

WAVES

2025 Year in Review



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Kelley Stirling
 Ian McConnaughey
 Brittany Odoms
 Alisha Tyer
 Kevin Sykes
 Jonathan Thompson
 Kristin Behrle
 James Contreras
 Devin Pisner
 Aaron Thomas
 Lena Simmons
 Travis Troller
 Corum Byers
 Neubar Kamalian

Table of CONTENTS

4	INNOVATION AND OUTREACH
54	ROCKSTARS
70	PERSPECTIVES
90	SPOTLIGHT

On the Cover:

Teams from UC San Diego, University of Washington, and École de Technologie Supérieure, enter the water at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's David Taylor Model Basin as they prepare for the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR 18) in West Bethesda, Maryland on June 25, 2025. The ISR serve as a real-world crucible for aspiring naval engineers providing hands-on problem-solving opportunities in a unique competition that develops critical domestic, scientific, and engineering talent for the Navy and America's Maritime Industrial Base. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)

Carderock Leadership



Capt. Christopher K. Matassa, USN
 Commanding Officer
 NSWC Carderock Division

Capt. Christopher K. Matassa is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. He was commissioned in 2002 through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program at the University of Notre Dame where he received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Matassa's tours as a surface warfare officer included USS Stump (DD 978), USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29), Afloat Training Group Pacific and an Individual Augmentation to U.S. Central Command Headquarters in support of the Global War On Terrorism. He also earned a Master of Science in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego, School of Business Administration.

He became an Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) in 2009 and attended the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a Master of Science in Systems Engineering. He has served in a variety of industrial field activity and program office assignments in ship design, construction and fleet delivery, maintenance, and budgeting. His EDO assignments include: Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair (SUPSHIP) Gulf Coast LPD 17 Class Program Manager's Representative (PMR), LHA acquisition officer for the Amphibious

Warfare program office (PMS 377), production and post-delivery officer for the DDG 1000 Class Destroyer program office (PMS 500) - delivering the first ship of the class, SUPSHIP Gulf Coast Ship to Shore Connector PMR and LPD project officer, and Southwest Regional Maintenance Center project officer.

At the Pentagon, he worked in the Chief of Naval Operations Surface Warfare Division (OPNAV N96) as future ships requirements officer and has most recently been the Chief of Staff for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs.

On July 17, 2024, Capt. Matassa assumed command of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division. As the 41st commanding officer to lead the organization since its founding as the Experimental Model Basin in 1898, he leads approximately 3,000 employees providing the Navy with a broad range of technical products and support services related to surface and undersea platforms.

Matassa's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards).

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STILETTO



A Platform for Maritime Innovation

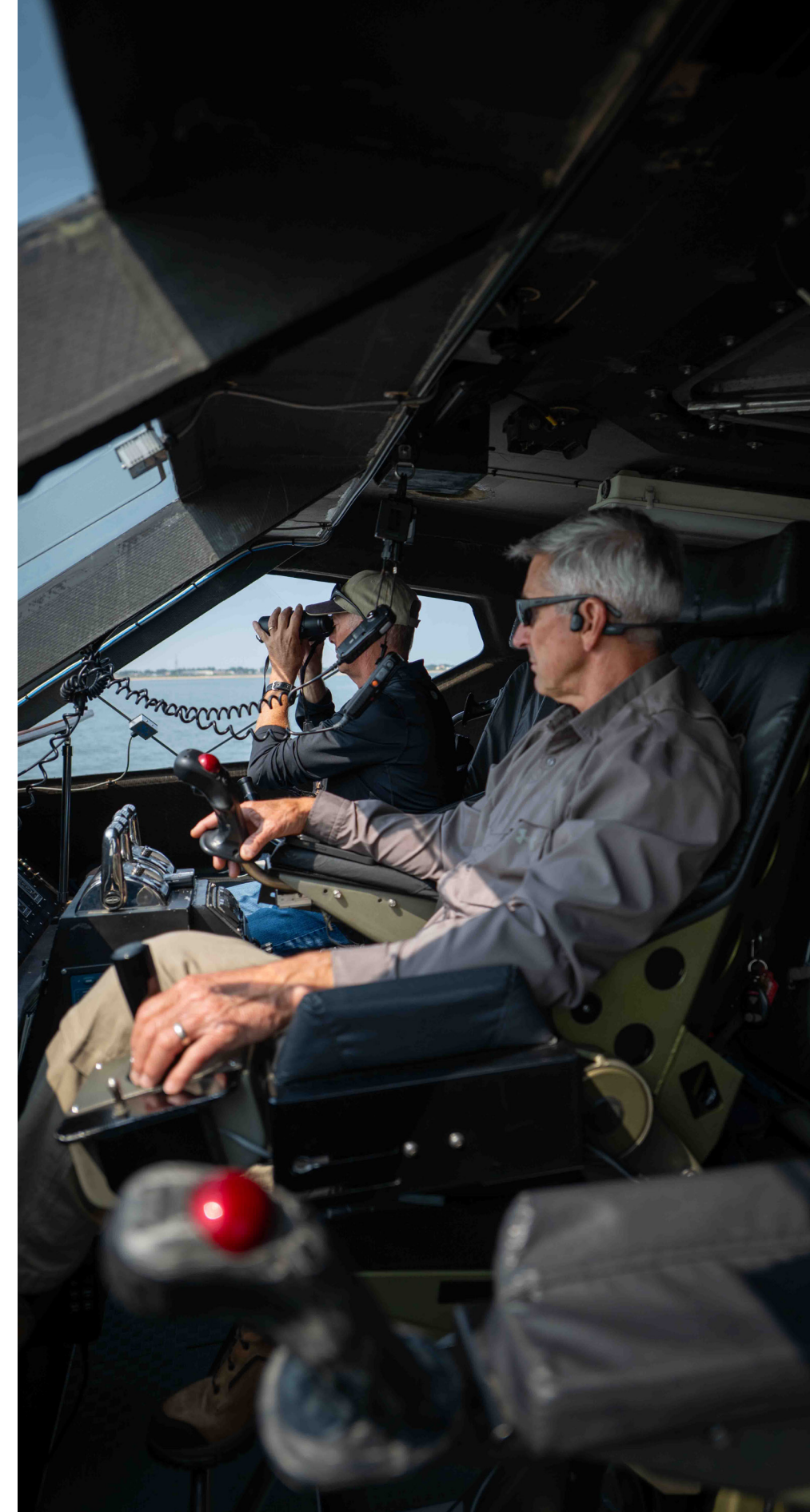
The Stiletto team demonstrates an autonomous boat launch and recovery in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 2, 2025. Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's Joint Prototyping and Experimentation Maritime (JPEM) Stiletto Program demonstrated a new system developed by SEALARTEC for autonomously launching and recovering small boats. The Stiletto program provides a unique, cost-effective, and efficient way to deliver combat systems to the warfighter at an accelerated rate, drastically improving delivery of critical needs for mission readiness. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



Scan here
to watch a
highlight
video!

INNOVATION

Stiletto Program Manager, Dennis Danko, stands starboard side on the Stiletto ship as the team gets underway for their autonomous launch and recovery demonstration. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



Stiletto Program Manager, Dennis Danko (Left) and Stiletto Captain, Al Frontin (Right) sit in the cockpit of the Stiletto during the autonomous boat launch and recovery demonstration. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



Sustain Maintain Modernize

Stiletto RHIB Captain, Tim Boger (Left) and Stiletto Integration Manager, John Papineau at the stern of Stiletto to demonstrate the autonomous boat launch and recovery in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 2nd, 2025. With a streamlined and cost-effective capability to test new technologies, the Stiletto is a game-changing platform for rapid prototyping and experimentation in the maritime domain. Its unique capabilities, coupled with seamless collaboration, are driving acquisition reform and delivering a technological edge to the U.S. Navy. The JPEM program is fostering innovation and expanding the Maritime Industrial Base. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



▲ The Stiletto team takes the U.S. Coast Guard team out on a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to demonstrate firsthand the autonomous boat launch and recovery system. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



◀ SEALARTEC CEO Amitai Peleg, left, gives a presentation of the autonomous boat launch and recovery system in the Stiletto briefing room. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



Carderock Hosts Calvert County Students for STEM Event

Students from Calvert County public schools participate in an interactive STEM event at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., on Jan. 23, 2025. The Carderock STEM and Outreach Office hosted the group for a day of hands-on learning, including a tour of the David Taylor Model Basin and an engineering challenge that involved designing, building, and testing a tool to deliver a projectile. The students were provided a first-hand opportunity to learn about resources provided by the Department of the Navy and additional career opportunities within the federal government. STEM and Outreach Program Director, Charlotte George, shared her career journey and emphasized the importance of mentorship, encouraging students to embrace diverse paths to success. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Welcome CCPS!

- Welcome
- Ms. Charlotte George - Guest Speaker (Carderock 101)
- Introduction to D.E. Lab Part I.
- Lunch/Tours
- D.E. Lab Part II
- Opportunities Overview
- Closure - Debrief

What is your earliest memory of using a tool?

LET'S DEFINE "TOOL"

Acoustic Research Detachment BAYVIEW, ID

Memphis Detachment Dr. William B. Morgan Large Cavitation Channel MEMPHIS, TN

NAVSEA

Distribution Statement A: Approved for Public Release

Carderock Partners with George Mason University for Second Year of Senior Design Project Oversight



Seniors from George Mason University visited Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, to present their senior design projects to Carderock engineers on May 9, 2025. The two teams presented their projects; one team built an environmental chamber for mechanical testing and the other was tasked with fabricating composite panels for ready service lockers that were malleable enough to bend 45 degrees on all four corners and edges. (U.S. Navy photos by Lena Simmons)





A New Strategy for High-Performance Computing at Carderock

A new 8,300-core High-Performance Computing (HPC) cluster is unveiled at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division on May 9, 2025, at West Bethesda, Md. This major upgrade provides more than double the previous computational power, allowing engineers to run larger and more complex simulations with greater speed and efficiency to maintain the Navy's technical advantage. Key personnel in the leasing effort: Patricia McCarthy, Mike Kirby, and Jonathan Stergiou. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)





Navy Divers Clear the Way for International Submarine Races at Carderock

Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport Division's Dive team poses for a photo with Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, at the David Taylor Model Basin at West Bethesda, Md. May 27-31, 2025. The six divers hand-removed 10-tons of corroded steel from the test basin floor in preparation for the 18th International Submarine Races, hosted by Carderock. From left: Navy Diver 3rd Class Kaiden Smith, Navy Diver 1st Class Jason Marshall, Navy Diver 2nd Class Giovanni Alawdi, Chief Navy Diver Jacob Eastland, Navy Diver 1st Class Benjamin Eisenbarth, Navy Diver 3rd Class Giovanni Castenada, and Capt. Matassa. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of NUWC Keyport Dive Locker)



One of eight bins of corroded steel cleared from the test basin floor at the David Taylor Model Basin at West Bethesda, Md., from May 27 to May 31, 2025. Six divers from the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport Division Dive Locker hand-removed 10-tons of corroded steel from the test basin floor in preparation for the 18th International Submarine Races, hosted by Carderock. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of NUWC Keyport Dive Locker)

From Whiteboard to Water: Oregon State Team Castorea Makes a Splash at ISR18

Team members from Oregon State University's Castorea, prep their submarine in the David Taylor Model Basin during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR) held at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, on June 24, 2025. In their inaugural competition, the rookie team accomplished their goal of a successful run on their very first attempt, a rare achievement that turned a 2022 whiteboard sketch into a reality.

