



SPRING 2011

THE

CHRONICLE

Published for the employees of SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic



1,000,000,000

SSC Atlantic
Internet cafés provide
1 Billion+ call time minutes



SSC Atlantic volunteers hit the road (Virginia Avenue) on a recent Saturday morning with reflective gear and bags in hand as part of the center's Adopt-a-Highway effort. See stories on pages 4 and 5. Photo by Joe Bullinger.

Inside

Spring 2011

Vol. 17 No. 2

4 *Green efforts rewarded*

SSC Atlantic's programs to reduce its carbon footprint lead to Captain Pride recognition.

6 *Collaboration earns Przirembel*

The SSC Atlantic MRAP integration team tops a field of 21 world-class competitors to win the inaugural Przirembel Prize.

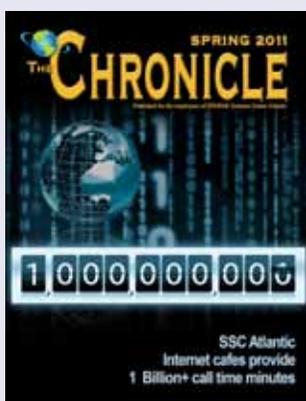
14 *eBenefits now available*

SPAWAR and the VA deliver benefits info and self-service capabilities to veterans, service members and their families.



Members of SSC Atlantic's Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33 Application Development Team garner the Greater Charleston area Federal Executive Association's team award May 18. See story on page 7.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Captain's Call | 2 |
| SSC Atlantic's FEA awards | 7 |
| STEM outreach activities | 8 |
| A telework success story | 20 |
| Tidewater's Club 56..... | 21 |
| NP Council Atlantic..... | 22 |
| Historic JALFHCC opening | 24 |
| Executive Director awarded..... | 28 |
| St. J's in the spotlight..... | 30 |
| SSC Atlantic hosts visitors | 35 |
| The final word | 38 |



On the cover

SSC Atlantic's Internet café program passed the one billionth minute milestone April 29, and has connected warfighters to loved ones in more than 86 million phone calls. See story on page 12.



P.O. Box 190022
North Charleston, SC 29419-9022

Commanding Officer..... Capt. Bruce Urban
Executive Director Christopher Miller

SSC Atlantic Mission, Vision and Values

Mission: To rapidly deliver and support solutions that enable information dominance for our Naval, Joint, National and Coalition Warfighters.

Vision: Make IT Count for the Warfighter and the Nation.

Values: Service to our country, Excellence and Credibility, Transparency in the way we conduct our business, Responsiveness and Accountability, Diversity and Teaming.

THE CHRONICLE

Editor Susan Piedfort
Command Photographer Joe Bullinger

The Chronicle is a quarterly publication designed for SPAWAR Systems Center Atlantic employees. Its purpose is to inform, educate, entertain and generate new ideas. Contents of *The Chronicle* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or SSC Atlantic.



CAPTAIN'S CALL

CAPTAIN BRUCE URBON, USN
SSC ATLANTIC COMMANDING OFFICER

A special thanks to a special team

As I prepare to turn over the reins of SSC Atlantic to Capt. Mark Glover, I reflect on the past three years and cannot believe how far this command has come in a period that seems to have passed in the blink of an eye. The command has weathered an incredible amount of change (CAO-IPT, Navy ERP, NSPS/STRL...) and throughout it all, has continued to deliver high quality engineering products and services in support of providing the warfighter with the tactical and strategic edge in the battle for information dominance. I could not be more proud of the things that you, the professional workforce that is the lifeblood of SSC Atlantic, have accomplished. To cite a few examples:

- The successful merger and integration of three east coast Systems Centers to form SSC Atlantic. Then, a short time later, those formerly separate business units joined together to earn the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Maturity Level 3 rating as one organization as a whole. The certification entailed the appraisal team's review of more than 16,000 project documents and interviews of more than 150 SSC Atlantic CMMI practitioners. Add to this the completion of more than 340 Lean Six Sigma projects with a combined return on investment of more than \$48 million.

- Continued success integrating Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles with C4ISR equipment – more than 24,000 MRAPs and MRAP All Terrain Vehicles (MATVs) integrated; warfighter lives saved every day.

- Expansion of Internet cafés – 1,000 of them established, maintained or relocated throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans – which has changed history by giving warfighters a communications capability unlike any in the annals of armed conflict. In April they passed the one billion minute mark in calls provided. (see story on page 12.) That's thanks to our great government/industry partnership and dedicated individuals who live and work alongside the warfighters, far from home and loved ones.

- Completion of 3,984 ship and 1,647 shore worldwide installs valued at more than \$625 million. Our Fleet Support personnel completed approximately 325 requests for worldwide shipboard technical assistance supporting 52 product lines.

- Delivery of an automated information technology capability for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill. Efforts

so far have helped more than 409,500 veterans and active duty service men and women achieve their education goals by delivering more than \$6.5 billion in educational benefits.

- Delivery of a major enhancement to the Navy's enlisted promotion process affecting some 42,000 active and reserve Sailors annually for enlisted selection boards. This new capability was integrated into a successful system the former SSC New Orleans developed and deployed in 2006 which automates the active duty and reserve officer promotion process.

You have delivered capability that has had tremendous positive impact everywhere - from the deckplate Sailor to the highest levels in government.

Continued on next page

Glover named new SSC Atlantic CO

Capt. (Sel) Mark Glover will relieve Capt. Bruce Urbon as commanding officer of SSC Atlantic in a ceremony in Charleston July 28.

Glover will come to SSC Atlantic after serving at PEO C4I in San Diego as the Deputy Program Manager for the Communications Program Office. In that position he has been responsible for the design, acquisition and life-cycle support of Navy Satellite Communications and Global Positioning System (GPS) programs.

A native of Walterboro, S.C., Glover enlisted in the Navy in 1982. In 1983, after completing Anti-Submarine Warfare training in San Diego, he reported to **USS Antrim** (FFG 20) in Mayport, Fla., where he was a lead sonar technician for the ship's anti-submarine warfare systems. During that tour, he made two Arabian Gulf deployments and also carried out operations in Central America.

In 1985, he was selected to the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training program and earned a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship. Upon commissioning in 1990, he became a Surface Warfare Officer and served aboard **USS Halsey** (CG 23) in San Diego as the Electronic Warfare and Boilers Officer. During this assignment he made two deployments to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield.

From 1994 through 1996, he served as a propulsion plant examiner on Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Propulsion Examining Board. In 1998, he became a plankowner for the Defense Department's (DoD) first Joint Task Force for Computer Network Defense, where his duties included network analyst and watch officer.

In 2000, he was selected as a Navy Engineering Duty Officer. Upon completion of postgraduate school, he was assigned to SSC Pacific in San Diego, and led several software development efforts for future naval and joint C4I systems. From 2004 to 2006, he served as an Assignments Officer at Navy

Personnel Command, in Millington, Tenn.

