

ISSUE 3

APR 2020

THE PRIMER

NAVY EOD QUARTERLY

VISION

Navy EOD Vision 2030

GUIDANCE

National Defense Strategy and
COVID-19 Prevention

CLIPS

What's happening in the
EOD community and around
the Fleet?



Contents

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a diver's head and shoulders. The diver is wearing a black, full-face diving helmet with a clear visor and a black mask. The helmet is wet with water droplets. The diver is in the water, and the background shows a yellow hose and some dark, indistinct shapes, possibly part of a boat or equipment.

In this issue:

- 3** Message From The Commodores
- 4** Navy EOD Vision 2030
- 8** Expeditionary Salvage
- 11** Community Recognition
- 15** Clips



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORES

We want to first and foremost thank our warfighters and their families for their patience and trust during this dynamic time in the Nation's fight against COVID-19. Although this situation is unique and different, the Navy and the EOD community face unique problems everyday, and we are ready to fight. Our top priority is preserving our force to maintain current levels of mission readiness. Our definition of mission success is 100% of our force is healthy and ready to rapidly deploy or aggressively execute unit level training when restrictions are lifted.

We want the entire team to focus on the three P's--Protect, Prevent, Prepare. We must protect our warfighters, families and wider communities. Please follow CDC guidelines and do not contribute to the problem. We must protect our bubbles, mentally, physically, and emotionally. We also must prevent the spread of disease by reducing and preventing exposure, specifically for our units of action certified to deploy and those in sustainment phase. Bottom line, we must remain mission ready. We will take measures that may seem inconvenient to both our Sailors and their families, but it is for the benefit of stopping the spread of COVID-19 and further protecting America.

Finally, we must be prepared to support a "whole of government" response, right now. Be prepared to aggressively execute military operations, deployments, and training as soon as the all clear is given. The COVID-19 crisis remains unpredictable with a constant stream of guidance coming out daily, sometimes hourly. If you need help, ask us! Your commanding officers and command master chiefs have our unwavering trust and confidence. However, know that we are here to assist if needed. Thank you for your continued adaptability, leadership and confidence. Our team will make it through this together.

CAPT Oscar Rojas
Commander, EOD Group 1






CAPT Rick Hayes
Commander, EOD Group 2

NAVY EOD VISION



MISSION

We eliminate explosive threats so our Fleet and Nation can fight and win -- whenever, wherever, and however it chooses.

-  **DEVELOP THE FORCE TO WIN AGAINST NEAR PEER COMPETITORS AND EMPOWERED NON-STATE ACTORS**
-  **EXPAND OUR CRUCIAL ADVANTAGE AGAINST COMPETITORS' UNDERSEA THREATS**
-  **CAPITALIZE ON OUR ABILITY TO COUNTER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**
-  **GROW EXPERTISE IN EXPLOITATION OF NEXT-GENERATION WEAPON SYSTEMS**
-  **EMBOLDEN OUR ALLIES' AND PARTNERS' CAPABILITIES**

VISION

A nation undeterred by explosive threats.

SUPPORT TO THE JOINT FORCE

EOD Support to SOF

SOF Working Group temporary homepage:

<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/navyeod-sof>

Please go here to update the distribution list, look for future engagements, post events that are relevant to the WG, and share information regarding equipment testing.

Navy EOD support to SOF in the CWMD mission area presents future opportunities for the community.

Deckplate input needed!

CONTACT LCDR MATT BYINGTON, EODGRU 2 N5, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: MATTHEW.D.BYINGTON@NAVY.SMIL.MIL

- ▶ Keep a look out for information regarding the next "CRF" IPR this summer.
- ▶ GRU2 hosted Joint EOD support to SOF discussion with representatives from SOCOM, JSOC, NSW, USASOC, USMC, USAF and USA.
We look forward to involvement from NEOD forces in future.
- ▶ The SOF working Group is seeking inputs on problems the PLTs are solving via innovative efforts including prototyping/ fabrication/ incorporation of technology.

WE ARE PUTTING OUT A CALL FOR PEOPLE WITH A UNIQUE CERTIFICATION SKILL (I.E. PROGRAMMING) TO HELP!

SUPPORT TO THE FLEET

Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures

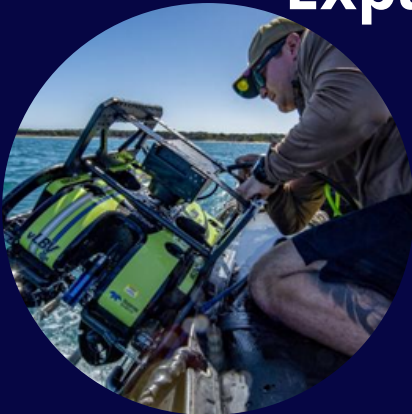
Arctic Edge 2020

A mine countermeasures platoon from EOD Mobile Unit Three mobilized to Juneau, Alaska, alongside Mine Countermeasures Division 31 and an unmanned maritime systems platoon from Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center, to prepare and test expeditionary mine countermeasures capabilities in the Arctic environment. The exercise offered an opportunity to exercise ExMCM capabilities with our NOMWC partners and enabled us to build working relationships with local agencies and citizens of Juneau for future operations. Check out the Juneau Empire's coverage of the exercise [here](#). The exercise also offered an opportune cold-weather testing environment for Defense Threat Reduction Agency's underwater neutralization system in partnership with Naval Information Warfare Center and NSWC Indian Head EOD Technology Division. The "Blowfish" concept combined ROV technology with after-market software, sensors, thrusters, arm, and underwater disrupter with mounting and aiming systems. For video of the test, visit the JEOD portal or contact LCDR Mike Bailey (michael.bailey5.mil@mail.mil) or FLTLAU.



Expanding ExMCM in the Indo-Pacific

As the Fiscal Year 2020 defense spending bill adds more ExMCM companies, the Navy EOD community is focusing on getting those forces quickly into the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of operations. Although our unmanned systems platoon and mine countermeasures platoons have deployed to the region for years, Mobile Unit One will send its first whole ExMCM company forward to U.S. 7th Fleet in the coming months as they work through the operational requirements of Fleet commanders. USNI News recently covered the expansion of our ExMCM companies, read more about it [here](#).



Formalizing UMS Training

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit One completed an 18-week proof of concept for an unmanned maritime systems basic course of instruction this past quarter. The course featured 100+ combined lessons, practical applications and events focused on tactical communications, combat first aid, maritime mobility, mission planning, MINEnet tactical, advanced sonar techniques, CESE/SABAR, and post mission analysis before culminating in a full mission profile and training exercise. Formalizing the training pipeline for our UMS teams not only further professionalizes this critical force but also takes the first steps towards retaining UMS knowledge within the EOD enterprise. The official pilot for the UMS basic course is scheduled for this summer. For more information on this course, contact HTCS Mario Pais at mario.pais@navy.mil.





Support To The Fleet

GUIDANCE



Expeditionary Salvage

Salvage is a Navy mission area that includes maritime rescue, recovery of submerged objects, hazardous pollution control, and towing operations. MDS forces are highly mobile, rapidly deployable, scalable combat ready forces trained to dominate these missions in any environment.

LOE 1

**Fleet Concepts
Development &
Integration**

Define current salvage force capabilities and generate coordinated, forward leaning concepts in support of Fleet operations.



LOE 2

**Force
Generation &
Employment**

Focused training for FTN and MCO with follow on sustainment operations that maintain and enhance salvage proficiency.



LOE 3

**Industry
Exchange &
Acquisitions**

Building coordination with commercial salvage for training while investing in commercially available technology.



LOE 4

**Platform
Integration &
Training**

Improve training and integration on mobile platforms while preparing for future towing, salvage, and rescue vessels.



COVID-19

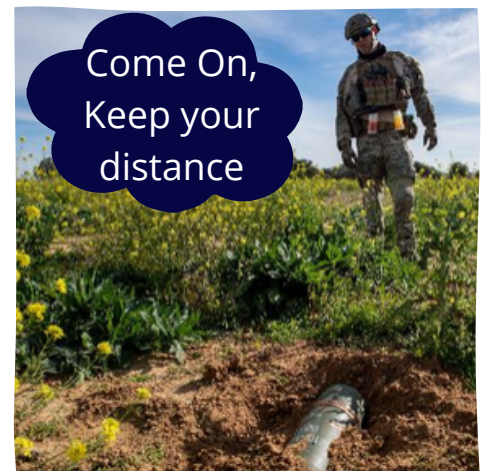
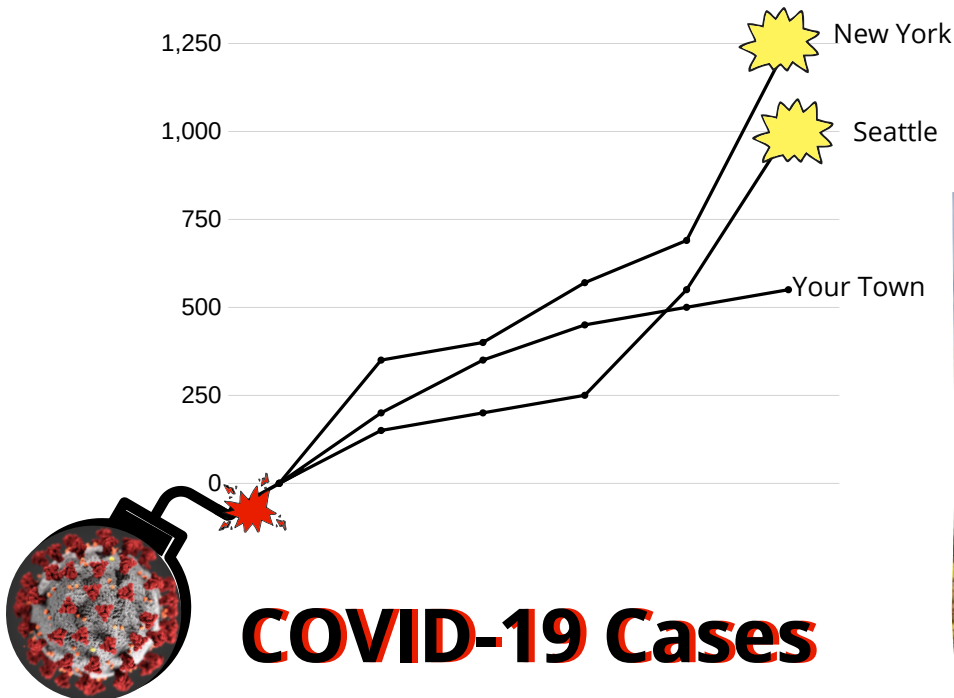
Infection Peaks Predicted Late April through June.

Prevention, Prevention, Prevention

The earliest predictions for peak COVID-19 hospitalizations are from late April through June. For this pandemic, physical space, along with disciplined personal and public hygiene remain our only Force Health Protection tools. We must remain healthy to continue to meet the nation's demands.

When You Must Go Out In Public:

1. Wash your hands frequently and do not touch your face.
2. Wear a cloth face covering.
3. Use as few trips to as few stores as possible.
4. Make sure you only go out for essential items.
5. Avoid crowds by going to the store at off-peak hours.
6. Review the CDC website below or the latest public health recommendations.



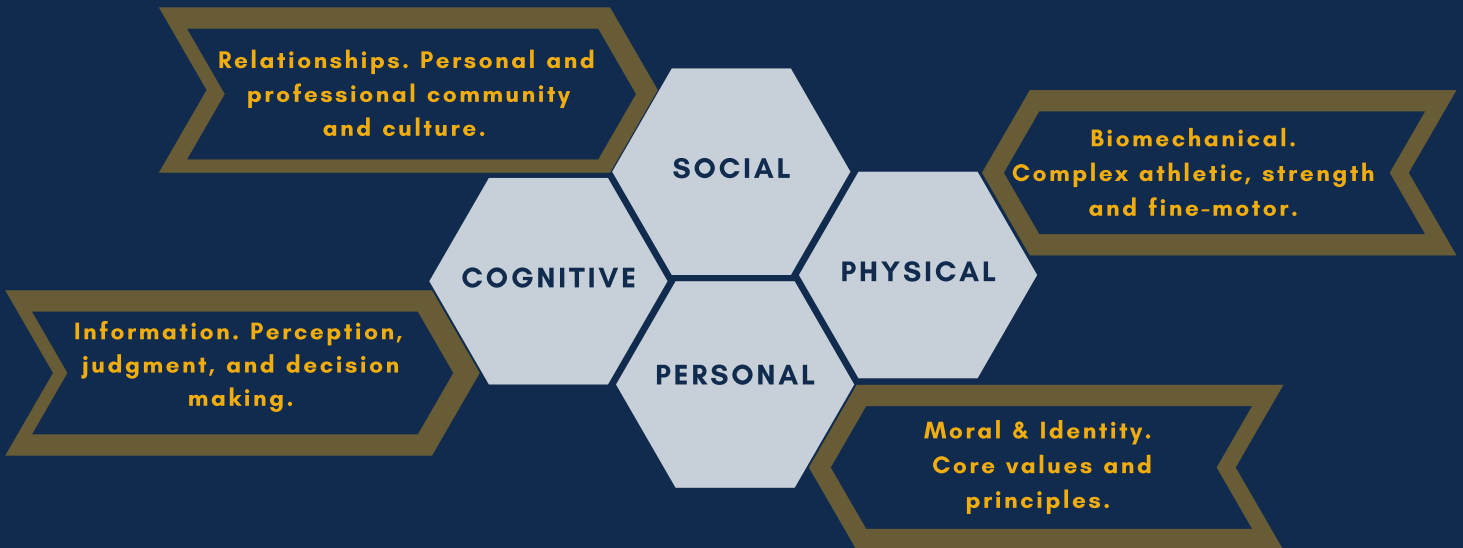
CDC COVID-19 Prevention Tips:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

FORCE RESILIENCY UPDATE

GUIDANCE

The EOD Force Resiliency Program protects individuals and teams from debilitating stress through adaptability, recovery and growth across the personal, social, cognitive and physical wellness domains.



CURRENT STATUS

EODGRU 1

Despite the current pandemic environment, EOD Group One continues to build upon their FRP foundation and has adapted to virtual process to maintain core FRP functions, such as conducting teletherapy sessions! Three of our eight contractors have been hired and are currently onboard in San Diego. We are awaiting hire of five more personnel, including two physical therapists dedicated to our units in Hawaii and Guam. We are continuing with our facility solutions plan by evaluating pre-existing buildings in the San Diego area to house our program while also developing MILCON plans that will sustain FRP well into the future. Physical therapy and human performance equipment requirements for all Group One units have been identified and our team is preparing the procurement paperwork. We expect to purchase and receive the equipment in the next three to six months unless COVID-19 affects equipment supply chains. Future initiatives include evaluating programs such as Train Heroic and Bridge Athletic, as well as leveraging relationships with scientists at the Naval Health and Research Center's Behavioral Science Lab to track force resilience in the community.

EODGRU 2

Even in the current COVID environment, work is continuing on the EODGRU TWO FRP building! Significant renovations have been made, including new doors, drywall, structural walls, HVAC, lighting and cosmetic improvements. We are still targeting a 1 July initial program kick-off date and are adjusting efforts to accommodate required changes since its initial design. 60% of the FRP staff is onboard, with remaining personnel arriving over the next few weeks and months. The EOD community is extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to add professionals with such significant, diverse, and impressive technical backgrounds and skills to the team. Get to know some of the new team members in a "question and answer" session on the next page!

