NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

July 2025

NAVY ENTOMOLOGY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (NECE)

Optimizing force health protection, mitigating mission risks from pests and enhancing warfighter readiness worldwide.

- NECE is an Echelon V command located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. It is the DoD's only testing and evaluation center for forward deployable pest management equipment to all uniformed services.
- The command evaluates and recommends deployable pest management materiel used to protect deployed warfighters from pest-borne diseases in combat environments.
- As the Navy's manager for DoD pesticide applicator and shipboard pest management programs, NECE certifies deployable military members to provide pest management to support ground and maritime forces in contingency operations.

SERVICE SCOPE

NECE provides a comprehensive array of services essential for protecting deployed personnel and preserving the warfighter from entomological threats. Services include:

- Operational Entomology Expertise
- Testing and Evaluation
- Biosecurity
- Materiel Recommendations
- Public Health Support
- Identification and Surveillance
- Training and Education

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Testing Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) / Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniforms (MCCUU) to ensure they provide protection against biting insects.
- Providing pesticide equipment training to operational units, directly contributing to the Tier 1 readiness certification of Navy expeditional medicine platforms (EXMEDs).
- Evaluating cutting-edge solutions for deployed personnel, including battery-powered insecticide sprayers for disease control in fuel-scarce, austere combat zones, and novel biochemical sprays that eliminate cooking grease on ships, enhancing cockroach control.
- Leading mosquito and bed bug surveillance programs to monitor populations and inform effective control strategies.

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Did you know?

Throughout history, the mosquito has been the scourge of humankind, spreading more illness and causing more deaths a year than sharks, snakes, spiders, and humans combined. They have influenced the outcomes of wars and shaped the fates of nations. Of the 3,000+ species of mosquito, three can be credited as the most proficient killers—the Aedes, Anopheles, and Culex genera. These little flies (which weigh an average of 1/15,000 of an ounce) are the vectors of a host of deadly diseases including Chikungunya, dengue fever, Japanese Encephalitis, malaria, West Nile, Yellow Fever, and Zika.

NECE HISTORY

-1942-

Navy entomologists were first deployed to the Pacific Theater as part of Navy Epidemiology Units. Between 1942 and 1944, Navy Medicine established 122 epidemiology units worldwide, including the Malariology and Pest Control Unit at Naval Air Station (NAS) Banana River, Florida.

-1947-

The Malariology and Pest Control Unit relocates to NAS Jacksonville, Florida.

-1949-

On July 1, the unit was renamed the Malaria and Mosquito Control Unit No. 1. Navy entomologist Lt. Cmdr. John M. Hirst was assigned as its officer-in-charge.

-1952-

The unit is renamed Preventive Medicine Unit No. 1 (PMU-1).

-1957-

PMU-1 is redesignated the Disease Vector Control Center (DVCC) with an expanded mission covering roughly half the world. A sister unit, DVCC-Alameda, is established in Alameda, California, to support the remaining global regions.

-1971-

The DVCCs are renamed Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Centers (DVECCs).

-1995-

DVECC Alameda relocates to Navy Submarine Base Bangor, Washington (now part of Naval Base Kitsap), and is renamed DVECC Bangor.

-2005-

DVECC Bangor is disestablished on September 30.

-2006-

DVECC Jacksonville assumes responsibility for providing worldwide disease vector control and prevention support. The unit is renamed the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE).