES, TRADE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND OTHER EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING NSWC PHD, MET WITH STUDENTS TO DISCUSS CAREER PATHS. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY ERIC PARSONS/RELEASED)



LEADERS LAUD LATEST GRADUATES OF PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM

BY PAT MAIO, NSWC PHD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pre-Engineering Program (PEP) students and officials gather for a group photo at the PEP graduation ceremony at the Oxnard Harbor District office on April 26. The competitive program draws the brightest candidates from area high schools for 10 weeks of designing, building and testing projects in several engineering disciplines, including systems engineering, environmental engineering and electrical engineering.



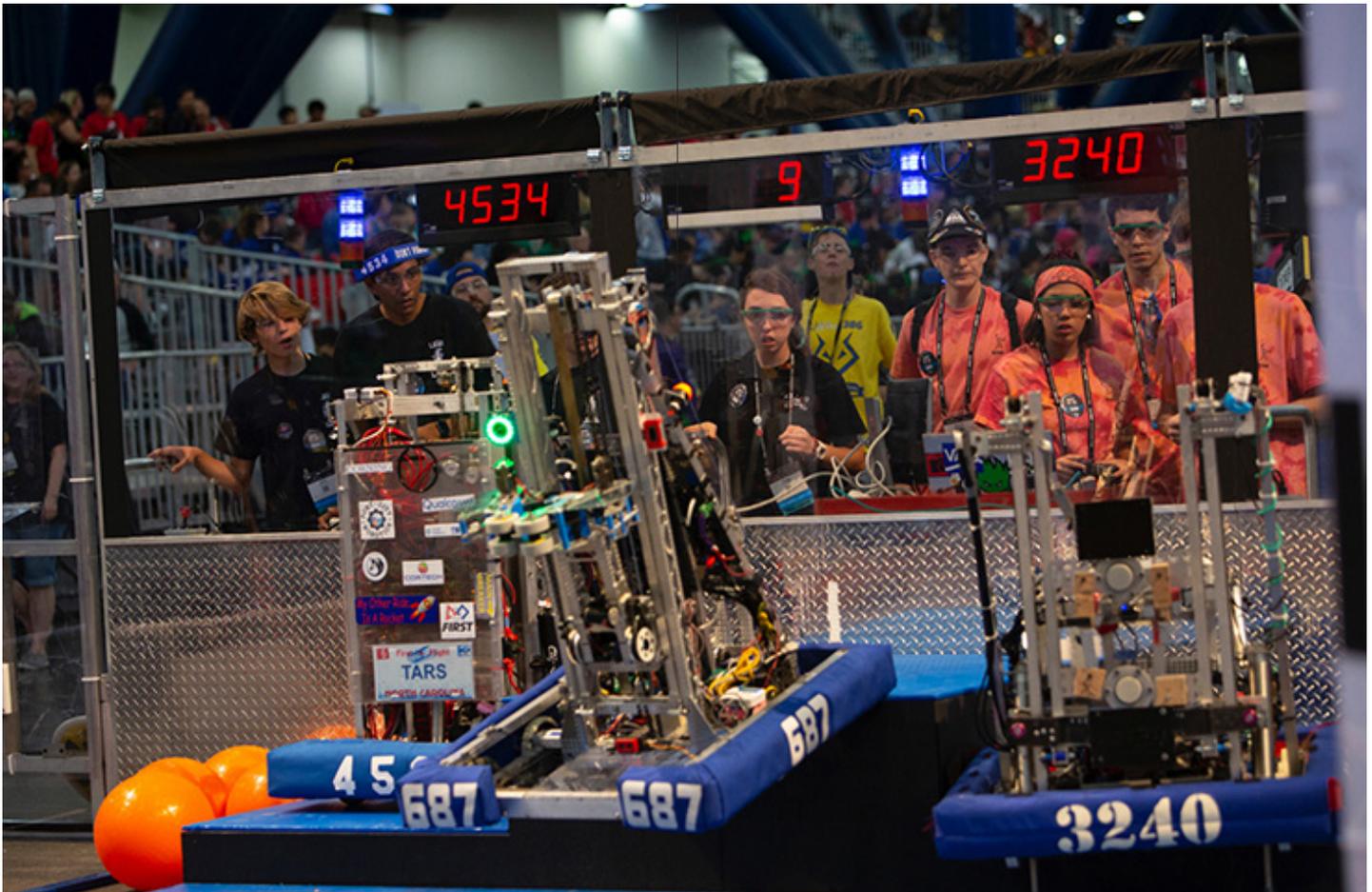
U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY DANA RENE WHITE/RELEASED



NAVFAC EXWC

NAVFAC EXWC MENTORS YOUTH-BASED ROBOTICS PROGRAM, PLACES 2ND IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

SARAH G. MACMILLAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER



High school students from across Ventura County, led by coach and mentors, including NAVFAC EXWC mechanical engineer Vincent “Vinny” Pecchia, partake in FIRST Robotics Program, winning multiple awards throughout the 2022 season, and placed second in the world championships—a first for the established team.

Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) mechanical engineer and team mentor Vincent “Vinny” Pecchia, P.E., of the Oceans Technical Department, and a team of students from across public and private institutions throughout Ventura County, joined forces for the 2021-2022 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition—an annual international high school-level robotics competition where teams are required to compete using their respective robot design, built from scratch over the course of two months. Dubbed “a Varsity Sport for the Mind™”, the FIRST Robotics

Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. In its 31st season, the FIRST Robotics Competition offers high-energy, high-tech spectator sporting where teams, professionals, and young people together solve engineering design problems through specific criteria in both an intense, yet competitive environment.

Kicking off in January, this year’s FIRST Robotics Competition stakes felt higher, as the occasion marked the beginning of the first large-scale competition in over three years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ventura County FIRST Robotics Team, named Team 4414 High Tide of HighTide Robotics, was founded in 2018, with the goal of providing opportunities for high schools students around Ventura County to participate in a competitive and

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NAVFAC EXWC

ROBOTICS PLACED 2ND *continued from previous page*

meaningful way through FIRST. Team sponsors include: The Lawrence Thomas Memorial Fund, Sessa MFG., Google, HAAS, Applied Powdercoat, and Texlon.

This year's FIRST Robotics Competition theme—Rapid React presented by the Boeing Company—required the use of innovative engineering, creative thinking, and teamwork to reimagine the future of safe, high-speed travel, and lightning-fast deliveries to propel the next evolution of transportation forward. Comparatively, each robot had to pick up balls and shoot them into a goal, in addition to climbing a set of ascending monkey bars. Points were awarded to teams whose robots operated autonomously as programmed, shot more balls into the goals, and climbed more rungs during competition.

Team 4414 HighTide's robot, named "Cutback", references a surfer term used when a surfer changes direction with a turn, using their rails to go back towards the breaking part of the wave—a crucial maneuver required to enjoy the steepest part of the wave.

During the preparation portion of the season, Team 4414 HighTide met nearly 4 days or more a week, working countless late evenings prior to competition to ensure Cutback was ready to rival against its competitors.

"The FIRST Robotics Competition is a very unique experience for our local high-school youth," said Pecchia. "Students have the opportunity to obtain hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experience, while mentors like myself get to share our love of science and engineering with the next generation of scientists and engineers." Beginning March 3-6, Team 4414 HighTide, competed at the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, CA, against 34 other teams. Out of the 35 teams competing, Team 4414 HighTide won the "quality award"—an award that celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication. By achieving the quality award, Team 4414 High Tide was qualified to compete in the World Championships in Houston, TX in April.

One week later, on March 9-12, Team 4414 HighTide competed against 44 other teams in the second regional competition at Naval Base Ventura County. Success struck again where Team 4414 HighTide won the "autonomous award"—an award given to a team that has demonstrated

consistent, reliable, high performance robot operation during autonomously managed actions. After two exciting wins at first and second regional competitions, Team 4414 HighTide packed their bags, and joined 452 other teams in Houston for the World Championships.

The FIRST World Championship event took place on April 20-23 in Houston. Team 4414 HighTide was able to battle through and win the "turing division" which allowed the team to move on to the final "Einstein event" where teams competed against five other division winners. As the competition moved forward, the Team 4414 HighTide continued to outperform their competitors, enabling them to the final event. After continuous dedication, Team 4414 HighTide put up a great fight and gave the crowd a series to remember as they lost the final competition match—a tough but close-scoring loss. "This was my first year as a mentor, and because of this, I did not fully realize the magnitude of passion and dedication from the students until I saw them crying tears of joy for making it to the Einstein championship event. It was inspiring," said Pecchia.

Throughout each competition, teams were required to describe their quality plan—for example, how their design ensures robustness throughout the entire competition. Each machine competing also demonstrated quality workmanship, welding, attachment systems, wiring, and aesthetic design aspects, among other things. During competition, each machine withstood the rigors of competition, which include maintaining functionality—including the use of risk mitigation measures. Overall, the collaborative effort of building the machine therein contributed to Team 4414 HighTide's success. Teams not only abided by strict measures during robot development, but were also challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, and hone teamwork skills, in addition to building an industrial-size robot to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors.

NAVFAC EXWC has been involved with FIRST for several years—this being the first year a team has made it all the way to the world championship division.

"When I was in school the education system had engineering flipped around; rather, you'd learn theory first then figure out how to put it into use later, permitting you had access to the needed equipment (something which rarely students did). Today, STEM and technology educators, and the education system at large have really turned this around! Students now

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NAVFAC EXWC

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have access to programmable microprocessors, open source computer-aided design, and other essential programs, not to mention a myriad of cheap parts where they can create what they want to create, and when they want to create it,” said Pecchia.

“Today, STEM programs are bridging a gap that was prominent many years ago. Now, students have the access to the equipment, and mentorship from seasoned engineers to cultivate a simple idea to a physical, working-end product,” said Pecchia.

Pecchia’s desire to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers is not out of the ordinary. In fact, this year alone, 2,859 veteran and 176 rookie teams, comprised of 80,000 students from 26 countries participated in this FIRST Robotics Competition festivities internationally.

“You can make a career working for the Department of Defense as a civilian,” said Pecchia. “Part of my mentorship extended beyond robotics, and rather, educating students about the opportunities available to them should they chose to

pursue a career in STEM. The Navy and armed forces at large offer a variety of STEM-related career fields. In fact, commands like NAVFAC EXWC are actively recruiting students who study STEM right out of college.”

Students who participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition are eligible for roughly \$100 million in scholarships each season. These scholarships are awarded on merit alone, and have nothing to do with how well a robot performs during the competition season.

About FIRST: Founded in 1989, FIRST is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs from ages 4-18. They operate the FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenging competitions.

About NAVFAC EXWC: NAVFAC EXWC is a command of more than 1,100 dedicated federal employees, contractors, and military personnel who provide research, development, testing and evaluation, and in-service engineering to deliver specialized facility and expeditionary solutions to the warfighter.



146TH AIRLIFT WING

HOLLYWOOD GUARD PREPS FOR MAFFS AERIAL



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER

U.S. Air Force personnel assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing secure the U.S. Forest Service’s Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) inside a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft attached to the 115th Airlift Squadron at the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California, April 21, 2022. MAFFS is a portable

fire retardant delivery system that can be inserted into an aircraft, temporarily converting it into a fire fighting airtanker that can lay retardant lines to help control wildfires. The MAFFS program has been a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Defense since the early 1970s.





146TH AIRLIFT WING

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MAFFS GROUND TANKS GIVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA A CUTTING EDGE IN AERIAL FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES



146 AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER

A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules MAFFS (Modular Airborne Firefighting System) aircraft assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing sits on the flight line in front of the newly constructed MAFFS pits at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Port Hueneme, California April 21, 2022. The new fire-retardant ground tanks have increased the

storage capability five-fold from a 10,000-gallon capacity to 50,000 gallons to accommodate more MAFFS aircraft and the U.S. Forest Service’s Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT’s) with water and fire retardant solution.





146TH AIRLIFT WING

2022 ANNUAL MAFFS TRAINING AND RECERTIFICATION MEDIA DAY



146 AIRLIFT WING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CALIFORNIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER

Frederick Johnsen, a publisher with General Aviation News, takes photos of the 153rd Airlift Wing's C-130H aircraft equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) during the MAFFS training Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho April 27, 2022. Air National Guard aircrew from the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing, California Air National Guard's, 146th Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing, train together to accomplish their aerial firefighting certification alongside the U.S.

Forest Service and other wildfire prevention agencies. In the event of activation during the fire year, First Air Force (AFNORTH), U.S. Northern Command's Air Component Command, is the DoD's operational lead for the aerial military efforts to support USDA Forest Service-National Interagency Fire Center requests for fire suppression support.





146TH AIRLIFT WING

HOLLYWOOD GUARD AND U.S. NAVY'S LEAP FROGS PARTNER FOR A CHARITY EVENT IN THE SKIES ABOVE MALIBU



U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. NIEKO CARZIS

The U.S Navy Parachute Team known as the Leap Frogs, jump from the back of a U.S. Air National Guard C-130J aircraft assigned to the 146th Airlift Wing during a local

charity event above Pepperdine University, California, Feb. 12, 2022. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. NiekO Carzis)





146TH AIRLIFT WING

146TH MAINTENANCE GROUP REPLACES ENGINE AND PROPELLER ON AERIAL FIRE FIGHTING C-130J AIRCRAFT



146TH AIRLIFT WING PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHELLE ULBER RELEASED

U.S. Air Force maintainers assigned to the California Air National Guard's 146th Maintenance Group (146 MXG) replace an engine and a propeller on a MAFFS (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System) C-130J aircraft inside a hangar at Gowan Field, Idaho, April 29, 2022. 146 MXG

personnel accompanied MAFFS aircrew to Gown Field to perform maintenance repairs on aircraft participating in joint annual certification and training hosted by the U.S Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and other wildfire agencies.



AIRPORT AUTHORITY

BLIMP VISITS CAMARILLO AIRPORT BEFORE IT WAS “SHRINK WRAPPED” WITH A DISCOVERY CHANNEL SHARK WEEK BILLBOARD.



AIRPORT AUTHORITY

THE QUICK REACTION FORCE (QRF) CONSISTS OF FOUR HELICOPTERS THAT CAN RESPOND INDEPENDENTLY OR TOGETHER TO CATCH FIRES WHEN THEY ARE SMALL



The Quick Reaction Force provides day and night aerial firefighting aiming to keep small fires small by protecting the Orange County, Los Angeles County, and Ventura County with large Helitankers operating as one force and being supplemented with specialist aircraft creating real time information to assist better decision making.

The QRF consists of:

- Three Coulson contracted helitankers and one supervising helicopter.
- The supervising helicopter will be HLCO/Copter76 with a highly qualified HLCO on board.
- The helitankers can be any combination of the three contracted Coulson helicopters or all three may be assigned to the same fire.
- The QRF will be available 24/7 in the Southern California Edison Service Area
- The QRF is a cooperative operational concept between three fire jurisdictions, the private sector and two contractors, being hosted by three fire departments being ORC, LAC, VNC.

- Southern California Edison is funding the standby and startup costs for the QRF.
- Coulson Group is providing the specialized aircraft and necessary ground support.
- Perimeter Solutions is providing the Mobile Retardant Plant.

QUICK REACTION FORCE - OBJECTIVE

The objective will be:

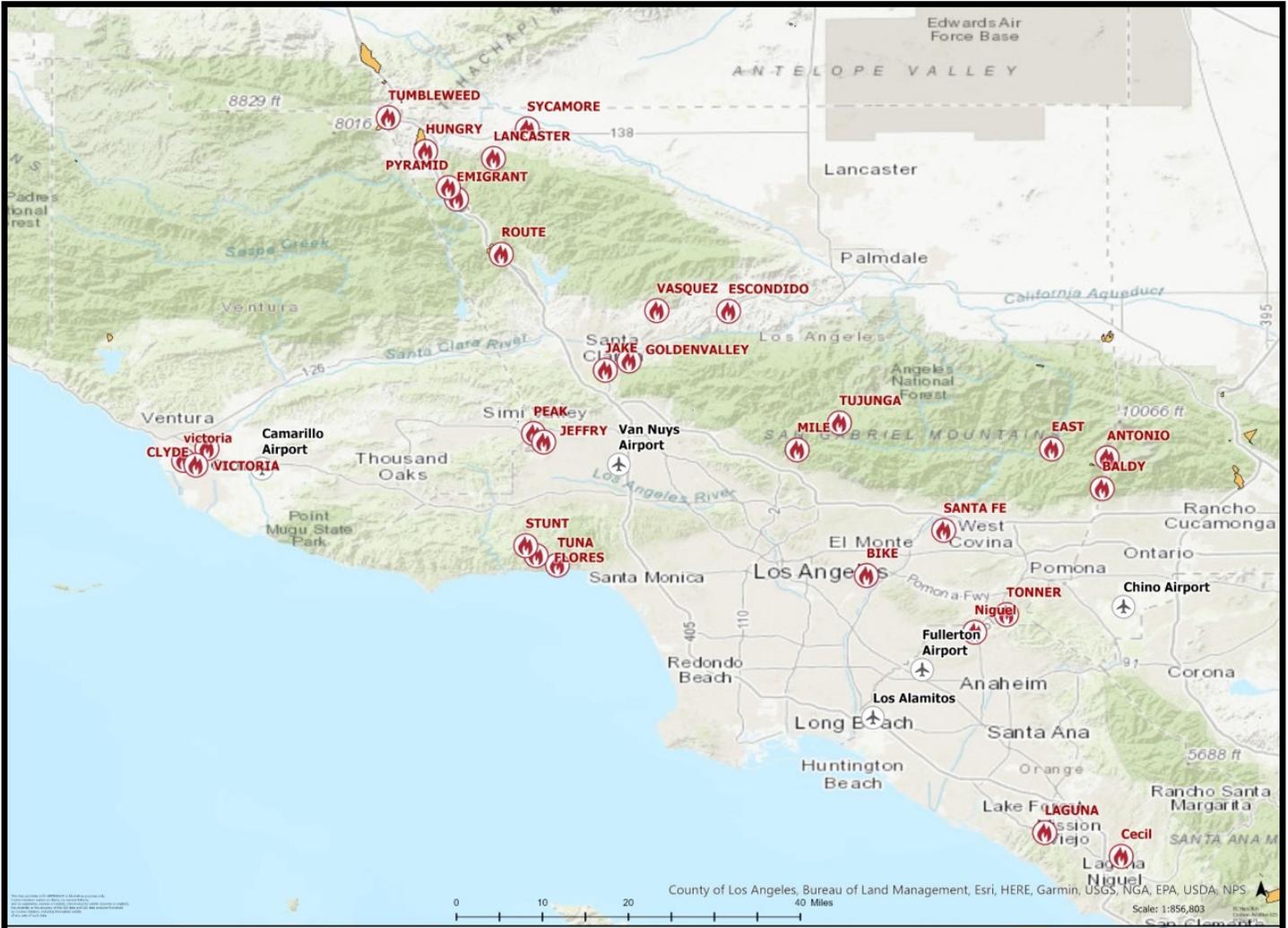
- To react quickly with the QRF and attack wildland fires in their incipient stage.
- Apply sufficient force to meet an operational goal of suppressing 95% of wildland fires to 10 acres or less.
- Provide an aerial night fighting force, able to continue perimeter control operations throughout the first burning period in the event the fire escapes initial attack.
- Be capable of delivering water and fire retardant day and night.

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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QRF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



COULSON AVIATION

2021 Southern California QRF Operations



- The QRF operated for 5 months with a 30-day contract extension for a total of 180 days reaching from June - December 2021 with all 4 aircraft and the last 30 days the Orange County based Chinook was replaced with a S61 helitanker.
- Day and Night operations was maintained during the entire 180-day period of the contract with close to 2.8m gallons of water being dropped.
- HT55 located at Van Nuys was elevated to initial attack for LACoFD and was the most active of the 3 helitankers.
- The Chinook capability, capacity, agility and operations was noted by all as a Helitanker that is very effective and versatile.

- The QRF resources being deployed on Initial Attack (IA) and working with local resources had a significant positive impact on fire behavior and fire suppression with fires being halted, contained and controlled.
- All 3 counties deployed the QRF as single resources and there was deployment that deployed 2 helitankers and major operations that deployed the 3 helitankers and FireWatch76 was deployed to single, dual and triple QRF helitanker deployments.
- FireWatch76 provided HLCO and Aerial Intelligence Gather roles and was successful in both with some refinement in the deployment of the HLCO function between counties due to differing requirements and operational procedures.

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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QRF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



- The QRF was deployed outside the initial attack response area to major fires in Northern California (Caldor fire on 2 occasions) and Southern California (French and Alisal fires).

- The long-haul deployments to Northern California were actioned as a QRF with immediate response and supported by ground support equipment and team that was exceptional and noted by agencies and counties on the speed and intent applied.

- USFS championed QRF night operations at the Caldor, French and Alisal major fires and refined a very good operational model

- Retardant was available for day and night operations and utilized for the first time in the world in night operations.

- Gel systems were installed to all 3 helitankers with LACoFD confirming the use was a significant benefit in initial attacks, although there was not a significant opportunity to deploy gel.

- It has been discussed the the 2022 QRF should consider and build into the program a 'turnkey' gel solution to ensure access the the Gel and a total system to manage Gel is consistent across the QRF Counties.

- The Coulson model of 24 hour operations was successfully deployed and operated however there were many opportunities to learn and amend the model as it evolved that included maintenance scheduling, deployment rest periods, etc.

- COVID disruption was well managed and extremely well supported by the County Fire Departments and although

crews were impacted by COVID there was minimal impact on availability of aircraft, crews and operations.

- The three Counties Fire Department command staff provided excellent leadership and integration of the QRF teams into normal day operations.



- The integration of crews in collocated locations including Camarillo, Van Nuys and Fullerton was exceptional and was a direct acknowledgement of all involved.

- The Fire Department HeliBase Managers and Helicopter Managers have been excellent throughout the 6 months along with Fire Department pilot and flight crews who

have all been welcoming and provide support, knowledge and expertise to assist operate and grow the QRF.

- LACoFD and Ventura both allocated a crew member got fly on the QRF aircraft to assist with local knowledge and operational interruption and support, and Crew Resource Management (CRM). This was a very successful approach to enhance operations.

- Radio communications are critical. More development and installation work is required to better integrate Fire Department operational radios into all the aircraft that operate in the LA Basin. Consider the installation of a 'mixer box'.

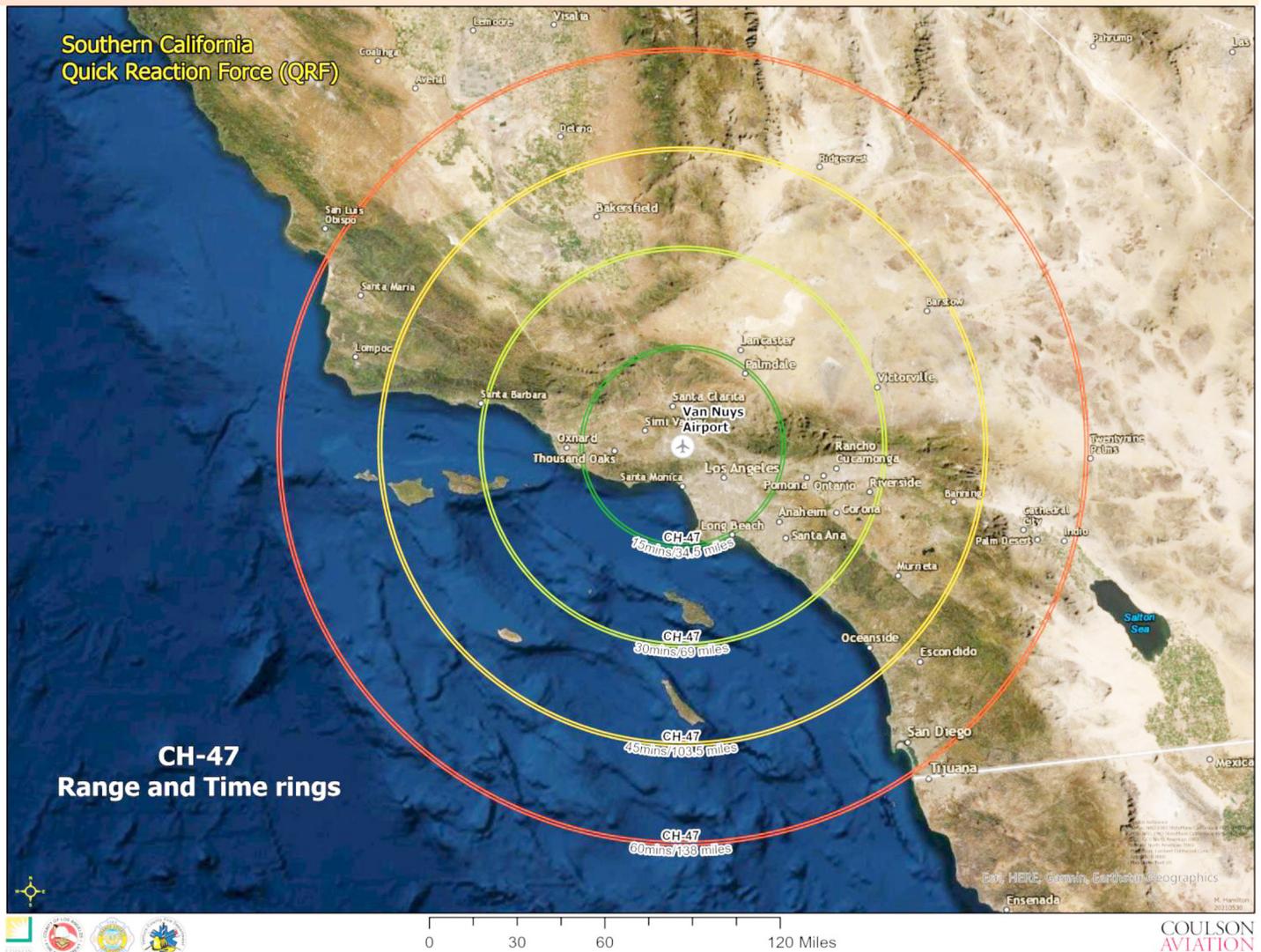
- Access to fuel for the QRF from FBO's within the LA Basin and outside the LA Basin should be considered in pre plans to ensure access, rates etc. This shall be discussed and agreed to prior to any deployment.

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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QRF RANGE AND TIME RINGS



HOW IS THE QRF ORDERED?

The “QRF Package” ordering process is no different than the existing local government aircraft request process. Within Cal OES Region 1, Incident Commanders will contact their Agency Communication or Command Center and make request for “QRF Package”. The Agency Communication or Command Center will make request for “QRF Package” through their Operational Area Coordinator. The Operational Area Command Center will make request for “QRF Package” through the Cal OES Region 1 Command Center (LA County FD). The Cal OES Region 1 Command Center will forward the request for “QRF Package” aircraft to the appropriate Operational Area. The Cal OES Region 1 Command Center will also notify South Ops (SOPS) so that the status of the aircraft is known. Upon release from

the incident, the “QRF Package” aircraft will return to their agency home base of operations. Requests for QRF aircraft by CAL FIRE and USFS will be via the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA).

Can a Single Helitanker be Requested Without the QRF Package?

The host agencies (VNC, LAC & ORC) may choose to use their assigned aircraft in conjunction with their own aircraft on small fires or assist a neighboring agency to extinguish a small fire. The host agencies understand though that the most effective use and intent of the QRF concept is to respond en masse in the early stages of a new fire.

Contact admin@rdp21.org for full FAQs



PORT OF HUENEME

STATE SELECTS HIGH-TECH COLLABORATIVE FOR KEY INVESTMENT

PORT OF HUENEME STAFF



FATHOMWERX was recently recognized by the State of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate for being designated among 10 Inclusive Innovation Hubs located throughout state through a competitive grant process.

On April 4, 2022, the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) announced grant award recipients of the Inclusive Innovation Hub (iHub2) program. This one-time, \$250,000 grant will run for 15 months period and will help accelerate regionally focused strategies to spur innovation and diversification across industry sectors and geographies while attracting entrepreneurs from underserved business communities.

CalOSBA designated FATHOMWERX — a public-private partnership created by the Economic Development Collaborative, the Port of Hueneme, Naval Surface Warfare Center/Port Hueneme Division, and Matter Labs — to be among 10 inclusive innovation hubs in the state. This exciting designation is for initial three years and will run through March 2025.

“We are collectively thrilled for the recognition by the state and for their investment,” said Bruce Stenslie, President and

CEO of the Economic Development Collaborative. “This new state and local partnership delivers value for us both — assuring that California continues to invest in the kinds of innovation that drives our economic vitality and that locally we’re adding resources to assure the economic participation and benefit by historically under-represented populations.”

FATHOMWERX was recently recognized by the State of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate for being designated among 10 Inclusive Innovation Hubs located throughout state through a competitive grant process.

FATHOMWERX was established to enhance regional economic competitiveness, create more jobs, and aid in the sustainability of high-tech, high-impact entrepreneurs doing business in the government sector and beyond. This first-of-its-kind program serves Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties by increasing access to mentoring,

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PORT OF HUENEME

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training, consulting, networking, and funding opportunities for high-tech start-ups, with a specific focus on serving underrepresented tech start-ups.

“As one of the founding partners of FATHOMWERX, the Port of Hueneme is excited that the iHub2 program will bolster the advancement of an inclusive service and

through EDC and its loan network, equity funding networking, and high-tech, node-building events.

“These inclusive innovation hubs are important because they are key investments in California’s competitive edge when it comes to growing technology and science-based businesses,” said Tara Lynn Gray, Director of the Office of



Tara Lynn Gray, appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom as the Director of the Office of the Small Business Advocate, spoke to the audience about the Inclusive Innovation Hub Program (iHub2) that provides small businesses with specialized support and encouragement.

provide resources to support ongoing change for high-tech entrepreneurs and small business companies,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director.

State Selects High-Tech Collaborative for Key Investment - April 2022

iHub2 will provide small businesses with high-tech assistance services, focused technology industry (sector-specific) workshops, mentoring and networking events, high-tech resources at FATHOMWERX, funding options

the Small Business Advocate. “In California, we have a very big appetite for innovation. We lead the nation in business start-ups and in job creation.”

“The Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division’s strategic goals include creating a culture of innovation to deliver and sustain capability,” said Alan Jaeger, Ventura Tech Bridge Director at the Office of Research and Technology Applications, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division. “This goal puts

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THE PORT OF HUENEME

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us on a deliberate pathway of creating and fostering an environment and culture of innovation both inside and outside our command and includes teaming with internal and external stakeholders as well as leveraging industry and academic partners. With the addition of the iHUB resources, FATHOMWERX will have further access to a diverse and under-represented network of innovators and potential solutions to national security initiatives.”

“The state of California designating FATHOMWERX as a science-based incubator and technology hub is an exciting and important honor,” said Oxnard Harbor District President, Mary Anne Rooney. “This official designation will build upon the focus of including underserved communities in future innovation.”

By making an intensive effort to connect with underserved, disadvantaged communities, and high-tech, high impact women and minority-owned technology businesses, iHub2 has great potential to create new talent within the high-tech workforce with higher paying jobs throughout the region.

State Selects High-Tech Collaborative for Key Investment - April 2022

Mark B. Thompson, Alan Jaeger, and Bryan Went discussed

how FATHOMWERX provides the region with an environment that is vital for helping to build resources, facilitate entrepreneurship, and support high-tech innovation.

“Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center focuses on leveraging its capabilities and authorities for agile research and development to partner with industry and academia,” said Mark B. Thompson, Manager of the Office of Research and Technology Applications at NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center. “These partnerships are invaluable to both the Navy and industry in that resources and expertise can be exchanged to greatly accelerate technology development. As a partner in the FATHOMWERX mission, we are enthusiastic and encouraged by its new designation as an iHub2 and look forward to collaborating with a new unique set of innovators across the region.”



FEDEX EXECs JOIN PORT OF HUENEME AND NAVY LEADERSHIP TO CELEBRATE ARRIVAL OF FIRST CONTAINER VESSEL WITH GOODS FROM ASIA

PORT OF HUENEME STAFF

January 31, 2022 – Joined by FedEx executives, Dr. Udo Lange, President/CEO of FedEx Logistics; Patrick Moebel, President of FedEx Trade Networks; and Jim Rinchiuso Managing Director, Global Ocean Product for FedEx Logistics; the Port of Hueneme, Navy Base Ventura County leadership and elected officials greeted the first vessel of FedEx containers arriving from Port of Humen, China. U.S. households will find essential commodities such as electronics, automotive materials, and garments, as well as general department store merchandise replenished on store shelves thanks to innovative services through this exciting new collaboration with FedEx and the Port of Hueneme.

The FedEx team, Port officials including Oxnard Harbor

District Commission President Mary Anne Rooney, Commissioners Jess J. Herrera and Celina L. Zacarias, CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas, Chief Commercial Officer Dona Lacayo, and Naval Base Ventura County’s Commander Captain Robert Kimmach welcomed the FedEx cargo containers in person with a plaque ceremony as they watched the first set of 53-foot containers get offloaded from the ship to the docks.

“Thanks to the innovative thinking and dedication from the FedEx Logistics and Port of Hueneme teams, we are able to turn a challenge into an opportunity and help our customers with this solution,” said Udo Lange, President & CEO, FedEx Logistics.

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THE PORT OF HUENEME

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Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Congressman Salud Carbajal, Port Hueneme Mayor Richard Rollins, Port Hueneme Council Member Laura Hernandez, Oxnard Mayor John Zaragoza, and Oxnard Council Member Vianey Lopez celebrated the event by presenting proclamations to the Port for excellence in private-public partnerships and in finding creative supply chain solutions. Other important stakeholders attending the event included the President of the ILWU, Rick Valenzuela, and representatives from ocean carrier United Cargo Management, Ceres Terminals and T&T Trucking.

“As the Port of Hueneme’s representative in Congress, I am

always so enthused by the new business and new jobs that the Port brings to the region,” said Congresswoman Julia Brownley, representing California’s 26th District. “Moving goods efficiently through the supply chain is critical for businesses of all shapes and sizes and infrastructure at our ports is a key part of that equation.”

With pressures on the supply chain, this type of service is not only important to goods movement and U.S. consumers, but to by alleviating shoreside and waterborne bottlenecks at the larger congested ports while generating benefits for the local community.



(Left to right) Geneva Monteleone, Office of Sen. Diane Feinstein; Oxnard Mayor John Zaragoza; Port Hueneme Mayor Rich Rollins; Port Hueneme City Council Member Laura Hernandez; Oxnard Harbor Commissioner Celina L. Zacarias; Capt. Richard “Barr” Kimmach, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Ventura County (in back); Jim Rinchiuso, Managing Director of Global Ocean FedEx Trade Networks; Patrick Moebel, President of FedEx Trade Networks; Dr. Udo Lange, President & CEO of FedEx Logistics; Oxnard Harbor Commission President Mary Anne Rooney; Andrew Palomares, Deputy Executive Director, CFO/CAO, Port of Hueneme; Oxnard Harbor Commissioner Jess J. Herrera; Congresswoman Julia Brownley; Christina Birdsey Chief Operations Officer, Port of Hueneme; Congressman Salud Carbajal; Rick Valenzuela, President, ILWU Local 46; Kristin Decas, CEO & Port of Hueneme Director; and Dona Lacayo Chief Commercial & Public Affairs Officer.

Continued on next page

THE PORT OF HUENEME

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A FedEx container sits atop a Ceres all-electric UTR (cargo handling truck).

Commissioner Rooney expressed the Board's strong support of this service coupled by its unwavering commitment to the environment and community, "As we build these services, we are motivated by the opportunities that it brings to foster economic prosperity and sustainable growth. These type of cargo operations create good paying jobs. Our successes also provide us with the critical revenue to invest in sustainable operations and zero emission technology, such as the electric UTRs (cargo handling trucks) the Port procured to offload containers."

Putting to use its longstanding 2004 Joint Use Agreement with the Navy, the cargo will initially be staged on Navy property to avoid disruption to the critical existing services at the Port.

"It is truly an honor to participate at this historic occasion and on behalf of the Navy, I'd like to welcome the Genco Pyrenees FedEx Logistic Cargo vessel onboard Naval Base Port Hueneme," said Capt. Robert "Barr" Kimnach, Commander of Naval Base Ventura County. "Strong community ties are critical to ensure our continued mission success. The Navy has endured a valued partnership with this community for over 80 years, operating the harbor after the outbreak of World War II."

This operation is first of multiple chartered vessels scheduled to come to Hueneme with the plan to schedule more over the next year based on success with the initial services. With FedEx owned chassis lined up and truckers ready, the cargo will make a quick departure from the base to distribution facilities lined up off-port.

Dona Lacayo, CCO & CPAO of the Port of Hueneme said, "We worked together to have the entire logistics network in cue to move the cargo through each of the supply chain partners-from origin, ocean and trucking to destination facility. We thank FedEx Logistics and all of the project partners for a great collaboration and for making the first FedEx ocean charter a great success."

FedEx trucks move cargo from the vessel Genco Pyrenees. The Port of Hueneme has seen record imports and exports as it supports the challenges in the supply chain. Imports climbed 123 percent and exports 200 percent in the first half of fiscal year 2022 (July - December).

Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director shared, "Our slogan, "We Make Cargo Move", is indicative of our reputation among Ports as one of the fastest through put ports in the nation and in this moment, through collaboration we can help make a dent in a national crisis. We thank FedEx for their business and look forward to a long-lasting relationship that creates market-based solutions for the benefit of the consumer."



FIRST ROBOTICS MAKES BIG SPLASH ON THE DOCS AT PORT OF HUENEME

PORT OF HUENEME STAFF

Dubbed a varsity "Sport for the Mind," the adrenaline-pumping Hueneme Port Regional and Ventura County Regional FIRST Robotics Competition was held at the Port in March. Over 1000 high school students from around the globe showcased their hard work by designing and building original, cargo-moving robots. 12 Ventura High Schools were represented and the High Tide 4414 team from Ventura made it to the national finals.

Read more: <https://www.portofhueneme.org/first-robotics-competition-2022/>

THE PORT OF HUENEME

GREEN TECH AND BLUE ECONOMY AT THE PORT

PORT OF HUENEME STAFF

Oxnard Harbor District President Mary Anne Rooney addresses the crowd, “When you take a tour of the Port, you will see trade happening all around you from auto imports coming off large ro-ro [auto] ships arriving from Europe and Asia to fresh produce exports,” said Oxnard Harbor District President, Mary Anne Rooney. She welcomed attendees by stating that international trade between nations is an important factor in raising living standards, providing decent employment, and enabling consumers to enjoy a greater variety of goods.

Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, was the event’s emcee. She provided an overview of the Port’s customers,

shared key information about how their country’s traditional exports and emerging markets are fostering growth and investment opportunities for years to come.

“This was a great opportunity for me to participate in this event and to share what we do,” said Betty Young, Business Development Officer for the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. She showcased Hong Kong’s position as a world leader for international trade.

José Cabascango, Ecuador’s Trade Commissioner, said it is important for his country to continue to have its relationship with the Port of Hueneme. “We are trying to



Oxnard Harbor District President Mary Anne Rooney addresses the crowd

operations, supply chain, and the Port’s impact on the local and regional economy. “Trade makes up about 16 percent of the Ventura County economy versus only about 12 percent in the state,” Decas said. “In other words, trade is a more significant contributor to jobs and the economy in Ventura County than it is in the state as a whole.”

Trade representatives from the countries of Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom

improve our export level from Ecuador to the U.S.,” he said. “We are now working on a trade agreement with the U.S., so it is important for us to be at an event like this.”

Alyson Santoro, Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology (EEMB) at the University of California at Santa Barbara was the event’s keynote speaker. Her presentation focused on “Biodegradable Plastics for Tomorrow’s Oceans.”

THE PORT OF HUENEME

Santoro mentioned that the time to act is now when it comes to addressing the concerning level of plastics found in the oceans.

“We’ve all heard about ocean plastic pollution, but this prediction — that there may be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050 — really drives home the magnitude of the problem,” Santoro said. She, along with a team of marine biology experts in the field, are working on the technology to produce biodegradable polymers from sustainable resources and use them to manufacture plastic products for marine purposes.

“These ‘smart’ materials can be used to enable new oceanographic tools, fishing gear, and other single use items,” Santoro said.

Richard Swanson, a Senior Advisor for the Office of the Regional Director – Pacific South Network, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, introduced Maryanne Burke who is the new Director of the U.S. Commercial Service for the U.S. Export Assistance Center office located at the Port of Hueneme. Burke spoke to attendees about the administration’s climate goals, stakeholder outreach, and supporting clean tech sectors.

During a roundtable discussion moderated by Dona Lacayo, Chief Commercial & Public Affairs Officer for the Port of Hueneme, questions were posed to a panel of industry experts that included Andrea Neal, PhD, CEO, Board Member, Bring Back the Blue; Armen Kvrlyan, PhD, Materials Engineer – Corrosion Subject Matter Expert, NAVSEA, Warfare Centers, Port Hueneme; Peter Struffenegger, North America Operations for Urchinomics; and Giles Pettifor, Environmental Manager, Port of Hueneme.

The panel answered questions about global concerns in ocean plastic and plastic waste supply chains, rust and corrosion and why it is important to the U.S. and the world, the work being done on offshore sea urchin ranching systems and kelp beds, improving upon the cleantech initiatives, and decarbonization.

The Port reported out on decarbonization efforts to address the climate crisis and share a vision of how the clean energy transition that the Port is undertaking can be a catalyst for the entire Ventura County region. The Port envisions a future climate and economic success for the region driven by clean fuels and the installation of clean

energy infrastructure driving regional advantages as well as critically important improvements in clean air and equitable access to clean energy careers and education.

“We seek to help drive not only the economic benefits of clean fuels like electricity, but also and importantly the community benefits of cleaner air and more opportunities for our youth and young professionals to empower climate solutions here,” said Port of Hueneme Environmental Manager Giles Pettifor.

Bruce Stenslie, President & CEO of the Economic Development Collaborative and Ray Bowman, Director of the Small Business Development Center at the Economic Development Collaborative provided attendees with an update regarding the Ventura County economy and its reliance on trade in the region.

To close the event, the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners presented awards to two companies who export goods through the Port of Hueneme.

