

THE PRIMER

NAVY EOD QUARTERLY

VISION

- Navy EOD 2030 Strategic Plan

GUIDANCE

- Update Fraternization Policy
- Social Security Payroll Tax Deferral

CLIPS

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

Contents

A photograph showing several military personnel in tactical gear (helmets, vests) on the deck of a boat. They are focused on a large, cylindrical, grey and blue object, which appears to be a mine, mounted on a rail. The background shows the churning blue water of the ocean. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the equipment and the crew members.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORES

COVID-19 remains a risk for our Sailors, civilian workforce and families. As we move within the updated guidelines of HPCON B we need to continue to focus on the 3 Ps - Protect, Prevent and Prepare. COVID-19 can still infiltrate our force and continues to threaten mission readiness. It is imperative that we follow CDC guidelines and we hold ourselves, and each other, accountable for our actions to protect our warfighters, families and wider communities.

The Navy celebrates its 245th birthday. This year's theme is "Victory At Sea," which has been driven by the valor of the American Sailor. Navy EOD force continues to do our part to support the fleet to enable the Navy's victory at sea. We continue to push to expand our advantage against competitors' undersea threats. Our expeditionary mine countermeasures companies are continually evolving to meet the requirements in a dynamic great power competition environment, as well as investing in developing our force to continue to support the fleet in future generations.

Navy EOD operators come from highly diverse backgrounds and naturally assimilate into any environment drawing on their personal and professional experiences. However, identifying suitable candidates proves challenging. Our current enlisted recruiting capabilities and output do not meet the required end strength. The community is taking a renewed approach to enhance our recruiting efforts, tailored towards our future needs. We must reinvigorate retention and recruitment efforts and will routinely analyze how we retain talent to ensure the force evolves in stride with future demands.

CAPT Oscar Rojas
Commander, EOD Group 1

CAPT Rick Hayes
Commander, EOD Group 2

NAVY EOD 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

READ IT HERE



DEVELOP THE FORCE TO WIN AGAINST NEAR-PEER COMPETITORS AND EMPOWERED NON-STATE ACTORS

- Grow the Navy EOD Forces' capability and capacity
 - Develop competent leaders of character
 - Build a resilient force for the future
 - Empower the force through technology
 - Integrate the force into cyber domain
 - Integrate with the government and private space industry

EXPAND OUR ADVANTAGE AGAINST COMPETITORS' UNDERSEA THREATS

- Man, train, and equip expeditionary mine countermeasures (ExMCM) companies to meet evolving requirements in a dynamic great power competition environment
- Increase our ability to operate in a global joint environment
 - Develop expeditionary mine countermeasures as a prototype and test-bed unit for new technologies

CAPITALIZE ON OUR UNIQUE ABILITY TO COUNTER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- Cultivate CWMD expertise across the Navy EOD enterprise through investment in our people, education, relationships, and advanced technologies
- Leverage the entire Navy EOD force structure in the mission to CMWD through strategic agility
 - Integrate the force into the information and cyber domains to incorporate advanced technologies and intelligence practices into our operations
 - Lead the DOD EOD force in integration of CWMD expertise with the joint force and partner nations and allies

GROW EXPERTISE IN THE EXPLOITATION OF NEXT-GENERATION WEAPONS SYSTEMS

- Create policy and doctrine for exploitation in the maritime environment
 - Integrate exploitation training and education throughout a career
 - Develop intelligence that drives and influences EOD operations
 - Identify key capabilities and develop the requisite network to incorporate information and cyber activities to disrupt, degrade, and deny the enemy's use of advanced weapons systems

EMBOLDEN ALLIES' AND PARTNERS' CAPABILITIES

- Enhance Navy EOD integration with joint service and inter-agency partners
 - Improve Navy EOD's understanding, interoperability, and burden sharing with key international allies and partners
 - Ensure competitive advantage against our adversaries through industry, research and development labs, and academia

VISION

A NATION UNDETERRED BY
EXPLOSIVE THREATS

MISSION

WE ELIMINATE EXPLOSIVE THREATS
SO OUR FLEET AND NATION CAN WIN
- WHENEVER, WHEREVER, AND
HOWEVER IT CHOOSES.

SUPPORT TO THE JOINT FORCE

CWMD CFT SIPR homepage:

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

Keep your contact information current to ensure you stay up to date on the latest activity and to close the distance between essential nodes in the organization.



Navy EOD continues support to the Joint Force across five GCCs, refocusing on Great Power Competition while retaining the imperative foundation to combat VEOs. Great Power Competition provides new challenges that we will confront through innovative use of our capabilities and an expanded aperture towards the problem sets we face. Integration and expanded partnerships across SOF and conventional forces are essential as we leverage our unique strengths to fight and win.



The CWMD Cross Functional Team provides an avenue for focused efforts on the operational theaters and the decision space to adjust the mechanisms preparing us for the fight. This CFT is informed by the CWMD Tasks, Professional Development, SOF, and EOD Intelligence working groups to explore and expand Navy EOD's contributions to the Joint Force.



Stay involved with the CFT through the above website portal and through our battle-rhythm events. Innovative thought, unique solutions, and experiential feedback are pivotal in our collective success.

Navy EOD's involvement in CWMD and SOF mission areas continue to evolve and requires your input!

**CONTACT STUART WHITAKER, EODGRU 2 N5, WITH ANY QUESTIONS,
INPUT OR FEEDBACK YOU HAVE!
STUART.H.WHITAKER@NAVY.SMIL.MIL**

SUPPORT TO THE FLEET

Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures

SECDEF Tours Navy EOD To Assess Unmanned Capabilities

U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper visited components of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1 at Naval Base Point Loma, California, Sept. 17, to learn how Navy EOD is building a more lethal, agile and resilient force by augmenting human expertise and decision-making with autonomous unmanned systems (UMS) capabilities for the fleet and Joint Force.



The UMS triad enables strategic effects by leveraging cutting-edge technologies to pair real-time, relevant information with immediate tactical options to deter adversaries in the maritime environment.

Commodore Oscar Rojas, EODGRU 1 commander, also described how the Navy EOD Expeditionary Mine Countermeasures (ExMCM) companies help maintain freedom of navigation in denied waterways, in war and in daily competition.



Navy EOD is advancing artificial intelligence and human-machine teaming in our operations today.

"We are developing, implementing and rapidly adapting the vanguard of available technology for small and medium UUVs and ROVs to enhance our capability as a force and support the National Defense Strategy."

EXPEDITIONARY SALVAGE

Support To The Fleet

MDSU ONE

USS BONHOMME RICHARD Fire Response

A team of three MDSU ONE personnel joined the emergency response efforts led by SUPSALV to aid the ship in firefighting, dewatering, stability management, and damage assessment aboard USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) in July. The team assisted in running and operating hydraulic pumps for dewatering firefighting water, along with executing surveys of the ship including underwater hull surveys with the support of the SWRMC Dive Locker. EODMU-3 Det. Southwest also assisted in the effort by ensuring safety in the armories.



Torpedo Retriever Grounding



MDS Co 1-6 rapidly mobilized onboard USNS SIOUX to assist Multi-Purpose Craft (MPC) 4 after she holed herself on a reef in Kauai in August. The vessel sustained significant hull damage, and subsequent flooding after she was pulled from the reef by her sister MPC. The team met her in a commercial port in Kauai and completed hull surveys, patched and plugged holes and cracks, rigged for tow, and brought her back to Oahu across 120 NM of open-ocean for permanent repairs.

Supporting Expeditionary Lines of Effort

- 1) Fleet concepts development & integration
- 2) Force generation & employment
- 3) Industry exchange & acquisitions
- 4) Platform integration & training



EXPEDITIONARY SALVAGE

Support To The Fleet

MDSU TWO

F-15C Salvage ISO U.S. Air Forces Europe

In support of CTG 68.3 (EODMU EIGHT), MDSU TWO's Area Search Platoon, Mobile Diving and Salvage Company 2-5, and NAVSEA's SUPSALV conducted a joint search and recovery operation near Yarmouth Point, UK for a downed F-15C aircraft from the U.S. Air Force's 48th Fighter Wing. Operating off two contracted vessels, M/V KOMMANDOR STUART and M/V OLYMPIC ARTEMIS, the team accomplished 72 hours of side scan sonar operations, conducted over 120 hours of ROV search operations over a 64-acre debris field, and made eight dives to 180 FSW. They recovered a total of 12 important pieces of the aircraft to assist with the U.S. Air Forces Europe Safety Investigation Board and demonstrated seamless integration of MDSU and SUPSALV in support of the joint force.