The ISR serve as a real-world crucible for aspiring naval engineers, providing hands-on problem-solving opportunities in a competition that develops critical domestic scientific and engineering talent for the Navy and America's Maritime Industrial Base. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle)



Racing with Purpose: From STEM to Service with Virginia Tech at ISR18



Bryan Tomer, a SMART scholar and aerospace engineering student at Virginia Tech, returned to the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR18) in a support role to assist with event coordination and STEM outreach. ISR18 was hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy screen capture by Kristin Behrle)

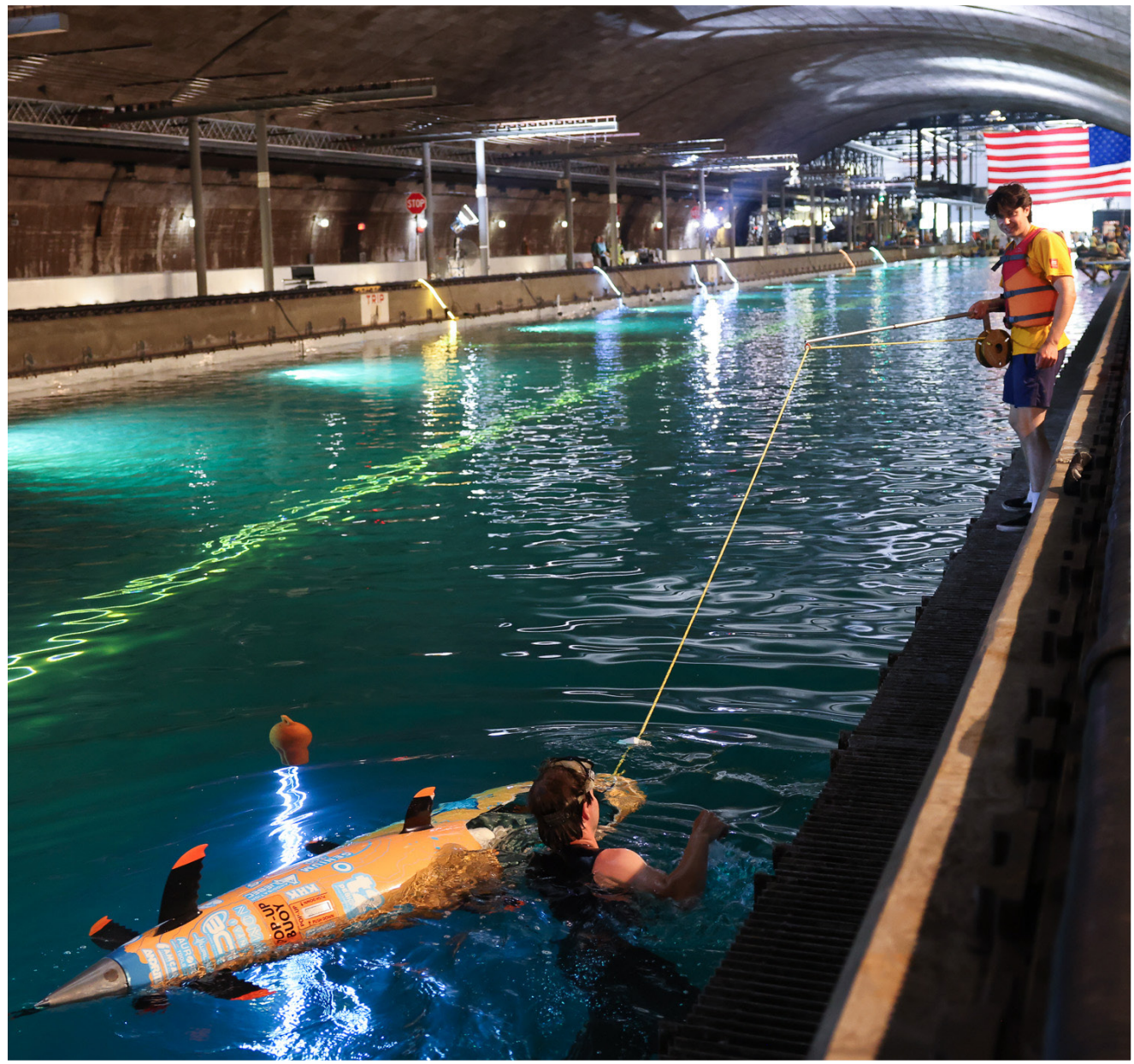


Divers and team members from Virginia Tech make in-water adjustments to their submarine, Exlienni, during a race cycle at the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR 18), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Charlie Giglio, a rising senior and student trainee at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, poses by his submarine, Exlienni, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR 18), hosted at Carderock from June 23-27, 2025. He served as both a support diver and the lead structures engineer for the Virginia Tech human-powered submarine team at ISR18. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)

Team Omer Breaks World Record-and Barriers



Team OMER from École de Technologie Supérieure (School of Higher Technology) in Montréal, Canada, tows their human-powered submarine “OMER 13,” along the David Taylor Model Basin after successfully completing a run on June 24, 2025, at the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division from June 23-27, 2025. The ISR serve as a real-world crucible for aspiring naval engineers providing hands-on problem-solving opportunities in a unique competition that develops critical domestic, scientific, and engineering talent for the Navy and America’s Maritime Industrial Base. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Team members from École de Technologie Supérieure (ETS) in Québec, Canada prep their submarine “OMER 13” in the wet dock staging area during a race cycle on June 25, 2025, at the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. The ISR serve as a real-world crucible for aspiring naval engineers, providing hands-on problem-solving opportunities in a competition that develops critical domestic scientific and engineering talent for the Navy and America’s Maritime Industrial Base. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)

Annapolis Family Team Returns and Makes Waves at International Submarine Races

Brian Barone, right, guides nose stabilization as the family's custom-built sub, Javelin 2.0, enters the water at Carderock's David Taylor Model Basin. The team completed multiple successful runs during the 18th International Submarine Races. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



Team members from Sanborn Regional High School use the wet dock elevator to bring their human-powered submarine "Albacore" out of the water on June 23, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Darius Otchere)



Scan here to watch a highlight video!



A view from the rafters of the David Taylor Model Basin shows Dover Area High School's human-powered submarine "Sharky" submerging for a race cycle on June 25, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Jeanette Nicewinter, the race starter and week-long emcee for the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), announces the next team in line to race down Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's David Taylor Model Basin, on June 25, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



A view from the rafters of the David Taylor Model Basin shows the wet dock elevator lowering teams and their human-powered submarines into the water on June 25, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Dover Area High School's human-powered submarine "Sharky" speeds down the race course in the David Taylor Model Basin as the U.S. Navy divers follow for safety on June 25, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, which took place from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



U.S. Navy divers wait to assist teams during their race in the David Taylor Model Basin on June 25, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), hosted at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



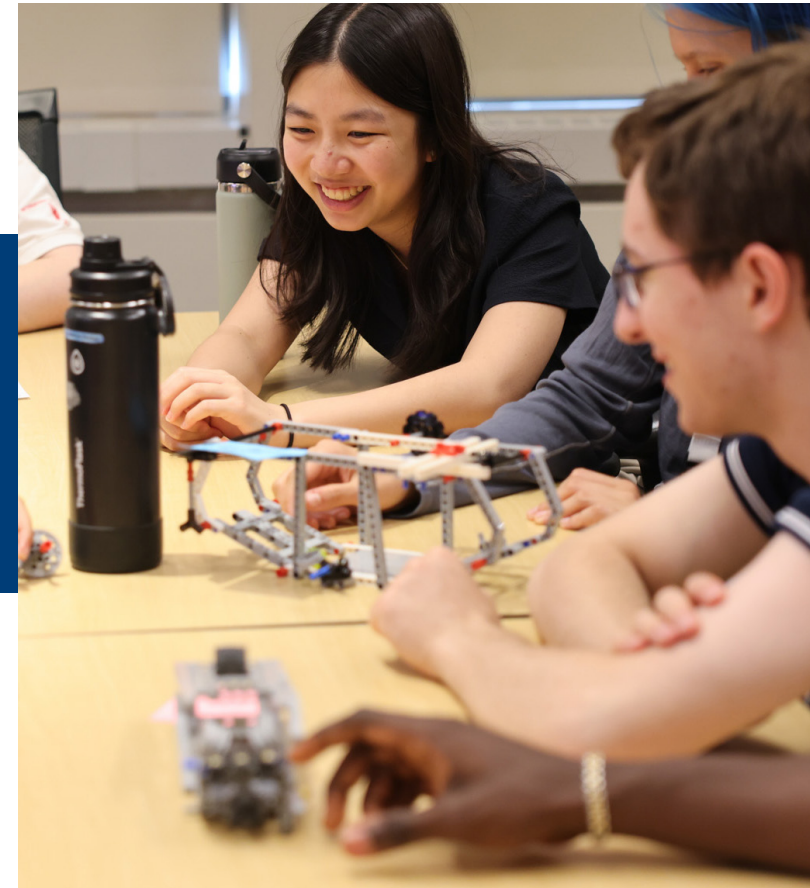
Team members from Sanborn Regional High School work on their human-powered submarine "Albacore," on June 24, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



Team members from National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan use the wet dock elevator to lower their submarine "Pegasus" into the water on June 25, 2025, during the 18th International Submarine Races (ISR), at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from June 23-27, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)

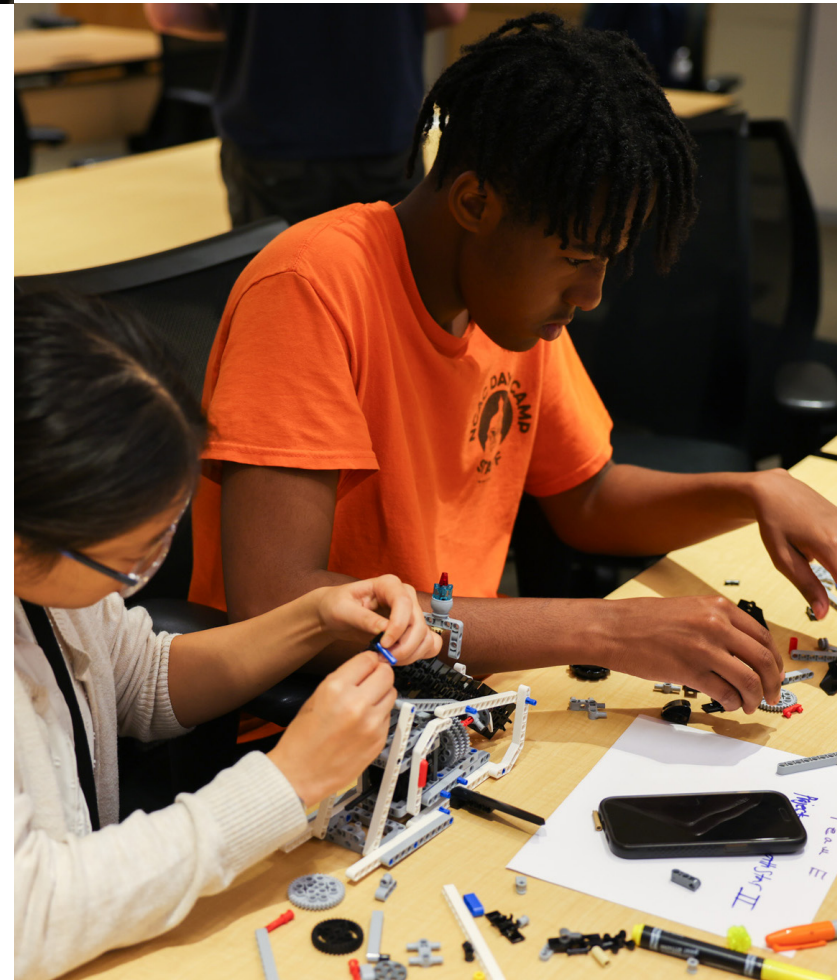


Sophiana Jiang and students in the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) participate in a hands-on challenge during a professional development workshop on “System Thinking and Project Planning” at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., on July 8, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Cultivating Future Innovators!

Students in the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division participate in a professional development workshop on “System Thinking and Project Planning” in West Bethesda, Md., on July 8, 2025. During the workshop, interns tackled an engineering challenge, with each student taking on a distinct project role to apply systems thinking principles. This session was the third in a series of trainings from Carderock’s STEM and Outreach Program, designed to give high school interns valuable experience solving real-world problems. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle)



Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) student works on an Unmanned Surface Vehicle (USV) simulation using legos during a hands-on portion of a professional development workshop on “System Thinking and Project Planning” at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., on July 8, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)

A glimpse behind the curtain... into the future of manufacturing!

On July 8, 2025, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosted Professor Alaa Elwany from Texas A&M at the Raye Montague Center as a part of its Summer Faculty Lecture Series. His presentation, "From Parameters to Defect-free Parts: Efficient Frameworks for Metal Additive Manufacturing Printability Assessments and Process Modeling," provided a vision of where cutting-edge manufacturing is heading. Carderock regularly participates in the Office of Naval Research's Summer Faculty Research Program, which offers a unique opportunity for university faculty and naval scientists and engineers to collaborate on research of mutual interest. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



Seapearch Academy

Educators and staff volunteers collaborate on building underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) during the annual SeaPerch Academy hosted by Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division on July 15, 2025. The event is a key component of the Navy's STEM outreach, designed to provide hands-on experience and inspire future engineers and scientists to tackle complex maritime challenges. (Photo provided)



Launching into Leadership: Propel Launch

Carderock hosted Propel Launch, a mandatory five day leadership development training for newly appointed supervisors across NAVSEA from July 14-18, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



NREIP

Final Presentations

Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) summer interns at summer interns at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, from colleges and universities around the country, provided their peers, fellow mentors and Carderock employees with their final presentations on July 21-22, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. (U.S. Navy photos by Aaron Thomas)





NREIP MEET THE FLEET

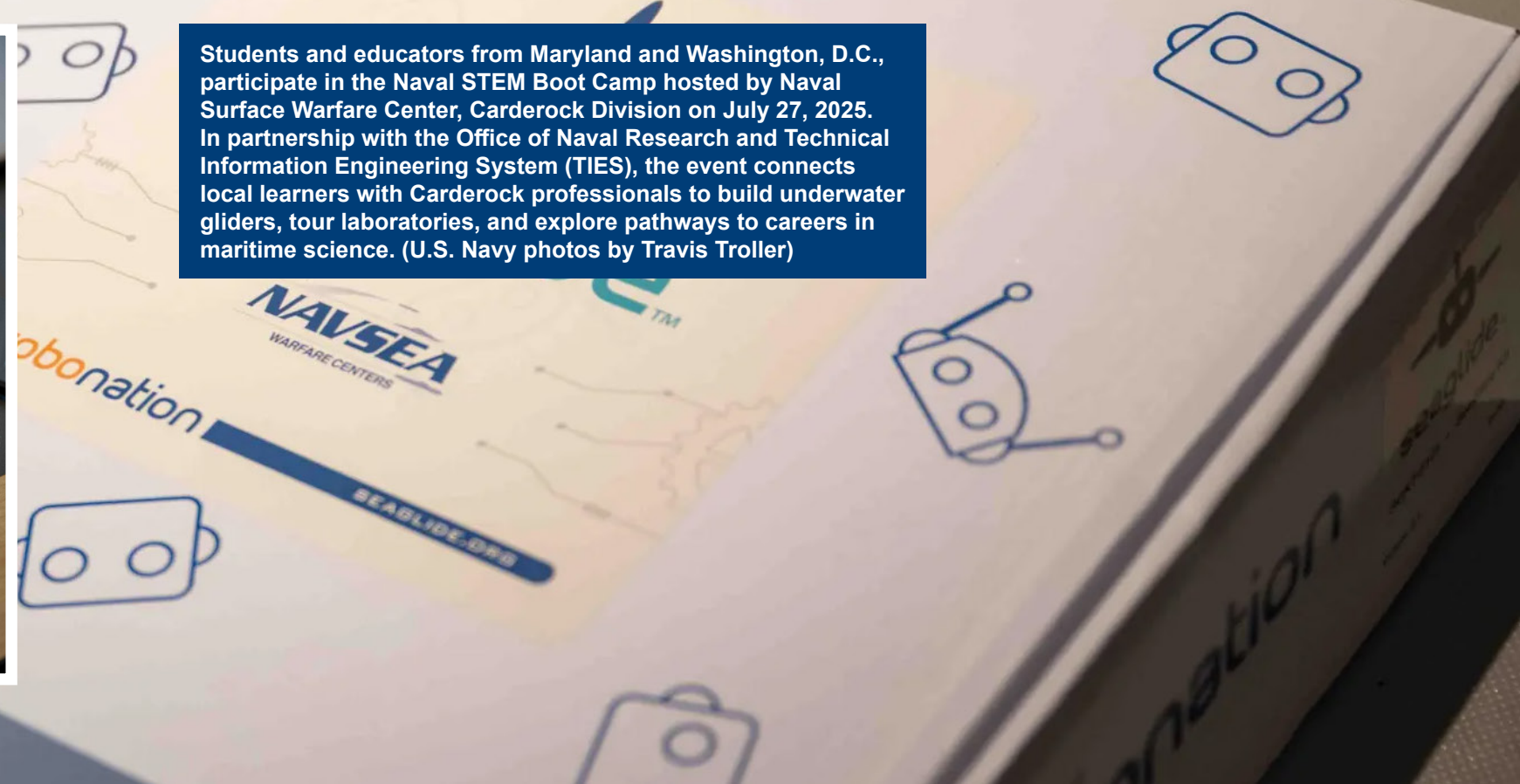
Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) interns from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division and Carderock's Combatant Craft Division visited Naval Station Norfolk during a "Meet the Fleet" event on July 24, 2025. "Meet the Fleet" allows both interns and new employees to experience living conditions on U.S. Navy ships and better understand the impact of their efforts to design ships to support the Sailor and the mission. Interns spent time with and learned from Sailors aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), USS New York (LPD 21) and USS Ross (DDG 71) about the unique mission sets, roles and technology each ship class has in the fleet. Carderock, the Navy's innovation and ship design powerhouse, headquartered in West Bethesda, Maryland, is a world-class research and development facility specializing in critical ship design components. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Carderock Hosts Naval STEM SeaGlide Boot Camp



Students and educators from Maryland and Washington, D.C., participate in the Naval STEM Boot Camp hosted by Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division on July 27, 2025. In partnership with the Office of Naval Research and Technical Information Engineering System (TIES), the event connects local learners with Carderock professionals to build underwater gliders, tour laboratories, and explore pathways to careers in maritime science. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



SEAP Summer Interns Wrap Up Program with Final Presentations

Interns from the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, deliver comprehensive presentations showcasing summer accomplishments in West Bethesda, Md. on August 5, 2025. Carderock fosters a fun, one-of-a-kind work atmosphere where brilliant minds can flourish and push the limits of the possible. Carderock also houses some of the nation's most advanced facilities for research, development, testing, and evaluation. These resources, spread across its headquarters and seven detachments, give the Navy a clear edge in creating the next generation of surface ships and submarines. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle)





This custom water vessel, designed by Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division engineer Anindita Mukherjee, incorporates a skyline view of the David Taylor Model Basin and was produced using Laser Powder Bed Fusion technology. The vessel will be permanently displayed at the University of Michigan's new hydrodynamics laboratory as part of a *Mixing of Waters* ceremony honoring decades of maritime research and innovation. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers

Carderock Blends Heritage and Innovation at University of Michigan Mixing of the Waters Ceremony

Carderock Team Provides Critical Technical Support for F-35B Sea Trials on JS Kaga

A joint team consisting of F-35 Patuxent River Integrated Test Force flight test members, U.S. Sailors and Marines, and the crew of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Izumo-class multi-functional destroyer JS Kaga (DDH-184) executed developmental sea trials in the eastern Pacific Ocean to gather the necessary data to certify F-35B Lightning II short takeoff and vertical landing aircraft operations. While aboard the MSDF's largest ship, the Pax ITF flight test team gathered compatibility data for analysis in order to make recommendations for future F-35B operational envelopes, further enhancing the Japanese navy's capabilities. The results of the testing contributed to improved interoperability between Japan and the United States, strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance and contributing to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Japan is an F-35 Joint Program Office foreign military sales customer planning to purchase 42 F-35Bs. The F-35 Joint Program Office continues to develop, produce, and sustain the F-35 Air System to fulfill its mandate to deliver a capable, available, and affordable air system with fifth-generation capabilities. (Photo by Darin Russell)



Naval Engineering Education Consortium (NEEC) Students Visit Carderock

Professor Xu and NEEC students from the University of the District Columbia, along with engineers from the Expeditionary Power & Energy Branch and Dr. John Barkyoumb, the Carderock NEEC program director, stand in front of the Expeditionary Power & Energy facility at Carderock on April 10, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. (U.S. Navy photo provided)



26th Annual Division Honor Awards



Carderock's Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and Acting Technical Director, Kate Terwilliger, celebrate and present awards to the winners of the 26th annual Carderock Division Awards on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Students from Gaithersburg High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Color Guard present the colors during the opening of the 26th annual Carderock Division Honor Awards Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Heather Valiga, a branch head in the Contracting and Acquisition Department at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, received the Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper Division Honor Award for her leadership and innovation in Navy contracting. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



The Tailcone Project Team, received the Rear Admiral Benjamin F. Isherwood Award for exceptional cross-departmental support of the VIRGINIA-class submarine fleet. This effort involved the design and testing of an improved submarine propulsor tailcone to address a critical performance issue and culminated in a new design currently in production for full-scale installation. Team members include Matthew N. Egeland, Project Manager, John F. Bargman, John M. Becker, Keith W. Brennan, Armand C. Buono, Alexis Colon, Robert T. Cullen, Jonathan B. Forest, Timothy J. Hildebrandt, James M. Klein, Daniel A. Kowalyshyn, Jeremy A. Salmon and Nicholas D. Schwarzenberg. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



The Wrap Test Team, received the Vice Admiral Emory S. Land Award for their outstanding contributions and collaboration on an electric-optic survivability technology development, test and evaluation. Team members include Patrick M. Mulliken, Team Lead (not pictured), Julie K. Bothell (not pictured), Benjamin J. Jeffers, Matthew S. Mills, and Hazen W. White (not pictured). (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Matthew F. Sinfield, Welding Research and Development Group Lead at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, is the recipient of both the 2025 Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award and Carderock's Rear Adm. George W. Melville Award for Engineering Excellence, for his work in advancing additive manufacturing of high-strength steels. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Frederick Merkel, an electrical engineer with Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, received the Captain Harold E. Saunders Award for his exceptional contributions as the Navy's VIRGINIA-Class (VACL) underwater electromagnetic (UEM) stealth project lead overseeing all trials for new construction and in-service hulls, as well as, the measurement and tracking systems needed to execute those trials. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Jon M. (Matt) Grassman, received the Dr. Murray Strasberg Award for his distinguished three-decade career at NSWC Carderock Division, standing as a testament to engineering excellence and groundbreaking design. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Dr. Michael A. Robert, a Technical Project Manager at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, received the Rear Admiral David W. Taylor Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement for his work in developing a fully autonomous, continuously monitoring prognostic health system for submarines. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Lisa A. Harden receives Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, presents Lisa A. Harden with the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award alongside her son and husband at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division on Dec. 4, 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