President Mary Anne Rooney, presented McCain Foods USA with the Container Export Achievement Award, mentioning that this company has won this same award three consecutive years in a row. “Thank you, McCain Foods, for the continued support and for winning the well-deserved Exporter of the Year Award during World Trade Week Event at the Port of Hueneme,” Rooney said.

The Auto Exporter Achievement Award was presented to General Motors USA for their rise in importing and exporting new vehicles through the Port of Hueneme. Oxnard Harbor District Vice President Jess Herrera said, “We are proud of being their provider along with GLOVIS America for many years. We are here to support them in their vision for all-electric future. Congratulations on another consecutive win for auto exporter award, General Motors.”

“The Port of Hueneme is a critical economic driver in our community, facilitating global commerce and creating good jobs locally,” said Congresswoman Julia Brownley. “World Trade Week is an excellent opportunity to highlight the Port’s successes, exchange ideas, build relationships, and grow business trade opportunities for our region. As Ventura County’s representative in Congress, I look forward to continuing to work with the Port and our local community to ensure the Port’s continued success.”

District Representative, Carson Link, from the office of

THE PORT OF HUENEME

Senator Monique Limón, attended the World Trade Week event in person for the first time and thanked the Port of Hueneme for the experience. “We are fortunate to have a port within Senate District 19 who is on the forefront of green technology implementation and sustainable practices,” he said.

READ MORE ABOUT THE OXNARD WORLD TRADE CENTER HERE: <https://www.portofhueneme.org/business/world-trade-center>



PORT OF HUENEME AND CITY OF PORT HUENEME PUT COMMUNITY BENEFIT PARTNERSHIP IN FULL GEAR

PORT OF HUENEME STAFF

February 18, 2022 — The partnership between the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port Hueneme goes into full gear supporting the local non-profit Reel Guppy Outdoors youth program. Reel Guppy Outdoors runs its youth programs off Port Hueneme Pier and is now able to expand to Channel Islands Fisherman’s Wharf as the result of funding from the Port-City Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and other local sponsors. Activities of the local non-profit include, fishing, whale watching and outdoor field trips providing an alternative for youth to get out on the water. Engaging in outdoor fishing can provide an individual with positive benefits such as breathing fresh air, engaging in active problem solving, socialization, and even achieving a sense of excitement when a fish tugs on the fishing line, making this an ideal fit for funding out of the CBF.

The CBF was established in 2015 by the City and Port to achieve the mutual goal of enriching the community through a spirit of collaboration. If the Port’s annual exceeds \$13M, \$100,000 is allocated to the CBF and the Port and City come together to vote on how to invest this funding in the community. This year as part of the initiative, the City and Port voted to contribute \$5,000 to Reel Guppy Outdoors. Yesterday the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port

Hueneme presented a check donation to Reel Guppy Outdoors at the West Ventura County Business Alliance ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of their new Reel Guppy Dockside Learning Center located at 2741 S. Victoria Avenue, Suite D at Fisherman’s Wharf.

“The Port is committed to maintaining a legacy of trade and embracing community enrichment,” said Mary Anne Rooney, President of the Oxnard Harbor District that owns the Port of Hueneme. “Through the Community Benefit Fund, we are able to be collaborative and engage in partnerships for the public’s benefit such as supporting what the Reel Guppy Outdoors does by taking students on educational field trips to Lake Casitas, out to the Channel Islands, and other enrichment activities.”

Kevin Brannon, founder of Reel Guppy Outdoors, grew up in Port Hueneme and began his journey as a fisherman by working at Port Hueneme Sportfishing. His journey of taking people out on the water to explain what goes into being a fisherman and teaching people how to fish started 10 years ago.

“Kids in my neighborhood of Port Hueneme and south Oxnard needed something positive to do so I just used what I had at my disposal and started taking kids out fishing to the pier. Since then, we have taken over 3,600 participants out,” said Brannon. “We are now in the local elementary schools with the workbooks that we’ve created. We have a great relationship with fisheries, management organizations, and state organizations for educational portions of this program. Funds that we get, such as the Community Benefit Fund, help us pull off some of these cool series — whether it’s taking kids on boats, covering their fish cleaning bill, their lunches and staffing — it’s been a big help.”

Port Hueneme Mayor, Richard Rollins, said: “Reel Guppies is a great program for our community’s youth. The program provides an opportunity to have the kids learn about the environment, sustainability, fishing, and also provides great mentorship. Parents and volunteers get involved and make it a great experience for everyone. We are excited to have Reel Guppies a part of Port Hueneme and look forward to seeing them thrive.”

READ MORE ABOUT THE OXNARD WORLD TRADE CENTER HERE: <https://www.portofhueneme.org/business/world-trade-center>

To learn more about the Community Benefit Fund visit <https://www.portofhueneme.org/cbf>.



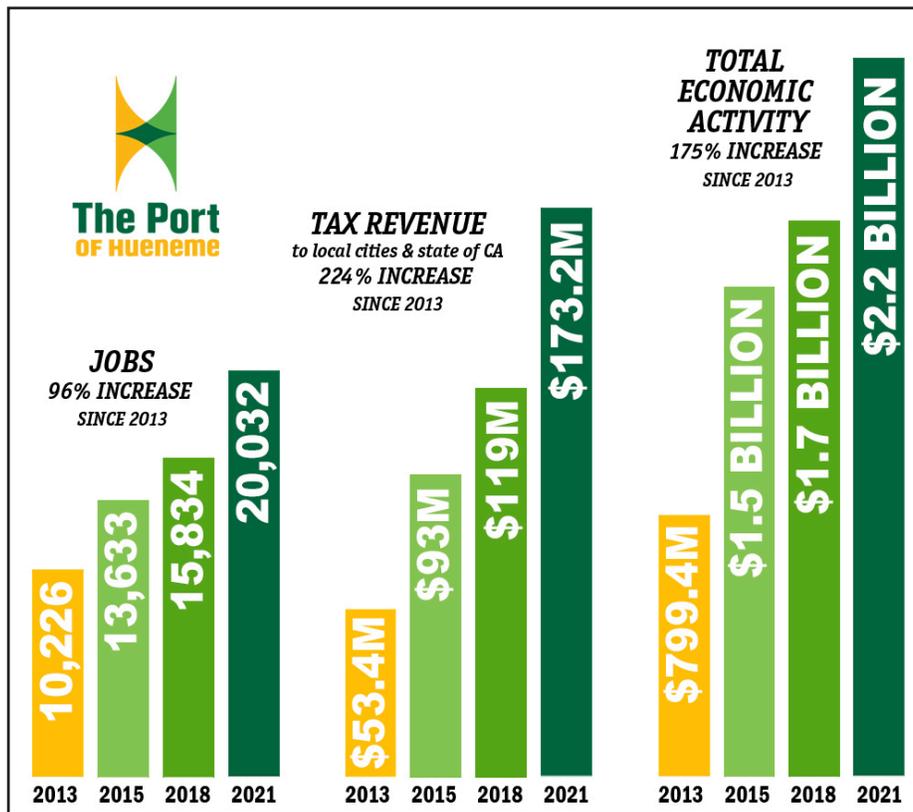
THE PORT OF HUENEME

UPDATED ASSESSMENT SHOWS PORT OF HUENEME'S ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT REACHES ALL TIME HIGHS IN VENTURA COUNTY

PORT HUENEME, CA – FEB. 23, 2022 — The Port of Hueneme continues to serve as a vital economic engine throughout the region as evidenced by the release of a new economic impact report. The latest results show a steady and significant increase since 2013 in several key areas as demonstrated in the report updated by Martin Associates, a renowned economic consulting company for the maritime industry. The report shows that total economic activity increased by 150% or \$1.4 billion to \$2.2 billion and tax revenues to local cities and the state topped out at \$173.2 million, a stark 224% increase. Since the previous report released in 2018, jobs grew in record numbers to 20,032 jobs, creating 4,200 additional jobs, of which 95% of these traded-created jobs are in Ventura County.

as demonstrated by the 2021 data in the report. In fact, the \$2.2 billion in trade related activity and 20,032 trade related jobs through the Port of Hueneme account for 4% of Ventura County's total Gross Domestic Product and make up 6% of the County's local workforce.

