EXWC

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DOMINATING THE BRUTAL ARCTIC

ANTICIPATE - INNOVATE - ACCELERATE

NAVFAC EXWC

ISSUE #0012

In this issue

Cover Photo: Divers from NAVFAC EXWC take part in Operation ICE CAMP 2026, in the Beaufort Sea, Arctic Circle, March 15, 2026.

Above Photo: The northern lights appear over Ice Camp Boarfish during Operation ICE CAMP 2026, March 14, 2026.

U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bryan Mai

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ACCELERATE INNOVATION TO ENABLE FLEET LETHALITY AT SEA AND ASHORE

LEADERSHIP

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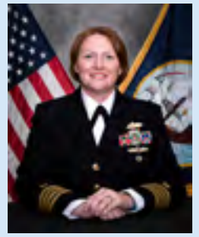

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Master Chief Scott Weisenburg
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

A MESSAGE FROM

Capt. Adam Perrins, CEC

Expeditionary Technical Department Head

Team,

On behalf of the Expeditionary Department, welcome!

In today's rapidly evolving global security landscape, our team supports the bedrock of maritime dominance, committed to equipping, sustaining, and empowering our sailors and Marines.

We are dedicated to providing the naval forces with an undeniable advantage through innovation and rapid technical solutions, ensuring they are the best-equipped and most-ready force in the world!

In this edition, we are exceptionally proud to present a feature article that goes to the heart of our naval superiority: "Sharpening the Spear: NAVFAC EXWC Expeditionary Department Delivers the Decisive Edge."

In an era of dynamic global competition, the readiness of the Department of Navy's Expeditionary Forces is not just a priority — it is the absolute bedrock of our maritime dominance.

This article shines a well-deserved spotlight on the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center's (NAVFAC EXWC) Expeditionary (EX) Department—the very engine that drives that readiness. You will read about the singular and clear mission of the nearly 400 personnel who work tirelessly to equip, sustain, and empower the warfighter.

Furthermore, the article explores the strategic realignment that has unleashed the team to focus intensely on what they do best: innovating and accelerating technical solutions for the fleet and warfighter.

You will get a firsthand look at this agility in action, from rapid deployments, game-changing prototypes, to revolutionizing forward logistics.

The story of the Expeditionary Department is a testament to what we can achieve through focused effort, smart collaboration, and a profound commitment to the men and women on the front lines. We invite you to turn the page and delve into this inspiring look at how we provide our naval forces with an undeniable advantage, today and tomorrow.

Read on for the tremendous focus and monumental impact of NAVFAC EXWC through the Expeditionary, Oceans, and Shore Technical Departments in enabling and enhancing warfighter readiness and lethality.

One Team, One Fight!

Very Respectfully,

Capt. Adam Perrins

Capt. Adam Perrins, CEC, USN
Expeditionary Technical Department Head
NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center

Joseph Messenger, NAVFAC EXWC Software Support Activity work center supervisor, briefs military and civilian experts during an autonomous Improved Navy Lighterage System walkthrough Jan. 30, 2026. Responsible for developing the capability, he hosted a walkthrough of the transition from automation to autonomy for military and civilian experts preparing to brief a platform review board. (Marine Corps photo by Dustin Senger)

Blount Island Supports Autonomous INLS Testing to Advance Expeditionary Logistics

By Dustin Senger
Marine Corps Blount Island Command

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Blount Island Command supported joint autonomous testing of the Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) in January, allowing the Navy and Marine Corps to evaluate emerging ship-to-shore logistics capabilities designed for contested and degraded environments.

The testing took place at Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island in Florida, where INLS is sustained and postured for operational use, enabling evaluations using existing infrastructure and expertise already supporting the warfighter.

"This testing shows how we can apply autonomy to an existing platform and expand its usefulness without redesigning the entire system," said Joseph Messenger, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) Software Support Activity work center supervisor.

"Autonomous littoral operations allow us to take Sailors and Marines out of harm's way while still moving equipment ashore," Messenger said. Responsible for developing the capability, he hosted a walkthrough Jan. 30 for military and civilian experts preparing to brief a platform review board.

Transitioning from automation to autonomy requires fusing sensor data into real-time navigation decisions without direct human control, allowing vessels to operate within defined parameters, avoid collisions and maintain cybersecurity in uncertain environments.

The autonomous capability development was funded by U.S. Transportation Command, while the dynamic positioning system that supports automated vessel control was funded by NAVFAC EXWC.

By testing at Blount Island, the Navy maximized its use of existing resources, infrastructure and technical expertise.

The effort included military personnel from Amphibious Construction Battalion One, enabling INLS operations, and Assault Craft Unit Two, which supplied utility boat operators.

Blount Island Command provided the watercraft required for the testing and access to open water along the facility's 1,000-foot slipway. Conducting the evaluations at the system's sustainment location allowed testing to proceed efficiently, using established operating areas without expanding the facility's environmental footprint along the St. Johns River.

Messenger coordinated multiple Navy engineering organizations to design, integrate and commission autonomy on an INLS causeway ferry, advancing the capability's readiness through pier-side and at-sea testing. He also developed a conceptual design to transition the system to a containerized, externally connected architecture, allowing greater flexibility for deployment across selected craft.

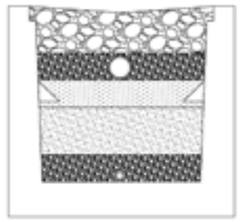
> **"THIS TESTING SHOWS HOW WE CAN APPLY AUTONOMY TO AN EXISTING PLATFORM AND EXPAND ITS USEFULNESS WITHOUT REDESIGNING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM"**
>
> - Joseph Messenger, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) Software Support Activity work center supervisor

Originally fielded in the early 2000s, INLS is sustained by NAVFAC EXWC and remains a versatile logistics platform applicable beyond traditional amphibious missions. Recent research, development, test and evaluation efforts have focused on extending its utility through modular upgrades, autonomy and interoperability with evolving expeditionary concepts.

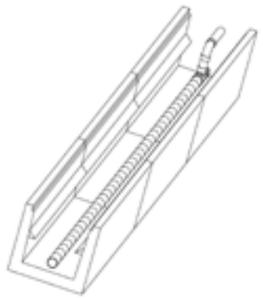
The testing ensures Navy prepositioning equipment is actively managed across its lifecycle, keeping forward-positioned capabilities ready through deliberate testing that extends operational value and bridges current capability to future requirements.

The Blount Island evaluation showcased how Navy–Marine Corps integration, disciplined stewardship and a skilled workforce can mature emerging capabilities responsibly, accelerating watercraft innovation while preserving mission-essential infrastructure.

Joseph Messenger, NAVFAC EXWC Software Support Activity work center supervisor, briefs military and civilian experts during an autonomous Improved Navy Lighterage System walkthrough Jan. 30, 2026. (Marine Corps photo by Dustin Senger)



Front cross-sectional drawing of the LIPPS showing the internal layers within the precast concrete trench. From bottom to top, the layers are aggregate ballast stone, treatment media 1, treatment media 2, aggregate ballast stone, and the porous concrete panel. The circular components are the main outlet and weep hole from the underdrain conveyance system, and the triangle components are the flow deflectors, which force water back toward the center of the treatment media and away from the sides of the trench, improving treatment efficiency.