QUESTIONS:

1. What is your specialty?
2. How long have you been doing it?
3. What do you bring to the warfighter?
4. Why are you passionate about your job?
5. What gets you excited about this program?

Dr. Isabel Gill Physical Therapist



1. I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy, Board Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist, certified Manual Trigger Point Therapist - Advanced Dry Needling, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist and EXOS Performance Specialist
2. I graduated from PT school in 2002, so 18 years
3. I bring an understanding of their challenges both professionally and personally. I am married to an EOD tech and saw him transition from the Army to the Navy. I've seen what it looks like to go through deployments and shift to EOD prep, dive school, NAVSCOLEOD, training cycles, technical boards and more deployments. I understand the job of the EOD tech but I also have an extensive background in musculoskeletal injury prevention and management.
4. Physical therapy is a wonderful profession as it can improve the quality of someone's life and in some cases very dramatically and quickly and to have any kind of involvement in that is very special.
5. I truly believe this group of service members needs a robust, thought out and readily accessible program to support and enhance them in an often grueling cycle of mental and physical demand.

Jacob Talcott Strength and Conditioning Specialist



1. I am a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association
2. I've been a strength and conditioning coach for 14 years. I spent the majority of that time working in Division 1 athletics working with multiple award winning athletes in many different sports.
3. Coming from a background of college athletics and training with multiple different sports I bring a variety of different training methods geared around increasing athletic ability and longevity.
4. I am very passionate about each individual that comes in the gym and whether I can help them perform better or perform with the least amount of injuries in the field.
5. The most exciting thing about this program is how new it is. Getting to start from the ground floor and build this into what we think can be very beneficial for everyone is very exciting.

Brandi Anderson Athletic Trainer



1. Certified athletic trainer since '93 and certified strength and conditioning specialist since '01
2. I began as a student athletic trainer in high school and knew this was the profession for me and never looked back
3. I have built programs from the ground up. I was an athletic trainer with high schools and semi-pro football and helped start the NSWG-2 rehab program. In terms of patient care, I look at the whole person to determine the root cause of pain and injury. In our program, we believe that treating a minor problem as it happens can increase the longevity and success of the operator and increase the speed of recovery.
4. I have never been a "great athlete," I would say fair at best and for me, I found a way to stay involved in athletics, which I love, while using my gifts to enhance injury recovery and quality of life of the athletes I work with. Seeing a patient improve and reach their goals sustains my passion for health and the love of my job.
5. We are building this program from the ground up with an exceptional and highly capable team of professionals that have patient care and operator longevity at the core of the program goals.

Spence Webb Strength and Conditioning Specialist



1. My specialty is enhancing human performance. I have Bachelors of Science degree in Food and Nutrition with a Major of Dietetics, Masters of Science in Exercise Science with an emphasis in Performance Enhancement, Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist, and Performance Enhancement Specialist
2. I started as a student volunteer in the Athletics program at Florida State University, then I got my CSCS credential as a graduate assistant in strength and conditioning. So, a little over 10 years of being paid and another 1.5 unpaid years.
3. I bring a breadth of knowledge and a desire for learning. I bring a unique combination of experiences, from embracing the suck (I was Army Infantry for four years) to a graduate school level understanding of things like how to maximize mTOR gene expression (useful if you want to get bigger muscles without wasted effort).
4. Honestly, because it's fun to me. I get to do exactly what I wanted to do, train and educate warriors
5. I am excited about how we are going to be embracing the use of advanced technology.



Mission One for every Sailor – active and reserve, uniformed and civilian – is the operational readiness of today's Navy. Our Nation expects a ready Navy – ready to fight today – and our commitment to the training, maintenance, and modernization that will also ensure a Navy ready for tomorrow. We will deliver this Navy.

WARFIGHTING

End State: A Navy that is ready to win across the full range of military operations. We must have a Fleet that is manned, trained, equipped, integrated, and ready to meet requirements of our senior leaders at any time. Alongside the Marine Corps, the Navy will deliver decisive Integrated American Naval Power.

WARFIGHTERS

End State: A Navy that is world-class. We will recruit, educate, train and retain America's most talented men and women. Our people – uniformed and civilian Sailors – are our asymmetric advantage.

FUTURE NAVY

End State: A Navy that is fully prepared to fight and win. Our Navy will be equipped with the right capabilities and numbers to meet the challenges of a complex and competitive maritime environment. We will look at what is required to operate forward, build the Fleet to match, and train together until we achieve integrated combat power across the force.

"I am confident that we will maximize the Navy we have today while delivering the Navy that our nation will rely upon tomorrow. We will do so with **urgency**. Our fleet will be a potent, formidable force that competes around the world every day, deterring those who would challenge us while reassuring our Allies and partners. Joining with the Marine Corps, we will deliver decisive **Integrated American Naval Power** when called. As we focus on the future, we will value and celebrate our heritage. Our Core Values of **Honor, Courage, and Commitment** and our attributes of **Integrity, Accountability, Initiative, and Toughness** will always guide us. They underpin who we are as members of the profession of arms: united by our common oath, dedicated to our special standards of ethics and character, and constantly honing our unique expertise in the art and science of naval warfare."

— Adm. Mike Gilday
Chief of Naval Operations



NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY SUCCESSSES

The National Defense Strategy is the foundation on which we set our priorities and align our resources.



LOE 1: INCREASE LETHALITY

- » Established U.S. Space Force as the sixth branch of the Armed Forces
- » Established U.S. Space Command as the 11th combatant command
- » Continuing to normalize freedom of navigation in the South China Sea



LOE 2: STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND ATTRACT NEW PARTNERS

- » Initiated International Maritime Security Construct, a multinational coalition, to ensure freedom of navigation in key waterways of the Middle East
- » Continued to support an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned reconciliation
- » Continued to support Secretary of State with North Korea denuclearization efforts



LOE 3: REFORM THE DEPARTMENT


- » Defense-Wide Review to ensure all resources are closely aligned to National Defense Strategy
- » Established a repository for Common Enterprise Data (ADVANA) for audit and business data analytics to inform DoD-wide decision-making
- » Developed a Defense-Wide Governance framework for oversight of enterprise wide business operations



LOE 4: TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE

- » The Department is prioritizing People as an additional line of effort
- » Implemented the Blended Retirement System for service members
- » Consolidated all military treatment facilities under the Defense Health Agency

EOD & DIVING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- 
- Unique battlespace problems require unique specialists. The Navy EOD & Diving community specializes in high-end, complex war-fighting problems.
 - Navy EOD Operators and Divers protect the Fleet and Joint Force from explosive threats, enabling the nation to fight and win at a time and place of its choosing - wherever, and however, it chooses.
 - Three unique, operationally vital skill sets:
 - (1) Support the Fleet: **Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures (ExMCM)**
 - (2) Support the Joint Force: **Counter-Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD)**
 - Specialized exploitation expertise informs both
 - (3) Support the Fleet: **Deep Sea Combat Recovery and Salvage**
 - Focus is on high-end weaponry in challenging environments that poses an existential threat, capable of upending the world order and economy - “weapons of mass effect.”
 - The Navy EOD & Diving community is unique due to their selection process, training, and specialized capabilities.
 - **Decades long, sustained combat operations have forged Navy EOD into the world’s premier EOD force**, supporting the Fleet, joint special operations, and joint conventional forces.

We effectively deny use of weapons of mass effect, conduct deep sea special applications, and ensure freedom of movement

EODMU12 has been charged with a community-wide identity and branding OPT. Although the schedule has been set back due to COVID-19 measures, MU12 will be pushing out initial products to other ECH V units for review and editing within the coming weeks.