“In order to sustain this growth as an economic engine, it is critical that the Port continues to invest in terminal, rail, and highway access infrastructure to meet future demand, and to continue to attract tenants to stimulate further economic development in Southern California,” said John Martin, President of Martin Associates. “This suggests that the future growth of the Port will result in further job, income, and tax growth for the region.”



Port of Hueneme - Direct Jobs, 2021

Port of Hueneme - Economic Numbers, 2021

“The new 2021 study confirms that the Port of Hueneme continues to serve as a key source of economic activity in Ventura County,” said Oxnard Harbor District President, Mary Anne Rooney. “The Port is invaluable to our region due to the fact that we generate millions in state and local taxes that help fund vital public services such as education, police, fire services, and road improvements.”

The Port of Hueneme’s 84-year legacy is serving as a key driver and economic force in the region reaches new bounds

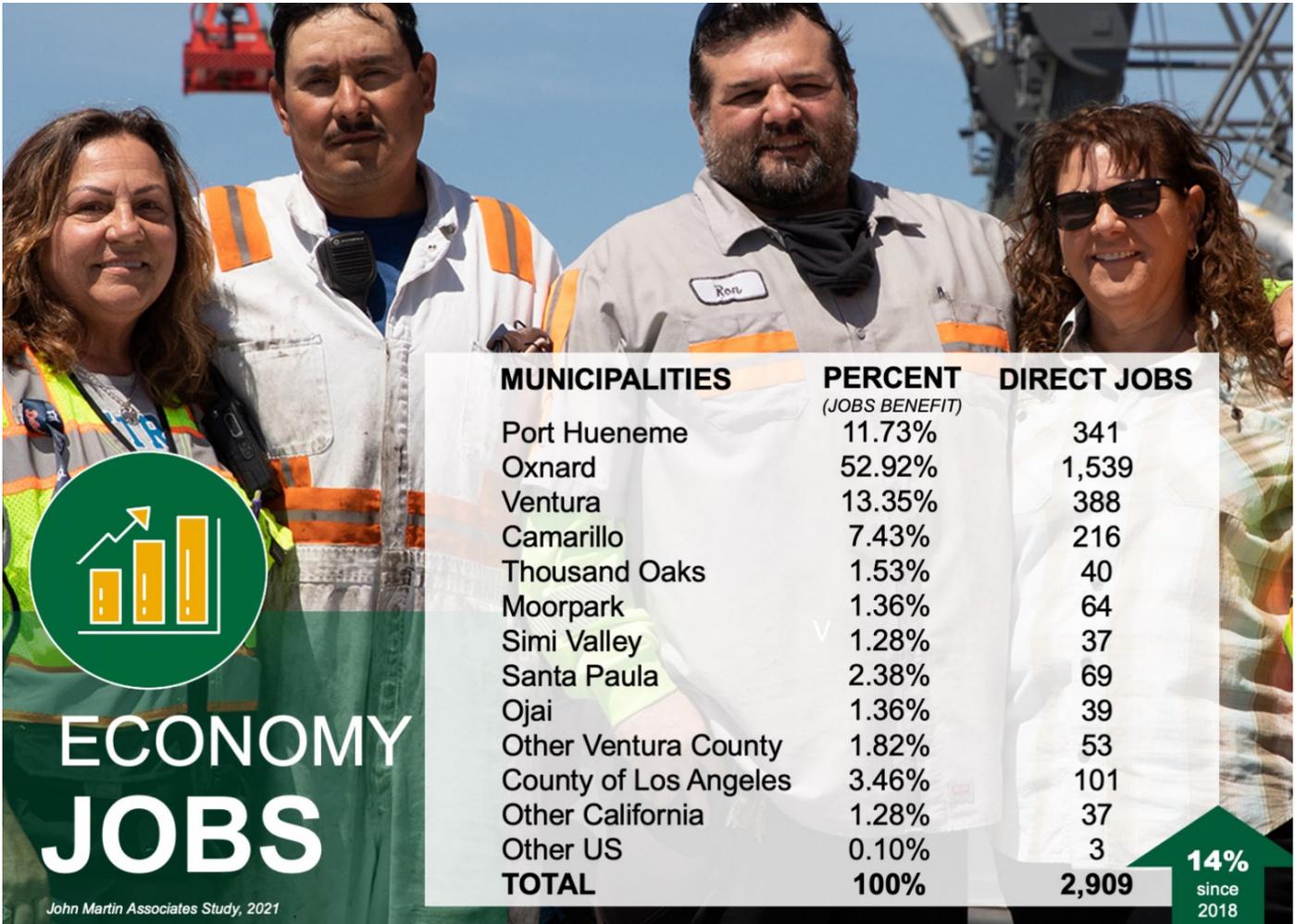
Of particular importance is the fact that the Port generates

nearly 3,000 direct jobs with an average annual salary of \$70,174, compared to the county-wide average salary of about \$63,440 – almost \$8,000 higher than the average salary in the county which further underscores the importance of the Port as a major catalyst in Ventura County and the state of California economies.

The major Port customers that connect our County to world markets include Del Monte, Chiquita, BMW, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, GLOVIS, Sealand, Mission Produce, and Yara.

continued on next page

THE PORT OF HUENEME



These companies have chosen to make our County their home, they invest here, train our residents for good paying jobs and create this impressive economic output.

“Trade not only creates thousands of jobs, but also generates tax revenues for local cities through our customers that invest in and base their terminal operations in our communities,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director. “In addition to the economic benefits the Port and our customers bring to local residents, we are also committed to grassroots community engagement through our support and presence at local events as well as promoting social advocacy.”

See the full Martin & Associates study here: https://www.portofhueneme.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ExecutiveSummary_Hueneme-1-21-2022.pdf

To learn more about Martin & Associates: Martin Associates – A World Company (johncmartinassociates.com)

About the Port of Hueneme

The Port of Hueneme is one of the most productive and efficient commercial trade gateways for niche cargo on the West Coast. The Port is governed by five locally elected Port Commissioners. The Port consistently ranks among the top ten U.S. ports for automobiles and fresh produce. Port operations support the community by bringing \$2.2 billion in economic activity and creating 20,032 trade-related jobs. Trade through the Port of Hueneme generates more than \$173.2 million in direct and related state and local taxes, which fund vital community services. In 2017, the Port of Hueneme became the first port in California to become Green Marine certified and was voted the Greenest Port in the U.S. at the Green Shipping Summit.