Overhead perspective drawing of the LIPPS with porous concrete panels and internal layers removed to highlight its internal structure. This drawing shows the precast concrete trench, slotted underdrain conveyance system, and flow deflectors affixed to the inner side walls of the trench.

Front perspective drawing of the LIPPS showing the precast concrete trench and slotted underdrain conveyance system set at the bottom of the trench. Water enters into the underdrain conveyance system through the slots in the pipe and exits through the outlet points into an existing catch basin.

NAVFAC EXWC's Patented LIPPS Technology Removes Pollutants from Stormwater Runoff

By: Denis Acosta, Engineering Technician, and Cortland Navarette, Environmental Engineer

End of the underdrain conveyance system connected to the existing catch basin. The portion extending vertically into the elbow and out into the catch basin is the control weir, which increases the contact time of the unfiltered water with the filtration media inside of the LIPPS by creating a longer flow path, which improves treatment efficiency. The bottom portion of the underdrain conveyance system that extends straight horizontally from the tee connects to a weep hole that drains into the existing catch basin, so that stagnant water does not sit inside the underdrain conveyance system.

Geotextile fabric being laid down on top of the activated alumina filtration media. The geotextile fabric separates the filtration media from the aggregate ballast stone that was placed on top to support the porous concrete panels.

Porous concrete panels being placed on top of the aggregate ballast stone to complete the LIPPS installation. The porous concrete panels create a strong surface to withstand the shipyard environment and allow for stormwater to filter through the media before entering the existing catch basin, which drains to the Puget Sound.

Underdrain conveyance system fitted into the bottom of the precast concrete trench. The pipe is slotted so that filtered water can enter it and drain to the existing catch basin.

NAVFAC EXWC engineers are tackling a persistent environmental challenge: how to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff in constrained industrial areas. Their answer is the Low-profile Integrated Porous Pretreatment Swale (LIPPS), an innovative, space-saving technology that has been patented by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The patent marks a milestone in the protection and recognition of this innovative technology, securing the unique structural and functional design of the LIPPS, particularly its ability to integrate into constrained industrial areas while treating stormwater runoff to remove heavy metals such as copper and zinc.

In addition, a continuation-in-part application has been submitted to cover recent advancements and design improvements aimed at enhancing system performance, broadening applicability to new contaminants of concern, and supporting easier scalability.

THE FILTRATION EFFICIENCY HAS BEEN HIGH, WITH THE LIPPS REMOVING OVER 90% OF COPPER AND ZINC FROM STORMWATER RUNOFF, DETERMINED THROUGH GRAB SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS.

The LIPPS is a structural best management practice that comprises a high-strength porous concrete panel atop a below-grade trench filled with filtration media. This trench connects directly to existing stormwater infrastructure, allowing it to be installed in active industrial areas without consuming valuable work space like other technologies.

Its porous top allows for water to pass through to filtration media below, much like a stormwater bioswale. It removes debris and initial total particulates at the surface before the runoff enters the media bed. This porous concrete top can withstand industrial operations and does not use up valuable industrial space or impact ongoing operations like a bioswale would.

The LIPPS was installed last year at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF) in Bremerton, Washington, as part of the Navy Environmental Sustainability Development to Integration (NESDI) Demonstration Project 583 to address copper and zinc compliance violations.

The demonstration site is an outdoor storage yard for galvanized metal located near a catch basin that drains to the Puget Sound.

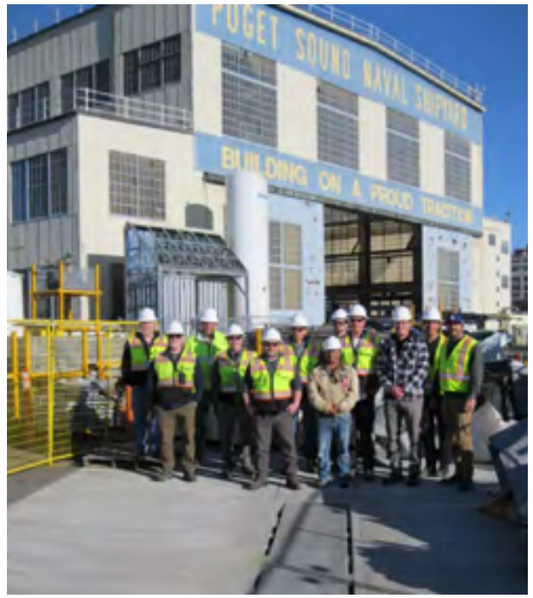
During rain events, copper and zinc leach from the stored metal into the stormwater runoff that drains to the catch basin. By placing the LIPPS in front of the catch basin within the flow path of the runoff, most of the metal is filtered out to within permit limitations before entering the catch basin.

This project started in 2020, and primary work began in 2023.

Before the final installation at the PSNS, various prototype versions of the LIPPS were constructed to test filtration capability, flow capacity, and weight limitations. Once testing was complete and the design was finalized, the LIPPS was installed with the help of the PSNS Public Works Department over two days in April.

The LIPPS was continually monitored for the remainder of the project for filtration efficiency, durability, and short-term maintenance requirements. The filtration efficiency has been high, with the LIPPS removing over 90% of copper and zinc from stormwater runoff, determined through grab sampling and analysis.

The filtration results of nine storm events were documented in the final report, and a preventive maintenance schedule will be finalized with PSNS Public Works for annual upkeep. NAVFAC EXWC is pursuing certification to facilitate LIPPS deployment to other naval installations facing similar stormwater challenges. In addition, NAVFAC EXWC plans to continue working with industry partners to see how LIPPS can be broadened to address emerging chemicals of concern.



Installation team consisting of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) Public Works, PSNS NAVSEA Environmental, and NAVFAC EXWC personnel stand behind the completed LIPPS.

NESDI Fact Sheet: Low-profile Integrated Porous Pretreatment Swale (LIPPS) for Metals Treatment in Industrial Areas:
https://exwc.navfac.navy.mil/Portals/88/Documents/EXWC/Environmental_Security/NESDI/NESDIFactSheet-583.pdf

NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian with NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen.

NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian meets with NAVFAC EXWC personnel for discussions on the unique capabilities of NAVFAC's only warfare center, at NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters.

NAVFAC Leaders Highlight NAVFAC EXWC's Role in Fleet Readiness, Lethality

NAVFAC EXWC hosted NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian and NAVFAC Atlantic Commander Rear Adm. Jorge Cuadros in January to review the command's specialized technical capabilities.

As NAVFAC's only warfare center, NAVFAC EXWC delivers unique and agile solutions that directly enhance the readiness and lethality of warfighters. The admirals received detailed overviews of the work across the command's core domains – Expeditionary, Oceans, and Shore – and how these efforts translate into tangible results.

The visits underscored NAVFAC EXWC's position at the forefront of innovation, driven by forward-thinking engineers, scientists, and professionals who solve the complex, evolving challenges facing the Fleet.

Both admirals praised the extraordinary expertise of the workforce, emphasizing that the command's innovative problem-solving and technical ingenuity is essential for maintaining the Fleet's competitive edge and directly supporting the warfighter.

NAVFAC Atlantic Commander Rear Adm. Jorge Cuadros attends talks at NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters about the advanced technical capabilities of the warfare center.

NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen greets Rear Adm. Jorge Cuadros at NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters.

