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THE INSTAR

NECE NEWSLETTER



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From the OIC by CDR Eric Hoffman

Normally I use this opportunity to discuss significant contributions to the success of our customers. Today I have the privilege of telling a slightly different story. This story is about 36 professionals, representing a diversity of backgrounds and experiences, who have come together, dedicated to achieving excellence, exceeding customer expectations, not once but every time.

This story illustrates more than determination and perseverance to overcome challenges, never being satisfied with just making it right but always striving to improve.

This story chronicles remarkable dedication and commitment to mission, to customer, to command and most importantly to one another. So if you will, please bear with me for a few moments while I provide a few of the little known passages from the story of the Navy Ento-



(R to L) Jose Medina, Debra Morgan, Lynn Wilkinson, Bella Francona and Valton Johnson cut a cake as part of a Administrative Professional's Day Celebration held on April 25, 2012.

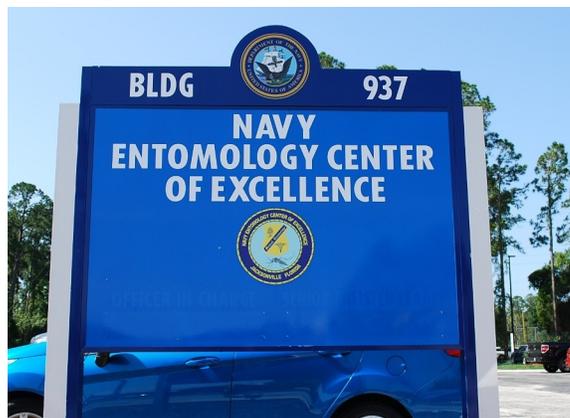
mology Center of Excellence.

-On more occasions than I would like to remember, we stood solemnly with hundreds of others, offering comfort to the families of fallen service members returning to Jacksonville for the last time.

-Many volunteered time and resources to community organizations, generously donated to the CFC and NMCRS campaign and supported deployed shipmates with cards, notes and emails.

-We provided support and comfort to our shipmates who lost loved ones through thoughts, prayers, and contributions coming together as family to ease their grief.

-We have a group photo prominently displayed showing our customers and guests that we are not just a building or an email address but a team of proud professionals dedicated to meeting their



requirements.

-We consistently recognize contribution to mission, going above and beyond what is expected. For example (and these are just a few):

Mrs. Wilkinson goes above and beyond to ensure morale is cohesive throughout the command. She consistently sends our deployed personnel care packages from the NECE staff and ensures cards, she personally purchases, are routed for all occasions. Her thoughtfulness and generosity continues to be an on-going process affecting all staff members in a positive way.

During extended power outage LT Larson went above and beyond to take care of contractors and facility on a Friday (Holiday) and Saturday.

I could not have completed the cycle 2 PFA without LT Hanley's assistance. At a moment's notice he stepped up to help and has been extremely flexible supporting numerous PRT dates.



Lynn Wilkinson consistently sends our deployed personnel care packages from the NECE staff and ensures cards, she personally purchases, are routed for all occasions.

Al Estep made that extra effort needed to preserve the by-catch of his studies in a way that maintains their usefulness to our systematic collection

Mrs. Francona is a great team player, always going above and beyond to assist in all admin responsibilities. BZ!

Whether our staff members realize it or not, each one consistently

demonstrates something much more valuable than technical expertise. They embody selflessness, dedication, professionalism, loyalty, commitment, teamwork, and compassion. This has been the strength of the Command for the last 65 years and will continue to guide us into the future.

Chief's Corner by HMC Hanaczewski

In this edition, I would like to mention the available medical commissioning programs. Those who are interested should view the OPNAVINST 1420.1B, Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs Application Administrative Manual. This instruction provides concise information on each commissioning program open to enlisted personnel.

Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP) MECP is a Nurse Corps (NC) commissioning opportunity. This program provides outstanding career-motivated enlisted personnel of all ratings, who have attained previous college credit, the opportunity to complete the requirements for an entry-level degree and ultimately a commission in the NC. Selectees for the program will participate in a nationally accredited academic program leading to a baccalau-

reate degree in nursing. For more information and eligibility requirements for this program see OPNAVINST 1420.1B.

Medical Service Corps In-service Procurement Program (MSC IPP) MSC IPP for Health Care In-service Procurement Program provides a pathway to officer commissions for motivated active duty enlisted personnel. Some of these programs provide opportunities to complete either a Baccalaureate or a Master's degree. Basic eligibility requirements can be found within OPNAVINST 1420.1B.

Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) Program STA-21 is a commissioning program that provides an excellent opportunity for highly motivated active duty enlisted per-



USS Indianapolis

sonnel in the Navy to complete requirements for a Baccalaureate degree and earn a commission in the URL, NC, Supply Corps (SC), Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), or special duty (Information Warfare (IW), Intelligence (Intel) officer.

Meet our New Ombudsman by Marité Hoffman

I appreciate this opportunity to express my gratitude to LT Larson and LT McDonough for inviting me to contribute to the Instar to provide you with an overview of my job and how I can help you and your families. As most of you are aware by now, I was appointed Ombudsman for our command in April this year and I'm honored to serve you and your families. Ombudsmen are volunteers who receive intensive training concerning overall program structure. Once complete, they meet with the CO or OIC to learn about their specific program vision and goals. We also work closely with the SEL to understand the needs particular to each command. As Ombudsmen we are trained to support Navy families during their time of need and assist them through change inherent in the military "way of life." By positively influencing the Navy's families, we improve the performance of the service member.

With that objective in mind, we attend monthly meetings and seminars to be current in services and benefits that are always changing, reflecting new situations that we face as a Nation. Our training includes awareness of resources contracted by the Department of Defense to include assistance offered to military spouses to find jobs and courses offered by the Fleet Family Support Center in parenting and budgeting. Furthermore, we are regularly briefed on changes to Tri-care and our dental coverage which may affect our families in a variety of ways.

In order to meet all the possible needs of our community, we receive briefings on disaster preparedness man-made or natural and casualty assistance if required. We regularly practice our active listening skills to ensure that we fully understand what is being requested. This is especially important during times of distress as the information might be difficult to understand. In addition, we receive advanced training on response to different crises such as domestic violence, suicidal situations. We also study, in depth, the psychology cycle that occurs during deployment that all families experience.



Likewise we know about all the services that aid the re-integration of our service members with their families and jobs once they return from deployment to include "returning warrior workshops."

To ensure we receive effective training, we are often asked to partici-

pate in Ombudsman Training Surveys which helps evaluate the relevance of the training and if the Ombudsmen are satisfied that the seminars and briefings received are sufficient to address the needs of the Navy families. During the last survey we were asked "what is the most valuable tool that I have used during my many years in this job?" Without hesitation, my answer was the ability to never judge or have biased opinions that would interfere with my ability to provide support and assistance. During our training, counselors emphasize this is a key aspect of our job. The same applies to building trust and insuring that confidentiality is maintained at all costs. Hopefully by providing you with this overview of Ombudsmen's training, I will be better able to assist you and your families.

Is the mosquito below friend or foe?

Answer on Page 5



The U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection: 350,000 Specimens and Growing

The U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection, housed at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), is a one-of-a kind reference tool within the Department of Defense (DoD).

The 350,000 specimen collection focuses mainly on mosquitoes, flies and gnats. Other insects along with plant, marine, arachnid, snake and fossil specimens are also represented in the collection.

The collection started in 1949 as a repository for medically significant pest collected by the Malaria Control teams in the Pacific.

According to Dr. Andrew Beck, Department Head of Training at NECE and curator of the collection, the collection represents specimens from every continent, except Antarctica.

“This extensive, carefully catalogued collection exemplifies NECE’s wide range of unique capabilities and commitment to the success of our customers,” said Cmdr Eric Hoffman, NECE Officer-in-Charge.