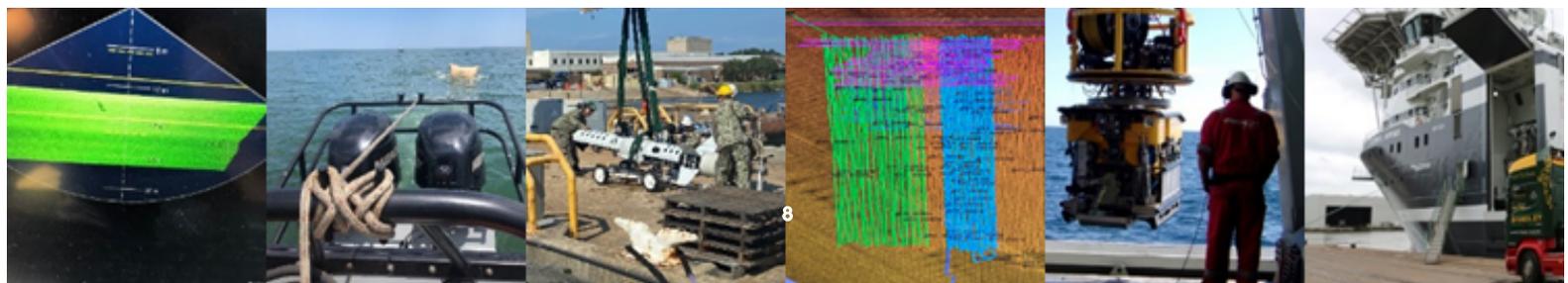
Airborne Mine Neutralization System Recovery

MDSU TWO's Area Search Platoon (ASP) and Mobile Diving and Salvage (MDS) Company 2-2 responded to a request for support from Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic (CNAL) to recover an Airborne Mine Neutralization System (AMNS) roughly two miles off the coast of Cape Henry, VA. Within two hours of arriving on scene, ASP located the AMNS using the newly acquired T50 hull-mounted sonar. MDS 2-2 rapidly rigged, floated, and towed the AMNS to JEB Little Creek for recovery. The recovery of the AMNS prevented a Class A mishap and returned a critical asset to service. RADM Meier later visited MDSU TWO to meet the team and convey his personal thanks.



Supporting Expeditionary Lines of Effort

- 1) Fleet concepts development & integration
- 2) Force generation & employment
- 3) Industry exchange & acquisitions
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EOD & DIVING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The Navy EOD & Diving community specializes in high-end, complex warfighting problems

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

Three unique, operationally vital skill sets



- 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

TASK FORCE ONE

DOING OUR PART TO BUILD AN ENVIRONMENT OF INCLUSION

Task Force One was officially stood up June 30th as a means for the Navy to analyze and evaluate issues in both our society and the military that detract from Navy readiness, such as racism, sexism and other structural and interpersonal biases.

"As a Navy – uniform and civilian, active and reserve - we cannot tolerate discrimination or racism of any kind. We must work to identify and eliminate individual and systemic racism within our force. That is why we are standing up Task Force One Navy, which will work to identify and remove racial barriers and improve inclusion within our Navy."

--Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Personnel

Primary Lines of Effort

- Promptly address the full spectrum of systemic racism
- Advocate for the needs of underserved communities
- Work to dismantle barriers and equalize professional development frameworks and opportunities within our Navy
- Develop recommendations for solutions based on feedback and a culture of listening.
- Receive input from within the force and external stakeholders to create a more inclusive Navy

Focus Area

- Recruiting efforts / Barriers to Service entry
- Pre-accession Mentorship frameworks / Scholarship opportunities
- Diversity of talent by community / Talent management
- Training / Education along the service member career continuum
- Detailing / Milestone job opportunities
- Fitness reporting / Evaluation systems
- Promotion / Advancement processes
- Military justice analysis of racial disparity
- Health care and health disparities

The Approach

- Identify and remove systemic barriers
- Listen to and understand the experiences of our Sailors, civil service teammates and families
- Integrate best practices from external and internal groups; a diverse mix of perspectives
- Identify problem areas and make recommendations that leads us in a different direction than the path we've been on for decades.
- Recommend REAL changes

Leader Buy-in

- The task force is led by Rear Adm. Alvin Holsey and supported by Fleet Commanders and other major commands
- Supporting commands include Judge Advocate General of the Navy, Chief of Chaplains, Surgeon General of the Navy, Chief of Legislative Affairs

Listening Culture

- We need to identify what is really happening, understand where barriers exist and listen to all perspectives on how we can bring our unique skillsets together to tackle these issues.
- It is only by listening can we truly empathize with the experience of someone else

Respecting Differences

- We must recognize that we come from all walks of life, with different and valuable experiences and perspectives.
- Our differences make our Navy, our connection to each other and our families and communities even stronger.

Policy Guidance: [CNO Active Listening Video](#)
[NAVADMIN 188/20 – Navy Inclusion and Diversity](#)

CAN YOU TELL THESE SAILORS APART?
 BY RACE? GENDER? SEXUAL ORIENTATION? NATIONAL ORIGIN?



They are **SAILORS**
 They are a **TEAM**
 WE ARE
ONE NAVY

TASK FORCE ONE NAVY

TASK_FORCE_ONE_NAVY@NAVY.MIL

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NAVY POLICIES

Fraternization Policy Update

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What has changed?

- Updated policy is flexible and accommodating to relationships prior to change of status.
- Provides more inclusive context.
- Includes association examples for Sailors/ Leaders to understand.
- Policy is more in line with corporate sector.

Basics

- Fraternization is a gender-neutral concept used to identify personal relationships that do not respect the boundaries of acceptable senior-subordinate relationships.
- Includes improper relationships and interactions between officers as well as between enlisted members regardless of Service.

Problems from FRAT

- Unduly familiar relationships are contrary to good order and discipline.
- Undermine the respect for authority which is essential to our ability to accomplish our military mission.

Perception is Reality

- Senior personnel must recognize that fraternization results in, or gives the appearance of, favoritism, preferential treatment, personal gain.
- Involves actions that otherwise may undermine good order, discipline, authority or high unit morale.

Proper Interactions

- Proper social interaction and appropriate personal relationships are an important part of command morale and esprit de corps.
- Officers and enlisted participation in command sports teams and sponsored events intended to build morale and camaraderie are healthy and clearly appropriate.

Pre-Existing Relationships

- Disclosure to the chain of command is required in order to ensure the members in the relationships are not assigned to the same unit.
- Fraternization is not excused or mitigated by a subsequent marriage or declaration of a relationship.

Policy Guidance: OPNAV Instruction 5370.2E

Social Security Payroll Tax Deferral

PLAN AHEAD

The Presidential Memorandum to defer social security payroll tax will take effect mid-September through the end of 2020.

- **MILITARY MEMBER:** DFAS will temporarily defer the withholding of your 6.2% Social Security tax if your monthly rate of basic pay is less than \$8,666.66. This applies to all enlisted service members, O1 to O4, the grade of O5 with less than 16 years of service, and the grade of O6 with less than 14 years of service. You can view your August LES as a good reference for the typical Social Security tax amount. The Social Security tax is labeled as "FICA-SOC SECURITY" on the LES.

[Military FAQ Sheet](#)

- **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE:** DFAS will temporarily defer your 6.2% OASDI tax withholding if your wages subject to OASDI are \$4,000 or less in any given pay period. This will take effect for the pay period ending September 12, 2020. You can use the "Taxable Wages" on the LES as a good reference for whether you will have OASDI tax deferred. The OASDI deduction is found on your LES under the deductions tab/section.