DLA Distribution Sigonella Unveils New Solar Array, Battery Storage System

NAVFAC EXWC, NPS Microgrid Teams Part of this Years-Long Project for Energy Resilience

The Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Sigonella, Italy, unveils its new solar array and Battery Energy Storage System with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, January 15. The microgrid teams with NAVFAC EXWC and the Naval Postgraduate School were part of this years-long project.

By Thomas Zimmerman
DLA Distribution Public Affairs

In a significant step toward energy independence and operational resilience, Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Sigonella, Italy, unveiled its new solar array and Battery Energy Storage System with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, January 15.

The microgrid teams with NAVFAC EXWC and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) were part of this years-long project.

"This new solar photovoltaic array and Battery Energy Storage System provide a self-sustaining microgrid – a milestone in the Department of War's efforts to strengthen energy security at critical installations," Bill Anderson, PhD, NAVFAC EXWC Microgrid and Energy Resilience Senior Subject Matter Expert, said.

"Congratulations to the NAVFAC EXWC and NPS microgrid teams for this phenomenal success. This innovative energy solution provides a critical, sustainable, and secure advantage for our warfighters," he added.

This cutting-edge microgrid is the first of its kind in DLA and Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central.

The project, which had a combined cost of less than $2 million for two systems, builds upon a cost-saving initiative that began around 2016 with the installation of solar photovoltaic systems on several buildings at Naval Air Station Sigonella. Those initial systems proved highly effective, saving over $100,000 annually and paying for themselves by 2022. However, to enhance mission resilience during power outages, the new project integrates a BESS and microgrid controls.

The newly inaugurated system features sodium nickel chloride batteries that store excess solar energy to provide power during nighttime and cloudy conditions. Each of the two BESS installations can provide up to 400 kilowatt-hours of energy. During a utility outage, the microgrid seamlessly transitions to "island mode," ensuring an uninterrupted power supply by combining stored battery energy, solar generation, and generator support. The system is designed to sustain continuous operations for up to 14 days on a single tank of fuel.

The long-term benefits for DLA Distribution Sigonella, Italy, are substantial. Beyond the crucial advantage of enhanced operational resilience in an area prone to power outages, the system will significantly reduce fuel consumption and logistical demands associated with generator use. This translates to a safer and more focused work environment for the diverse workforce of U.S. military personnel, Italian national employees, and civilians.

The project was a collaborative effort between DLA Installation Management and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Sigonella.

"This system will allow for DLA Distribution Sigonella to support the warfighter by providing seamless coverage using its own generated power separate from the power grid," Navy Cmdr. Renae Renken, commander, DLA Distribution Sigonella, Italy, said. "We now are a more agile and flexible workforce using this new energy conscious technology that provides greater energy independence in a constantly evolving combat environment."

NAVFAC EXWC and UCT 1 Join Forces for Mission Support at NSA Souda Bay

NAVFAC EXWC and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 joined forces for a mission at the Marathi NATO Pier Complex at Souda Bay, on the island of Crete, Greece.

The mission focused on inspections and maintenance on the port security barrier system and testing new methods for underwater concrete repairs.

NAVFAC EXWC Technical Warrant Holder for Passive Waterfront Barrier Systems Gerritt Lang and NAVFAC EXWC Ocean Engineer and Diving Officer Paulstephen Chierico worked with divers from UCT 1, Construction Dive Detachment Bravo (CDD/B), to gather data, inspect, and verify components underwater.

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay's port facility is an active host nation military base under the operation of the Hellenic Navy.

The NATO Marathi Pier Complex is one of the largest natural ports in the Mediterranean and provides berthing, refueling, ammunition handling, general supply handling, and minor maintenance and ship repair to NATO and U.S. 6th Fleet ships during normal and contingency operations.

It is the deepest port in the Mediterranean used by the U.S. Navy and can handle everything from aircraft carriers to submarines.

NAVFAC EXWC Ocean Engineer and Diving Officer Paulstephen Chierico conducts dive operations in support of an Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 mission, in the Sea of Crete, Dec. 2, 2025.

Photos, from top: NAVFAC EXWC Ocean Engineer and Diving Officer Paulstephen Chierico records data points to identify system changes during a dive in the Sea of Crete; Chierico and Nick Valenti, a Seabee diver attached to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, clean a riser chain to visually inspect and take measurements during a dive at the NATO Marathi Pier Complex in Souda Bay; and Chierico cleans a riser chain to visually inspect and take measurements during a dive in the Sea of Crete, Dec. 18, 2025.

Michalla Geer, AMICS project lead at NAVFAC EXWC, speaks with Technical Director Kail Macias at the Advanced Manufacturing Intermodal Containerized System (AMICS) at NAVFAC EXWC, Dec. 9, 2025. AMICS, the "factory in a can," is designed to bring critical fabrication capabilities directly to expeditionary forces to significantly enhance warfighter self-sufficiency and operational readiness.

Sharpening the Spear: NAVFAC EXWC Expeditionary Department Delivers the Decisive Edge

By Capt. Adam Perrins, CEC, USN
Expeditionary Technical Department Head

In an era of dynamic global competition, the readiness of our Navy's Expeditionary Forces is not just a priority; it is the bedrock of our maritime dominance. Here at the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC), the Expeditionary (EX) Department is the engine driving that readiness.

With a dedicated force of nearly 400 personnel across the country, our mission is singular and clear: to equip, sustain, and empower the warfighter. We ensure that when the call comes, our sailors and Marines are armed with the most capable and reliable equipment, ready to project power anywhere on the globe.

This past year has been one of tremendous focus and impact. In 2025, we delivered an incredible $141 million in mission-critical equipment directly into the hands of our expeditionary forces. Our maintenance teams performed over 14,000 essential tasks and validated more than 16,500 equipment configurations, guaranteeing that the gear in the field is ready for the fight. This monumental effort was sharpened by a strategic realignment, where our programmatic duties were transitioned to newly formed Project Management Offices (PMOs) under Program Executive Office (PEO) Infrastructure and Expeditionary. This change has been a force multiplier, unleashing our team to focus intensely on what we do best: innovating and accelerating technical solutions for the fleet.

This renewed focus on innovation is already yielding powerful results. When our warfighters in Sasebo had an urgent construction need, our team was on the ground in weeks, not months, demonstrating true expeditionary agility. We are also testing the future of forward logistics with the Advanced Manufacturing Intermodal Containerized System (AMICS), a "factory in a can" that promises to bring critical fabrication capabilities directly to the tactical edge.

Nowhere is this spirit of innovation more apparent than in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) theater, where we are forging the future of engineering with our Rapid Integrated Planning and Engineering (RIPE) prototype. RIPE is our answer to the challenge of complex site data, empowering our Naval Construction Force to transform vast datasets from Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), sonar, and photogrammetry into unified, actionable 3D models. Based on the principle of "capture once and reuse," this digital workflow drastically reduces the time our personnel need to be on-site and accelerates critical missions. By enhancing our collaboration with key partners like U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC), we are proving on projects from Peleliu to Yap that RIPE is the key to solidifying our posture in the region.