Currently the collection has three parts: the systematic collection, training collection and public affairs collection.

The systematic collection carries on the original goal of the collection, as a repository for specimens.

“It (the systematic collection) enhances our ability to accurately identify a diversity of specimens collected world-wide, understand their biology and apply this knowledge to effectively develop and implement control strategies against those that transmit human disease,” said Cmdr. Hoffman.

The training collection is used to teach service members what pests are present in areas they are deploying and how to distinguish them from similar insects. This allows preventive medicine technicians and entomologists to have a better understanding of the pests they will face when deployed.

The training collection is also used to teach courses taught at NECE and



Dr. Andrew Beck works to identify specimens, which will become part of the U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection.

other commands. At NECE it is used to teach insect identification to civilian employees and contractors during the Category 8 Pesticide Applicator Certification and Re-certification courses, which ensures that all pest management professionals working on DoD facilities are able to provide effective pest control and safely apply pesticides in accordance with DoD and EPA regulations.



According to Beck, identification is the cornerstone of pest management operations. Proper pest identification is needed to correctly prescribe control measures.

This collection gives students a chance to work with real insects, which

ultimately improves the quality of pest control rendered on DoD facilities.

“The training collection is also used at other installations as teaching aids,” said Dr. Beck. “We provide specimens to the Joint Service Training School in San Antonio Texas as well as the Independent Duty Corpsman School.”

The public affairs collection consists of large, showy insects that are used for outreach activities.

“NECE has a strong connection to the local community. We take the public affairs collection when we visit local schools for presentations on entomology,” said Dr. Beck. “There are several different displays set up depending on the age group we are presenting to.”

According to Dr. Beck, while the collection is large, it is actively expanding.

“Most of the additions are insects collected by military personnel while on deployment but we also add to the collection when testing new equipment like mosquito traps,” said Dr. Beck.

Dr. Beck encourages DoD and civilian personnel to view and utilize the U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection.

ADM Harvey Visits NECE



ADM Harvey, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, operates a thermal fogger during his tour of NECE on March 30, 2012. His visit featured a briefing about NECE history, its capabilities, and "hands-on" demonstrations and training in the use of mosquito control equipment.

Friend or Foe?



Answer: Friend

The mosquito pictured above belongs to the genus *Toxorhynchites*. Although these unusually large mosquitoes look scary, the adults feed on nectar instead of blood. Interestingly, the larval stages actually feed on mosquito larvae! Adults can be identified by the proboscis (arrow), which has a pronounced 90 degree downward curve.

Hail and Farewell

Hail

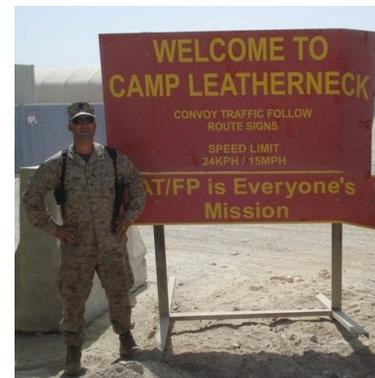
- LT Jennifer Wright (New Accession)
- LTJG Matt Yans (HSCP-Nebraska)
- HMCM Luis Costosa (Bahrain)
- HM1 Spatola (NMCB-40)
- HM2 Denson (2d-MLG)
- Ms. Christy Waits

Farewell

- CDR Jeffrey Stancil (NMSC)
- LT Tony Hughes (NMCPHC)
- HM1 Paul Groseclose (NBMC-WNY)
- HM3 Darius Davis (USS Emory Land)
- Mr. Aaron Lloyd
- Mr. Dave Perry (HMC ret.)

Welcome Home!

LT Noel Cote (OEF)



Ms. Chalaire Travels to Ghana, Partners With Private Industry

The Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) announced March 21 a key collaboration with an international company as part of a program to discover new public health pesticides for controlling mosquitoes.