[Civilian Employee FAQ Sheet](#)

Military members and civilian employees cannot opt out of the deferral if your social security wages fall within stated limits. The deferral will happen automatically. You will have to pay it back. Per IRS guidance, collection of the deferred taxes will be taken from your wages between January 1 and April 30, 2021 for military members and civilian employees.

[Learn More](#)



STRIKE

The name STRIKE is derived from the lightning bolts in the EOD insignia. Not only do the lightning bolts symbolize the potential destructive power of unexploded ordnance, they most importantly symbolize the courage, professionalism, and RESILIENCE of the EOD operator. When the storm clouds roll in, STRIKE empowers the Force to overcome adversity and uncertainty. The human – our platform, sensor, and weapon system - in EOD STRIKE wields comparable power to the air wing in the Navy's Carrier Strike Group. STRIKE is not a program, it is a leadership process executed by every single member of the Force to: **protect individuals and teams from debilitating stress through adaptability, recovery, and growth across the personal, social, cognitive, and physical wellness domains.**

CURRENT STATUS

EODGRU 1

The EOD Warrior-Athlete Working Groups ignited a series of NHRC research studies, which became known as the EOD Operational Health Surveillance System. This System's scientific discoveries formed the foundation for EOD's premiere "STRIKE" program. Now that the STRIKE program is firmly in place, EODGRU ONE and NHRC are now looking "up and out," with exciting new initiatives to build the EOD Warfighter of Tomorrow.

Learn more on the next page!

EODGRU 2

The STRIKE facility is open and helping people!

Education Classes Completed

- Performance Nutrition
- Exercise Science
- PHT guided imagery
- Nutritional supplements
- Sleep Education and strategies
- Intro to Art Therapy
- Regeneration, recovery & soft tissue mobilization
- 5 hours of hands-on direct strength coach supervised programmed workouts

Current Status of the STRIKE Program

- Rehabilitation
 - Physical Therapy: 435 visits
 - Athletic Training: 181 visits
 - Rehab Team Total: 616 visits
- Strength and Conditioning
 - BridgeAthletic contacts: 847 visits

"A much needed program [...] we enable units who receive this level of care from day one [...] finally treating our Sailors like Operators."



Naval Health Research Center Partnership: Leveraging Science to Build the EOD Warfighter of Tomorrow

The EOD Warrior-Athlete Working Groups ignited a series of NHRC research studies, which became known as the EOD Operational Health Surveillance System. This System’s scientific discoveries formed the foundation for EOD’s premiere “STRIKE” program. Now that the STRIKE program is firmly in place, EODGRU ONE and NHRC are now looking “up and out,” with exciting new initiatives to build the EOD Warfighter of Tomorrow.

Jun 14

EODGRU ONE and NHRC joined forces with a common goal of preserving and enhancing EOD operational health and performance across the career of every EOD member.

- Together, they convened the first Warrior-Athlete Working Group. In this pivotal meeting, eleven active-duty stakeholders from COMEODGRU ONE, COMEODGRU TWO, CEODD, EODMU ONE, EODMU THREE, EODMU ELEVEN, and EODTEU ONE teamed with 15 scientists from the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) to set requirements for a comprehensive EOD Warrior Athlete Program.

May 15

NHRC launched a family of studies to *comprehensively characterize the health and performance of EOD technicians*. These studies become known as the EOD Operational Health Surveillance System (OHSS).

The OHSS, in turn, formed the scientific foundation for what is now known as the EOD STRIKE Program

Recent NHRC discoveries in support of EOD STRIKE include:

1 of 4 EOD members register functional movement scores indicative of increased risk for future injury, and 1 in 4 have lower cardiorespiratory fitness	Greater cardiovascular fitness is protective against injury risk in EOD technicians	1 of 4 EOD members were measured as having insufficient sleep, an indicator of lower resilience	Use of performance strategies (e.g., “dirt diving,” goal setting, and controlling emotions) during EOD training, are linked to greater resilience in EOD technicians
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With the STRIKE Program firmly in place, NHRC and EOD are now looking “up and out,” as reflected in two exciting new initiatives

- EODGRU ONE-NHRC are establishing an MOU to *elevate and formalize their ongoing partnership*
- EODGRU ONE and NHRC are launching the Biannual NHRC Warrior Summit. Its goals are to:
 - Establish "EOD Grand Challenges" for the RDTE community to rapidly close knowledge gaps and deliver leading-edge technologies to the EOD warfighter
 - Rapidly advance the lethality, health and performance of EOD forces

Mental Health

Suicide Prevention



Responding to a Crisis

“I can’t do everything, but I can do something.” ~ Edward Everett Hale

Listen – Don’t try to solve the problem, just be present and listen.

Ask Questions – Gather more information. Ask if they have had or are having thoughts about killing themselves. Do they have access to lethal means?

Show Concern – Express concern, empathize with them. Let them know you care and will help find assistance. Don’t leave them alone.

Find Support – Find out whom they consider to be part of their supportive network. Reach out for assistance together.

Get Help – Get them professional help. Go with them and hand them off to a trained professional.

- 85% of sailors say they will seek help if overwhelmed by stress yet two out of three believe there are barriers to seeking help.
- 1 out of 3 will believe their fellow sailors will see them as weak if they seek help.



Risk Factors

- Loss or change in relationship
- Problematic alcohol use
- Exposure to trauma
- Mental health history
- Traumatic brain injury
- Health status changes
- Financial loss or strain
- Impulsivity
- Disciplinary action / legal issues
- Medical issues/chronic pain
- Stigma re: help seeking
- Impending retirement
- Access to lethal means

Warning Signs

- Hopelessness, no hope for the future
- Reactionary/Emotional outbursts
- Extreme mood swings or changes
- Irritability, rage
- Increased alcohol use
- Poor sleep hygiene
- Social isolation
- Anxiety, agitation, depression
- Talking about wanting to die or kill themselves
- Preoccupation with death or dying
- Saying goodbye to loved ones
- Giving away prized possessions
- Reckless behavior



COVID Snapshot

Metrics from 24/7 Crisis Text Line

- 80% of people who mentioned "virus" reported increased anxiety (compared to 34% of texters overall who mentioned feeling anxious).
- 18-34-year-olds make up over half (52%) of those texting about the virus.

Key Takeaway - It is essential to communicate with individuals, emphasize they are not alone, and remind them seeking help is a sign of strength.



Sailor Assistance and Intercept for Life

SAIL offers a series of caring contacts, risk assessment and reintegration assistance following a suicide related behavior to promote recovery. Participation is voluntary and does not replace mental health services but is designed to bring together support and tools to reduce risk and promote resilience.

Key Takeaway - Suicide risk is highest in the 90 days following an attempt or other suicide-related behavior. Access to care is critical.



REACH OUT FOR HELP!

East Coast: Dr. Alex Dryden

757-642-7069

757-406-3611

West Coast: CDR Kaarin Coe

619-437-9604

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255, Press 1

Call 911, your IDC or your command's medical professional

NECC RECOVERY CARE MANAGEMENT

Comprehensive administrative support for wounded, ill and injured warriors and their families to ensure operational readiness, proper transition assistance, and maximized physical and mental recovery.



LOCATION

Enabling the team to meet the Service Member and Family within 24 hours of a serious or very serious illness or injury.

- NECC HQ in Little Creek, VA
- EODESU-1 in San Diego, CA
- NCG-2 in Gulfport, MS



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Recovery

- Pay/personnel issues
- Family needs and Invitational Travel Orders to bedside
- Legal and guardianship issues
- Assistance with base housing
- Traumatic SGLI
- Social Security Disability

Rehabilitation

- Physical rehab and Family services
- Recreational therapy
- Animal therapy
- Housing, automobile adaptations
- Technological assistance devices
- Medical board
- Adaptive athletics
- Special compensation for assistance with activities of daily living

Reintegration

- Education and training benefits
- VA compensation, benefits and healthcare
- TRICARE
- Transition assistance programs
- Employment assistance (internship and fellowship programs)
- Respite care



CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Central Numbers:

East Coast: (757) 462-4316 Ext. 115

West Coast: (619) 522-7782

Gulfport: (228) 871-3774



INDIVIDUAL PROTECTIVE SUIT UPDATE

Over the past two years, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group TWO (EODGRU TWO) N8 Department Subject Matter Experts (SME) have provided input into the Uniform Integrated Protection Ensemble (UIPE) Family of Systems (FoS) program to ensure United States Navy (USN) EOD requirements are accounted for. The Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) has requested that East Coast EOD units be involved in wear and utility testing during the winter of 2020.