UEM Calibration Team Recognized for Going Above & Beyond

Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and Technical Director, Larry Tarasek, present command coins to the UEM Systems Calibration Trial team at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., Feb. 11, 2025. The team was recognized for completing the USS Montana (SSN 794) Underwater Electromagnetic Systems Calibration Trial over the 2024 Thanksgiving weekend, which ensured the submarine's stealth capabilities before its interfleet transfer to the Pacific and allowed the crew to spend the Christmas and New Years holidays with their families. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)

Carderock Division Honors Outstanding Employees at Annual Command Award Ceremony

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, celebrated its employees' outstanding achievements of 2024 at its annual Command Awards Ceremony on April 29, 2025. During the event, 44 individuals and teams received Command Awards, eight were recognized with Warfare Centers awards, and Joseph Walther was honored with the prestigious Navy Civilian Service Meritorious Award for his significant contributions to advanced warfare capabilities. Leadership, including Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Matassa, commended the awardees for their dedication and expertise, which are vital to Carderock's mission of supporting the U.S. Navy and its warfighters. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)





Jeffrey Klimczak Receives NAVSEA Award: Building Pathways for Growth at Carderock University

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, presents Jeffrey Klimczak, a human resources specialist at Carderock, the Naval Sea Systems Command Human Resources (HR) Award for Collaboration at an HR All Hands in West Bethesda, Md., on April 29, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Corum Byers)



Corporate Communications Division Presented with CHINFO Navy Public Affairs Awards

Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, presented employees from the Corporate Communications Division with the CHINFO Navy Public Affairs Awards on Aug. 7, 2025. Four employees were presented awards: for Honorable Mention - Video Series, Travis Troller; Civilian Videographer of the Year, Devin Pisner; Civilian Graphic Designer of the Year, Lena Simmons; and First place in Graphic Design-Identity Design, Kristin Behrle. (U.S. Navy photo by Ashlee Floyd)



CO Recognizes GARC Team

Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, presented command coins to members of the combined Combatant Craft Division team who participated in a demonstration of the capabilities of the current Global Autonomous Reconnaissance Craft (GARC) Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) in March. The development efforts and the demonstration itself showcased the Warfare Centers ability to work across the Naval Research & Development Enterprise (NR&DE) and Industry to rapidly meet a Fleet need. Three Combatant Craft Division Branches teamed up to make the testing and demonstration a success. The combined team, led by Patrick Murphy, worked around the clock to accelerate this capability (ahead of schedule) to deliver a full autonomous capability for the GARC platform ahead of a Joint Exercise in the summer. (U.S. Navy photo provided)



HONOR

Chief Yeoman Delcon Ferguson Receives Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, awards Chief Yeoman Delcon Ferguson on Dec. 19, 2025, after Ferguson received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. Ferguson received the award for his exceptional collaboration with command leadership, which facilitated the activation of personnel within the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) enterprise, significantly enhancing operational capabilities and mitigating critical manning gaps. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



FY25 Patent Award Ceremony



Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and Acting Technical Director, Kate Terwilliger, recognize employees that were issued U.S. Patents at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., on Nov. 19, 2025. In Fiscal Year 2025, Carderock employees submitted 21 non-provisional patent applications, and were issued 16 patents by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



John Phillips Receives 2024 Warfare Center Award for Warfighting Readiness

John T. Phillips, director of fleet engagement in the Technology & Innovation Office at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, received the 2024 Warfighting Readiness Award in recognition of his efforts in uniting the fleet, application, and technical communities to advance the Navy's capabilities.



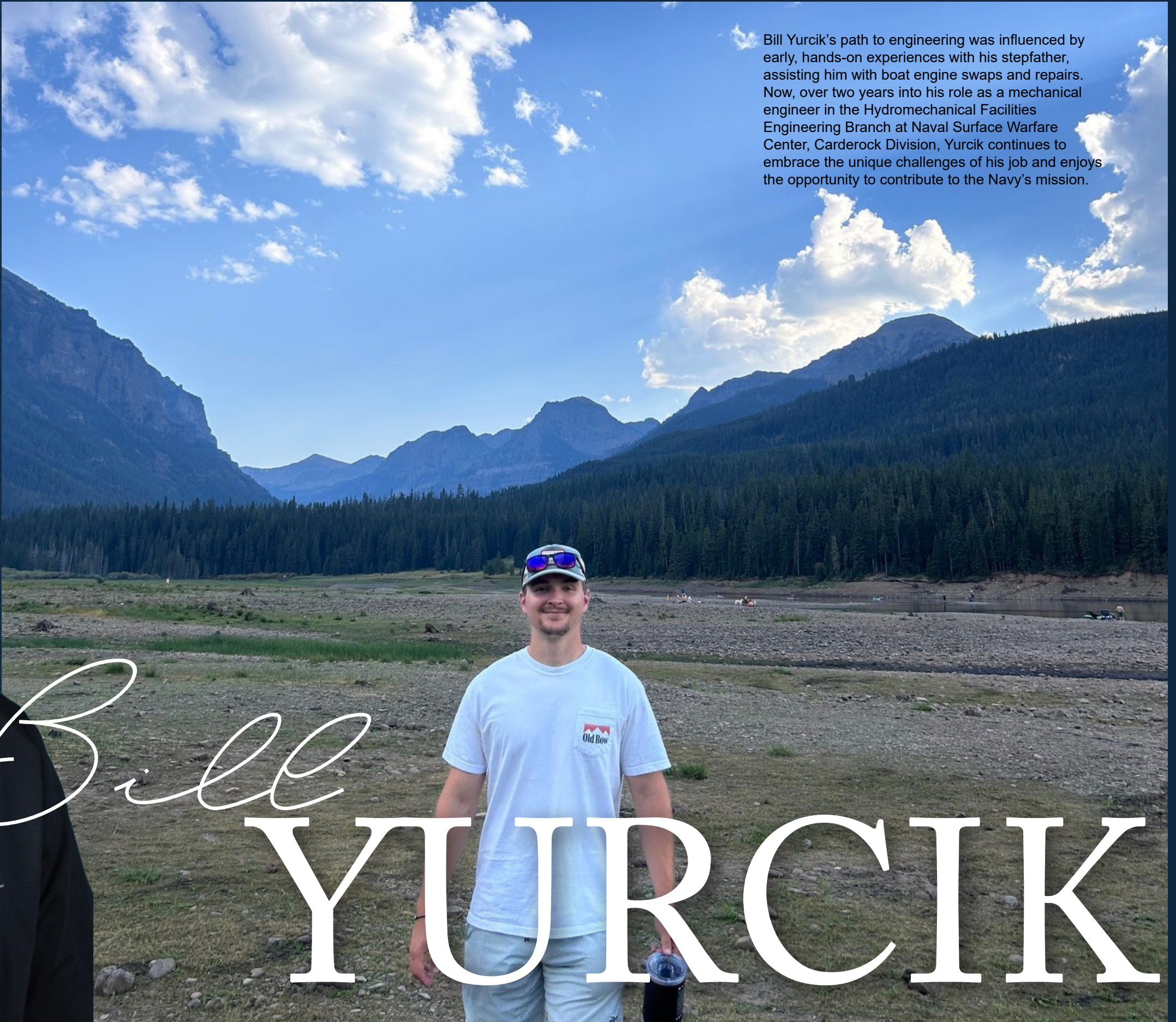
Karen Deering Honored with Dr. Delores M. Etter Award for Advancing Underwater Acoustic Testing

Karen Deering, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's senior technical lead for Advanced Undersea Systems and the Navy's radiated noise subject matter expert, was named one of the recipients of the Dr. Delores M. Etter award for her technical leadership and groundbreaking contributions to underwater acoustic testing. (Photo provided)



Dr. Delores M. Etter Award Honors Nash's Impact on UEM Stealth and Readiness

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's Acting Technical Director, Dr. Paul Shang, left, and Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, present Wyatt J. Nash, Underwater Electromagnetics Stealth Advisor, the 2025 Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year Award. Nash is one of 10 recipients recognized with this year's award. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



Bill Yurcik's path to engineering was influenced by early, hands-on experiences with his stepfather, assisting him with boat engine swaps and repairs. Now, over two years into his role as a mechanical engineer in the Hydromechanical Facilities Engineering Branch at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Yurcik continues to embrace the unique challenges of his job and enjoys the opportunity to contribute to the Navy's mission.

Bill
YURCIK



After more than 50 years of federal service, Dana Wegner retired as the curator of ship models at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, leaving behind a legacy defined by stewardship, expertise, and dedication to naval history. As the fifth curator in the program's history, Wegner oversaw a collection of more than 3,500 ship models and played a critical role in the safe recovery of 76 models from the National Museum of the U.S. Navy under challenging conditions. His leadership and technical knowledge earned him numerous honors, including the Department of the Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal. Over four decades at Carderock, Wegner helped ensure that naval innovation and history remain preserved for future generations.

Dana
WEGNER



Devante Harden, an Information Technology (IT) Specialist at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, plays a key role in keeping the division's tech infrastructure running smoothly, ensuring the fleet of computers, printers, and networks are operating at peak efficiency. Since joining Carderock in late 2020, Harden has worked diligently to support both the daily tech needs of the workforce and large-scale initiatives. His current projects include the transition to the Navy's new Nautilus environment and modernizing Carderock's aging printer fleet. Since joining Carderock, Harden has worked on several high-impact projects, including one that saved the Navy a significant amount of money. By replacing outdated unclassified videoconferencing units with more cost-effective in-house setups, he saved the Navy more than \$150,000 per month.



Devante
HARDEN




Scan here to watch the video interview!