Vestergaard Frandsen (VF) is an international company based in Europe that specializes in complex emergency response and disease control products.

VF is interested in techniques developed by NECE and the United States Department of Agricultural Center for Medical and Veterinary Entomology (CMAVE) to aid in the discovery of new insecticides with new active ingredients for use in treating bed nets and conducting indoor residual pesticide applications, the cornerstone of malaria prevention programs in Africa.

Katelyn Chalaire, NECE entomologist, will provide direct support to VF's pesticide discovery initiative. Chalaire's expertise stems from her work in the discovery and evaluation of new pesticides used to control mosquitoes as part of the congressionally mandated Deployed War-Fighter Protection (DWFP) Program.

Chalaire and Dr. James Becnel of CMAVE in Gainesville, Fla., presented a training workshop on pesticide screening procedures at VF's laboratory in Accra. NECE has collaborations with civilian and government agencies, including CMAVE, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I conducted a toxicology screening workshop for five laboratory technicians and the laboratory manager of the VF-Ghana research laboratory," said Chalaire. "This workshop will enable



Katelyn Chalaire (center) demonstrates pesticide screening procedures during a training workshop held at Vestergaard Frandsen's laboratory in Accra

the CMAVE and VF-Ghana screening programs to exchange chemicals for evaluation and will be beneficial to DoD's goal of identifying new chemicals for vector control."

The workshop included an oral presentation detailing advanced pesticide screening techniques used by Chalaire, followed by a hands-on demonstration of the screening protocol. Ultimately, the training standardized methods between the two labs, promoting product and results exchanges.

According to Chalaire, mosquitoes are developing resistance to insecticides commonly used in public health programs, so it is imperative to identify new compounds for both military and non-military use to control human disease transmitted by blood-feeding insects.

"Chemicals with new modes of action will be targeted in an effort to overcome insecticide-resistant insect populations," said Chalaire. "This coincides with efforts of CMAVE and NECE as part of the De-

ployed War-Fighter Protection Program to discover new public health pesticides and identify new strategies for insecticide-resistance management."

Although VF is focused on finding new products to be used on bed nets, these insecticides with new modes of action could also be used as an alternative to permethrin currently used to treat military fabrics (e.g., uniforms, tents, barriers, etc.), during residual insecticide applications, and as a spatial spray against resistant mosquitoes and other disease carriers, or "vectors."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work on a project that has so much potential for the development of a new insecticide that could be used to protect our troops," said Chalaire.

Chalaire said the trip was also a great learning experience. She travelled to a small, rural village in Wenchi, Ghana, to visit a clinical study site where she learned how VF's bed nets are being evaluated for durability, ease of use, and

Ms. Chalaire Ghana (cont. from page 6)

efficacy.

"The most interesting part of the trip to Ghana was learning about Vestergaard Frandsen's new product development projects, specifically bed nets and durable wall linings for protection against malaria-vectoring mosquitoes," said Chalaire. "The products that VF is developing could easily translate into products that could be used for troop protection when they are deployed to geographic areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic."

While visiting the study site, Chalaire attended a brief meeting with the village chief, observed the testing set ups, and observed how the bed nets were being used by the people of



Katelyn Chalaire (second from right) and Dr. James Becnel (third from right) of the US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Center for Medical and Veterinary Entomology pose with graduates of a training workshop on pesticide screening procedures.

Wenchi.

"As a young entomologist, it was such an amazingly inspiring experience," said Chalaire.

Promotions and Pupations

Bravo Zulu!
Noel Coté for promotion to LT
 (June, 2012).



Heather Coté and LT Moody of EPMU-2 upgrade LT Coté's shoulder boards.



RDML Valentin swears in LT Coté during a promotion ceremony held at NECE.

Our Deployed



LCDR Gourdine is currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She has selflessly sacrificed her time, safety, and freedom for our great nation. These sacrifices are also shared by her family who inherit an extra burden in her absence.

Please keep LCDR Gourdine and her family in your thoughts and prayers.