STRATEGIC IMPACT

EOD

MASTER CHIEFS

AFRICOM



COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
RYAN P. BURTON, J3 & J5
COMMAND SENIOR
ENLISTED LEADER, AFRICA
COMMAND

1993 - ENLISTED

2004 - GRAD. EOD SCHOOL

NAVY ASSIGNMENTS:

- USS SARATOGA (CVN 60)
- USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
- USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70)
- NAVY RECRUITER
- EODMU 2
- EODMU 12
- EODTEU 2

CMC ASSIGNMENTS:

- CTF-52
- EODMU 12
- EODMU 3

EARNED DESIGNATIONS

- MASTER EOD WARFARE
- EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE
- FLEET MARINE FORCE
WARFARE SPECIALIST
- AVIATION WARFARE
- SURFACE WARFARE

NECC



FORCE MASTER CHIEF
JEFF BARNES, COMMAND
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER,
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY
COMBAT COMMAND

1992 - ENLISTED

2002 - GRAD. EOD SCHOOL

NAVY ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 3
- EODMU 11 DET. BANGOR
- EODMU 8
- CTF 56

CMC ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 1
- EOD GROUP 2
- CTF 68

EARNED DESIGNATIONS

- MASTER EOD WARFARE
- EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE
- SURFACE WARFARE
- AVIATION WARFARE
- FLEET MARINE FORCE
WARFARE SPECIALIST
- MASTER TRAINING
SPECIALIST

DTRA



COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
PHILIP R. IBANEZ,
COMMAND SENIOR
ENLISTED LEADER,
DEFENSE THREAT
REDUCTION AGENCY

1997 - ENLISTED

1999 - GRAD. EOD SCHOOL

NAVY ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 5
- EODMU 8
- NSWDG
- DEOD - RAN
- INTERNATIONAL DIVE
COURSE IN THE
PERSONAL EXCHANGE
PROGRAM WITH
ENGLAND
- EODTEU 2
- SOCPAC

CMC ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 12

EDUCATION

- MBA - AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
- BA - IN HOMELAND
SECURITY- AMERICAN
MILITARY UNIVERSITY

**HE IS THE FIRST EVER
SENIOR ENLISTED
ADVISOR TO DTRA.**

CENTCOM



FLEET MASTER CHIEF
JAMES HERDEL, COMMAND
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER,
CENTRAL COMMAND

1989 - ENLISTED

1990 - GRAD. EOD SCHOOL

NAVY ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 2
- EODMU 5
- EODMU 6
- EODTEU 2

CMC ASSIGNMENTS:

- EODMU 2
- EXWDC
- NECC

EDUCATION

- BA - BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT
AMERICAN MILITARY
INSTITUTE

**HE IS THE FIRST NAVY
MASTER CHIEF TO SERVE
AS CENTCOM SENIOR
ENLISTED LEADER**

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CLICK [HERE](#) FOR FULL BIO

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COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

SILVER STAR AWARD

Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician
Matthew J. O'Connor



"I am honored to receive the Silver Star and appreciate the recognition; however, I want people to know that it took a whole group of guys to ensure everyone returned safely. I was not the only one out there, and this is reflective of a team effort."

31ST MASTER BLASTER



CONGRATULATIONS
MASTER CHIEF DUANE OLIVEIRA



THE MASTER BLASTER TITLE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1980 TO
RECOGNIZE THE INDIVIDUAL CURRENTLY SERVING ON
ACTIVE DUTY WHO HAS COMPILED THE LONGEST RECORD
OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) ASSIGNMENTS.

CONGRATULATIONS, RDML(SEL) BRAD ANDROS



A NATIVE OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK, CAPTAIN ANDROS GRADUATED FROM THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1994 WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN OCEAN ENGINEERING.

IN AUGUST 1998 HE COMPLETED EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TRAINING AND REPORTED TO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MOBILE UNIT ELEVEN IN OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON. AT EODMU ELEVEN HE WAS ASSIGNED AS OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MINE COUNTERMEASURES DETACHMENT 55 AND MOBILE DETACHMENT 13. DURING THIS TOUR HE COMPLETED A WESTERN PACIFIC / ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT ABOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) SUPPORTING OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH. CAPTAIN ANDROS' NEXT ASSIGNMENT WAS TO COMMANDER CRUISER-DESTROYER GROUP FIVE AS THE EOD AND MINE WARFARE OFFICER. WHILE THERE, HE EMBARKED IN USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) FOR AN ARABIAN GULF DEPLOYMENT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

CAPTAIN ANDROS THEN SERVED AS THE EOD OPERATIONS OFFICER FOR COMMANDER, U.S. NAVAL CENTRAL COMMAND; OVERSEEING THE OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OF NAVY EOD UNITS ASSIGNED TO THE CENTRAL COMMAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. IN DECEMBER 2005 HE REPORTED TO EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MOBILE UNIT SIX AS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER. DURING THIS TOUR EODMU SIX DEPLOYED TO BAGHDAD, IRAQ.

CAPTAIN ANDROS THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL WHERE HE COMPLETED TWO TOURS, FIRST AS THE EOD OFFICER COMMUNITY MANAGER AND THEN THE EOD ASSIGNMENTS AND PLACEMENT OFFICER. HE THEN ASSUMED COMMAND OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MOBILE UNIT EIGHT AND TASK GROUP 68.1, PROVIDING COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES EUROPE-AFRICA WITH EOD, DIVING AND SALVAGE UNITS OF ACTION.

AFTER COMPLETING HIS COMMAND TOUR, CAPTAIN ANDROS ATTENDED THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, GRADUATING WITH A MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN STRATEGIC STUDIES, AND THEN SERVED AS THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN BRANCH CHIEF IN THE PLANS, POLICY AND STRATEGY DIRECTORATE AT U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND. MOST RECENTLY, HE COMMANDED TASK FORCE 56 IN BAHRAIN WHERE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND EXECUTION OF EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT OPERATIONS IN THE FIFTH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS. HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE NAVY EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT BRANCH HEAD (OPNAV N957) WITHIN THE EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE DIVISION OF THE NAVY STAFF.

THE NEWEST EOD OFFICER SELECTED FOR ADMIRAL

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION EOD IN-RESIDENT GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

| | | School | Degree | Thesis/ Focus |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| NPS | LT Christopher Price | Naval Postgraduate | Mechanical Engineering, Undersea Warfare | Autonomously deploying effects on Seabird-Buried Target |
| | LCDR Jonathan Bach | Naval Postgraduate | Computer Science, | Artificial Intelligence |
| | LT Ryan Donofrio | Naval Postgraduate | | |
| | LT Colton Kawamura | Naval Postgraduate | Physics | Structure, Thermodynamics, and Energy content of Percolate containing Maganese Clusters |
| JUNIOR WAR COLLEGE | LCDR Gregory Bobich | Naval War College | | |
| | LCDR Dhruv Parashar | USMC War College | Master of Military Studies (MMS) | The digital camouflage fiasco of the 2000s: How the US Military attempted to combine fashion with function and manufacture identity crisis |
| | LT J.D. Mello | Naval War College | | |
| | LT David Haney | Army Command and General Staff Officer | | |
| SENIOR WAR COLLEGE | CDR Doug Alley | Naval War College | National Security and Strategic Studies | Unmanned systems and GPC in the Arctic |
| | LCDR Zach Scheetz | Naval War College | National Security and Strategic Studies | Advanced Strategic Studies |
| FSEP | LCDR Braden Schrock | Northwestern University | Finance, Marketing | Technology Management, Artificial Intelligence contact |
| | LT Ralph Grossman | Harvard | Masters, Public Policy | International and Global Affairs |
| | LCDR Aaron Dixon | University of Southern Cal. | Systems and Industrial Engineering | Data analysis and statistic based efficiency |
| | LT Ben Lewis | Georgetown | Security Studies Program | Technology and Security |
| | LT Drew Visintin | University of Texas | Masters in Business Administration | Strategy, Innovation & Finance |
| | LT William Quadrino | University of Pennsylvania | | |
| IGEP | ENS Ben Hynes | Purdue | Aerospace Engineering | Hydrogen storage for portable fuel cells using chemical hydrides |
| | ENS Aaron Fowler | Georgetown | Arab Studies | Arab governments, Civil-Military relations and US foreign policy |
| | ENS Cassandra Dooley | Cambridge | | |
| SOCOM | EODCS Jake Trapp | M.I.T. | Masters in Business | |
| | | Fellowship Location | Research Topic | |
| FEF | CAPT John Moulton | University of Oxford | How militaries harnessed the Industrial Revolution and what democracies can learn from it in the Information Age | |
| | CDR Jeremy Wheat | Tufts | | |
| | CDR Erich Frandrup | Atlantic Council - Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security | How the U.S. will maintain undersea superiority against its competitors in an age of unmanned systems | |