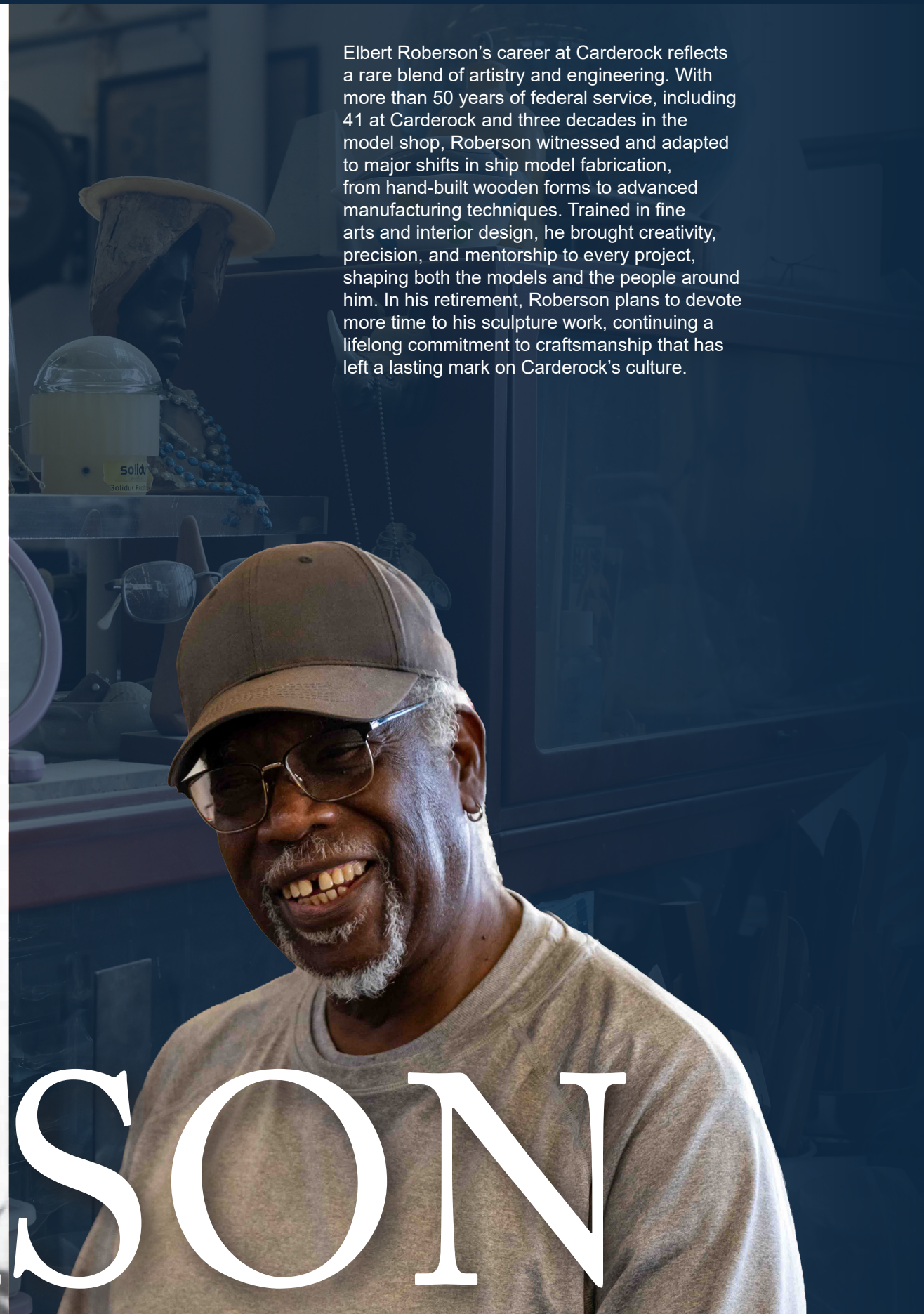
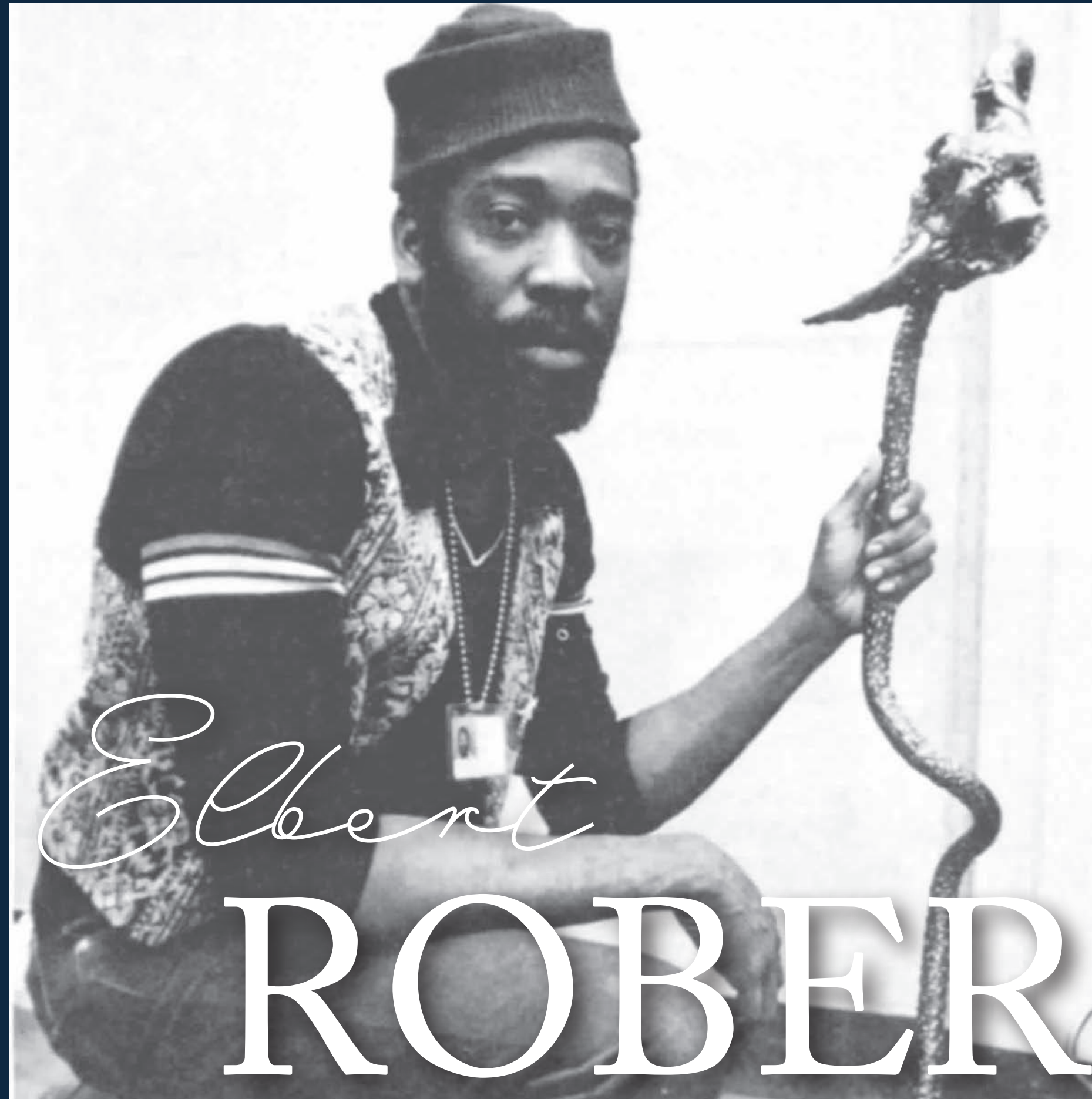
Apprentice ship design and integration engineer Dhiambi Otete represents the next generation of naval innovators at Carderock. Since joining the Division in 2023, she has rotated through multiple technical codes, led student engineering teams, and supported ship design projects from start to finish. A former Division I track and field athlete and George Mason University graduate, Otete brings discipline, curiosity, and leadership to her work. Beyond engineering, she supports NAVSEA outreach efforts and mentors young girls through community programs. Her experience reflects Carderock's commitment to developing early-career engineers through hands-on learning, collaboration, and opportunity.

Dhiambi
OTETE



Scan here to watch the video interview!





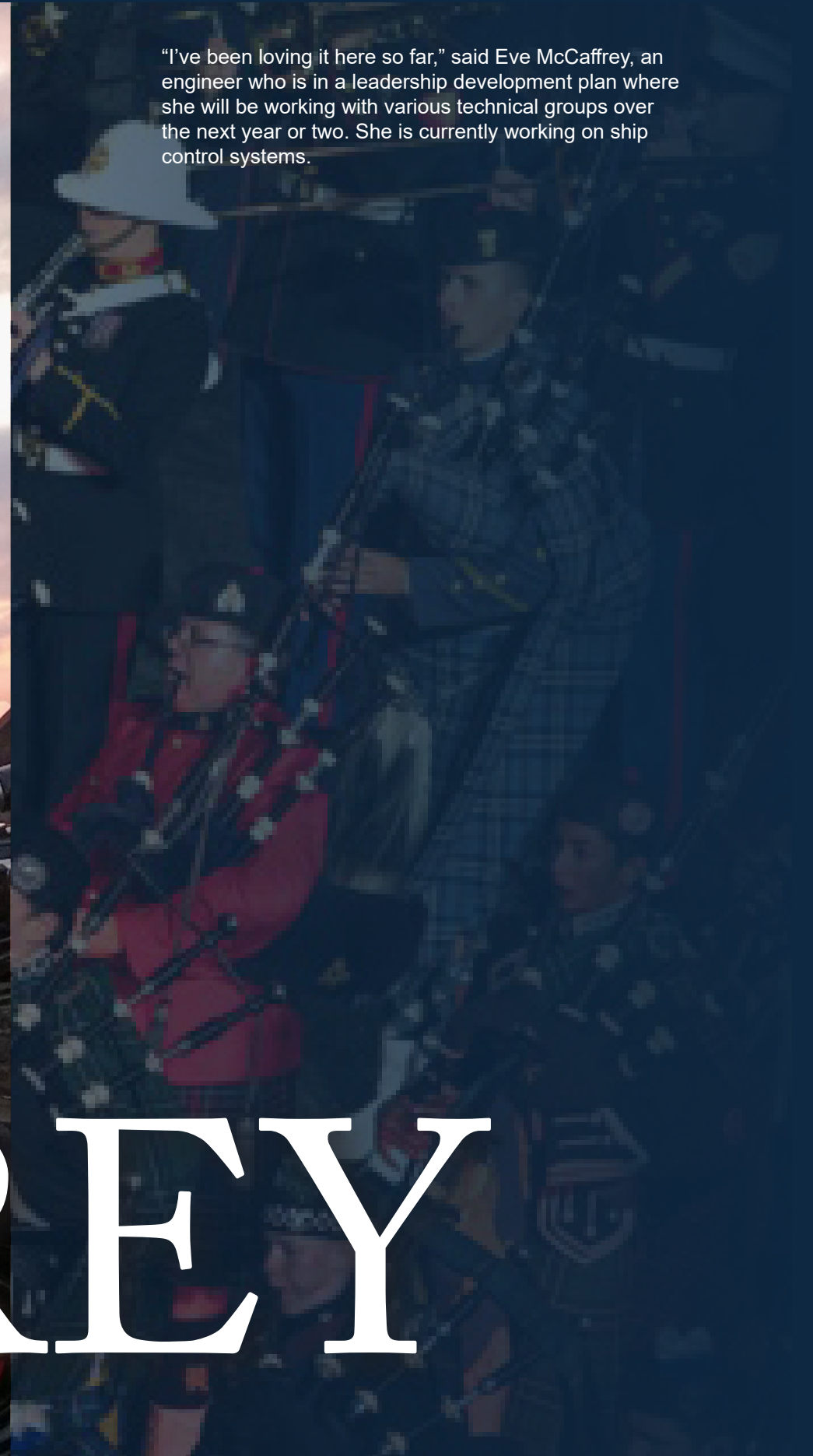
Elbert Roberson's career at Carderock reflects a rare blend of artistry and engineering. With more than 50 years of federal service, including 41 at Carderock and three decades in the model shop, Roberson witnessed and adapted to major shifts in ship model fabrication, from hand-built wooden forms to advanced manufacturing techniques. Trained in fine arts and interior design, he brought creativity, precision, and mentorship to every project, shaping both the models and the people around him. In his retirement, Roberson plans to devote more time to his sculpture work, continuing a lifelong commitment to craftsmanship that has left a lasting mark on Carderock's culture.