Our commitment to the warfighter extends across the globe and throughout the entire equipment lifecycle, a mission championed by our Expeditionary Maintenance Division, EX9. Their forward-thinking initiatives are a masterclass in ensuring long-term readiness. In Rota, Spain, they addressed a critical shortage of maintenance personnel by implementing an $8 million contract that ensures our forward-deployed equipment remains mission-ready. In a shining example of smart inter-service collaboration, they partnered with the U.S. Army on a $51 million Caterpillar Service Life Extension Program, an ingenious move that extends the life of the Navy's heavy construction equipment while saving taxpayer dollars. And looking ahead, they have proactively secured a new $17 million "Equipment Support Services-Guam" contract, guaranteeing uninterrupted support for multiple Navy commands in a vital region well beyond 2026.

The men and women of the Expeditionary Department are profoundly proud to serve as a cornerstone of expeditionary power. From the design table to the deployed environment, we are committed to providing the naval forces with an undeniable advantage. We will continue to innovate, to accelerate, and to deliver the engineering, logistics, and maintenance support that ensures our warfighters are the best-equipped and most-ready force in the world. We are your partners in the mission, today and tomorrow.

Engineers Dylan Lomas (center) and Kevin Vargas (right) take part in an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) mission in Palau, where they completed engineering reconnaissance and aerial mapping in a fraction of the time compared to using manned systems. The Palau mission in May 2025 supported the Rapid Integration of Planning and Engineering (RIPE) initiative under the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Pacific Deterrence Initiative.

400 NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN OUR DEDICATED FORCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

$141M AMOUNT IN MISSION-CRITICAL EQUIPMENT DELIVERED

14K NUMBER OF ESSENTIAL TASKS PERFORMED BY MAINTENANCE TEAMS

16.5K NUMBER OF EQUIPMENT CONFIGURATIONS VALIDATED

Engineer Zachary Carnes sets up a lathe, a versatile machine tool, for testing as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Intermodal Containerized System (AMICS) being evaluated and tested at NAVFAC EXWC, Feb. 4, 2026. The end goal of the system is to support the warfighter in expeditionary areas and close the gap of logistics lead times for parts in contested areas.

Machinist Arnulfo Valle performs tire replacement and hub maintenance on an Oshkosh Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR), at the Expeditionary Maintenance Center at Port Hueneme, Calif., July 30, 2025. The mechanical experts at NAVFAC EXWC's EMCs in Port Hueneme and Gulfport, Mississippi, conduct intermediate and depot-level maintenance on Construction Engineering Support Equipment, Naval Support Element assets, other tactical and ground vehicles, trailers, cranes, and Lighter Amphibious Resupply – Cargo (LARC) systems for customers worldwide.

NAVFAC EXWC
Environmental Engineer Dr. Iery Selected to Lead Environmental Research Programs

Ramona Iery, Ph.D., PE, of the Environmental Restoration Division, has been selected as the Program Manager for Environmental Restoration for two major initiatives — the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP).

These programs, managed on behalf of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War (Energy, Installations, and Environment), advance cutting-edge environmental research from initial concept through implementation.

"I am honored to have been selected for these prestigious programs. I look forward to continuing the great work done by SERDP and ESTCP to fund research that benefits the warfighter," Dr. Iery said.

SERDP and ESTCP develop and demonstrate innovative, scalable technologies that enhance military readiness, improve warfighter capabilities, and strengthen defense infrastructure.

"Dr. Iery's selection reflects NAVFAC EXWC's continued leadership and trusted role in enabling innovative, cost-effective environmental stewardship across the Navy shore enterprise," NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen said.

"I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THESE PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAMS. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE GREAT WORK DONE BY SERDP AND ESTCP TO FUND RESEARCH THAT BENEFITS THE WARFIGHTER."

- Ramona Iery, Ph.D., PE
Environmental Restoration Division

Dr. Iery has been an influential leader in advancing environmental engineering solutions for complex remediation needs for nearly two decades, the programs said in announcing the selection.

As a Senior Research Scientist at Battelle Memorial Institute and an Environmental Engineer at NAVFAC EXWC, she has led groundbreaking research and technology initiatives to advance environmental restoration and subsurface characterization across Department of War sites.

As a leading investigator with SERDP and ESTCP, Navy Environmental Sustainability Development to Integration Program (NESDI), and National Defense Center for Energy and Environment (NDCEE), Dr. Iery has directed and co-led multiple projects focused on subsurface characterization and remediation, developing innovative tools and approaches such as using geophysical tools for site characterization, abiotic transformation in low-permeability zones, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remediation and vapor-phase transport studies – driving innovation in environmental restoration.

Dr. Iery will lead the next chapter of DoW environmental restoration innovation, and advance a research and technology strategy that enables decisive action on PFAS impacts with solutions that accelerate cleanup timelines and reduce costs.

Researchers visit Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in January to advance flood mitigation projects that support training and readiness.

NAVFAC EXWC Supports Marine Corps Readiness, Resilience at Twentynine Palms

By Jesse Ross
Coordinator, Innovation Landscapes of the Southwest

Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) is supporting military readiness at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms by developing innovative solutions to mitigate impacts of flooding.

The Marines' Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field experiences erosion and risk of displacement from flash flooding multiple times per year. Flooding events and repairs can delay training, impair readiness, and require costly solutions.

To address these risks, the Department of Navy's Coordinator for the Innovation Landscapes of the Southwest (IL-SW) and Headquarters Marine Corps convened a weeklong site visit in January.

The visit brought together Marines, NAVFAC EXWC, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and industry partners to validate and improve hydrological models with input from airfield staff. Research teams will use this information to develop and test approaches for sustaining airfield operations during intense rainfall events.

This collaborative effort integrates multiple projects funded by the Marine Corps and the Office of Secretary of War's Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) to develop innovative, scalable, and more cost-effective solutions in the watershed above the airfield.

The projects will demonstrate water management approaches that not only reduce flood velocity, but also increase groundwater infiltration to simultaneously mitigate flood impacts and support long-term groundwater supply.

IL-SW is part of a broader initiative, the Innovation Landscapes Network, under ESTCP that increases the pace of innovation through collaborative research to more effectively address risks from natural hazards.

For more on the Innovation Landscapes Network:
https://serdp-estcp.mil/page/38f0be40-b397-446f-bf1f-a401fe12423f/innovation-landscapes-network

Oxnard College visit, Oct. 9, 2025.

Committed to STEM, Inspiring Students, and Creating a Pipeline for Talent

Rancho Campana High School visit, Feb. 26, 2026.

In an immersive and interactive experience, NAVFAC EXWC's Shore Department (SH4) recently hosted students at its state-of-the-art Control Systems Test Bed.

The visits offered a firsthand look at how these advanced systems form a critical shield protecting our nation's infrastructure, while inspiring the next generation of cyber warriors and innovators.

The tours with students from Oxnard College and Rancho Campana High School reflect the command's ongoing commitment to supporting STEM talent in Ventura County and creating a pipeline for those seeking rewarding careers in this crucial field.

The three-hour visit immersed students in the world of advanced control systems and cybersecurity, revealing potential career pathways within these critical fields. The experience included dynamic demonstrations showcasing the tools and techniques used to protect vital infrastructure from cyber threats.

Students gained insights into securing operational technology (OT) environments, a critical aspect of modern infrastructure protection. Participants also explored the fundamentals of computer-based modeling and simulation (a cornerstone of modern engineering and design), Defensive Cyber Operations (continuously monitor networks for suspicious activity and potential threats), Red Team tactics (mimic the tactics, techniques, and procedures of actual adversaries to provide a realistic assessment of a system's security posture), and learned about the Risk Management Framework (RMF) for assessing and mitigating cybersecurity risks.