UIPE FOS continues on track with three variants being selected to go into the final testing phase. Differing service priorities have forced the decision into both a combat duty uniform replacement, and an over garment (Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) like) option. The USN has requested fire resistance (FR) be included in all potential candidate suits. Unfortunately, the only company with a FR suit did not make the cut due to poor performance results against mustard gas. The three candidates selected all provide large improvements over the JSLIST in thermal burden and mobility. Fielding is expected in FY 26.

Since the UIPE is only certified to 5g/m2 for contact, USN EOD still requires additional protection for gross liquid contamination scenarios. When USN EOD is operating as part of a general-purpose force, the UIPE and a protective apron or smock as an additional layer may be used to increase splash protection. USN EOD is also authorized to procure the All Purpose-Personal Protective Ensemble (AP-PPE) suit as Special Operations Forces (SOF) enabler. The Special Operations Command (SOCOM) program Tactical Advanced Threat Protective Ensemble (TATPE) will eventually replace the AP-PPE. Additionally, as a stopgap or alternative, USN EOD is authorized to wear the LION MT94, Blauer XRT, and RC3 ensembles.

Letter of Requirement was drafted and submitted to OPNAV N957 essentially describing the above statements.

The snapshot is an example of what the UIPE program is considering. Please let N8 know through your command representative if you want to participate in the wear tests this fall.



EODGRU TWO N8 IS LOOKING FOR IDEAS TO PROVIDE BETTER COMMUNICATION TO THE FORCE. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS PLEASE SEND THEM TO EODCS THOMAS.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MOBILE UNIT SIX



COMMANDING OFFICER
CDR Cummings

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LCDR Davis

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
EODCM Pickett



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit SIX (EODMU SIX) was established on 16 January, 1986 at Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, South Carolina. Commissioned specifically to conduct the U.S. Navy's EOD Underwater Mine Countermeasures (UMCM) mission, EODMU SIX quickly established itself as the nation's premier UMCM unit. The "KEGBUSTERS" took their name from the historic mission of "busting" sea mines, the first of which were fashioned from powder kegs with flintlock firing mechanisms and employed against the British Navy during the American Revolutionary War in 1776. The command officially relocated to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Virginia in August 2008.



EODMU SIX has deployed elements worldwide to conduct EOD Operations in support of Fleet, Joint, and Combatant Commanders and operated extensively in the Atlantic, European, and Middle-Eastern theaters of operations. The command has participated in Operations EARNEST WILL, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, SOUTHERN WATCH, NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, NEW NORMAL, OCTAVE SHIELD, SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP STATION, OAKEN STEEL, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, SPARTAN SHIELD, and INHERENT RESOLVE.



Most recently, in 2018 and again in 2020, EODMU SIX Sailors executed EOD Operations in support of five of the six Geographic Combatant Commands, including deployments in support of Carrier Strike Group operations at sea and ashore; deployments with U.S. Army 7th Special Forces Group in support of USSOUTHCOM; deployments to Africa and Syria in support of Special Operations Forces and Fleet requirements; and deployment of platoons and companies to FIFTH and SIXTH Fleets supporting Navy and Joint operations. Additionally, the headquarters deployed to the Kingdom of Bahrain as Commander Task Group 56.1 and 52.3 responsible for all Navy EOD, diving, salvage, and explosive exploitation forces throughout the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility.



THE KEGBUSTERS



NECC CHANGE IN COMMAND

FAREWELL RDML BRAKKE



After 36 years of service RADM Brakke retired and turned over command of NECC on 3 September 2020.

Rear Adm. Brian J. Brakke was commissioned through the Navy ROTC program at Florida State University as an ensign in April 1984 and was promoted to his current rank in July 2014. Brakke has a master's degree in national security strategy from the National War College and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Florida State University.

Brakke served as commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC); deputy director for operations, Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Agency; chief of staff for Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Pacific; chief staff officer for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Group 2; deputy division head for Strategic Deployments, Operations Directorate, United States Central Command; commanding officer of EOD Mobile Unit 6; ordnance officer at Naval Weapons Station Charleston;

deputy director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) Capability Acquisition Center; Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Expeditionary Combat Branch head (N957); commander of Task Force 52; commanding officer of Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division; commander of Mine Countermeasures Squadron (MCMRON) 3; executive officer of EOD Mobile Unit 8; EOD officer and contingency planner on the staff of the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet; officer in charge of an EOD Contingency Det., Mine Countermeasures Det.; operations officer at EOD Mobile Unit 2; and main propulsion assistant and first lieutenant onboard USS Oldendorf (DD 972).

"Thank you all of NECC and NECCPAC, your hard work and dedication ensured we carried out our mission. You understood no-one is bigger than the badge they wear." said Brakke. "It's not about who is on the team; it's about the team itself and every day when you take your uniform off, you leave it in a better place than when you put it on."

WELCOME RDML DIGUARDO

Rear Adm. Joseph A. DiGuardo Jr. is a native of Fallston, Maryland. He received his commission and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in History. He commenced Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training in February 1995. He also holds a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College. Prior to arriving at NECC, DiGuardo served as the director of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Fusion Cell at U.S. Special Operations Command.



"We have to look at the great power competition that we are in now," said DiGuardo. "We have to look at how we compete with our adversaries, how we reassure allies, and how we deter the same adversaries in order to ensure we are ready when called upon."

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

EOD IN-RESIDENT GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

		School	Degree	Thesis/ Focus
NPS	LCDR Jonathan Bach	Naval Postgraduate	Computer Science	Machine and Deep Learning
	LT Ryan Donofrio	Naval Postgraduate	Defense Analysis	EOD employment within PACOM
JUNIOR WAR COLLEGE	LCDR Gregory Bobich	Naval War College	Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies	
	LT David Haney	Army Command and General Staff Officer		
	CDR John Donohue	Marine Corps War College	Masters of Military Studies	
SENIOR WAR COLLEGE	CDR Mike Tollison	National Defense University	National Security and Strategic Studies	CWMD
	CDR Jonathan Puglia	Naval War College	National Security and Strategic Studies	Advanced Strategic Studies
	CDR Zach Sheetz	Naval War College	National Security and Strategic Studies	Special Operations
FSEP	LT Scott Maxfield	Georgetown	Masters of Science in Foreign Service	
	LT Drew Geiger	M.I.T.	Systems and Design Management	
	LT Andrew Heckel	Old Dominion University	Engineering Management	
	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	Masters in Business Administration	Real Estate, Economics and Finance
IGEP	ENS Christian Hoffman	University of York	Master of Science in Chemistry	
SOCOM	EODCS William Sangster	M.I.T.		

If you would like to contact personnel listed above to discuss their area of study, please contact the EOD OCM or Detailer for contact information.

Congratulations

2020

ANNUAL EOD LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

REAR ADMIRAL DRAPER L. KAUFFMAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presented annually to one deserving EOD officer who serves in a platoon or company commander position.

LT THOMAS COWHEY - EXU 1

"I am humbled and honored to receive this award. It is a testament to the entire command and I am proud of the recognition it brings to all of the great work that happens here," said Cowhey. "From the senior leaders who empower their subordinates to the chiefs who show unyielding dedication to the mission, EXU 1 is an incredible organization that deserves all the credit!"

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.

EODCM ROBERT BAYLESS - EODMU 2

"Winning this award has been an incredible and humbling experience. However, the credit truly belongs to all the leaders, mentors, and teammates I have been fortunate to have throughout my career," said Bayless. "The Santino award is for them."

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.