In 2006, he was selected as Principal Assistant Program Manager for GPS Navigation in PMW/A 170, PEO C4I. He was responsible for the design, acquisition and life-cycle support of the Navy's GPS, navigation and timing user equipment programs.

From May to October 2008, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this assignment he was a program manager for the reconstruction of Iraqi military bases, police stations, courthouses and prisons throughout Iraq.

In May 2009, he was selected as the PMW/A 170 Deputy Program Manager.

Glover attended Norwich University and graduated in 1990 with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering. In 1998, he earned a master of science degree in information technology management and in 2001, a master of science degree in computer science, both from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

He is a DoD Acquisition Corps member and holds Level III Qualifications in Program Management and Systems Engineering.

His awards and decorations include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards); Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards); Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Capt. (Sel) Mark Glover

Special thanks

- Deployment of an automated leave capability for Sailors, called E-Leave, that provides significant savings in man-hours and processing time and does away with traditional paper leave chits.

This is just a sampling of the multitude of great accomplishments that you, too, should be extremely proud of. You have delivered capability that has had tremendous positive impact everywhere - from the deckplate Sailor

to the highest levels in government. This would not be possible without a highly skilled and dedicated workforce and industry partners that go the distance and work elbow-to-elbow with our deployed troops.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your commanding officer. You welcomed Angie and my family into your family, for which we will always be grateful. I admire you all and will watch with pride as you continue to grow and excel. And I will surely miss you. Thank you.

Steve Connor, chairman of the Charleston Pride Committee, left, presents the Captain Pride Award to Cindy McDonald of SSC Atlantic's Safety and Environmental Engineering Branch and SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller in a May 13 luncheon at the Felix C. Davis Community Center in North Charleston. The awards luncheon featured presentations to individuals, groups, businesses, schools, agencies, municipalities and others who improve the community through beautification and other efforts.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Green efforts rewarded

SSC Atlantic presented Captain Pride Award

SSC Atlantic was presented the Captain Pride Award for its various efforts to reduce its carbon footprint during the 44th Annual Community Pride award luncheon May 13. The award is given to only the top 10 individuals, businesses, governments or civic organizations in the county.

“We are extremely pleased to be the recipient of this award and very proud of our ‘green’ team and our employees’ collective efforts,” said SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller.

With more than 2,300 federal employees in the Charleston area, and as many as 9,000 contractors across SSC Atlantic -- many in Charleston -- SSC Atlantic has offset its energy usage emissions by teleworking, increasing and promoting recycling, modifying fluorescent light ballasts and installing occupancy sensors in their buildings, promoting carpooling by offering parking incentives, digitizing their monthly newsletter and quarterly magazine, and replacing a gas-powered maintenance vehicle with an electric vehicle. Other initiatives include an employee bicycle share pilot program and installing solar panels to charge golf carts. In addition, SSC Atlantic has adopted a highway in the City of North Charleston and has participated in Keep North Charleston Beautiful’s spring beautification of the Park Circle Butterfly Garden.

SSC Atlantic is aligned with the Chief of Naval Operations’ and Secretary of the Navy’s vision and goals for environmental stewardship. Goal Two of the center’s strategic plan is to “Continually decrease our environmental impact through operational practices that reduce, reuse, recycle and renew

natural resources while meeting customers’ requirements.”

“We have already reaped significant energy savings while meeting this goal,” said Miller recently to the entire SSC Atlantic team. He noted that lighting modifications have saved 1,160,640 kilowatt hours a year; 116 more recycling containers were purchased for all SSC Atlantic buildings; solar-powered golf carts and leg-powered bicycles are being used by employees to move around SSC Atlantic campuses; reserved parking spots are offered for hybrid and carpool vehicles; and Adopt-a-Highway (Virginia Avenue) and Clean Cities Sweep programs involvement has increased. More about SSC Atlantic’s environmental efforts is at the Green Blog, at <https://blog.spawar.navy.mil/green/>.

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and Mount Pleasant Mayor Billy Swails were in attendance at the awards ceremony; as were Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor Sr., and Dickie Schweers, Charleston County Council member.

The award is one of several presented by Community Pride of Charleston. Sponsored by the Clemson University Extension Service and Charleston County, Community Pride of Charleston County is a diverse group of dedicated individuals, businesses and organizations who encourage and recognize those who take pride in their community through beautification and litter prevention efforts. For more than 40 years they have been recognizing individuals, groups, businesses, schools, agencies, municipalities and others who improve the community through beautification and other efforts.



SSC Atlantic goes the extra mile to adopt a highway

Twenty SSC Atlantic volunteers started their day Saturday, May 21 cleaning a one-mile stretch of North Charleston's Virginia Avenue to kick off the center's Adopt-a-Highway effort. The group spent about two and a half hours and collected more than 35 bags of trash.

Pictured above, from left, are volunteers Stephanie Stewart, Rae Ann Kautzman, Sandi Stewart, Jeff Adams, Cindy Spencer, Bubba Spencer, Nick Barrett, Mike Jenó, Cindy McDonald, Marcus McDonald, Executive Director Chris Miller, Genie Lindsay, Gary Caldwell, Charlene Kennedy and Roy Lindsay.

To volunteer for the next sweep call (843) 218-4854.



Photos by Joe Bullinger





Photo by Susan Piedfort

MRAP/M-ATV collaborations earn first Prziembel Prize

SSC Atlantic's MRAP integration team topped a field of 21 world-class southeastern U.S. collaborators to win the inaugural Prziembel Prize, presented May 10 at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR) in Greenville, S.C.

The MRAP vehicle integration team won the award for its collaboration with various MRAP manufacturers, other military units, industry partners

and the community as they rapidly and successfully integrated more than 16,000 MRAPs and 8,000 MRAP All-Terrain Vehicles (M-ATVs) with a full complement of C4ISR systems that give warfighters from all U.S. military services information dominance over their enemies.

Accepting the award for SSC Atlantic, Decision Superiority Business Portfolio Manager Kevin McGee said, "On behalf of the command, we are honored to receive this award, and I dedicate this to the military men and women who serve our nation every day both at home and overseas."

The newly created Prziembel Prize, which recognizes collaborations across diverse organizations in the Southeastern U.S. deemed significant by those outside the region, promotes the best practices in open innovation. The award was presented at the InnoVenture Southeast conference. John Warner, founder and CEO of InnoVenture LLC, referred to the MRAP/M-ATV effort as "one of the most significant military/industry collaborations since World War II."

In order to reduce

the loss of warfighters due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Robert Gates made MRAP vehicles the number one DoD acquisition priority in 2007. MRAP acquisition is managed by the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) under the authority of the Joint MRAP Vehicle Program Office.