Elbert

ROBERSON



"I've been loving it here so far," said Eve McCaffrey, an engineer who is in a leadership development plan where she will be working with various technical groups over the next year or two. She is currently working on ship control systems.





Scan here
to watch
the video
interview!

Isaac Bertramsen, an Engineering technician in the Dynamic Measurements and Testing Branch and 10-year veteran of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, went from an aviation electronics technician in the U.S. Navy, to a collections representative for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and now works with placing sensors and other instrumentation on test articles before testing.

Isaac

BERTRAMSEN



Jessica Klotz, a 25-year veteran of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, who works as the Technical Area Leader for the Hazardous Materials and Pollution Prevention Team within the Acquisition Safety and Environment Branch, authored the NAVSEA Hazardous Material Avoidance Process technical manual, a foundational document that addressed a long-standing gap of no standardized process for avoiding hazardous materials in new acquisition programs. Recognized as a subject matter expert, she was selected to chair a DoW-wide working group tasked with developing the new industry standard.

Jessica

KLOTZ



Procurement specialist in the Signature Department Business Operations Group at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, John Rezendes, has not only been serving in the U.S. Navy since 2014, but is also a survivor of testicular cancer. He has been in remission since February 2023. He is grateful for his support system, the doctors at Walter Reed and urges early detection.

John
REZENDES



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive
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Theses

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Burger, Sean

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Sean Burger, an administrative and technical specialist at Carderock, marked a major professional milestone with the publication of his Naval Postgraduate School master's thesis examining opioid settlement funding. Completed alongside a Master of Science in Public Health Sciences, Burger's research focused on how states allocate resources for prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. With 12 years of federal service, Burger applies his analytical and organizational skills to financial, operational, and EEO support roles across the command. His academic work reflects Carderock's emphasis on continuous learning, service, and applying complex analysis to real-world challenges that support both mission readiness and community well-being.

Sean
BUURGER

Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders:

Inside Carderock's LEAD Program



The Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) Program at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, is an 18-month initiative designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders. The program provides a select group of experienced professionals with leadership training, mentorship, and a six-week rotational assignment to broaden their understanding of the organization. Participants, known as a cohort, engage in various activities, including a capstone project, to enhance their management skills and gain a wider perspective on the challenges faced by Carderock and the Navy. The five members of the FY25-26 LEAD Cohort are: Henry Mordica, Jason P. Kelly, Timothy Langaster, Dr. Michelle Otero, and Tristan Wright.

Carderock Leadership Visits STAFAC

Carderock's Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa and Chief of Staff, Stephanie Feulner, visited Andros Island, Bahamas in September 2025 to observe the South Tongue of the Ocean Acoustic Measurement Facility (STAFAC) lab located in the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Newport Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEK) Command and Control Building. The group was also provided with a "windshield tour" of the AUTEK facilities and capabilities, and met with the AUTEK OIC, CDR Jeremy Reed. From left: Stephanie Feulner, Paul Luehr, Jay Zeigler, Capt. Matassa, Mike Farrar, Todd Eklund, Todd Beahm. (Photo provided)



Carderock Recognizes Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Comrades with POW/MIA Table



On Jan. 13, 2025, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, officially placed a prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) table inside the Carderock Cafeteria. Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Christopher Matassa, was in attendance and explained the symbolism of the table and its items. The tradition, which began at the end of the Vietnam War, entails setting a separate table in honor of prisoners of war and missing comrades. The table setting and decorations consist of different items that each symbolize remembrance of the fallen. The table can contain anywhere from one to four place settings to represent each branch. (U.S. Navy photos by Brittny Odoms)



U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Hold Leadership Panel



U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen visit Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division on Jan. 14, 2025, and tour the Additive Manufacturing Lab, Maneuvering and Seakeeping Basin and the model shop, along with attending a panel session presented by four of their own, called "Leading from the Back: Cultivating Lifelong Leadership Skills." Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, was in attendance for the presentation and participated in a discussion with the group following the panel where he shared his experience throughout his naval career and gave the midshipmen the opportunity to ask questions. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)





MEET THE FLEET

Employees from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division gathered to take a trip down to Naval Station Norfolk to “Meet the Fleet” on Jan. 23, 2025. While interacting with Sailors, Carderock employees also got the chance to tour USNS Leroy Grumman (T-AO 195), Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two and USS Porter (DDG 78). (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Carderock Celebrates Engineers Week with “Design Your Future” Theme

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division commemorates Engineers Week in February 2025 with an enterprise-wide event, themed “Design Your Future.”

This year’s theme highlighted the pivotal role of engineering in advancing naval innovation and readiness and encouraged professionals to innovate and address global challenges with ingenuity.

“It’s both a call to action and a celebration,” said Dr. Paul Lara, Carderock’s Chief Engineer.

The event featured keynote addresses, an open house and a poster session, all highlighting engineering’s critical impact on advancing a resilient and mission-ready fleet, with Carderock continuing its commitment to fostering excellence and driving future breakthroughs. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Carderock Keeps Falling in Love with Books

Carderock employees enjoy an afternoon exploring books and making crafts at the "Fall in Love with A Book" event in the Raye Montague Center at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in West Bethesda, Md., Feb. 18, 2025. The event was an opportunity for Carderock employees to bond over a shared love of reading and come together for a relaxing crafting session. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)





A Legacy of Leadership:

Carderock Bids Farewell to Technical Director Lawrence Tarasek

Carderock recognizes its Technical Director, Lawrence Tarasek on Feb. 19, 2025, at a flag raising ceremony. Mr. Tarasek retired the following day after 40 years of service to the Navy. He began his career in February 1985 in the Signatures Department at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division and provided engineering design support for the Seawolf-class submarine program, encompassing the design and testing of numerous silencing components and their integration into a balanced ship design, later working on the early stages of the Virginia-class submarine design. In September 2018, he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as Technical Director at Carderock. In this role he oversaw research, development, testing, evaluation, analysis, systems engineering, design, integration, and certification of complex naval warfare systems for ships, combatant craft, and Marine Corps vehicles. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



Elissa Trueman Embraces ‘Creative Tension’ as Carderock CTO

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division’s Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Dr. Elissa Trueman, meets with external partners to discuss strategic initiatives to enhance collaboration and innovation.

Trueman, who previously served as the deputy and acting CTO for Naval Surface Warfare Center and Undersea Warfare Center (NSWC/NUWC) Headquarters, returned to Carderock as the new CTO with a broader perspective, an expanded network and enthusiasm for reconnecting with the community, aiming to improve communication and unify the vision for Carderock’s Technology Office. (U.S. Navy photo by Devin Pisner)



Exploring Naval Heritage: Descendants of Rear Adm. Taylor Tour Carderock



Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosts the Hillard family, descendants of Rear Adm. David W. Taylor, for a tour of the facility on March 25, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. Guided by Curator Jennifer Marland (below), the family explored artifacts from their great-grandfather’s collection. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Carderock Math Contest

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosted its 14th annual Carderock Math Contest on Friday, April 4, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. Over 180 students from the region participated in the contest, which involved individual and team written exams, as well as, a live, bracket-style "Countdown Round" featuring the day's top scorers. The students also attended a presentation from two-time USA Memory Champion Ron White, and toured Carderock's cutting-edge labs and facilities. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle and Lena Simmons)



DEADLIFT COMPETITION

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division hosted a Deadlift Competition on April 10, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. Colleagues and family members supported the participants as they attempted to conquer personal records, leading to total of 15,668 lbs. lifted across all attempts. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



Seahawks Visit Bayview

Members from the Seattle Seahawks team visited Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's Acoustic Research Detachment in Bayview, Idaho, on April 11, 2025, to say "thanks" for all they do.

The event, which was part of a military appreciation tour that included Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington, was a huge morale booster to the ARD employees, according to site director Seth Lambrecht.

Seahawks Safety Jerrick Reed II, Seahawks Dancers Geena and Lillian, and the Seahawks mascot Blitz, met employees, signed autographs, took photos and toured some of the facilities at ARD, even taking a look inside Large-Scale Vehicle 2, Cutthroat, as well as a ride on Lake Pend Oreille. (Photos provided by Seattle Seahawks photographer)



Congressional Staff Visit

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and Carderock's Deputy Technical Director Dave Drazen, lead a tour of the facilities for a group of congressional staffers led by the office of Rep. Ed Case (D-HI), in West Bethesda, Md., Aug. 14, 2025. The group received a command brief and toured facilities including the Model Shop, David Taylor Model Basin, the Additive Manufacturing Laboratory, and the Maneuvering and Seakeeping Basin. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



Carderock Welcomes French Delegation

The French Navy Fleet Support Services Central Directorate, led by Vice Adm. Guillaume de Garidel-Thoron, visited Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, the Navy's innovation and ship design powerhouse, on April 30, 2025. The visit included a command brief with Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and a tour with Carderock's Deputy Technical Director, Dave Drazen, of several of Carderock's cutting-edge research facilities that test and develop new naval technology. (U.S. Navy photos by Jonathan Thompson)