LCDR DOMINIC FRANK - EODTEU 2

"I am extremely honored to receive the CDR Kevin Childre award as he was a phenomenal leader and mentor to the EOD force," said Frank. "Being selected for this award would not have been possible without the inspiration I have received from my mentors and the support I have received from my fellow EOD warriors, for whom I have the most profound respect."

CIVILIAN RECOGNIZED BY EOD COMMUNITY WITH NAVY'S HIGHEST HONORS



INDIAN HEAD, MD – Christopher Cherry, a civilian explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) professional, was recognized with one of the Navy's highest honors: the Department of the Navy (DON) Distinguished Public Service Award, at the EOD Technology and Training Program Board at Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters, September 11.

Cherry was presented the award by Rear Adm. Eric H. Ver Hage, EOD Executive Manager, and Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle, Commanding General of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, both of whom serve as co-chairs of the EOD Program Board.

"Mr. Cherry's entire career has been dedicated to providing our warfighters the tools necessary to identify and exploit improvised explosive devices they encounter in the field," Ver Hage said. "It is my distinct pleasure and privilege to present him with this award on behalf of the countless number of EOD personnel he ensured were brought home safely."

Cherry's products are widely used to support the Joint Service EOD community throughout the DoD and his tools were directly responsible for the disruption of more than 50,000 improvised explosive devices (IED) on the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. Cherry has trained thousands of U.S. military personnel on the use of his explosively driven tools, tactics, techniques and procedures for rendering safe IEDs and provided comprehensive chemistry classes on homemade explosives threats.

Throughout his 40-plus-years career, Cherry assisted multiple EOD communities and his products were part of the Counter Bomb/Counter Bomber (CB2) and Knowledge Technology Operational Demonstration (KTOD) Advanced Concepts Technical Demonstrations (ACTD). The CB2 and KTOD ACTDs led to the rapid fielding of his technologies to counteract the high-risk threats from IEDs found in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

"Today we are privileged to recognize Chris Cherry and his family with the [DON] Distinguished Public Servant Award. This may be a [DON] award; however, it is presented with gratitude on behalf of the joint EOD Technology and Training program and all of our past and present EOD technicians," said Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Indian Head Division (IHD) Commanding Officer and Deputy Executive Manager for EOD Technology Capt. Scott Kraft. "[His] distinctive accomplishments, initiative and total devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and are keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy."

The DON Distinguished Public Service Award is the highest form of public service recognition approved by the Secretary of the Navy. Nominations are limited to those extraordinary cases where individuals have demonstrated exceptional service of substantial and long-term benefit to the Navy and the Marine Corps.



LT Jack James
EODC Nick Clark
EOD1 David Rohrbeck
EOD1 Joseph Hobson



Attached to EODMU12 det. Earle

Earned the Humanitarian Service Medal for supporting the USNS Comfort COVID-19 Response in New York City





BASIC MEDIA ENGAGEMENT TIPS

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 solving problems underwater.

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 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.

**HAVE INPUT FOR THE NEXT PRIMER?
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT YOUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER!**



LT John Mike
john.j.mike2@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

ORDNANCE TRAINING HELD OFF WHIDBEY

By Brandon Taylor, Whidbey News-Times

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit One from San Diego and Unit Five from Guam arrived in Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to conduct underwater training for minesweeping. No live explosives were being used. Unit One sent an unmanned systems platoon and a command-and-control element while Unit Two sent a mine countermeasures platoon.

A complete expeditionary mine countermeasures company is working through their advanced based certification exercise to prepare for a deployment in the near future, Cmdr. Brian J. Reitter said.

"The training value we get out of this can not be replicated," Reitter said. "The tidal shifts, the current, the way the bottom type is, and a lot of the man-made objects in the water from the fishing industry helps us really to stress ourselves in a controlled operational environment."

Conditions at Whidbey help the unit to prepare for their adversaries and challenges they'll face on deployment, according to Reitter.

"What we do is we replicate perceived adversaries' tactics if they were trying to prevent maritime access to the harbor or in approaches to the harbor," he said.

According to a Navy press release, Explosive Ordnance Disposal forces began mine countermeasures operations on July 13 in Crescent Harbor, a key Whidbey Island port, and the Saratoga Passage maritime transit ways in order to reduce the enemy mine threat to support freedom of navigation and sea control.

The training in Crescent Harbor was expected to conclude July 24.



LEBANESE ARMED FORCES, U.S. NAVY CONDUCT RESOLUTE UNION VIRTUALLY AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain -- The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and U.S. Navy are conducting Resolute Union (RU) 20, an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and maritime security operations bilateral military exercise being held from 27 July to 9 August.

RU20 is the capstone in a series of bilateral exercises between the LAF and U.S. Navy aimed at maintaining proficiency between the two countries' armed forces, and increasing interoperability through cooperative training.

Due to the ongoing global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the exercise is being conducted as a "virtual" event without in person contact. Virtual exercises provide an effective level of continuity while mitigating the risk until we can resume live exercises.

"RU20 provides our team a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with our LAF counterparts, while enhancing our mutual EOD and maritime security capabilities," said Capt. Stephen Jackson, Commander of Combined Task Force (CTF) 56. "Conducting the exercise virtually allows us to continue taking advantage of those opportunities with our LAF counterparts while mitigating exposure and spread of COVID-19.

"Previous exercises in the series were conducted in Lebanon where U.S. service members trained side by side with LAF personnel. This year's virtual iteration features LAF personnel in Lebanon and U.S. naval forces in Bahrain conducting military to military exchange remotely, in order to prevent exposure and the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Exercise topics include EOD, dive, and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) operations. Participating U.S. naval forces include U.S. Navy Divers and EOD technicians, a U.S. Coastguard Maritime Engagement Team (MET), and additional supporting staff members.

"The use of virtual exchanges allows us to leverage established relationships and connectivity, and strengthen interoperability with our regional partners," said Vice Adm. Jim Malloy, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces.



"RU20 is an example of innovative solutions allowing the U.S. Navy to deepen our relationship with the superb Lebanese Armed Forces navy and marine corps, and continue building interoperability with this capable force - ensuring we fight through and overcome challenges together."

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The expanse is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

JORDANIAN AND U.S. NAVAL FORCES CONDUCT MARITIME SECURITY EXERCISE INFINITE DEFENDER

By Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain -- The Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) and U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard forces are participating in the exercise Infinite Defender (ID) 20 from Sept. 1 to 10.

"Training alongside our JAF counterparts allows us to sharpen our skills against regional threats to maritime security, and we are proud to be partnering with Jordan for this exercise," said Capt. Christopher Gilbertson, commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 50 and Task Force (TF) 55. "ID 20 allows our forces to practice skillsets such as countering small boat attacks, protecting harbors and maritime infrastructure and supporting lawful use of regional waterways through visit, board, search, and seizure operations."

The JAF regularly conducts maritime exercises and operations with NAVCENT, including their involvement with Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). Jordan has commanded CMF Combined Tasks Forces three times.

"We look forward to the opportunity each year to host our U.S. Navy and Marine Corps colleagues in the execution of Infinite Defender," Col. Hisham Khaleel Aljarrah, Commander of the Royal Jordanian Naval Forces. "This exercise is an opportunity for us to improve our partnership, share our experience and enhance our abilities to ensure security and stability in the region together."

ID 20 is focused on maritime infrastructure protection (MIP), explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and anti-terrorism force protection (ATFP). Participating U.S. forces include a guided-missile destroyer (DDG), a Navy EOD and dive team, a Coast Guard maritime engagement team (MET), a Marine Corps platoon, and additional staff and personnel.

U.S. participants are associated with NAVCENT Task Forces 51/5, 55, and 56 which provides U.S. service members from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard the opportunity to refine their skills in critical mission areas while working alongside critical regional partners.

"Our blue-green team has a long history of operating alongside the JAF to address common threats to regional security," said Brig. Gen. Farrell Sullivan, commander of Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "It is crucial that we maintain this strong relationship and continue to hone our mutual defensive capabilities."