MCSC tasked SSC Atlantic to be the sole C4ISR integrator of the vehicles, receiving MRAP vehicles manufactured by a variety of vendors, and integrating each with a full complement of C4ISR systems. In addition to the existing variants and configurations of vehicles, the different military branches needed specific C4ISR suites in their MRAPs. All told, there were nearly two dozen configurations of vehicles to be designed, prototyped, integrated, tested and shipped from SSC Atlantic to warfighters. On Dec. 4, 2007, SSC Atlantic met its goal of integrating 50 vehicles per day, with 75 being integrated in a day at one point.

"These vehicles are really making a difference in the lives of the warfighters who put their lives on the line every day," said Brig. Gen. Frank L. Kelley, commander of MCSC and MRAP Joint Program Executive Officer, to the integration team during a recent visit to SSC Atlantic.

Under the guidance of the MCSC Joint Program Office, SSC Atlantic developed working relationships with the

Continued on page 11



Photo by Tom Egbert

During a visit in January of 2008 Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates thanks employees of the SSC Atlantic for saving warfighter lives by integrating, testing and installing advanced electronic systems communications equipment on MRAP vehicles.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen chats with MRAP integrators during a visit to the integration facility last year.

SSC Atlantic GI Bill team, employees honored with FEA awards

Local federal employees were recognized May 18 at the Greater Charleston Area Federal Executive Association (FEA) annual Employee of the Year awards luncheon. More than 240 people gathered at the Naval Weapons Station Redbank Club to honor federal civilian employees and uniformed military personnel.

SSC Atlantic's Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33 Application Development Team won the team award, while Program Analyst Antoinette Montgomery of 894 was named first runner up in the clerical/administrative category, and STEM Outreach Director Shanda Johnson of 81 was second runner up in the managerial/executive category. They were selected from 51 total nominations received in nine categories.

The SSC Atlantic Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill Long-Term Solution team delivered an automated information technology (IT) capability to the Department of Veterans Affairs that has assisted more than 409,500 veterans and warfighters returning from the battlefield in realizing their educational goals and receiving \$6.5 billion dollars in educational benefits.

Development and delivery of the Long-Term Solution (LTS) system has enabled the VA to efficiently process, administer, and manage the delivery of educational benefits to service members, veterans, and their beneficiaries attending college under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, which is referred to as the "Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill." The team's efforts improved VA's ability to address future needs and respond to legislative and policy changes in the processing of Chapter 33 benefits.

Keynote speaker for the FEA awards luncheon was Carolyn Adams, director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. Emcee was Tom Crawford, chief meteorologist for WCIV News 4.

Also honored at the luncheon were Maj. Phillip Tobin, USAF, of the 315th Airlift Maintenance Squadron, who won the Outstanding Managerial/Executive Award; Master Sgt. Michael Wilson of the Naval Consolidated Brig, who



Photo by Joe Bullinger

Members of SSC Atlantic's Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33 Application Development Team show off their award. Pictured above, from left, are S.C. Federal Credit Union Community Relations Director Thytyka Husser; team members Brad Crosby, Jim Leonard, Derik Pack and Andrew Mansfield; Carolyn Adams, director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and FEA Cochair Cmdr. Michael Holland, Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston.

won the Outstanding Supervisor award; Martin Brunworth of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, winning the Outstanding Scientific/Professional award; Chiquet Nicholes of the 315th Airlift Maintenance Squadron, who won the Outstanding Technician/Assistant award; Scott Rue of the 315th Airlift Maintenance Squadron, who won the Outstanding Trade/Craft award; Yeoman First Class Sylvester Sanchez of the Naval Consolidated Brig, winning the Outstanding Clerical/Administrative award; Michael D. Bruno of the 628th Air Base Wing, Joint Base Charleston, who won the Outstanding Safety/Security award; and Staff Sgt. Douglas Ryan, USAF, of the 628th Airbase Wing, who won the Heroism/Valor award.

A roving plaque which is presented to the agency with the most winners each year went to the Naval Consolidated Brig.

In addition to the GI Bill team, Montgomery and Johnson, SSC Atlantic nominees were Engineer Jeffrey Adams of 835 in the Outstanding Safety/Security category; Command Photographer Joe Bullinger of 851 in the Outstanding Trade/Craft category; Public Affairs Officer Lonnie Cowart of 851 in the Outstanding Supervisor category; and DADMS Administrator Jeffrey Franks of 82100 in the Outstanding Technician/Assistant category.

Since 1967 the Greater Charleston FEA has been sponsoring the Employee of the Year program as a means of publicizing the high caliber of civilian and military employees of the federal service. The FEA represents about 22,000 military and civilian workers in the greater Charleston area.

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor



Photos by Joe Bullinger

Science + Sport =

FIRST® Robotics competition

SSC Atlantic-coached teams made their mark during the 2011 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) March 25 and 26 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Employees were on hand as coaches and judges for FRC, which combines the excitement of sport with science and technology to create a unique varsity Sport for the Mind.™

FRC Team 3489 from Ashley Ridge High School, sponsored by the National Defense Education Program (NDEP) and mentored by SSC Atlantic's Robert Regal of 71000, and Fred Krenson of 58240, won the Rookie Inspiration Award, which celebrates the team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers both within their school, as well as in their community.

FRC Team 3475 from West Ashley High School, mentored by Dr. Richard Daehler-Wilking of Code 53320, Kevin Charlow of 01100 and Marilene Guardia-Baker of 59100, won the Highest Rookie Seed Award based on their field performance by the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.

SSC Atlantic's Dr. Steve Jarrett, 72000, was one of the judges for the two-day event. Other SSC Atlantic volunteers included John Andrews of 50E00 and Dan Yohman, 43240.

The competition allows students to apply math and science concepts to design, build, test and compete with robots; gain hands-on experience solving real-world problems; and

discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology careers. FRC stages short games played by robots, each weighing 120 lbs. Each robot is designed and built in six weeks by a team of high-school-aged students and a handful of mentors. This year's theme, LOGO MOTION,™ features two competing alliances, red and blue, each consisting of three robotic teams. The field is divided into two grids to support each alliance. At the end of each grid are two sets of three-pegged poles.

The match begins with one 15-second autonomous period in which robots operate independently of driver inputs and must hang a yellow inflatable circular tube in their respective grid. In the second part, drivers control the robots to maximize their alliance score by hanging inflatable shapes (triangles, circles and squares) on their grid posts. For more points, the shapes can be assembled in the order of the FIRST logo. The match ends with the robots deploying an independent electro-mechanical minibot, which climbs a vertical pole racing to trigger a sensor.

The students on the teams learn about teamwork, innovation and strategizing. At any given moment, the robot driver must decide to try to score points or try to help their alliance in defense. For example, one robot's arm did not work. That robot team decided to block the opposing alliance from scor-



ing. Or if an alliance member's robot is hanging the shapes, another alliance member will be the defense. Drivers must also consider how much time it takes to perform an action. Which will result in a higher score? If they go to hang a shape, will there be enough time to deploy the minibot? All the action takes place during a two-minute, 15-second match.