**If you would like to get in touch with anyone above to discuss their area of study,
please contact the EOD OCM or detailee to get contact information.**

EOD OFFICER SELECTEES

NROTC

- TUCKER COFFMAN (OHIO STATE)
- KYLE DUFFY (ARIZONA STATE)
- DEVON GOETZ (M.I.T.)
- HAYDEN PFEFFERKORN (FLORIDA)
- ANTHONY SIMONTE (TUSKEGEE)
- AARON HOBSON (SOUTHERN CAL)
- KEVIN CARLSON (M.I.T.)
- LIESL SCHLEUSENER (UCLA)
- CHRISTIAN SHAFFER (SOUTH FLORIDA)
- AUSTIN TUOHY (MEMPHIS)
- WYATT AUTTERSON (SOUTHERN CAL)
- GABRIEL PEREZ (YALE)
- NATHAN HOLT (PENN STATE)
- BRADEN PARENT (SUNY-MARITIME)

OCS

- ZACHARY KRAMER (EODMU TWO)
- TROY TELFORD (EODMU SIX)
- CORY BUCHANAN (EODMU ELEVEN)
- DAVID HOUSTON (EODESU TWO)

USNA

- ALEC PLZAK
- MICHAEL CHAE-KASLIK
- CHRISTIAN HOFFMAN
- SEUNG HEON KIM
- JACK KRALL
- ANDREW LEWIS
- ANDREW MACGREGOR
- CHRISTOPHER MAYER
- SAMI MULLAH
- BENJAMIN NICHOLAS
- CLAIRE OSTROWSKI
- DAVID POSTMA
- LUKE ROBERTSON
- JOEL SCHNEIDER
- ANNIE SHAE

LDO (FY 20)

- PAUL BELLANCA (EODMU 1)
- ADAM HERRMANN (EODMU 5)
- TIMOTHY RICHARDSON (EODTEU 2)
- NICHOLAS SAVAS (EODTEU 2/NDSTC)
- NIKOLAI SITZ (EXU 1)

LDO (FY 21)

- HOWARD CHUNN (EODTEU 1)
- EVAN DEAN (EODMU 2)
- CHARLES DRUMM (NDSTC)
- SHELDON PACLEB (EODMU 11)

Annual Leadership Awards

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED
TO 01 JUNE 2020**

REAR ADMIRAL DRAPER L. KAUFFMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

**PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO ONE DESERVING EOD OFFICER WHO SERVES IN A
PLATOON OR COMPANY COMMANDER POSITION.**

FORCE MASTER CHIEF ANTHONY SANTINO LEADERSHIP AWARD

**PRESENTED TO ONE EOD CHIEF OR SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SERVING IN
AN OPERATIONAL OR TRAINING LEADING CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BILLET.**

COMMANDER KEVIN CHILDRE EXCELLENCE AWARD

**PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO ONE EOD OFFICER OR SENIOR ENLISTED EOD
OPERATOR DEDICATED TO MENTORING, DEVELOPING, AND TRAINING
THE EOD FORCE.**

EOD BRAIN HEALTH AND THE ANAM

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS SCREENING - WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

THE AUTOMATED NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METRICS (ANAM) IS A SELF-ADMINISTERED COMPUTER-BASED TEST DESIGNED TO FIND CHANGES IN THE PROCESS OF THINKING. THE PROCESS OF THINKING IS CALLED COGNITIVE FUNCTION. THE ANAM TAKES 20-25 MINUTES TO COMPLETE AND TESTS COGNITIVE FUNCTION BY MEASURING ATTENTION, CONCENTRATION, REACTION TIME, MEMORY, PROCESSING SPEED, DECISION-MAKING, AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTION.

THE ANAM IS A DOD PROGRAM OF RECORD. DODI 6490.13 REQUIRES ANAM WITHIN 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT. CEODD IS DOING BASELINE ANAM TESTING. NECC WILL REQUIRE ANAM TESTING AT INTERVALS NO GREATER THAN 3 YEARS.

- ANAM IS A **SCREENING** TEST. A SCREENING TEST FINDS CHANGES IN COGNITIVE FUNCTION WHEN NOBODY SUSPECTS THERE ARE ANY CHANGES. IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT, THE ANAM IS NOT DESIGNED TO CONFIRM THE PROBLEMS YOU, YOUR FRIEND, OR YOUR DOCTOR THINK YOU HAVE. IF YOU, YOUR BUDDY, OR DOC THINK YOU HAVE A BRAIN PROBLEM, YOU NEED A REFERRAL TO A BRAIN DOCTOR (NEUROLOGIST OR NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST) FOR TESTING DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS.
- IN PEOPLE WITH NO BRAIN INJURIES, ANAM SCORES DO NOT CHANGE OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS. KNOWING THAT THE ANAM SCORE SHOULD BE STABLE FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE MEANS CHANGES NEED TO BE CHECKED OUT BY A BRAIN DOCTOR.
- ANAM DOES NOT DIAGNOSE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI). EVEN IN PEOPLE EXPOSED TO BLASTS, COMMON CAUSES OF COGNITIVE CHANGES ARE AGING, POOR SLEEP, HYGIENE, STRESS, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.
- ANAM CHANGE IS NOT A DIAGNOSIS. IT IS A SCREENING TEST. TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH COGNITIVE CHANGES, YOU NEED MORE SPECIFIC TESTING WITH A NEUROLOGIST OR A NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST.
- ONCE YOU TAKE THE TEST, YOUR ANAM RESULTS MAY BE REQUESTED BY E-MAIL AT USARMY.JBSA.MEDCOM.MBX.OTSG-ANAM-BASELINES@MAIL.MIL, OR BY PHONE AT 1-855-630-7849. ON REQUEST, RESULTS WILL BE UPLOADED TO YOUR MEDICAL RECORD.