ID 20 is also the largest bi-lateral exercise NAVCENT has taken part in since the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic earlier this year. The participants have conducted multiple virtual planning conferences to ensure all requirements and cross-coordination are met. Throughout the exercise, personnel are adhering to health and safety guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing face coverings, to mitigate the spread of the virus.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The expanse is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT COMMAND HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

By Lt. Cmdr. Amber Lewis, NECC Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH -- Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) held a change of command and retirement ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Sept. 3.

Rear Adm. Joseph DiGuardo Jr., a native of Fallston, Md., relieved Rear Adm. Brian Brakke as commander.

Adm. Christopher Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command gave the ceremony's keynote address.

"I am incredibly proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command and Rear Admiral Brian Brakke, one of our Navy's finest warriors who unselfishly stood the watch for over 36 years." said Grady.

Grady presented Brakke with the Distinguished Service Medal as an end-of-tour award. Brakke attributed the award to the hard work and support of the NECC Sailors and leaders.

"Thank you all of NECC and NECCPAC, your hard work and dedication ensured we carried out our mission. You understood no-one is bigger than the badge they wear," said Brakke. "It's not about who is on the team; it's about the team itself and every day when you take your uniform off; you leave it in a better place than when you put it on."

The ceremony marked the end of Brakke's 36-year Navy career. Brakke served the Navy as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer and attributed his success to the many people who crossed his path throughout his Navy career.

"It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your commander." said Brakke. "Thank you all for making this a magnificent end to a most excellent Navy adventure!"

Upon assuming command, DiGuardo recognized Brakke's hard work and leadership at NECC. DiGuardo spoke on the legacy of leadership at NECC and of the tradition of expeditionary warfare dating back to the Revolutionary War. He then focused on the importance of looking ahead.

"We have to look at the great power competition that we are in now," said DiGuardo. "We have to look at how we compete with our adversaries, how we reassure allies, and how we deter the same adversaries in order to ensure we are ready when called upon."



Prior to arriving at NECC, DiGuardo served as the director of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Fusion Cell at U.S. Special Operations Command.

NECC forces are globally deployed, providing capability across the full range of military operations in the maritime strategy to include forward presence, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, sea control and power projection and deterrence. The forces that comprise NECC include: Naval Construction; Coastal Riverine; Expeditionary Logistics Support; Explosive Ordnance Disposal; Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training; Expeditionary Intelligence; Expeditionary Combat Camera; and Expeditionary Combat Readiness.

NAVY EOD SHOWS SECDEF CURRENT AND NEAR-FUTURE EXPEDITIONARY CAPABILITIES OF UNMANNED SYSTEMS TRIAD DESIGNED TO COMPETE AND WIN

From Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) – Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper visited components of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1 at Naval Base Point Loma, Calif., Sept. 17, to learn how Navy EOD is building a more lethal, agile and resilient force by augmenting human expertise and decision-making with autonomous unmanned systems (UMS) capabilities for the fleet and Joint Force.

While meeting with Esper, EODGRU-1 Commodore Capt. Oscar Rojas described how Navy EOD is an integral member of the UMS triad, which is composed of the surface, subsurface and expeditionary (EOD and Naval Special Warfare) communities.

The UMS triad enables strategic effects by leveraging cutting-edge technologies to pair real-time, relevant information with immediate tactical options to deter adversaries in the maritime environment.

“We are enhancing our human-machine teaming efforts to more efficiently illuminate and eliminate or neutralize surface and undersea threats,” said Rojas. “Our UMS systems development efforts are at the front of autonomous capabilities to recognize, analyze, communicate and take appropriate response to various threats. This could involve neutralizing the threat, alerting a human operator or networking with other UMS systems, all to offer commanders the most advantageous results at a specific time and place.”

Rojas also described how the Navy EOD Expeditionary Mine Countermeasure (ExMCM) companies help maintain freedom of navigation in denied waterways, in war and in daily competition. Created to help address the long-standing challenge of clearing naval minefields and explosive threats, ExMCM companies are used by operational commanders to maintain the military advantage before and after a threat is placed in the water. Expanded and enhanced commander’s awareness and layered options result from advancing the use of the unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV) and remotely operated vehicles (ROV) embedded within the ExMCM company. Each company has 30 Sailors, tailorable to teams as small as two based on mission requirements.

“Our ExMCM companies are essential to supporting fleet and Joint Force objectives, across all environments. They are not



constrained to a specific craft, allowing them to deploy from air, land and sea to neutralize surface and subsurface threats,” said Rojas. Command.

Lt. Nick Stoner briefed Esper on current and next-generation technologies in UUVs and ROVs, much of which Navy EOD is already using in operations.

“It was an honor to talk with Secretary Esper about how we are advancing Artificial Intelligence and human-machine teaming in our operations today,” said Stoner, an EOD officer with EODGRU-1 who works on Navy EOD maritime and underwater capability development. “We are developing, implementing, and rapidly adapting the vanguard of available technology for small and medium UUVs and ROVs to enhance our capability as a force and support the National Defense Strategy.”

“A cornerstone of our success has been close relationships with our engineering teams. There is constant, two-way feedback between them and the users in the field, which allows for ongoing system updates and modifications to increase capabilities,” said Stoner. “It has been, and continues to be, a team effort.”

(story continued on next page)

NAVY EOD SHOWS SECDEF CURRENT AND NEAR-FUTURE EXPEDITIONARY CAPABILITIES OF UNMANNED SYSTEMS TRIAD DESIGNED TO COMPETE AND WIN (CONTINUED)

Developing future technology for Navy EOD also involves innovative acquisitions strategies, said Rojas. This includes collaborating with the Navy’s Expeditionary Program Office and DOD’s Defense Innovation Unit to capture current operational challenges and streamline the procurement process to rapidly address them.

“This allows Navy EOD to accelerate the adoption of emergent commercial technology so we can pace, and outperform, adversary threats to the fleet and Joint Force that threaten sea control and power projection,” Rojas said. The EOD operators in the field also play a critical role in refining Navy EOD technologies and systems, said Rojas.

“Our Sailors use these tools daily and understand the challenges. We empower them to give the design-to-employment team direct feedback to rapidly find solutions to any issues that might arise,” Rojas said, adding that personnel conduct an in-depth, post-deployment analyses with Navy EOD leadership, as well as program management and engineering teams. This touch point drives down the time it takes to get new technology to the force and ensures prioritization of the most urgent fleet-driven requirements.

Operating from Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., EODGRU-1 oversees the manning training and equipping of EOD Mobile Units 1, 3, 5 and 11; Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1; EOD Expeditionary Support Unit 1; and EOD Training and Evaluation Unit 1. EODGRU-1 is also capable of deploying as a battalion level staff to command task forces in theater.



MDSU-1, NAVSEA REMOVE DEFUNCT FORACS EQUIPMENT OFF NANAKULI BEACH

By: Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Charles Oki, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

NANAKULI, Hawaii (NNS) -- Sailors from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) ONE Companies (CO) 1-3 and 1-5, based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, conducted surface supplied and SCUBA diving operations to remove old conduit, pipe, cable and debris from the reef and waters off Zablun Beach State Park in Nanakuli, Hawaii, July 6-16.

MDSU ONE was tasked by Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) ONE to support Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) with the removal of more than 1,500 feet of derelict Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Site (FORACS) equipment that is no longer required for the Navy's mission. The FORACS equipment was initially installed in the 1960s.

"To comply with the lease agreement between the United States Navy and the state of Hawaii, as well as to ensure we are good stewards to the community, we began this removal project as soon as operationally feasible," said Dawn Rodes, the FORACS Program Manager. "Before and throughout the process, we worked with various stakeholders and subject matter experts to ensure we were also in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations."

The Sailors, working with NAVSEA and coordinating environmental efforts through Commander, Navy Region Hawaii; Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC); the City and County of Honolulu; and local industry partners, removed these items from the waters off Nanakuli to reduce the negative effects on the environment and to help preserve the ecology on the surrounding reefs.

During the mission, MDSU ONE divers utilized underwater hand tools, hydraulic cutters, and exothermic cutting equipment, as well as land based cranes to remove debris from the water.

"The job went very smoothly," said Lt. Greg Pruett, the company commander of Mobile Diving and Salvage CO 1-5. "This job was different in that the local community was acutely aware of what we were doing before we even arrived. The community was fully supportive in the Navy returning the area closer to its original state, removing hazards that could affect the divers, swimmers and beachgoers."