This was one of 48 FRC regional events. The Citadel and North Charleston community hosted the two-day Palmetto Regional with participating teams from New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.



Clockwise from top, judges watch the Team 3489 from Ashley Ridge High School robot. SSC Atlantic's Robert Regal helps the Ashley Ridge team make some vital adjustments, and the team watches as their robot goes through the paces.

FIRST class

SSC Atlantic employees coach kids to success in Lego League competition

SSC Atlantic sponsored six robotics teams while employees served as volunteers during the FIRST Lego League (FLL) South Carolina state competition, an all-day event held March 5 at the North Charleston Convention Center.

Saturday's event marked the end of the FIRST -- For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology -- Lego challenge for South Carolina. Several teams coached by SSC Atlantic personnel made it to the finals following the Lowcountry regional competition held in late January.

SSC Atlantic provided a number of judges and referees, including Executive Director Christopher Miller and Chief Engineer Bruce Carter.

This competition brought together some of South Carolina's brightest students and gave them a chance to demonstrate their engineering and problem-solving skills, critical thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community. Eighty South Carolina FLL teams -- featuring kids in fourth through eighth grade -- competed, with some teams dressed to compliment their topics. One team dressed as little Einsteins, another had hats that looked like brains, and another dressed as piglets with a pig mascot and the theme "We Like Bacon." The LifeSavers team wore inflatable life preservers.

In Saturday's event, a record number of kids from kindergarten to third grade competed in Junior FLL contests. Sixteen teams competed and showed their innovations in wheelchair manufacturing, helicopter and boat transportation, the use of various prosthetics, a stress test simulation and a flashing, beating heart. Some teams dressed in scrubs and lab coats to compliment their topic. Each team was awarded a certificate and each child an FLL medal.

This year's theme, "Body Forward," challenged the students to investigate biomedical engineering. Teams could choose any part of the body or anything related to the body,



Photos by Tom Glaab

SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller, left, and Chief Engineer Bruce Carter, middle, confer with another judge as they prepare for a round with the Nano Hawks.

such as testing, diseases or equipment, and then had to perform research, build a model featuring a moving piece -- for Junior FLL a piece moved by hand or motor, and for FLL a motorized component. The teams had to make a poster and present their concepts.

SSC Atlantic employees who also participated as judges were Michelle Rehr-Matash and Jessica Eisen. SSC Atlantic personnel who have participated throughout this year's competition and coached teams that also went to state are Amanda Womble-Patterson, Karen Cooke, Sarah Leitner, Glenn Hoffman, Tim Gardner, David Kappel, Gabriel Magwood, Solomon Nkwocha, Jack Ellis and Cager Clemon.

SSC Atlantic-coached teams that won awards were the Nano Hawks, coached by Womble-Patterson and Cooke, from Hanahan Middle School (the Programming second place award) and ArthroBots, coached by Leitner, from Marrington Middle School of the Arts (Programming third place award).



The Nano Hawks from Hanahan Middle School anxiously waiting their score. They won the second place award for programming.



Photos by Joe Bullinger



Small business symposium

The 20th quarterly Small Business and Industry Outreach Initiative Symposium, held in North Charleston April 21, boasted an attendance that was nearly 25 percent higher than the previous event.

SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon, pictured at left, kicked off the symposium by discussing SPAWAR's role of providing information dominance to warfighters. He also thanked the contractor community for its tremendous support of SSC Atlantic.

Also addressing the crowd were Dave Monahan, Director of Management Operations, and William Paggi, Contracts Competency Lead.

Przirembel Prize

Continued from page 6

multiple MRAP vehicle manufacturers, C4ISR equipment manufacturers, test personnel, integration contractors, local governments, military branch representatives, and transportation units to be successful. "I'm especially proud of how SSC Atlantic developed true collaborative partnerships across the community in order to gain efficiencies and meet the challenging MRAP program productivity objectives," said SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon.

Among the military collaborators were U.S. Transportation Command; the 841st Transportation; Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston; Coast Guard Sector Charleston; Joint Base Charleston, including Naval Weapons Station Charleston, 437th Airlift Wing, 315th Airlift Wing and Naval Criminal Investigative Service; the Joint Program Executive Office, Defense Contract Management Agency, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and the Army Material Command. Industry collaborators were Scientific Applications International Corporation (SAIC); Scientific Research Corporation

(SRC); Stanley Corporation; Imagine One; Mantech; and VT MILCOM. SSC Atlantic also collaborated with the city of North Charleston.

The SSC Atlantic integration facility at one point had 900 personnel working in two 10-hour shifts to meet goals. They expanded geographically to Orangeburg, initially as a back-up facility, then as another full integration facility integrating up to an additional 20 vehicles per day.

The collaboration created more than 1,200 jobs directly across the government and industry sectors of South Carolina. Additional jobs were created and maintained in third party suppliers of equipment and support services across the region by secondary partnerships for industrial supplies and services.

The impact of the innovative solutions developed by the MRAP team was felt at the highest levels of the government and by troops in hostile zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. During a visit to SSC Atlantic and the MRAP integration line last year, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen said, "Every time I have made a trip in theater, a soldier has come to me and said, 'keep the MRAPS and M-ATVs coming. They save our lives. Tell them back home 'thank you.'"

- Susan Piedfort, *Chronicle* Editor



One in a Billion: *One family that was on the line when milestone was reached*

By Gene Carter

Randomly picked from a large number of SPAWAR Internet café callers who were on the line the evening of April 29 -- when the minute meter passed the 1,000,000,000 minute mark -- 1Lt. Javier Martinez-Baez of Fort Knox, Ky., was of course unaware of this significant milestone when it occurred.

That meter began to run in November 2007 when SPAWAR

moved responsibility for providing and maintaining its down range Internet café services to a new provider, DRS Technical Services, Inc., under a new contract.

Like many military families before them and more to follow, Javier, his wife Myra and their two children Christopher, age nine, and Javier, seven, “couldn’t be more thankful” for the SPAWAR Internet café program, says Myra. “You guys are doing such a great job helping our soldiers as they are helping our nation,” she added.

Both Javier and Myra agree that as technology has advanced, the service has improved significantly. Javier is now five months into his second tour, this time in Afghanistan. His first deployment was spent just southwest of Baghdad, Iraq, in 2005/2006 as an enlisted man.

“There’s very little delay and the calls are really clear,” Javier said. He’s impressed with the consistency between cafés too as he was able to visit another larger site. “Even when there’s bad weather and dust storms, the phones still work,” he said.