Experts from NAVFAC EXWC and HQ CIO delivered engaging presentations, sharing insights into their professional journeys, providing invaluable career guidance, and emphasizing the importance of robust cyber hygiene practices in all aspects of IT and OT security.

This opportunity served to illustrate how the theoretical knowledge gained at the schools translates into real-world applications, particularly in areas vital to national security.

By showcasing its advanced technology and fostering these direct interactions, NAVFAC EXWC SH4 hopes to inspire the next generation of cybersecurity and control systems experts, building a pipeline of skilled individuals ready to tackle future challenges.

The visit fueled student interest in potential career and internship possibilities, solidifying the connection between classroom learning and real-world engineering solutions.

Cutting-Edge Technology for the Warfighter!

NAVFAC EXWC Executive Officer Capt. Constance Solina operates a hydraulic deep-sea underwater manipulator that will be integrated on a remotely operated vehicle for intricate tasks in a complex underwater environment.

NAVFAC EXWC's Oceans Technical Department supports a range of research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) activities, and delivers waterfront and undersea expertise to support the Fleet and warfighter.

The Department's talented engineers, scientists, and technicians support research, development, testing, and evaluation to put cutting-edge technologies in the hands of warfighters!

Lifetime of Service Recognized

Oceans' Lisa Correa Inducted into Women Divers Hall of Fame

In a testament to her extraordinary service and unwavering excellence, Elisia (Lisa) Correa, a NAVFAC EXWC Ocean Engineering Technician, has been inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame.

This honor is a culmination of a lifetime of excellence, both in and out of uniform.

Born and raised in Japan, the child of a U.S. sailor, she traveled the world and looked forward to the day she would join the ranks of the esteemed Seabees. Her dream became a reality in 1992 when she enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 (NMCB-4).

But for Correa, that was just the beginning. Her driving ambition led her to the formidable world of the Seabee divers.

In 1998, she qualified as a Seabee Diver, becoming the first African American woman to earn the title of Seabee Diver, and only the second female Seabee Diver. This achievement placed her in an elite group in a profession she describes as one of the most grueling in the world.

"Diving is already one of the most demanding professions physically, mentally and technically, but adding underwater construction takes those challenges to an entirely different level," Correa said.

As a member of Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2, she wasn't just exploring the depths, she was building beneath them.

"You're not just diving for exploration or recreation, you're working with heavy tools, in limited visibility, under pressure and often in tough environments where precision and endurance are paramount," she explained.

Her career took her across the Pacific, where she supported critical missions during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Her exceptional leadership and skill were recognized and celebrated, resulting in her being honored as the Naval Facilities Engineering Command's 2009 Sea Sailor of the Year and serving as the Assistant Dive Locker Operations Officer.

After 23 years of distinguished military service, she retired in 2016 as a Navy Chief Construction Mechanic. In a poignant ceremony, she donned her military dive gear one last time.

Her service continues in the civilian world.

Today, as an Ocean Engineering Technician at NAVFAC EXWC, she is a subject matter expert who works on complex projects,

In 1998, Lisa Correa qualified as a Seabee Diver, becoming the first African American woman to earn the title of Seabee Diver, and only the second female Seabee Diver.

"TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK"

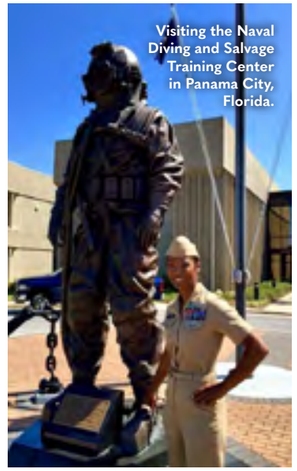
- Lisa Correa
NAVFAC EXWC
Ocean Engineering Technician

Conducting a cable inspection.

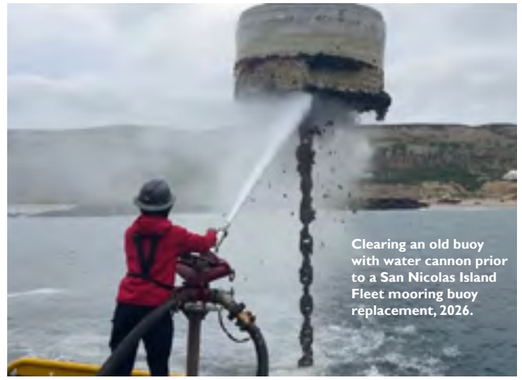
Representing the Seabee Divers at an air show at Point Mugu, California.

Attaching a navigation light during a San Nicolas Island Fleet mooring buoy replacement in 2026.

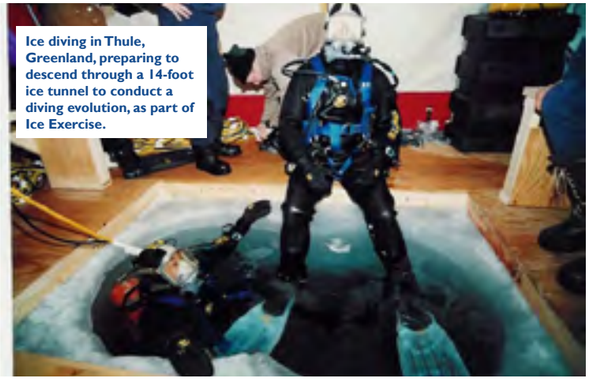
Preparing to dive to repair Fleet mooring at San Clemente Island.



Visiting the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, Florida.



Clearing an old buoy with water cannon prior to a San Nicolas Island Fleet mooring buoy replacement, 2026.



Ice diving in Thule, Greenland, preparing to descend through a 14-foot ice tunnel to conduct a diving evolution, as part of Ice Exercise.

Ocean Engineering Technician and retired Seabee Diver Lisa Correa (center) is honored for a lifetime of service and inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Orlando, Nov. 2025.

> **SERVICE, TO ME, IS GIVING BACK, BEING PART OF A TEAM AND KNOWING THAT THE WORK YOU DO – WHETHER IN UNIFORM OR NOT – CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.**
>
> **- Lisa Correa**
> **NAVFAC EXWC**
> **Ocean Engineering Technician**

providing critical ocean engineering solutions for the Fleet and the warfighter.

Her work is fueled by the same passion that drove her in the Navy.

"What I love most about the service both in the military and as a civilian is a sense of purpose and teamwork," she reflected. "Teamwork makes the dream work!"

This philosophy is the cornerstone of her life's work.

"Service, to me, is giving back, being part of a team and knowing that the work you do – whether in uniform or not – can make a real difference."

The Women Divers Hall of Fame, a non-profit organization, honored Correa for a lifetime of achievement and outstanding contributions to the exploration, understanding, and safety of the underwater world – a fitting tribute to her remarkable career as a trailblazer and achiever making a difference and leading the way.

Lisa Correa, then a Construction Mechanic Second Class, was featured as the cover story of the Navy's All Hands magazine in 1998 after qualifying as a Seabee Diver.

NAVFAC EXWC at the Cutting Edge of Innovation, Delivering to the Fleet and Warfighter

NAVFAC EXWC at the Cutting Edge for Innovation, Delivering to the Fleet and Warfighter!