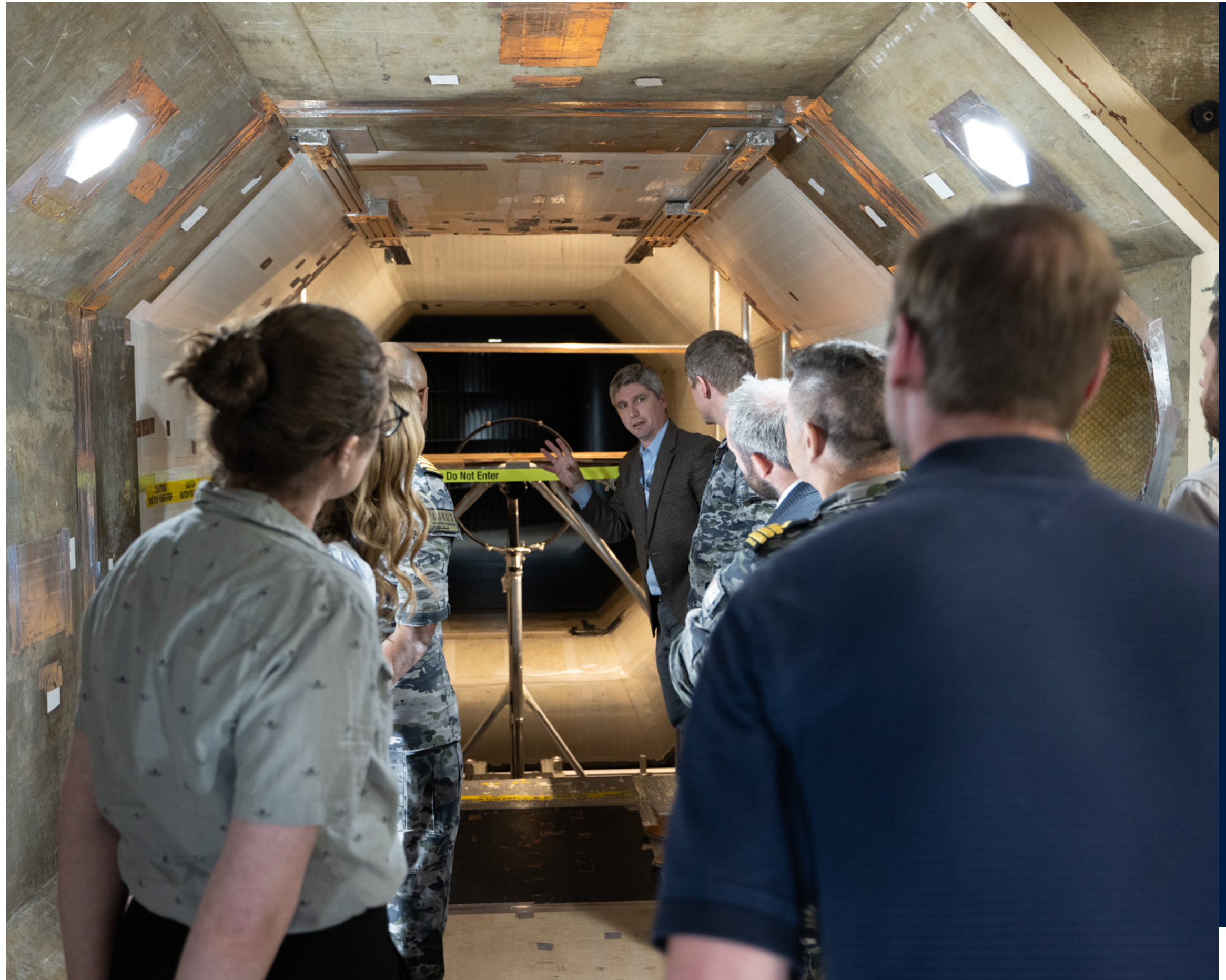
All Hands

Carderock hosts a Quarterly Command All Hands in West Bethesda at the Montague Center Auditorium on May 14, 2025. Carderock Commanding Officer, Capt. Christopher Matassa, and Acting Technical Director, Dr. Paul Shang, went over some of their priorities and recognized employees who have achieved 25 years or more in length of service. Topics discussed during the all hands included recent event and technical highlights around the command, the impact of the DRP to Carderock, upcoming CMWR events, a sit-down with Carderock's Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Elissa Trueman, and Information Technology Specialist, Devante Harden, as well as facilities project updates. Dr. Shang also provided additional technical highlights and a video of Global Autonomous Reconnaissance Craft (GARC) testing. The All Hands event concluded with an open floor to anyone with questions for the CO or TD. (U.S. Navy photos by Lena Simmons)



AUKUS Delegation Visit

Dr. Paul Lara and other subject matter experts from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division lead a tour of the facility in West Bethesda, Md., May 20, 2025, for nine visitors supporting the AUKUS partnership. This trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK, and the US, is driving increased collaboration in naval technology and submarine development, making visits like this crucial for fostering shared understanding and advancing cooperative research. Stephanie Ferrone, from the AUKUS Integration and Acquisition (I&A) Office, coordinated the visit, which focused on submarine support lifecycle and enterprise, signature management, and hydrodynamics. The group received a command brief and toured facilities including the Model Shop, Tow Basin, Magnetics Laboratory, Deep Submergence Pressure Tank, Explosive Test Pond, and Anechoic Flow Facility. (U.S. Navy photos by Jonathan Thompson)





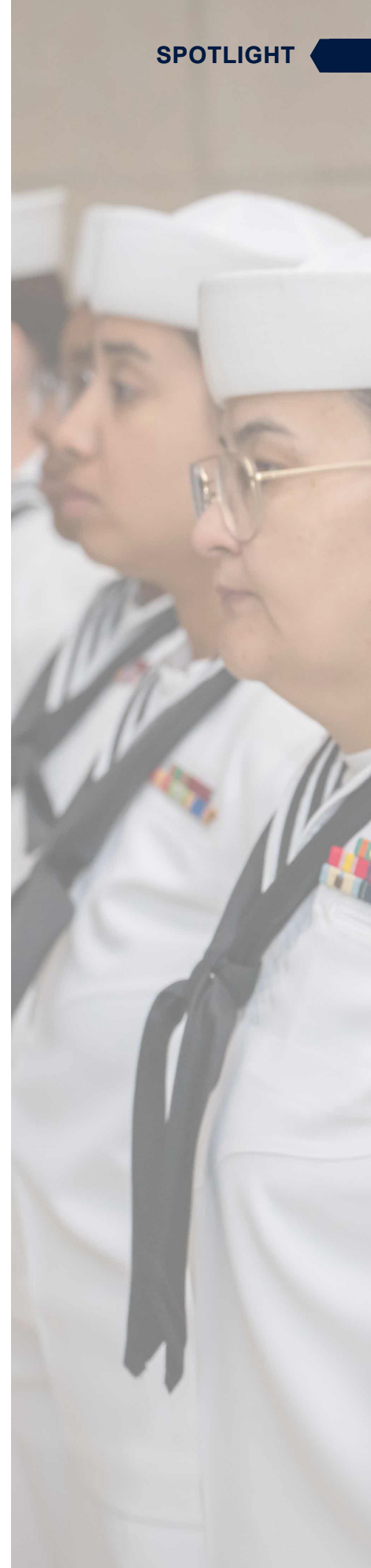
Wreath-Laying Ceremony

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division commemorated Memorial Day with a wreath-laying ceremony led by its Sailors in West Bethesda, Md., on May 22, 2025. In his remarks, Carderock's commanding officer, Capt. Christopher Matassa, pointed to Carderock's history:

"Within two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the model towing schedule had been converted over to two full shifts at the David Taylor Model Basin and a full shift at the older basin at the Washington Navy Yard..."

The projects undertaken here - from torpedoes to landing craft - directly supported the war effort and the brave individuals who operated them, some of whom paid the highest price...

...as we reflect on the sacrifices made, we are reminded of the profound responsibility we have to equip our Sailors and Marines with the best possible technology and support." (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



Carderock Leadership Participates in Wreath-laying Ceremony



Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division leadership and Sailors took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, June 2, 2025. The ceremony honors those who have served and sacrificed for their country, in a gesture of respect and gratitude. Carderock, the Navy's ship design and innovation powerhouse, provides the technical foundation for the future fleet through world-class research, development, and testing. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIALS



Carderock employees enjoy a sweet treat and a break from their workday at recurring summer ice cream socials in West Bethesda, Md. The events, hosted several times throughout the summer, are a popular way for employees to socialize, play games, and learn more about base resources. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



**More Than a Treat: Summer Socials
Build Community at Carderock**

Rear Adm. Small and the DDG(X) Design Team Visits for Test Demonstration

Rear Adm. Peter Small, commander, Naval Surface and Undersea Warfare Centers, and Capt. Chris Matassa, commanding officer, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, greeted the naval architects and engineers who design DDG(X), the U.S. Navy's next guided-missile destroyer, during a seakeeping and secondary loads model test on June 17, 2025, at Carderock's Maneuvering and Seakeeping Basin in West Bethesda, Md. From left: Christopher Rupp, Adrian Mackenna, Colton Clark, Samantha Lee, Matassa, Small, Bradley Campbell, Matthew Poloniak, Kariann Vander Pol, Issac Di Napoli, Rasik Patel. (U.S. Navy photos by Devin Pisner)



SUMMER INTERN PICNIC

Summer interns enjoyed a picnic and outdoor recreation on July 11, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. The event provided interns the opportunity to bond with their peers and mentors, experiencing the work-life balance Carderock offers to its employees. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



USNA Midshipmen Visit

Midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy tour the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in Bethesda, Md., Aug. 5, 2025, to hear from engineers at the David Taylor Model Basin (DTMB), Magnetic Laboratory, and Maneuvering & Seakeeping Basin (MASK) about the work Carderock does for the fleet and the impact of engineering duty officers (EDOs) as well as civilians in the Navy. (U.S. Navy photos by Aaron Thomas)



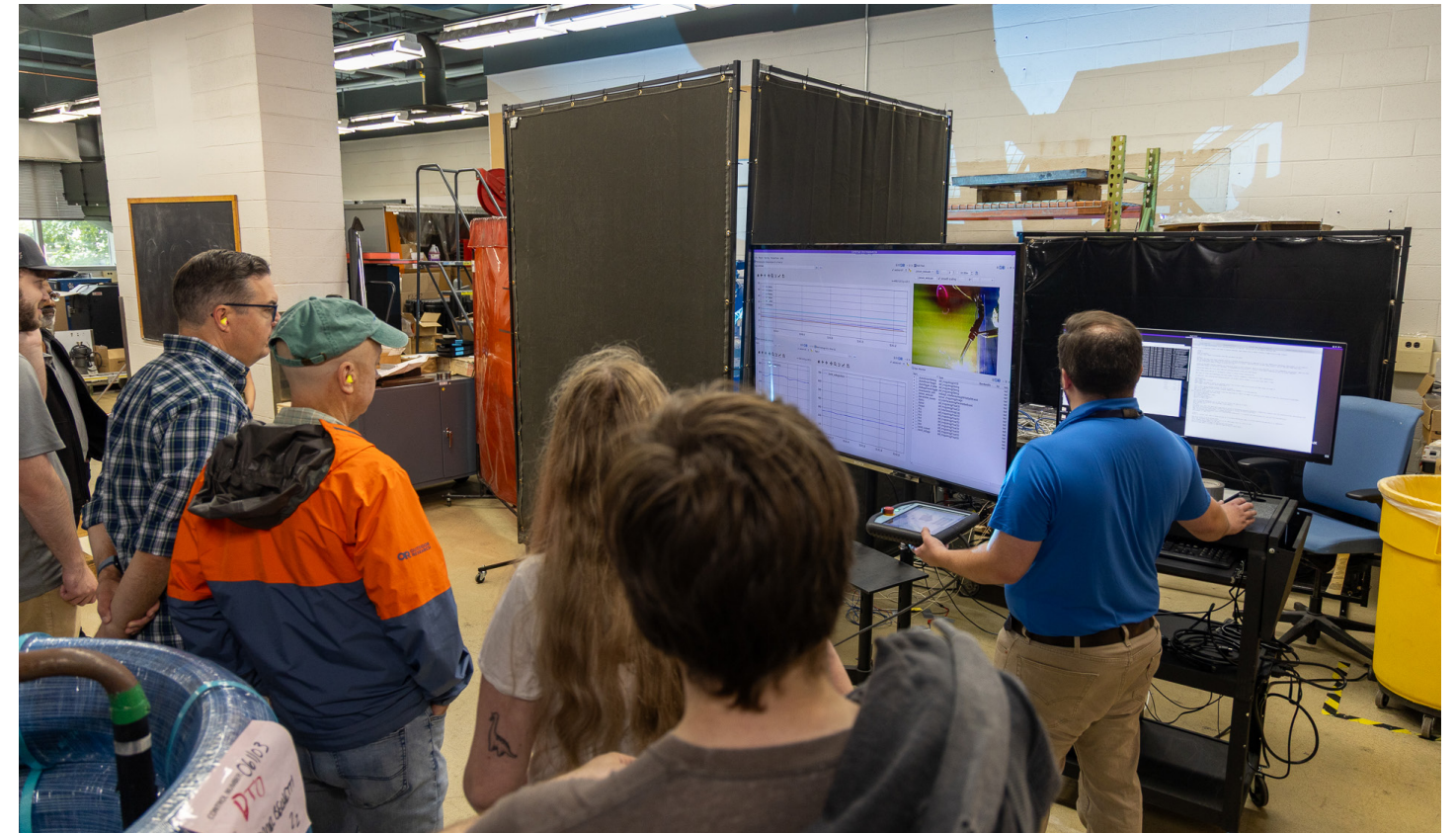
All Hands

Carderock Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Matassa and Acting Technical Director Dr. Paul Shang held a Quarterly Command All Hands on Aug. 7, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. The All Hands consisted of updates and command priorities from the CO and TD, a virtual sit down with Carderock's Combatant Craft Division Site Director, Ed Hulick, recognition of employees for length of service milestones, and a Q&A from the workforce on current directives and objectives moving forward. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



Bring a Friend or Family Member to Work Day

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosts "Bring a Friend or Family Member to Work Day" in West Bethesda, Md., on Aug. 21, 2025. Employees and their guests had the opportunity to learn more about Carderock through laboratory tours and open house activities with various departments, as well as riding a carriage in the David Taylor Model Basin. (U.S. Navy photos by Aaron Thomas)





Sen. Blackburn Staff Visits Memphis Detachment

Staff members from Sen. Marsha Blackburn's office visit Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division's Memphis Detachment on Aug. 8, 2025.