Javier and Myra met at the Puerto Rico police department where they both worked. Both had plans to join the Army. Javier went first and Myra ultimately followed a path to higher education, obtaining her bachelor’s degree with Javier’s help as he watched the kids while she took classes. “We both were going to college for a while and it became too difficult, so Javier said I should go and he would wait.”

Javier was the first in his family to follow a desire to serve in the Army, which started, he believes, in his teen years. His college pursuit helped him to qualify for a commission as he graduated from the Army’s Officer Candidate School in 2009. Under the program, he has 18 months after he returns from his current tour to complete his bachelor’s degree which, if current plans hold, will be at Fort Benning. Myra wants to go to nursing school once they relocate to Georgia, following in the steps of her mom.

The Martinez-Baez family has consumed its fair share of the billion minutes of SPAWAR Internet café call time.

“Javier calls us two times a day. It’s wonderful!” Myra says, and notes how her children are affected by the calls. “Javier’s voice can quickly calm my youngest son. Once he



SSC Atlantic’s OIF/OEF Internet café program

SSC Atlantic has designed, procured, installed, maintains and relocates more than 1,000 Internet cafés for Service members and civilians supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. These cafés give users a communications capability unsurpassed in the history of warfare. Warfighters can access the Internet, email, chat, exchange music and photos, take college courses, and video teleconference with friends and family while deployed -- at no cost and at any time of any day. Customer service is provided to the cafés 24/7.

Continued on page 17



'Homeland Security - 10 Years Later'

SSC Atlantic collaborated with ThinkTEC, an initiative of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, to present the 7th annual Homeland Security Innovation Conference May 4 to 5 in North Charleston. The theme of this year's conference was "Homeland Security – 10 Years Later." Attended by more than 400 people, the event focused on technological changes during the past 10 years in biometrics, cyber security and other areas related to the nation's security.

Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon told attendees that SSC Atlantic operates globally and is fulfilling SPAWAR's role as an information dominance command. As cyber threats have increased exponentially, the center has undertaken initiatives to give warfighters the edge in battlespace by denying adversaries access to information.



Photos by Joe Bullinger



Clockwise from top, SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon kicks off the conference. The SSC Atlantic booth shows center products and capabilities. Brad Howard briefs on biometrics. Prospective SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. (Sel.) Mark Glover and Urbon listen to a speaker. Joint Base Commander Col. Martha Meeker speaks.

eBenefits: Many systems, one site

How SPAWAR and the VA collaborated to deliver critical benefits information and self-service capabilities to veterans, service members and their families

**By Damion Strommer
Communications Specialist**

SSC Atlantic VA Systems and Applications

The first thing that strikes you when you visit the jointly sponsored Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) eBenefits Web site is the clean, crisp format and smartly designed navigation aids. User friendly, with a distinctly conversational tone, eBenefits pulls you in immediately. Clearly, this is a website for the Facebook generation.

But a closer look reveals eBenefits is no ordinary website. It's actually a one-stop self-service "portal" for benefits-related tools and information for Wounded Warriors, veterans, current service members, their families and their caregivers.

The eBenefits portal puts Veterans and Service members in the driver's seat, allowing them access to an almost endless array of links to information on benefits and entitlements, health, insurance and housing. But most importantly, eBenefits links users to several VA and DoD systems and offers a single location to apply for a host of benefits, including Compensation and Pension, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E), and educational entitlements using the Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) tool.

Through eBenefits, users can also check the status of benefit claims, view a payment history of benefits received and access copies of official military personnel records. Users can perform a quick eligibility check to see whether they qualify for VA health care benefits. They can even apply for a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to show housing lenders that they are qualified for VA-guaranteed financing and calculate the amount of their VA home loan benefit.

Users can also find a VA facility, generate official VA letters for a variety of purposes, and even purchase consumable items for medical equipment. A link to the DoD TRICARE system provides 24-hour access to military healthcare services directly from eBenefits. The link also provides the ability to make doctor's appointments, refill prescriptions and obtain information about TRICARE coverage.

The screenshot shows the eBenefits website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with 'Log in' and 'Register' buttons, and a search box. Below this is a navigation bar with 'My eBenefits', 'Benefit Links', 'Tools', 'Apply', 'About', and 'Help'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'WHAT'S YOUR TIME WORTH?' and 'eBenefits enables you to access benefit information more efficiently using self-service tools.' Below the banner is a 'Guide to eBenefits Features' section with four featured items: 'Account Request Portal (ARP)', 'Apply for Veterans' Benefits Online (VONAPP)', 'Social Media Page Enhancements', and 'TRICARE Online (TOL) Single Sign-on'.

About the only thing users can't do on eBenefits is obtain the back story of how SSC Atlantic collaborated with VA and DoD in designing and deploying this extremely successful self-service tool. The breezy look of eBenefits masks the amount of work required from VA and SSC Atlantic to overcome the challenges to make the portal what it is today.

Background

The back story actually begins on March 6, 2007, when then President George W. Bush established the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors (Executive Order 13426). The purpose of this commission, headed by former Senator Bob Dole and former

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, was to seek better ways to “serve the multiple needs of injured service members and their families, support them in their recovery..., and simplify the delivery of medical care and disability programs.” The commission made a primary recommendation that DoD and VA should make information about benefits and services available online, via a password-protected site, in which veterans and service members can securely enter personal information. The commission further stipulated that the website should be user friendly, tailored and not unnecessarily complex or redundant.

VA was given primary responsibility for executing the technical and business development of a Web portal that would implement the commission’s recommendations. VA officials began developing the portal using the following basic requirements: serve as a single sign-on website enabling users to use one password to provide access to many systems; interface with many existing VA and DoD systems; contain links to related resources and services; and be adaptive to an individual’s circumstances, physical limitations and specific needs.

SSC Atlantic joins the effort

In 2008, VA officials initiated a partnership with SPAWAR to provide a full range of technical and project management services to help modernize its information technology systems and infrastructure. The eBenefits portal was one of numerous projects involved in this effort, and work on the portal began in December of that year. eBenefits was originally intended to house only static content with a small number of self-service features.

The SSC Atlantic development team built a creative concept of what the portal would look like and submitted it to the VA. What the team ended up building was a set of “frameworks” and rapid application development features designed to accommodate Web portlets — a software application managed and displayed in a Web portal — and allow for rapid response to various changes. Using standard, readily available application programming and development tools, the team was able to build upon these existing frameworks rather than honing in and developing each feature or portlet requested by the VA or DoD in a one-off fashion. This allowed the team the flexibility to respond as requirements evolved from concept through implementation. In fact, the core architecture of eBenefits was designed to facilitate change, notes Pete Davenport, eBenefits Project Manager for SSC Atlantic.

VA and DoD business owners selected an initial set of features to be implemented: a link to DoD TRICARE health insurance options; an interface to the VA’s Remote Order Entry System (ROES), allowing Veterans to place online orders for medical products; and an interface with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to view personnel data contained in military records. eBenefits went live in October 2009.