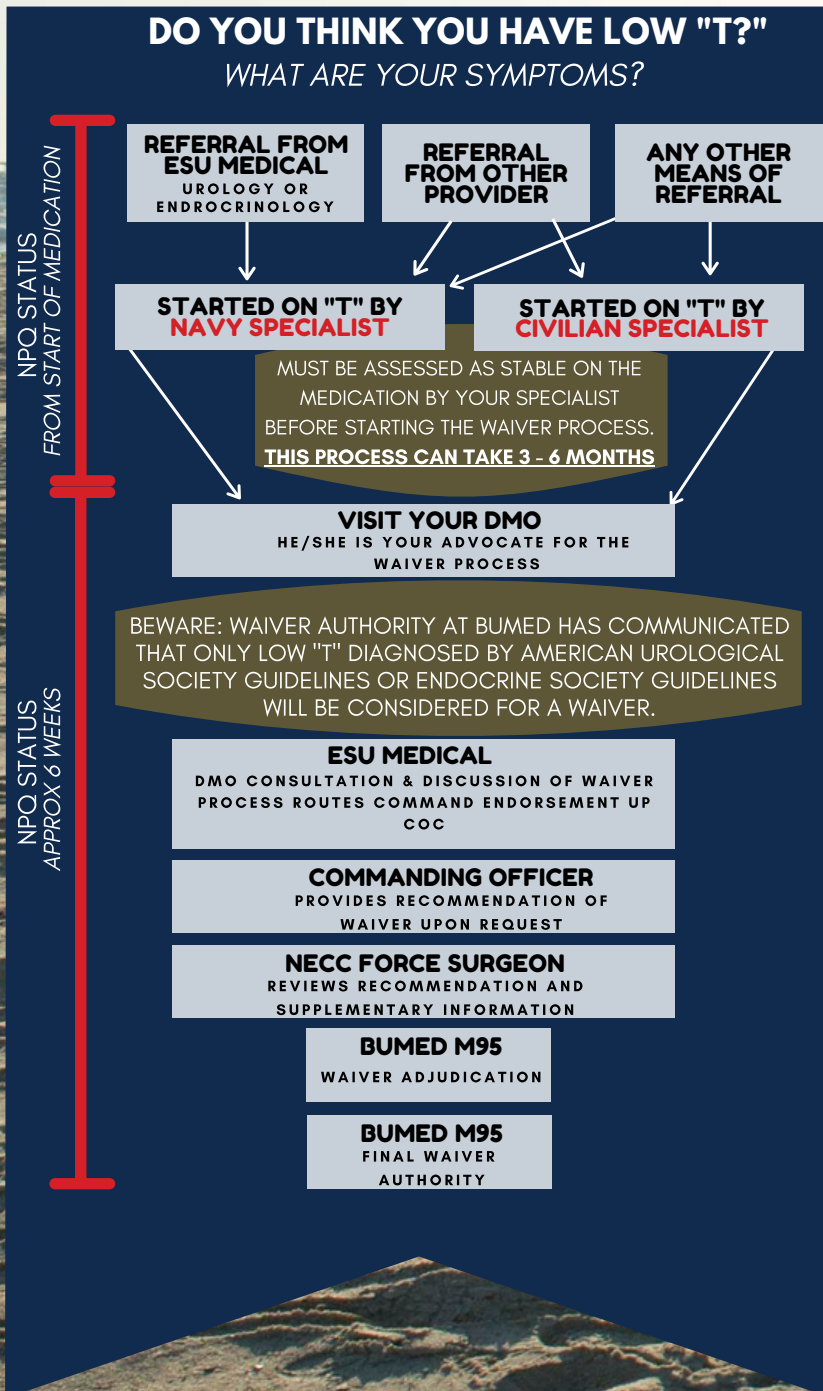
DOD INSTRUCTION 6490.13

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR MEDICAL TEAM

Testosterone Supplement Guidance for EOD

BACKGROUND

There has been an increase in testosterone, or "T", supplementation across the force that has resulted in unplanned impact to personnel readiness. Use of testosterone therapy is disqualifying for personnel in SOF, diving duty, and some AORs, but waivers are available if prescribed for certain medical conditions. While testosterone therapy should be recommended based on low serum testosterone levels and related clinical symptoms for hypogonadism, high rates of "T" supplementation is most closely linked to the volume of regional direct-to-consumer advertising for "Low T." The most common cause of low "T" is aging, but it could also be indicative of kidney issues, brain tumors, testicular issues, vascular disease and/or other metabolic disorders. When starting, using, or discontinuing testosterone supplement, people should be monitored by medical for safety and effectiveness.



FAST FACTS

- Competent authorities can (and do) prescribe exogenous testosterone or testosterone analog without confirmed hypogonadism.
- Per OPNAVINST 5350.4D, use of "T" supplements is not illegal, but per NAVMED P-117 (MANMED Ch. 15-102/105), it is disqualifying for SOF and diving.
- If you use testosterone, you need a waiver to continue serving in special operations and diving duty.
- Command policy requires medical department notification within 10 days of beginning a new medicine.

BOTTOM LINE

Use of testosterone, or "T," supplements, and/or a hypogonadism diagnosis is disqualifying for SOF and diving special duties. Waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

GUIDANCE

EOD SOCIAL MEDIA

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[NAVY EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE DISPOSAL](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/NAVY-EXPLOSIVE-ORDNANCE-DISPOSAL/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NAVY-EXPLOSIVE-ORDNANCE-DISPOSAL/)

BASIC MEDIA ENGAGEMENT TIPS



FLEET WEEK

Accurate, truthful, and timely communication increases the **credibility** and **transparency** of our organization and enhances the **legitimacy** of our operations.

AN **EFFECTIVE RESPONSE** INCLUDES AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION AND A MESSAGE. FOR EXAMPLE:

Q: Why is Navy diving still relevant with the advances in unmanned underwater systems?

A: Unmanned underwater technology is important, and we employ it in many of our missions when it is safe and practical. However, there is no comparison to our incredibly skilled divers and EOD operators underwater solving a problem.

IF YOU ARE ASKED A QUESTION OUTSIDE OF YOUR LANE, **BRIDGE** BACK TO THE TOPIC AT HAND. FOR EXAMPLE (TOPIC: EOD SHORE DET RESPONSE):

Q: Why does the Navy insist on dropping ordnance off the coast, knowing that it will put people in danger?

A: I can't speak on all of the training the Navy does, but I can say Navy EOD operators are incredibly skilled and will handle any ordnance washed ashore in a safe and responsible manner when required.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER!



LT Kara Handley
kara.handley@navy.mil
o: 619-437-3644
c: 619-756-3915

LT Mary Smith
mary.e.smith1@navy.mil
o: 757-917-6780
c: 757-663-8420



NAVY EOD TECHNOLOGY EVOLVING AS 2 UUV PROGRAMS PREPARE TO MERGE

USNI News (19 March 2020) Megan Eckstein

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – As the Navy explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) community's capability grows in both sophistication and in quantity, a community leader says they're being served well by their creed to remain hardware-agnostic. The EOD force has been set on a path to grow its Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures Company numbers and double the number of unmanned systems platoons that operate under those companies. The service's investment in the people and in the Mk 18 Mod 1 Swordfish and the Mk 18 Mod 2 Kingfish unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) they operate come as the Navy is also planning to merge the Kingfish program with the Razorback UUV the Littoral Combat Ship community uses.

The new Medium UUV program, for which the Navy plans to release a request for proposals by the end of this fiscal year, could end up being the Kingfish or a variation thereof, could look more like the Razorback UUV, or could be sometime brand new, with the open architecture to operate all the sensors and cameras that both the EOD and the LCS communities need.

The commander of EOD Mobile Unit 1, the Naval Base Point Loma-based unit that commands all West Coast ExMCM companies, said his force will be able to continue meeting operational requirements regardless of how the MUUV program plays out. "Whether they [select] the Mk 18 Mod 1 or Mod 2 or another generation or evolution of UUV, that's yet to be determined. These systems work for us right now because of the size and the form factor – they're fairly lightweight, fairly small form factor that we can employ in a relatively rapid manner across the spectrum of domains," Cmdr. Brian Reitter told USNI News earlier this month. He said that what matters is the technology on these vehicles, which is advancing rapidly, leaving the Navy constantly trying to take advantage of new sensors or software that will allow operators to keep a greater distance between them and potential hazards in the water, or allow them to get a clearer image of an object to more easily identify it. With all these advances, the Navy, their Marine Corps partners and the broader joint force are constantly looking "to continue expanding the aperture of what can unmanned systems do."