Sailors from MDSU ONE removed more than 30,000 lbs. of defunct equipment and debris off the reef, allowing the delicate ecosystem to renew and regenerate itself.



For more than 40 years, the Sailors of MDSU ONE and MDSU ONE EOD Detachment have been assisting Department of Defense units and Hawaii with cleaning the ocean floor of hazardous material in the state and around the Pacific.

MDSU ONE provides expeditionary and rapidly deployable diving and salvage companies capable of conducting harbor clearance, salvage, underwater search and recovery, and underwater emergency repair operations in the most challenging environments. They are headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and an integral part of EODGRU ONE.

NAVY EOD MEMBERS EARN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

By Lt. Mary Smith, EOD Group Two Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) announced the recipients of the annual Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Leadership Awards on 28 August.

The Rear Adm. Drapper L. Kauffman Leadership Award winner is Lt. Thomas Cowhey, assigned to Expeditionary Exploitation Unit (EXU) 1. The award is named after Draper L. Kauffman, who was directed to establish a U.S. bomb disposal school at the Washington Navy Yard in 1941, due to his extensive bomb disposal experience in Europe and disarming the first intact bomb after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This school eventually became Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD), which was dedicated to him as the Draper Kauffman EOD training complex at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He served in leadership roles for 32 years (1941-1973), and is the plank owner of Navy EOD. The award is presented annually to one deserving EOD officer who serves in a platoon or company commander position.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this award. It is a testament to the entire command and I am proud of the recognition it brings to all of the great work that happens here," said Cowhey. "From the senior leaders who empower their subordinates to the chiefs who show unyielding dedication to the mission, EXU 1 is an incredible organization that deserves all the credit!"

The Force Master Chief (FORCM) Anthony Santino Leadership Award winner is EOD Senior Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Robert Bayless, assigned to EOD Mobile Unit (EODMU) 2. The award is named after FORCM Anthony Santino, who after twenty plus years of skillfully leading EOD sailors, was named the first force master chief for the newly formed NECC in 2006. In his numerous command master chief positions, he influenced how Navy leadership viewed the Navy EOD community and was ultimately responsible for the establishment and structure of the EOD rating. Prior to this effort, EOD operators came from 21 source ratings at various points in their careers, with no guarantee as to their EOD leadership or performance. His efforts were critical to creating today's professional Navy EOD force. FORCM Santino preferred action to discussion, and if not for his tenacious efforts, the Navy EOD community would not be where it is today. The award is presented to an EOD chief or senior chief petty officer technician serving in an operational or training leading chief petty officer billet.

"Winning this award has been an incredible and humbling experience. However, the credit truly belongs to all the leaders, mentors, and teammates I have been fortunate to have throughout my career," said Bayless. "The Santino award is for them."

The Cmdr. Kevin P. Childre Excellence Award winner is Lt. Cmdr. Dominic Frank, assigned to EOD Training and Evaluation Unit (EODTEU) 1. Cmdr. Kevin Childre entered EOD school in August 1983. Upon graduation, he reported to EODMU 1 as a basic EOD technician. After a wide variety of enlisted EOD assignments, Cmdr. Childre was commissioned in 1999 as an EOD limited duty officer. He was a tenacious leader who stood for excellence in all things, rising thru the EOD LDO ranks to serve as the TEU 1 Commanding Officer. He dedicated his professional career to mentoring, developing, and training EOD leaders. The award is presented annually to one EOD officer or technician dedicated to mentoring, developing, and training EOD leaders.

"I am extremely honored to receive the CDR Kevin Childre award as he was a phenomenal leader and mentor to the EOD force," said Frank. "Being selected for this award would not have been possible without the inspiration I have received from my mentors and the support I have received from my fellow EOD warriors, for whom I have the most profound respect."

Each of these peer-nominated awards recognizes quiet professionals who demonstrate excellence in leadership and embody the Navy EOD Ethos.

"The leadership and excellence displayed by Lt. Cowhey, Senior Chief Bayless, and Lt. Cmdr. Frank honors those who have worn the crab before us, sets the standard for Our warriors today, and paves the way for our future force," said Rear Adm. Brian Brakke, former commander of NECC and NECC Pacific. "My sincerest congratulations to them all. Well done!"

U.S. Navy EOD is the world's premier combat force for countering explosive hazards and conducting expeditionary diving and salvage.

EXU-1 OFFICER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

By Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs

INDIAN HEAD, MD — Lt. Thomas Cowhey, a Platoon Leader with Expeditionary Exploitation Unit One (EXU-1) located at Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Maryland, received the Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman Leadership Award on Sept. 29. Kauffman organized the first U.S. Navy Demolition Teams in 1943 and is widely regarded as one of the forefathers of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). The annual award is presented to an EOD officer who serves in a platoon or company commander position.

Cowhey excelled as EXU-1 Platoon Five Commander and twice deployed as Commander, Task Group 75.9 (CTG 75.9). His actions allowed for the collection, processing, exploitation and dissemination of technical intelligence reports of conventional and improvised weapons systems, electronic components, documents/media and unmanned systems.

"Lt. Cowhey is incredibly deserving of this award. He demonstrated superior professionalism, aptitude and leadership and is worthy of distinction across a field of supremely talented Navy EOD junior officers," said EXU-1 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Edgar Britt. "In addition to [his] personal recognition, I'm proud and humbled by the work of our EXU-1 teammates who enabled his success — this is a team win."

Cowhey also commanded a unit of action consisting of senior government foreign policy advisors, electronic engineers and intelligence specialists among others, while supporting two Level II Rapid Material Analysis Cell-Pacific (RMAC-P) labs in both Thailand and the Philippines.

His skill and operational planning led to the establishment of RMAC-P Thailand Lab in Hua Hin Province, filling critical U.S. intelligence gaps and enabling greater capacity for the Royal Thai Army and Police to counter extremist threats in its southern provinces. His team also exploited ordnance during Exercise Cobra Gold — an annual multinational military exercise held in the Kingdom of Thailand — enabling critical EOD publication coverage. Cowhey proved his command and operational skill again with the movement of the RMAC-P Philippines Lab to Northern Luzon in support of the Philippine Naval Special Operations Group.

Cowhey also demonstrated tactical proficiency during the 2019 Easter bombings in Sri Lanka where his team supported an international terrorism investigation at the request of the Department of State and FBI.



"I am humbled and honored to receive this award. It is a testament to the entire command and I am proud of the recognition it brings to all of the great work that happens here," Cowhey said. "From the senior leaders who empower their subordinates to the chiefs who show unyielding dedication to the mission, EXU-1 is an incredible organization that deserves all the credit."

EXU-1 was commissioned in June 2018 as an Echelon V Command reporting to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (NSWC IHD). NSWC IHD Commanding Officer Capt. Scott Kraft serves as the Immediate Superior in Command to EXU-1. NSWC IHD — a field activity of the Naval Sea Systems Command and part of the Navy's Science and Engineering Establishment — is the leader in ordnance, energetics, and EOD solutions. The Division focuses on energetics research, development, testing, evaluation, in-service support, and disposal; and provides warfighters solutions to detect, locate, access, identify, render safe, recover, exploit, and dispose of explosive ordnance threats.

404TH PARATROOPERS & US NAVY EOD CONDUCT JOINT TRAINING

By Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Williams, 361st Theater Public Affairs Support Element

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. – Clip, clip, snap ... an Army Reserve paratrooper breathes heavily through his facemask while donning the harness of an MC-6 parachute. As the paratrooper adjusts his parachute, noises could be heard six feet away as two Sailors assist one of their own in donning the parachute system. With temperatures reaching the mid 90's and individuals adhering to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, service members work together to refine and retool their proficiency in airborne operations. More than 70 paratroopers, including members of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 12 conducted joint airborne operations training here on Aug. 13, 2020 in order to "maintain currency" among their jumpmasters.