Interfaces were soon established with many other sys-

tems, including the Defense Personnel Records Information Retrieval System (DPRIS) to allow service members to pull their own electronic military service records instead of having them mailed. The project scope and complexity quickly grew as VA and DoD identified more business features to be offered through the portal. Feature complexity increased as well. “We started out by just adding two or three features in a quarterly release,” said Davenport. “Now we add approximately 10 features or capabilities per release.” Releases are still deployed quarterly, he noted.

Challenges

The challenges faced by the VA/SPAWAR team to get eBenefits up and running were as varied as the functionality of the site itself. Early in the project the SPAWAR team spent considerable time designing an interface that would connect existing VA and DoD systems. This included identifying websites and determining how to integrate them with eBenefits. Even more challenging was that veterans and service members did not have an easy way to access these existing systems, which were all on different technology platforms with different capabilities, compliance standards and business rules.

In addition, eBenefits crosses agencies and multiple groups within a single agency, requiring the team to establish mutual trust, good working relationships and an effective way of collaborating.

Perhaps the biggest challenge the team has faced has been getting users registered to access the system. To use eBenefits, a user must be in DEERS and must obtain a DoD Self-Service (DS) Logon. A DS Logon is a lifetime identity that can be obtained by current service members and their dependents and veterans. The DS Logon is accepted by eBenefits, TRICARE Online, DoD Benefits and other portals. (DoD recently issued a new policy requiring all new Service members obtain a DS Logon upon accession.) These processes are outside of eBenefits and can be very complex, depending on one’s status. For example, a veteran who is retired but still working for DoD will have a different path to registration than a veteran who is retired and not working. Family members may be even more challenged if they have to travel to a VA facility for “in-person proofing.” The team has worked with VA call centers to gather all possible registration scenarios and document them on the eBenefits site. They are also working with DoD contacts on a “wizard” solution that will walk a user through the registration process. By the end of the year, DoD plans to have an online mechanism for any veteran or service member to obtain a DS Logon, making access to eBenefits easier for all.

What does eBenefits look like today?

The VA/SPAWAR team achieved the goal of a single sign-on portal where users log in once, opening a gateway for access to multiple systems. “eBenefits is a capability we can all be proud of, and is a great reflection of the dedication

Continued on next page

and commitment to serving our nation's veterans, Wounded Warriors and service members," says Mark Krause, SSC Atlantic's manager for VA programs. Today, veterans, service members, spouses and caregivers accessing eBenefits have access to a myriad of options and functionality. There are two main parts to eBenefits: (1) a resources catalog, and (2) a self-service portal. The resources catalog contains a

Today, veterans, service members, spouses and caregivers accessing eBenefits have access to a myriad of options and functionality.

vast amount of resources about benefits, with hundreds of links to insurance, education, health, housing and compensation benefits.

The self-service portal allows veterans and service members to log in securely and review their current information in VA and DoD databases using the "My eBenefits" dashboard. More specifically, users can do the following:

- Apply online for VA benefits.
- Access DoD personnel information and current health care benefits information.
- Update personal information in VA Corporate and DoD DEERS records (addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.).
- Access military records (such as the DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty).
- Check the status of claims through the Compensation and Pension Claim Status portlet, an interface with the VA Compensation and Pension Department.
- Check on appeals they've submitted to the VA through a Board of Veterans Appeals interface.
- View current and historical VA compensation, pension, education and other payments.
- Manage and transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependents.

For service members and veterans who are wounded, ill or injured, eBenefits provides additional features including the ability to apply for and manage VA Specially Adapted Housing grants and view Federal Individual Recovery Plans if receiving counseling from a Federal Recovery Coordinator.

As each state has its own VA office, the dashboard allows service members to request benefits information for specific states, helping them decide where they might live after their tour of duty.

Based on factors in a particular user's profile, eBenefits can discern when someone is eligible for specific benefits. The portal also has a messaging system that can let service members know when they become eligible for certain benefits throughout their military careers.

Another useful feature is the Letter Generator, which helps veterans in their job search efforts by enabling them to print letters for prospective employers. Letters are pre-

populated with the veteran's profile and status information and are signed and dated. They even include the official VA seal. The letters can be generated, printed from a Web browser and delivered to veterans in minutes rather than the days it took previously when requesting letters by mail. Additionally, the dashboard contains a DoD eLearning center that provides access to free, self-paced courses on a variety of topics, including managing health and wellness.

eBenefits in the future

The future for eBenefits looks cutting-edge. The team is working on existing interfaces and data to push features in eBenefits that enable interactive scenario planning. One such feature is the Benefits Explorer, which would allow veterans to look at their current benefits "lifescape." The lifescape would be preloaded with information specific to the veteran/service member and would identify benefit eligibility information. Veterans could then make hypothetical changes to their profiles and create different scenarios, fine-tuning the results to suit their needs.

eBenefits will soon have the ability to add a "surrogate" — an individual who is given power of attorney over certain areas such as medical or financial decisions. Currently, surrogates cannot access an individual's eBenefits account or information, so changing this could be especially beneficial for incapacitated Wounded Warriors, veterans, or those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) who have guardians to assist with their needs or decisions.

The team is building mobile functionality to enable users to perform eBenefits functions beyond the desktop. Currently, users can use mobile devices to locate VA facilities and monitor pending benefits claims. The ability to view payment history is coming soon. The ultimate goal is to "mobilize" eBenefits, allowing veterans and service members to do everything from their mobile device that they can do from their computer.

In addition to its current integration with Facebook and Twitter, eBenefits may soon offer live feeds from social media so that users can select from a menu of live feeds for the content they wish to receive. Also being explored is the possibility of a user community forum where the team and users can communicate with each other. Users could share tips, tricks and success stories or advise one another on the best way to make eBenefits work for them.

The eBenefits release that was deployed in February 2011 included an expanded chat pilot, enabling users in four east coast states to

The ultimate goal is to "mobilize" eBenefits, allowing veterans and service members to do everything from their mobile device that they can do from their computer.

initiate a live online chat session with VA Regional Office employees to discuss issues or get quick answers to specific questions.

The eBenefits team is planning integration of many new features in 2011, including the various DoD and VA life insurance programs, an online VA Transition Assistance Program, an online patient authorization for release of health records, VA Compensation and Pension Examination appointments, and online selection of accredited attorneys, claims agents, or Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) representatives.

Successes

In developing eBenefits, the VA/ SPAWAR team relied heavily on the vision of capturing the user experience. "eBenefits wasn't about just the technical solution or business requirements," says Stacy Surla, User Experience Team Lead with SSC Atlantic. "We wanted to capture the voice of the user through design and development. We received strong support for the user experience on the VA management side from the beginning." Early on, a "user engagement pool" of potential participants in user testing was identified. This group of testers comprised a broad cross section of users and was subjected to extensive interviews, focus groups and remote testing. By asking testers simple questions ("What should we call this?" "Should we place this link here?"), the User Experience Team helped build eBenefits into a Web portal that can rival most commercial sites for usability and aesthetics.