"We're constantly expanding the operational environments that we work in. Our banner statement is platform-agnostic, sensor-agnostic, and really environment-agnostic as well. If there is a need, we will see if we can effect that space," Reitter said. Specifically, he said, after receiving money in the Fiscal Year 2020 defense spending bill to add more ExMCM companies, he's focused on getting those forces into the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of operations. The next big move for the community is to send the first Mk 18 Mod 2 Kingfish UUV into theater, with plans to operate an ExMCM company in U.S. 7th Fleet periodically out of Guam as the company travels throughout the region to take on a long list of operational requirements. "I have a list of work through the fleet commanders and the expeditionary commander and the joint service commanders in INDO-PACOM [who are] ready to receive this and operationally employ it," he said, noting the high demand for this mobile force that can scan for and identify mines and other man-made or natural hazards to the freedom of movement in the littorals. Reitter said the Navy EOD community has been using these UUVs for mine countermeasures for about six years now and has been operating them in INDO-PACOM for about four, but this will be the first time a full ExMCM company will deploy to the combatant command. "We're attuned to the environment, but now we're just expanding our footprint," he said, noting the platoons on the ground will have to learn lessons quickly about how working in the Pacific environment compares to the Middle East, where they have the most experience. "What worked in one fleet, 5th Fleet, doesn't directly translate to 7th Fleet. The core principles still exist, but the mechanism, the way you employ it, the mobility platforms, constantly changing based on the theater," Reitter said. "INDO-PACOM is about 50 percent of the world. So what's going to work in one small slice isn't going to work everywhere, so it is a constant innovation and re-development of [tactics, techniques and procedures], with the basic foundation and core principles being the same."

HIDE AND SEEK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA: NAVY MINESWEEPERS VISIT JUNEAU

Juneau Empire (2 March 2020) Michael S. Lockett

JUNEAU, Alaska – Juneau residents downtown may have noticed some unfamiliar uniforms as U.S. Navy sailors and officers visited Juneau as part of joint exercise Arctic Edge 2020. “I went to Alaska without bringing gloves,” said Cmdr. John Laney, the detachment’s commanding officer. “That is why we do these exercises. We learn those lessons individually and corporately. Our equipment works different. Our people work different. Our process works different up here in this Alaska weather. “Dozens of sailors and officers came to Juneau in order to practice their minesweeping techniques in a cold-water harbor far from their bases in San Diego or Mississippi, augmented by drones and remotely operated vehicles. They also came to build working relationships with commands up north as the Department of Defense refocuses its priorities for Arctic operations.

“There’s only so much interaction you can have District 17, with the Coast Guard Station (Juneau), and with the Alaska population from San Diego,” Laney said. “We’re building those relationships, learning that lessons, building that trust.” Sailors and officers used unmanned underwater vehicles to map the bottom of the harbor and parts of the channel on Friday and Saturday, identifying abandoned crab traps, sunken skiffs, and so, so many tires.

“I never realized how many tires there were on the bottom of the ocean,” said Lt. j.g. Thomas Brown. The UUV, a commercially available and widely used model known as the REMUS 100, is one of the first assets in the water when searching a harbor, said aerographer’s mate Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher York.

The UUVs have a limited capability for remote operation, York said, but it’s mostly programmed to operate independently. “It’s more fun to see it do its mission and get back to you,” York said.

Once the UUV uses its sonar and other instruments to map the harbor and the water conditions, other specialists interpret the data, looking at the high-resolution sonar returns for suspicious-looking or new objects in the water, said Chief Petty Officer Amy Sexton, leading chief petty officer for one of the sections.

Some of the biggest challenges in mapping Juneau’s harbors were the massive tidal shifts in the harbor, which have to be accounted for, Sexton said. And once any suspicious objects are identified, it’s time for the detachment’s explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) specialists to deal with them. “First we’d use one of the vehicles,” Laney said. “We always start with the safest option first and back it out from there.”

EOD specialists will examine the suspicious objects, first with highly maneuverable remotely operated vehicles, and then with divers if necessary, to assess the threat posed by an object. Mines can appear like anything, from a cylindrical object holding a magnetic or acoustic seeking mine or a stereotypical WWII mine, a round ball with contact horns all around it, Laney said.

“Instead of putting a diver in the water, we can put this in the water instead,” said EOD technician Petty Officer 1st Class Juan Ramirez, talking about the ROVs they use to inspect suspicious objects. “It’s much smaller and quicker to operate (then previous ROVs). We’re one of the first platoons to have this. It’s a huge game-changer.”

If a suspicious object does turn out to be a mine, the EOD techs would isolate the area, cordon it off and try to defuse or move the device. If neither of those turn out to be options, then they might detonate it in place, Ramirez said.

The EOD detachment visited Juneau as part of Arctic Edge 2020, a joint-services exercise taking place across Alaska in February and March. The detachment’s use of UUVs and ROVs allows them to cover more ground much less expensively than a traditional dedicated minesweeper vessel, Laney said.

NAVY EOD SEEKING OCS APPLICANTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 BOARD

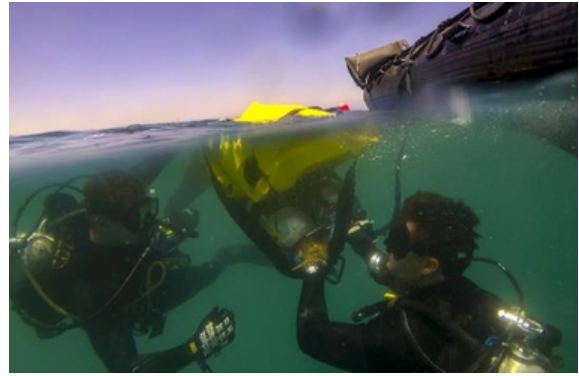
Navy Recruiting Command

The Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Community is seeking highly motivated officer candidates for their annual Officer Candidate School (OCS) accession board, which will be held in September 2020. The application is due by August 7 and is open to both civilians and Fleet transfers who have completed a Bachelor's degree.

Interested civilian candidates should contact their local officer recruiter to begin the OCS application. Fleet candidates should submit required information in accordance with the Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Program (OPNAVINST 1420.1B). In addition to the standard officer application process, both civilian and Fleet officer candidates must complete an EOD Warfare physical screening test as well as an interview and assessment with an EOD officer. A full checklist of application items can be found here. Cmdr. Nicholas Quihuis, the community manager for EOD officers, recommends that candidates begin preparing their applications now as the board is only held once a year and is competitive. He said the ideal candidates are strong in mind and body and ready to serve the Navy as a commissioned officer.

As one of the five unrestricted line warfare communities, we are looking for an officer candidate with an agile mind who can excel in any critical role they are placed in," said Quihuis.

Quihuis also recommended that interested officer candidates contact him via email (nicholas.r.quihuis@navy.mil) to learn more about the community, arrange for an officer interview and schedule their physical fitness assessment at the nearest EOD command or Navy Talent Acquisition Group. Navy EOD officers are charged with small-unit leadership and receive specialized training to handle chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive weapons to clear explosive hazards on land, at sea and under the sea.



They work closely with special operations forces and conventional forces to provide access and maneuverability to achieve their missions. The intelligence they gather from rendering safe foreign weaponry can be used to paint accurate intelligence pictures to defeat networks and deter future threats. Quihuis said the EOD community is tight-knit and looks for humble, problem-solving, physically fit and mentally tough men and women who desire to serve their country and are willing to work toward creating an environment where America is undeterred by the threat of explosives.