They, along with partners from University of Memphis, met with Carderock personnel to discuss the status of collaborative science and technology (S&T) projects (U.S. Navy photo, provided)



NSWC Carderock Division 2025 Army-Navy Game Spirit Spot

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division
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Army-Navy Game Spirit Spot Shoutout

Carderock empowers warfighters to succeed in their missions, while delivering world-class, cost-effective, and groundbreaking technical solutions for advanced ships and systems to strengthen the U.S. maritime industrial base and ensure long-term maritime superiority. This spirit spot is in support of the Army-Navy Game held on Dec. 13, 2025, at the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Md. Go Navy! Beat Army! (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle)



Scan here to watch the video!



BENCH PRESS COMPETITION

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosted a Bench Press Competition on Aug. 21, 2025. Coworkers and family members cheered on the 24 participants attempting to conquer personal records on three attempts, with Damiso Alexander lifting 355 lbs. on the men's side and Katherine Bolek lifting 170 lbs. on the women's side. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers)



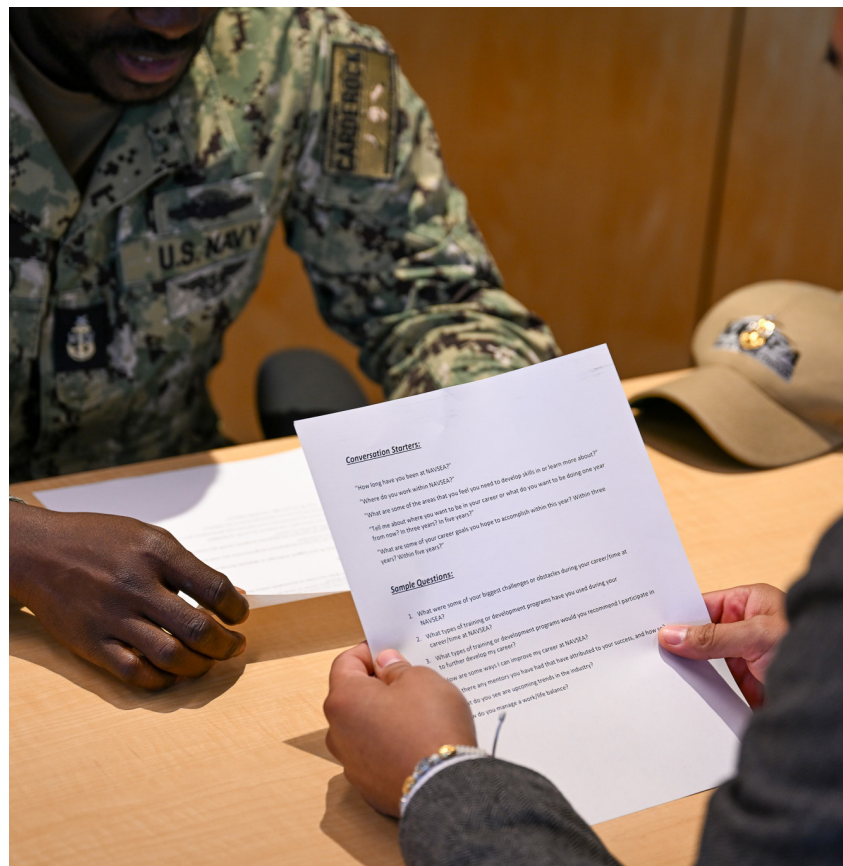


CMWR Fiscal Year Finale

The Civilian Morale, Welfare, and Wellness (CMWR) team held a Fiscal Year Finale event on Sept. 24, 2025. The event brought out four food trucks for employees to choose from for lunch (Fowler's Rollin's Rotisserie, Smoke Datt Barbecue, Kona Ice, and Travelin' Tom's Coffee) and provided water, light snacks and desserts, outdoor games, and music. (U.S Navy photos by Corum Byers)

Speed Mentoring Event

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division hosted a speed mentoring event Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, to connect employees with mentors and strengthen professional networks across the command. (U.S. Navy photos by Lena Simmons)





Navy 250 Birthday

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division celebrated the U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday with a cake cutting ceremony and a plank challenge on Oct. 9, 2025. Employees were encouraged to participate in a two minute and 50 second plank challenge to celebrate the 250 years. (U.S. Navy photos by Aaron Thomas)



Curator of Models Shop

Since 1883, the Navy's Curator of Models program has arranged for the display of models generated through the ship building program. While the program is located at Carderock, the collection of over 3,800 models – ranging from very small to bigger than cars – is on display in federal spaces and museums across the United States. Our staff, composed of a curator and two ship model conservators, is highly skilled in ship model research, conservation, and construction. Along with inspiring the public at large, models are still referenced by naval architects as they examine warships of the past to design the fleet of the future. (U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Behrle)



Murph Challenge

Carderock's Sailor-led "Murph Challenge" event was held on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, in tribute to fallen Navy SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy and timed to commemorate Veterans Day, which is observed annually on Nov. 11 to honor military veterans.

Command leadership, including commanding officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, Chief of Staff, Stephanie Feulner, and Deputy Technical Director, Dave Drazen participated, along with exercise enthusiasts from around the command. The Murph Challenge, designed to test physical and mental toughness, was chosen because it was one of Lt. Murphy's favorite workouts and is completed by thousands of people every year in his honor.

The official challenge consists of a circuit of: 1 mile run, 100 pull ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and another 1 mile run, all while wearing a weighted vest. Lt. Michael Murphy was a Navy SEAL who gave his life in service of his country in Afghanistan in 2005. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



1 MILE RUN
100 PULL-UPS
200 PUSH-UPS
300 SQUATS
1 MILE RUN

Turkey Trot Fun Run

Carderock employees participate in a Turkey Trot (Walk 1.4m or Run 5.2m) on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)



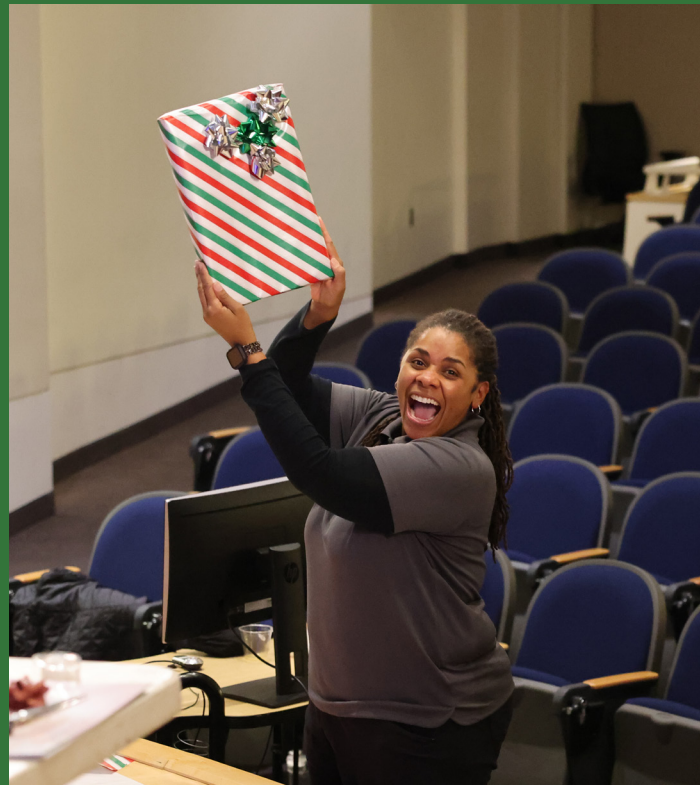
All Hands

During an All Hands event in West Bethesda, Md., on Dec. 10, 2025, Carderock's Commanding Officer, Capt. Chris Matassa, and Acting Technical Director, Kate Terwilliger, reviewed command accomplishments and engaged with the workforce in a Q&A session and had a sit down with Carderock's Platform Integrity Department Head, Jeff Mercier. The event recognized employees for their length of service, with several individuals receiving awards for 35 and 40 years of federal service. The All Hands provided an opportunity for leadership to discuss current directives and objectives with the Carderock workforce. (U.S. Navy photos by Neubar Kamalian)





Holiday Party Event List		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
1400-1600	Holiday movie	Auditorium
1400-1600	Games and crafts	USS Taylor
BINGO		
Session 1: 1415-1435	Postage stamp and regular bingo	USS San Francisco
Session 2: 1500-1530	Kite and regular bingo	USS San Francisco
Session 3: 1530-1600	Letter X and regular bingo	USS San Francisco
WRAPPING COMPETITION		
Session 1: 1400-1445	Trivia	USS Maine
Session 2: 1530-1615	Trivia	USS Maine
RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENTS		
1445	Raffle prize (must be present to win)	Main hallway
1600	Raffle prize (must be present to win)	Main hallway



Holiday Party

Carderock hosts its annual Holiday Party for the workforce in West Bethesda, Md., on Dec. 10, 2025. The event is a chance for employees to close out the year and celebrate the holiday season with colleagues. Along with food and beverages, there were several activities employees could participate in, including: games, crafts, trivia, raffle drawings and a present wrapping competition. (U.S. Navy photos by Kristin Behrle)



DASN (Energy), Chris Grisafe, Visits Carderock

Mr. Chris Grisafe, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy (DASN Energy), visited Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Dec. 12, 2025, to discuss the operational impact of advanced battery systems with senior leaders. The delegation, which included Mr. Peter Lynch, Deputy Assistance Secretary of the Navy for Safety (DASN (Safety)), Cmdr. Ryan M. White, of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) N4I, and other senior energy and technical leaders, reviewed Carderock's essential role in testing and certifying advanced battery technologies. Discussions focused on ensuring warfighters are deployed with the safest and most reliable power systems possible. The group toured Carderock's critical battery testing and fire safety facilities to assess the operational impact of current and future systems, underscoring the command's vital contribution to supplying resilient energy to the fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Travis Troller)



4TH RELATIVE STRENGTH CHALLENGE

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division personnel participate in the 4th relative strength challenge, conducted in the B1 fitness center on Dec. 18, 2025, in West Bethesda, Md. The relative strength challenge is an event that promotes health and wellness in the workplace. (U.S. Navy photos by Corum Byers and Travis Troller)



U.S. Rep. Sarah Elfreth Visits Carderock

Rep. Sarah Elfreth, D-Md., visited Carderock with Capt. Chris Matassa, commanding officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, Dec. 19, 2025. Elfreth shared a few words with the workforce, expressing her appreciation and gratitude for their service. Following her remarks, she received an overview of the command's capabilities and toured several technical laboratories and facilities. (U.S. Navy photos by Travis Troller)





Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division

9500 MacArthur Blvd.

West Bethesda, MD 20817-5700