Eddie VanArsdall, SSC Atlantic eBenefits Managing Editor, feels the site is setting a precedent. "There's a move-

ment in the government to add user experience as a value in projects. eBenefits is setting a good example for future government projects and initiatives. We see this as the way forward for government sites. The whole team feels that what we are doing is making a big difference, and that's what drives us."

Davenport points out that the eBenefits program has put SPAWAR in a different role. "SPAWAR is usually on the other DoD side, providing tools for the service member to carry out their mission, whether it's combat, intelligence, communications, etc. With eBenefits, we are supporting service members and veterans not on the mission side, but on their home side, when they get out."

With 24,000 daily visits averaging 19 minutes from users in 90 countries around the globe, eBenefits has clearly become a critical tool and go-to source of benefits information for veterans, service members, and caregivers. eBenefits has been very important in providing services that were previously only available by phone and is providing the ability for veterans to access their records 24 hours a day in a secure, reliable manner. And as a platform, eBenefits has high flexibility to adapt to new requirements, regulations and legislation.

To see the public portion of the eBenefits site, log on to www.ebenefits.va.gov.

eBenefits is one of numerous projects/programs supported by SSC Atlantic's Business and Force Support Portfolio, managed by Jacqueline Goff.

"The whole team feels that what we are doing is making a big difference, and that's what drives us."

Eddie VanArsdall, SSC Atlantic
eBenefits Managing Editor

Internet cafés provide one billion minutes of calls

Continued from page 12

starts talking to his dad, his disposition completely changes for the good. Their father reads books to them over the phone which is something they really enjoy. They love listening to him."

Javier says the café is packed every time there's a Free Call Day. Under the popular program, free talk time is available to anyone calling the U.S., its territories and to landlines in certain military home-base countries around the globe. At least two days each month troops can make calls at no cost to them through the generosity of the VFW's Operation Uplink program and their contributors. The program has grown from eight days each year in 2006 to 25 days on the 2011 calendar.

On 9/11 each year, DRS Technical Services shows its gratitude to the troops and their families by sponsoring its

own Free Call Day.

Javier and his family are thankful for the service that keeps them connected, even though they're separated by thousands of miles. "And when we can call for free, it makes it that much better," said Myra.

"The Martinez-Baez family and others like them are the reason the SPAWAR Internet café program exists," said Mike Hartman, Senior Program Manager of the SPAWAR Internet Café Integrated Product Team, based in Stuttgart, Germany. "It's important that they stay in contact during this challenging time in their lives and our cafés are that lifeline. This mission motivates everyone on our team to do the best job possible, because we know they're counting on us."

Gene Carter is an SSC Atlantic industry partner employed by DRS.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

From left, SSC Atlantic's Brian R. Robinson of 41140, Marlon Ball of 58120 and DISA Action Officer Rodney Alexander establish communications at SSC Atlantic's SHF Gateway to JITC at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., while participating in DICE 11-2.

DICE 11-2: *SSC Atlantic takes part in joint interoperability testing*

SSC Atlantic Code 58120 participated in the Department of Defense (DoD) Interoperability Communications Exercise (DICE) 11-2, a major Joint Interoperability Test Center (JITC) initiative held Feb. 28 through March 18.

Supported by the Joint Staff Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Directorate (J6) and Joint Forces Command (JFCOM), DICE is executed by JITC. It is the largest and sole DoD exercise with the primary purpose of generating joint interoperability certifications.

JITC conducts DICE testing, training and exercise transformation initiatives in a simulated geographically dispersed Joint Task Force (JTF) environment for joint interoperability certification or assessment.

DICE replicates real world tactical, strategic and commercial networks to demonstrate technology and mitigate risks. It provides an excellent forum for testing emerging technologies, allied communications initiatives, regressive testing with legacy equipment, and realistic joint communications training. It benefits the warfighter by reducing risk of operational failure through aggressive testing of new versions of software, equipment and employment techniques in

a "typical" JTF communications network. This maximizes the use of DoD funding and speeds the certification of technology to the warfighter.

SSC Atlantic Code 58120's participation involved the Crypto Modernization Integration and Installation Project and its assessment of the KIV-7M cryptographic device's ability to interface with the various command and control elements utilizing the modern cryptographic algorithm. The test objective was to identify the capabilities and limitations for the execution of the pending teleport communications transition from legacy to modern cryptographic devices. Testing phases included the transmission of various data: specific data exchange, video teleconference (VTC), change key and Over-The-Air Rekey (OTAR).

Participants included JITC, U.S. Air Force TDC-ICE (Theater Deployable Communications-Initial Communications Element), 612th ACOMS (Air Communications Squadron) from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., and SSC Atlantic.

SSC Atlantic's SHF Gateway is operated by Terry Hale, Code 55230.



Photos by Susan Piedfort

Siel, Miller and Keeney listen to a brief by SSC Atlantic Chief Engineer Bruce Carter.

SSC Atlantic and NSWC Dahlgren

Summit enables collaboration

On March 2, two of the Navy's Working Capital Fund engineering centers conducted a summit and technical information exchange at SSC Atlantic's Charleston site.

SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon, Executive Director Christopher Miller and Chief Engineer Bruce Carter hosted the summit with Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Dahlgren Division's (DD) Technical Director Carl R. Siel Jr., Chief Engineer Emmett Maddry and Distinguished Senior Scientist Niel Baron.

Siel provides senior leadership and stewards Dahlgren's technical excellence as they execute the research, development, test and evaluation, analysis, systems engineering, integration and certification of complex naval combat, sensor, weapon and strategic systems associated with surface warfare as well as homeland and force protection.

Also in attendance were SSC Pacific Executive Director Carmela Keeney and Chief Engineer Steve Musson. The purpose of the visit was to provide SSC Atlantic and NSWC DD the opportunity to discuss enhancing organizational relationships in support of engineering efforts including mission-level integration and interoperability. Additional topics included the research, development, test and evaluation network certification and accreditation; lab verification, validation and accreditation; and platform enterprise engineering and certification.

During the engagement with Dahlgren, Mike Nash and Don Pacetti had the opportunity to discuss the status of the GEMINII efforts. GEMINII was an integrated systems engineering process and toolset for evaluating systems alternatives using architectures. The process and tools have merged into Capabilities-Based Engineering Framework

(CBEF). The ability to perform dynamic assessments gives CBEF significant power while maintaining engineering rigor. Siel acknowledged the rigor and process standardization inherent in the CBEF process, and requested the warfare centers come together with the objective of synchronizing engineering and interface standards to support enterprise integration and interoperability.