"We have to be able to talk purple, especially when we deploy," said Lt. Col. JohnPaul Le Cedre, commander of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion. "We have units deployed around the world and when we conduct joint ops with the active component or Navy jumpmasters we need to be able to cross talk which allows us to cross operate.

"During the last five months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 404th has maintained their readiness by administering virtual airborne refresher classes to Soldiers. During these virtual classes, jumpmasters talk through each of the steps involved in airborne operations, touching on tasks and procedures from donning a parachute to properly exiting an aircraft. As Soldiers move away from virtual training and come together for the first time, members of a U.S. Navy explosive ordnance disposal unit were invited to train alongside them and exchange their best practices.

"We invited them here because their proficiency allows them to bring their point of view and we don't want to keep our experience insular," Lt. Col. Cedre said. "We want to share our experience with others because it builds our own proficiency and we feel that, 'hey maybe we can tweak things to become a little better and safer.'"

As members of EODMU 12 take turns in donning the MC-6 parachute system, Jumpmasters made their way around the field, observing the paratroopers engaged in rehearsals for sustained airborne training. "They did a really good job of offering hands-on training and putting the parachute on to physically jump out of a mock airplane,"



Lt. Jack James, an officer in charge with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 12 said. "Learning how to practice the parachute landing fall is extremely important to staying safe during combat falls, and learning the positioning on how to jump from an airplane was helpful as a refresher."

EODMU 12 sailors are trained to diffuse conventional bombs, ordnance, and even biological weapons. Besides the ability to defuse bombs under water, the unit also possesses airborne capabilities which allow them to support operations alongside Army assets. Being offered an opportunity to train alongside their counterparts enhances their ability to perform at a higher level.

Lt. James said it was interesting to see the how things are done differently between the services and how much insight he was given into how a battalion level Army airborne programs works through this joint training.

"This unit requires a sailor to be a jack of all trades," Lt. James said. "We have to have the ability to insert with a lot of different units. At the end of the day airborne is like diving. It gets us to the point of the problem. Wherever we need to go, that's the route, whether it's diving in the water or jumping out of an airplane onto a target."

(story continued on next page)

404TH PARATROOPERS & US NAVY EOD CONDUCT JOINT TRAINING (CONTINUED)

No matter what military branch a paratrooper belongs too, each jumper's mindset is different when it comes to mentally preparing for an airborne mission. Whether it's pacing around a grassy area talking through the motions, or sitting down on hot concrete mentally mapping how a scenario plays out, jumpers prepare their minds for what their bodies are about to go through.

"I visualize everything from hooking up the static line to jumping out of the airplane," Lt. James said. "I think about how I've been trained and the muscle memory I have through practice. It gets dangerous when you get complacent; training prevents that complacency."

Lt. James said unlike what is seen in movies, jumping is a nerve-racking experience, but he's learned new techniques, which will help him mitigate injuries and perform better in the field alongside service partners.

As the training day winds down and the sun sets, Soldiers and Sailors wipe sweat off of their foreheads and congregate six feet apart muffling words of encouragement to one another through their masks.

"Success with a battalion airborne program in the Army Reserve means you must have good communication and relationships with your adjacent airborne units. Those units, in my experience, have been other Army units, U.S. Navy Special Operations, and Air Force Pararescue," Lt. Col. LeCedre said. "When I see another jumpmaster from any unit there's a recognition that this is a professional; this is an expert that can be relied upon, and I can trust this person."

The question of "how will the military adapt to COVID-19?" is far gone as units continuously identify ways to overcome the challenges this pandemic presents, but no matter how rough the road, military services will continue to function and thrive ... together.



EODMU12 HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND

By Lt. Mary Smith, EOD Group Two Public Affairs

Virginia Beach, Va. (NNS) -- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 12 welcomed its newest leader during a change-of-command ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek- Fort Story, July 30, 2020.

Cmdr. Mike McMahon relieved Cmdr. Shaun Lieb as commanding officer of EODMU 12 in front of a virtual crowd of family and essential support staff in support of the Department of Defense's proactive approach to combat the spread of COVID-19. They both later separately addressed the crew for personal remarks to the unit, as well as a reading of their orders.

Lieb said he wanted to highlight the accomplishments of EODMU 12 who heroically and zealously complete the mission."

Just incredible innovation coming from these individuals," said Lieb. "Whether it is developing command and control architecture during previous exercises specific to special operations forces or related to command and control to enhance the ability to communicate back to decision-makers." His next assignment will be to U.S. Special Operations Command.

Capt. Richard Hayes, commodore, EOD Group Two provided the keynote remarks. "We are grateful that we are able to assemble in some form to recognize all of the great work Cmdr. Lieb and Mobile Unit Twelve has accomplished," said Hayes.

During Lieb's two-year tenure, EODMU 12 has accomplished deployments across six continents in support of seven geographic and combatant commanders yielding tremendous benefits in support of national objectives. In his first address as commanding officer, McMahon highlighted the adaptability of the EOD operator.

"We are able to adapt and overcome to do a lot with a little. Mobile Unit 12 is setting the standard for what EOD's capability is now and will be in the future," McMahon said. "I am humbled and honored to be the commanding officer of Mobile Unit 12.

"EODMU 12 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.



NAVSEA, UCT 1 HOST DIVING CAPABILITIES DEMONSTRATION

By Lt. Mary Smith, EOD Group Two Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) ONE hosted a diving capabilities demonstration at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story September 24.

The demonstration showcased a prototype of the multi-occupant flexible recompression chamber (MORFC) and the first generation diver augmented vision display (DAVD). The DAVD was delivered to UCT and Mobile Diving and Salvage Units (MDSU) for immediate operational use. The DAVD is a transparent heads-up display (HUD) that uses wave guide optical display technology to provide high-resolution data and imagery inside the diver's helmets.

"This is really game changing, we're turning the lights on underwater," said Paul McMurtrie, NAVSEA DAVD program manager. "Primarily it's an underwater navigation system in a zero visibility environment. We put a guy down there and send sonar imagery and other critical information that shows everything around you so the diver can navigate straight to the project."

The current DAVD system capabilities include real time display of critical data; in helmet-viewing of photographs, technical schematics and text messages; high-resolution sound navigation and ranging (SONAR) imagery; future generations will be able to display imagery-assisted underwater navigation and obstacle avoidance; 3D-augmented and mixed reality displays in low visibility condition; first and third person viewing capability utilizing CODA Octopus 3D SONAR.

The DAVD project in an Office of Naval Research, ONR sponsored Future Naval Capabilities Program. This capability was initially developed by Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWCPD)063058. CODA Octopus, Inc. a 3D sonar manufacturer working in collaboration with NSWPCD, then further developed and designed a production capable system via a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA).

"We are looking to improve diver efficiency," said Capt. Thomas Murphy, NAVSEA Supervisor of Diving. "When a diver is doing a project at any depth they have limited amount of bottom time. The DAVD system allows them to find where they need to work quickly and give them the tools to work more efficiently to maximize their bottom time."



The DAVD system is being introduced into the fleet through generational development. This allows early fleet introduction of basic capabilities with the ability to integrate future improvements as technology advances. There are four generations currently scheduled to be introduced to the fleet by 2026. The fourth generation specifically focuses on explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) low magnetic signature free-swimming display and DPP for use in the multi-mission underwater breathing apparatus (MMUBA).

The MORFC, also known as the FLEX compression chamber prototype was also on display during the demonstration. The FLEX chamber is a highly portable, lightweight and is much easier to transport and store than the Transportable Recompression Chamber (TRC) currently in use. The FLEX chamber is a thousand pounds lighter as it uses a Vectran braided material as its strength material and can fit 3 occupants, the same amount as the TRC. The FLEX chamber display was a proof of concept to acquire feedback from the fleet and is scheduled to be issued for use in the Fleet next year.

NECC forces are globally deployed, providing capability across the full range of military operations in the maritime strategy to include forward presence, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, sea control and power projection and deterrence. The forces that comprise NECC include: Naval Construction; Coastal Riverine; Expeditionary Logistics Support; Explosive Ordnance Disposal; Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training; Expeditionary Intelligence; Expeditionary Combat Camera; and Expeditionary Combat Readiness.

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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