"Right now, we are developing the future of the EOD force to face threats associated with great power competition," said Quihuis. "We need servant leaders and quite professionals who can conceptualize the tactical and strategic impacts that the EOD community makes every day in defense of our nation."

For more information on the Navy EOD officer accession program, visit <https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/communitymanagers/active/Unrestricted/Pages/ExplosiveOrdnanceDisposalOCM.aspx> For more information on the Navy EOD community, follow us on social media: LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/navy-explosive-ordnance-disposal> Instagram: @officialnavyeod

EOD MOBILE UNIT ELEVEN CONDUCTS CHANGE OF COMMAND

EOD Group One Public Affairs

IMPERIAL BEACH, Calif. (NNS) -- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 11 held a change of command ceremony today at Naval Outlying Landing Field Imperial Beach with Cmdr. Matthew Fay relieving Cmdr. Evan Colbert as commanding officer of EODMU 11.

Colbert, raised in Boise, Idaho, and a 1999 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, assumed temporary command of EODMU 11 in January 2020. His next assignment will be working at Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One on Naval Amphibious Base Coronado as the deputy commodore. "To the men and women of Mobile Unit Eleven, your achievements are awe inspiring and something to be proud of. But of all the individual and team accolades mentioned today, what stands out to me most, what you should be most proud of, is not what you did but how you did it," said Colbert. "You met adversity with poise, focus, tenacity and teamwork. You repeatedly stepped into the breach assuming incredible personal risk while demonstrating a relentless spirit, unparalleled mission accomplishment and an unyielding commitment to our country, unit and teammates."

Fay, raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a 2003 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, is reporting to EOD MU11 from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Virginia Beach, Virginia where he served as the future operations officer."

Having started my EOD career at Mobile Unit Eleven in Whidbey Island, there is no place I'd rather be taking command and no other group of men and women I'd rather be working with than here at Mobile Unit Eleven" said Fay. Capt. Oscar Rojas, commodore, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One, provided the keynote remarks. He said, "You are receiving an outstanding team in Mobile Unit Eleven, who is designed to be ready for war today and in the future. It is my job to provide you the manning, equipment, and training that is required to help you win every time you go into harm's way. By working together, we will create the most lethal, resilient, and mission ready Navy EOD and Diving Force the world has ever known."



The family of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Second Class Curtis Hall was also in attendance. Hall, a former member of EODMU11, was killed in action while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 6, 2007.

"We remember Curtis as a dedicated, hard-working, reliable professional. Friendly, easy-going, and larger than life. Rest assured Curtis' memory lives on here at Mobile Unit Eleven," said Rojas. "We also hope you know how much we admire your family's sacrifice and know that you always have a second family here in Mobile Unit Eleven. Curtis was part of the venerable Navy EOD legacy, and I know the leadership here challenges the unit to live up to that legacy every day."

EODMU 11 provides operational EOD capability to include the location and identification, rendering safe, recovery, field evaluation, and disposal of all explosive ordnance, including chemical and nuclear weapons. U.S. Navy EOD is the world's premier combat force for eliminating explosive threats so the Fleet and Nation can fight and win.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy. For more news from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 1, visit www.navy.mil/local/eod1/.

NAVY EOD CHIEF AWARDED SILVER STAR MEDAL

EOD Group One Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO -- Vice Adm. Scott Conn, commander, U.S. Third Fleet, presented the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action to Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician Matthew J. O'Connor during an award presentation held onboard Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, California, Feb. 13.

As a member of EOD Mobile Unit (EODMU) 11, O'Connor was deployed in April 2019 with a Special Operations Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve when his team maneuvered into an enemy-held village and assaulted a facility known to be producing improvised explosive devices.

After his team came under enemy fire, O'Connor exposed himself in order to carry a wounded teammate to cover where he subsequently rendered lifesaving medical treatment and coordinated suppressive fire. O'Connor exposed himself a second time to retrieve a wounded U.S. linguist.

After moving the linguist to safety and carrying his first teammate through enemy fire and difficult terrain to the casualty collection point, O'Connor returned to the target area, conducted post assault procedures, and guided the remaining combined task force through terrain laden with improvised explosive devices.

"Adversity under fire doesn't test one's character, it reveals it," said Conn. "Chief O'Connor revealed that day that his character, choices, and actions clearly warrant the recognition afforded by a Silver Star."

O'Connor, originally from Bellingham, Washington, said, "I am honored to receive the Silver Star and appreciate the recognition; however, I want people to know that it took a whole group of guys to ensure everyone returned safely. I was not the only one out there, and this is reflective of a team effort."



As one of their primary mission areas, Navy EOD supports U.S. special operations forces against the threat of explosives, enabling access and freedom of maneuver on the battlefield and at sea. The community's unique combination of military free fall, dive and advanced expeditionary combat skills training ensures Navy EOD technicians can infiltrate and operate in any environment.

"I am extremely proud of Chief O'Connor for his bravery and commitment to the Navy EOD mission," said Capt. Oscar Rojas, commodore, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One. "His actions in combat demonstrate the culture of operational excellence that our entire community drives towards every day in order to defend America and the American way of life."

EODMU11 provides operational EOD capabilities to include locating, identifying, rendering safe, exploiting, recovering, and disposing of all explosive ordnance, including chemical and nuclear weapons, while providing access for conventional and special operations forces to maneuver across the full range of military operations.

U.S. Navy EOD is the world's premier combat force for eliminating explosive threats so the Fleet and Nation can fight and win whenever, wherever.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Ethos

I am a United States EOD OPERATOR,
a warrior, professional Sailor and guardian of life.

I willfully accept the danger of my chosen
profession and will accomplish all duties my great
country asks of me.

I follow in the wake of those who have served before
me with uncommon valor. I was born from the bombs
and mines of the blitzkrieg. I have cleared the world's
sea lanes and fought in the jungles, deserts and
mountains around the globe.

I will never disgrace the Navy EOD warrior of the past
and will uphold their honor and memory, both on and
off the battlefield.

I am a quiet professional! I strive to excel in every art
and artifice of war. I adapt to every situation and will
overcome all obstacles. I will never fail those who
depend upon me.

I maintain my mind, body and equipment in the
highest state of readiness that is worthy of the most
elite warrior.

I will defeat my enemies' spirit because my spirit is
stronger. I will defeat my enemies' weapons because
I know my enemies' weapons better.

I will complete every mission with honor, courage and
commitment. Though I may be alone and completely
isolated, I will trust my teammates and my country. I
will never give up and I will never surrender.

Where most strive to get it right, I will relentlessly
train so I never get it wrong.

I am a United States Navy EOD operator.

Navy Diver Ethos

I am a United States Navy Deep Sea Diver

I traverse the dark, forbidding depths of the world's oceans, lakes, rivers and seas where only a select few can follow. They are my battlefield. I serve across the spectrum of our nation's military services and with Special Operations Forces.

I honor my deep sea brethren past, present and future; they are my Family. My personal Honor and Integrity are above reproach and compel me to do what is right regardless of the circumstances. Courage is the hallmark of my trade.

The laws governing my chosen profession are absolute and unforgiving, demonstrated and proven with the blood of many brave divers who have gone before me.

Because of their courageous sacrifice, I am committed to my Brothers-in-Arms through relentless mental and physical preparation. My knowledge of diving, underwater techniques and systems, physics, and hyperbaric medicine must be unsurpassed.

The accomplishments of United States Navy Deep Sea Divers are the benchmarks by which the world measures man's achievements in the sea. My specialized skills, undaunted spirit and unbreakable will enable me to succeed in an environment where there are no second chances. Excellence is my standard.

I maintain uncompromising standards personally and professionally. Accepting anything less would bring disgrace upon myself and discredit to my community. My sense of Duty to God, my Country and the United States Navy and my teammates is steadfast and enduring.

I am a United States Navy Deep Sea Diver