NAVFAC EXWC personnel Kaulin Hall and Troy Sharp trained on a Concept Laser M2 Direct Metal Laser Melting (DMLM) machine at the FATHOMWERX innovation lab.

The goal is to accelerate NAVFAC EXWC's prototyping capabilities by increasing the number of local operators for the sophisticated system.

With their newly acquired skills, Hall and Sharp will spearhead NAVFAC EXWC's metal 3D printing projects, supplementing the FATHOMWERX staff and further strengthening the collaborative ethos of the lab space.

The Concept Laser M2 machine is a state-of-the-art 3D printer that employs a laser to melt and fuse metallic powders, building complex metal components layer by layer.

This DMLM technology, also known as LaserCusing or Direct Metal Laser Sintering (DMLS), is ideal for creating intricate, high-quality industrial parts.

This technology facilitates additive manufacturing with various metals such as stainless steel, titanium, and aluminum.

NAVFAC EXWC is a partner in the FATHOMWERX public-private laboratory, a hub for technological innovation located at the Port of Hueneme.

FATHOMWERX boasts 60,000 square feet of space — 20,000 square feet dedicated to testing, prototyping, and innovation, and 40,000 square feet of flex space for demonstrations, events, and exercises.

NAVFAC EXWC personnel train on a Concept Laser M2 Direct Metal Laser Melting (DMLM) machine to accelerate NAVFAC EXWC's prototyping capabilities, at the FATHOMWERX innovation lab at the Port of Hueneme.

NAVFAC EXWC DIVERS DOMINATE BRUTAL ARCTIC FOR NATIONAL SECURITY READINESS

J.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialists
1st Class Jacob D. Bergh and Bryan Mai

Divers from NAVFAC EXWC, in the left in the photo, pose with participants during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

BEAUFORT SEA – NAVFAC EXWC divers successfully completed their mission in the harsh Arctic environment of Operation Ice Camp (ICE CAMP) Boarfish, demonstrating their exceptional expeditionary skills that are vital to advancing the nation's readiness and security priorities.

ICE CAMP Boarfish was a three-week, multi-national operation led by Commander, Submarine Forces and the Arctic Submarine Laboratory designed to research, test, and evaluate operational capabilities in the Arctic region.

"Mastery of the Arctic environment provides a decisive advantage, but it demands rigorous training and determined focus of highly trained personnel to sustain these complex, specialized skills," NAVFAC EXWC Senior Chief Constructionman Jesse Hamblin, a qualified Master Diver, said.

"Operation Ice Camp offers a crucial platform to sharpen these skills, validate equipment, and confirm our forces' readiness to dominate in the unforgiving cold," Hamblin continued.

Commander, Submarine Forces kicked off ICE CAMP Boarfish in the Arctic Ocean, March 7, 2026, after the building of the camp and the arrival of two U.S. Navy fast attack submarines, USS Delaware (SSN 791) and USS Santa Fe (SSN 763).

In addition to U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and Air National Guard participation, personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force, French Navy, British Royal Navy, Norwegian Defence Research Institute, and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and

NAVFAC EXWC Diver and Equipment Operator 1st Class Richard Engelhard prepares to perform an Arctic dive during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Divers from NAVFAC EXWC and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 disassemble a mobile diving shack at ICE CAMP Boarfish during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Technology also took part.

The operation, held biennially, partners with the Arctic Submarine Laboratory and was elevated from an exercise to an operation to better reflect the Navy's strategic priorities in the Arctic. ICE CAMP provides the necessary training to maintain a working knowledge of a constantly changing region.

"The Arctic is a critical region for national security and global stability. Our commitment to a sustained presence and operational readiness here is unwavering," Vice Adm. Richard Seif, Commander, Submarine Forces, said. "ICE CAMP Boarfish allows us to test and refine our capabilities, deepen our interoperability with key allies, and ensure our Submarine Force can project power and defend our nation's interests in any environment, at any time. Our strength in the Arctic is a testament to the skill and resilience of our sailors and partners."

The Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory, a detachment of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center, is the lead organization for planning and executing the operation. ASL serves as the "Center of Excellence" for Arctic matters for the U.S. Submarine Force. The Arctic is experiencing a trend of diminishing sea ice, which increases the likelihood of maritime activity in the region, including trans-oceanic shipping and resource extraction.

Ice Camp Boarfish served as a command center for conducting operations and research. Established on a drifting ice floe, the camp consisted of shelters, a command center, and the necessary infrastructure to safely house and support the multi-national contingent of personnel throughout the operation.

"The complexity of establishing a fully functional base on a moving sheet of ice cannot be overstated. The professionalism and dedication of every service member and civilian here is what makes this vital mission possible," Capt. David Nichols, Officer in Tactical Control of this year's ICE CAMP, said. "We are focused on executing our objectives safely and effectively, further enhancing our collective readiness for Arctic operations."

Divers from NAVFAC EXWC and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 shovel snow to make a path for a forklift during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Divers from NAVFAC EXWC and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 conduct pre-dive equipment checks at ICE CAMP Boarfish.

Operation Ice Camp offered a valuable, immersive experience in Arctic operations, covering everything from camp logistics to specialized torpedo recovery. The deployment fostered significant collaboration between military and scientific personnel, providing key insights into the mission's logistical and tactical needs. This experience was essential for boosting operational readiness and confirming our capabilities in the extreme and strategically vital Arctic environment.

- STEELWORKER 2ND CLASS CODY KRAMER
Lead Petty Officer, NAVFAC EXWC Dive Locker, Detachment San Diego

This operation proves Seabee Divers have the specialized skills required to succeed in the most demanding operational environments. Our safe recovery of the exercise torpedo under extreme conditions allowed for critical data collection, enhancing the submarine fleet's capacity to improve future launches. We showcased how NAVFAC EXWC Divers and Seabee Divers have unique expeditionary skills, which go far beyond standard diving, to execute complex and exacting national security missions.

- CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN DAN LEHNE
Lead Chief Petty Officer, NAVFAC EXWC Dive Locker

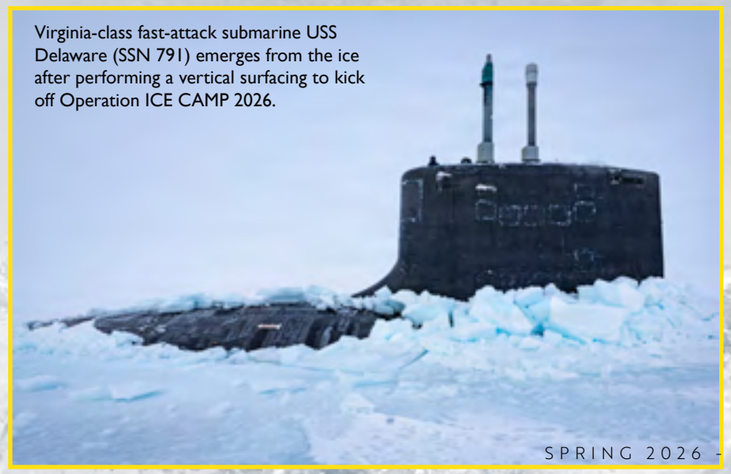
Steelworker 2nd Class Cody Kramer emerges from the egress hole while conducting arctic diving operations during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Torpedo Recovery Team uses a winch to raise a MK 48 inert training torpedo during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Chief Construction Electrician Daniel Lehne emerges from the egress hole and signals to leave the surface while conducting arctic diving operations during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

A Bell 407 helicopter flies over ICE CAMP Boarfish during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Steelworker 2nd Class Cody Kramer, left, and Construction Mechanic 1st Class Conner Clemmons, right, pull Chief Construction Electrician Daniel Lehne from the water while conducting Arctic diving operations during Operation ICE CAMP 2026.



Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Delaware (SSN 791) emerges from the ice after performing a vertical surfacing to kick off Operation ICE CAMP 2026.

Leading up to the execution of Operation Ice Camp, we completed a rigorous and complex training and preparation phase. This consisted of drysuit familiarization, ice diving equipment orientation, and open water dives simulating the conditions we would encounter in the icy, brutal conditions. We completed multiple intensive training events, including the Coast Guard Cold Water Ice Diving Course, and Navy training in Newport, Rhode Island, where we exacted proper recovery and rigging techniques to efficiently and safely recover the torpedoes.

- CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC 1ST CLASS CONNER CLEMMONS
NAVFAC EXWC Dive Locker, Operation Ice Camp Project Manager

a LEGACY *of Innovation and Leadership*

Fair Winds and Following Seas to Technical Director Kail Macias, who retired after 40 years of exceptional government service!

Friends, family, distinguished guests, colleagues, and mentors from over the years filled the December 11 retirement ceremony at the FATHOMWERX innovation lab, lauding Mr. Macias' remarkable accomplishments that have made an indelible mark on the safety and security of our Nation.

For 11 years, Mr. Macias served as the Technical Director of NAVFAC EXWC, a position that required leadership, collaboration, and technical acumen.

We honor his phenomenal leadership and brilliant execution in accelerating innovation and ensuring the rapid delivery of cutting-edge technology and technical solutions to the warfighter.

His steadfast dedication and contributions to NAVFAC EXWC, the Department of the Navy, and the Nation are inspirational. This remarkable journey all began with a summer internship in 1985!

Revisit the essay Mr. Macias wrote in the Fall *EXWC Edge* as he closed out his incredible career: https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/76225

Mr. Macias says farewell after 40 years of government service.

Photos (from top, left to right): Master Chief Weisenburg and Chief Bailey Mehus hold the American flag during the presentation of the "13 Folds of the American Flag"; Executive Officer Capt. Constance Solina and Master Chief Scott Weisenburg present a gift on behalf of the command; Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen presents Mr. Macias with a Superior Civilian Service Award; Master Chief Weisenburg and Administrative Officer Al Gonzalez present a gift on behalf of the command; Dr. Brett Seidle, Principal Civilian Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, delivers remarks at the ceremony; Deputy Technical Director Brant Pickrell reads the presentation of the "13 Folds of the American Flag"; NAVFAC Executive Director Paul Pollock delivers remarks; friends, family, distinguished guests, colleagues and mentors attend the December 11 retirement ceremony; Mr. Macias says farewell after four decades; and Mr. Macias, with Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen at the ceremony.

"These past 40 years have been incredibly fulfilling. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside talented people providing capability to our men and women in uniform to directly support national security."

- Kail Macias
NAVFAC EXWC Technical Director, November 2014 – January 2026

BRAVO ZULU

We wish you the very best in your next chapter!

NAVFAC EXWC Engineer Honored as Top Civilian Engineer in NAVFAC Enterprise

NAVFAC EXWC Engineer Travis Lewis competed as a finalist at the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Federal Engineer of the Year Award ceremony, Feb. 27, in Washington, D.C., after being named the top civilian engineer in the worldwide NAVFAC enterprise.

Travis Lewis, a Program Manager at the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC), has been named the 2026 NAVFAC Engineer of the Year. This prestigious award recognizes him as the top civilian engineer across the worldwide NAVFAC enterprise.

"Being named 2026 NAVFAC Engineer of the Year is a tremendous honor, especially because it reflects the work of an exceptional team delivering mission-critical support to the Fleet," Lewis said.

Lewis serves as NAVFAC EXWC's Program Manager for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Closure, and leads Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) initiatives and technical support to the Navy Closure Task Force - Red Hill in working to safely and expeditiously execute the permanent decommissioning of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF).

In addition, last year he began serving as NAVFAC's representative for advanced manufacturing policy development in support of naval modernization and sustainment.

"Travis has been absolutely indispensable to NAVFAC as our point person on the Red Hill tank closure efforts these past years," NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen said. "He also is a versatile engineer who most recently applied his multifaceted expertise and dynamic range to contribute to policy development for the Navy's advanced manufacturing program."

In the time since serving as a first responder to the Red Hill fuel release in 2021, he has led and provided consistent subject matter expert support across multiple closure efforts, advanced key RDT&E initiatives – including a University of Hawaii collaboration on a four-year, $10-million groundwater study – worked to implement tank cleaning verification procedures and enable methods to decommission the facility, and helped drive regulatory strategy and multi-agency coordination.

He credits success to the expertise and dedication of all those involved.

"The progress we've made on Red Hill has been a true team effort across NAVFAC, EXWC, and our regulatory partners and stakeholders," he said. "I'm grateful for the trust, collaboration, and leadership that made these results possible, and I accept this recognition on behalf of everyone who contributed."

NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Jeff Kilian announced the winners, saying Lewis and the military engineer of the year, Lt. Cmdr. Benjamin Male from NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic, were chosen from a group of exceptional nominees, all of whom had first won at the command level.

"We are truly fortunate to have extraordinary engineers who serve NAVFAC and the Navy with selfless dedication and technical acumen. Both individuals help us continue to build on our 182-year legacy of outstanding support to the Navy and Marine Corps," Kilian said.

Lewis competed for the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Federal Engineer of the Year Award program. Lewis was selected as Top 5 Civilian Federal Engineer of the Year across all federal agencies. The program recognizes exceptional contributions made by federal engineers to the engineering profession and to those organizations and communities they serve. The award ceremony was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on February 27.

A Navy Reserve Engineering Duty Officer currently on orders to NAVFAC EXWC, Lewis holds an M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, and is dual-licensed as a Professional Engineer in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He has also been selected to serve as an Office of Naval Research (ONR Global) science advisor to the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ U.S. 5th Fleet (NAVCENT/ C5F) for a three-year development tour.

NAVFAC Executive Director Paul Pollock honored Travis Lewis as NAVFAC Civilian Engineer of the Year, in a ceremony at NAVFAC Headquarters, Washington, D.C., Feb. 27.

Congratulations!

Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen recognizes excellence at NAVFAC EXWC

Steelworker 1st Class Kenneth Lancaster

NAVFAC
Shore Sailor of the Year for FY25

NAVFAC EXWC
Shore Sailor of the Year for FY25

Esteban Guerrero
FY25 Supervisor of the Year

John Kornuc
FY25 Civilian of the Year

Construction Electrician 1st Class Michael Johnson
NAVFAC EXWC Sea Sailor of the Year for FY25

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Greyson Cole
NAVFAC EXWC Junior Sailor of the Year for FY25

Equipment Operator 1st Class Pedro Sandoval Jr

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Engineering Aide 1st Class Viktoria Berry
Sailor of the 1st Quarter

Michael Burke, EX921
Supervisor of the 1st Quarter

BU1 Zavier Favila
Sailor of the 4th Quarter

Christian Bowers, EX52
Leadership Development Program (LDP) Select

Chief Construction Electrician
Jeramie Hoffer
Navy Commendation Medal for
End of Tour

Equipment Operator
1st Class Cameron Bales
Navy Commendation Medal for
End of Tour

Equipment Operator 2nd Class
Dwete Neglokpe Adjevi
Junior Sailor of
the 1st Quarter

Seabee Master Chief
Buddy Holland
Navy and Marine Corps
Commendation Medal for End of Tour

CM2 Matthew Mango
Junior Sailor of the 4th Quarter

Michalla Geer, EX521
Civilian of the 4th Quarter

Nicole Mendes, ACQ
Supervisor of the 4th Quarter

Nicole Valencia, ACQ722
Civilian of the 1st Quarter

Brian Vu, SH1
Naval Acquisition Development
Program (NADP) Intern Graduate

CE1 Jianyu Ren
Navy Achievement Medal for
End of Tour

Beverly Maxion, 096SF
Aspiring Leadership Development
Program (ALDP) Select

Elise Sutherland, BD131
Aspiring Leadership Development
Program (ALDP) Select

Celebrating 220 years of combined service!

50 years

40 years

30 years

Steven Gunderson, SH23

Nathan Sinclair, OC10

Joseph Saenz, EX513

Samantha Darella, ACQ

Franklin Fernandez, SH03

Alin Schmutz, OC60
(not pictured)

Congratulations to members of the Acquisitions Team for

superior performance of duty

Crystal Brooks
Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Jacob Maxion
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Anna Maria Sandry
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Analaura Montalvo
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Krystal Lopez
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Desiree Garcia
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Marian Basa
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Olga Muna (not pictured)
Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Jake Blas (not pictured)
Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Bravo Zulu Team Commendation for Support for Warfighter Readiness

Jeff Hussey
CIO4

Zach Taylor
BD531

Mark Portillo
CIO3

Claire Pangelinan
ACQ1

Joe Neal
OC80

Elise Sutherland
BD131

Sean Donnelly
EX31

New Professional

GRADUATION CERTIFICATES

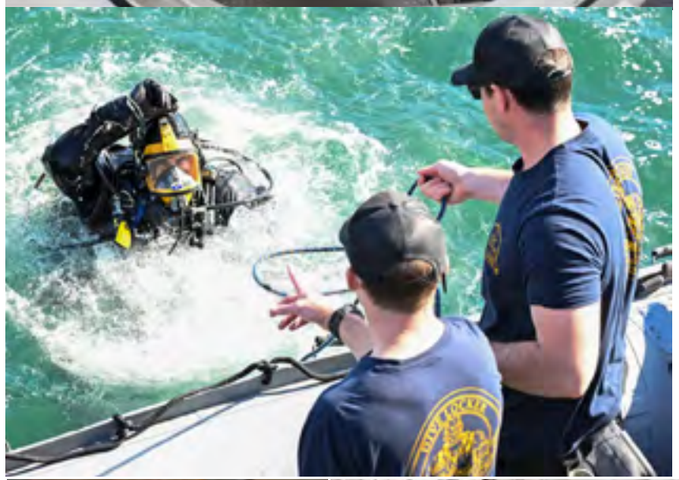
From left to right:

Arturo Oropeza, SH252
Ryan Mintzer, OC30
James Johnson, OC30
Kaulin Hall, EX522
Andrew Chhang, OC30
Zachary Carnes, EX522
David Bocanegra, OC30
Tiffany Lamm, SH42
Dylan Lomas, TD12

Not Pictured:

Erik Buenrostro, TD12
Mia Chan, EX523B
Ricardo Estradra Jr, SH321
Cortland Navarette, SH311
Kevin Thai, OC30
David Thompson, EX521
Josue Melgar Ventura, OC40

An Extraordinary Year Supporting the Fleet and Warfighter in 2025!



2025 Highlights

- **Performance Under Pressure:** Designed and constructed the first-of-its-kind hyperbaric chamber for Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory. The chamber simulates extreme depth and altitude, ensuring the safety and readiness of warfighters operating in high-pressure environments.
- **Undersea Dominance:** Bolstered fleet superiority by installing the region's first Underwater Electromagnetic Measurement System in Guam in support of NSWC Carderock. The system enhances the fleet's ability to control the undersea environment by detecting and analyzing magnetic signatures.
- **Securing the Arsenal:** Designed and tested new doors for Earth-Covered Magazines that are lighter and cheaper without sacrificing protection against explosions or break-ins. This enhances safety, efficiency, and readiness.
- **Expeditionary Foundry:** Enabled expeditionary operational readiness through delivery of over $140 million of essential equipment and the sustainment of existing equipment through more than 14,000 maintenance actions and critical configuration validations.
- **Water Resilience:** Successfully demonstrated a cost-effective water purification system that operates on low-grade heat. Developed with industry partners, this dual-function technology uses waste heat to generate power and desalinate water concurrently, boosting both mission resilience and energy efficiency.

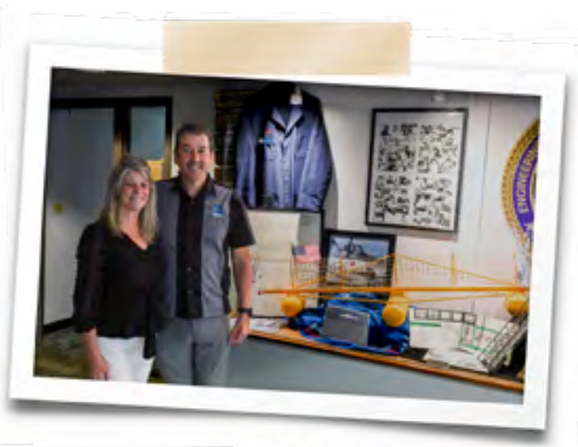
From the NAVFAC EXWC Fact Sheet | Department of the Navy's Naval Research and Development Establishment (NR&DE)

PARTING SHOTS

NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters

Admiral's Five-Star Review

NAVFAC Atlantic Commander Rear Adm. Jorge Cuadros highlights the *EXWC Edge* magazine during a briefing with Commanding Officer Capt. Dean Allen – heralding the publication as a benchmark in communication excellence!



Retired Technical Director Kail Macias donates his lab coat from the 1980s to the historical display at the command suite at NAVFAC EXWC Headquarters.

We are honored to showcase this piece of history to inspire the next generation of naval engineers!

Established in 2012, the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC), headquartered at Naval Base Ventura County, California, is a command of approximately 1,200 dedicated federal civilian employees, contractors, and military personnel providing research, development, test, and evaluation, and in-service engineering to deliver specialized facility and expeditionary solutions to the warfighter. As NAVFAC's only warfare center, our engineers, scientists, analysts, logisticians, contract specialists, and other professional personnel provide technology and unique, agile solutions for the warfighter that specifically focus on expeditionary, oceans, and shore needs from enduring bases to forward deployed expeditionary locations. In 2017, NAVFAC EXWC became a Defense Department Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory.

MISSION

Provide research, development, testing and evaluation, in-service engineering, and life-cycle management for shore, oceans, and expeditionary domains.

VISION

Accelerate innovation to enable fleet lethality at sea and ashore.

MOTTO

ANTICIPATE • INNOVATE • ACCELERATE

View past *EXWC Edge* issues on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service website:
https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/NFEEWC