In correlation, Baron illustrated NSWC's approach on weapon systems integration and the research into the interstitial space. The mastery of the "interstitial space" of the Systems of Systems (SoS) can offer great rewards using mathematics to enable algorithms and tools which expand simulations to characterize SoS function and performance, as well as contribute to the understanding between operational, programmatic and technical communities.

"Despite our 'tribal cultural' differences (combat systems vs. C4I communities), we largely work on the same stuff," said Baron. "Our opportunities for teaming and cross-training are huge."

The visit successfully concluded with valuable discussions on the interoperability and synchronization of both centers' organizational capabilities. "We really appreciate NSWC DD's making the trip to Charleston," Miller said. "There are many opportunities for us to collaborate, and given our budget environment, we must keep this dialogue continuing and find ways to be more efficient."

NSWC DD and SSC Atlantic participants departed with a wealth of knowledge that will enable collaboration. They will also plan future engagements that focus the engineering at the centers to better support our nation's warfighters.

Beaman's telework a win-win proposition

Like many working mothers, SSC Atlantic's Liz Beaman drops her one-year-old son at daycare each morning before heading to work.

Unlike her coworkers in the budget preparation and execution competency (1111) in Charleston, her workstation is in Idaho Falls, Idaho, almost 1,900 miles away.

Beaman is an SSC Atlantic telework success story. Working from a home office using a Science & Technology (S&T) laptop with a Common Access Card (CAC) reader and a virtual private network (VPN) access point, she uses SSC Atlantic shared drives, e-mail and other DoD websites to perform her duties. She has an Internet Protocol (IP) phone which gives her a local extension for phone communication and she calls in to participate in meetings.

Beaman started her career in the Financial Management Trainee Program (FMTP) in 2005, and was stationed in Charleston with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). As part of this 28-month-long program, she completed rotations at various commands, including a four-month rotation with the human resources group at then-SSC Charleston. When it was announced that NAVFAC Charleston would move to Jacksonville as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission decision, Beaman interviewed with SSC Atlantic budget branch personnel, and they agreed to allow her to complete her internship at SPAWAR, then bring her onboard once her internship was complete. Shortly before finishing her internship, Beaman completed a rotation with the budget office at SPAWAR HQ, which helped transition her expertise from NAVFAC's Mission Funded budget structure to SPAWAR's Navy Working Capital Funded structure.

Beaman's husband served as an enlisted member of the Navy for more than 10 years, and his Navy assignment brought them to Charleston in 2004. He left active duty in 2008 and accepted a position at Naval Reactors Facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho. "At the time, the SSC Atlantic budget group was short staffed, so a last minute decision was made to allow me to work via an Alternate Workstation Agreement for the remainder of 2008 (September - December)," Beaman said. "The situation worked out well for both me, my direct supervisor and upper management, so the telework agreement has been extended since then," she added.

As a member of the budget preparation and execution competency, Beaman completes the civilian personnel ex-

hibits for SSC Atlantic's A-11 Budget, assists in the preparation and distribution of internal overhead budgets, monitors execution and prepares various reports. She also serves as the budget analyst for the 8.0 competency. From her home office she delivers the internal budget allocation, monthly financial indicator reports, stabilized rates, portions of the A-11 budget and actual reports, monthly status reports for 8.0 and various data calls.

SPAWAR has been very accommodating in setting up the telework arrangements, Beaman said. "It definitely helps that I have a supervisor who is supportive of the arrangement," she said.

"This telework arrangement is a win-win situation for the organization and for Liz," said Beaman's supervisor Susie Hilton. "She can tackle complicated tasks quickly since she is able to concentrate on the task at hand and doesn't have as many interruptions as we have here in the office. Liz also has a seamless connection with her laptop and



Photo by Chris Beaman

Liz Beaman

IPC phone which makes it seem like she is just in the next building.

"I would caution that telework may not be for everyone and every position," Hilton added. "It takes a certain type of work and an employee with the skills and initiative to make this situation work well. I certainly couldn't afford to have all of my team working from home, but for this particular situation, the telework arrangement has proven to be a huge success story."

The experience has definitely made Beaman a proponent of teleworking. "I feel I can accomplish a lot more during the day via telework," she said. "I have fewer interruptions and a quieter work environment which, depending on the task, makes for a much more productive day.

"I have taken on new tasks and responsibilities I wouldn't have had the time to do if I was still working in the office," she said, adding "I've also learned to work almost entirely paper free, which I'm sure over the past couple of years has saved a few trees!"

While she does phone in for meetings, the lack of social interaction with her co-workers is the main thing she misses about working onsite. "The day-to-day water cooler chit chat is definitely lacking.

"But it's definitely nice not having to fight traffic through the gates every morning," she said.

- Susan Piedfort, Chronicle Editor



Above, LS1 Elisa Tillett and ET1 Hume Thompson tell Larrymore Elementary School students what life is like in the Navy. At right, Club 56 members -- from left, front row, Lt. Talona Cordova, YN1 Tamiko Golff, YN1 Laquan Simmons, back row, LS1 Elisa Tillett, LS2 Kori Cabbler, IT2 Kimberly Cook and IT3 John Haggerty -- show off a certificate of appreciation they received for volunteering at the Salvation Army's H.O.P.E. Village.

CLUB 56

Tidewater Sailors are making a difference

By Holly Quick

Military employees in the Tidewater area stay engaged with the local community through their efforts with Club 56, a military organization comprised of 18 first and second class petty officers. Club 56 gets its name from combining E-5 (Petty Officer Second Class) and E-6 (Petty Officer First Class). Their purpose is to build camaraderie among the naval ranks and to be positive influences in the community.

Members of Club 56 dedicate a great deal of their time



From left, YN1 Laquan Simmons, Lt. Talona Cordova, LS2 Kori Cabbler and YN1 Tamiko Golff pull weeds and plant flowers at the Salvation Army's H.O.P.E. Village.

volunteering at Larrymore Elementary School in Norfolk, Va. Using the money they earned from various fundraisers, they purchased school supplies for the students at the beginning of the school year. They visit the school every Tuesday for two hours and tutor first grade students during the school year.

Members of Club 56 also participated in the school's career day March 18, and were available to answer the students' questions about what it's like working for SSC Atlantic and what they should study in college to work for SSC Atlantic when they get older.

Last year Club 56 participated in the United Service Organizations' (USO) annual Christmas party at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. They reserved an area at the event and invited SSC Atlantic personnel to bring their children. After picking out and purchasing the gifts, they dressed up like elves and presented gifts to every child attending.

Club 56 participated in a garden party at the Salvation Army's H.O.P.E. Village April 15 and assisted with various landscaping duties such as pulling weeds and planting flowers. H.O.P.E. Village is a transitional housing program that offers jobs and supportive services to low and moderate income single women and women with children in need.

Help support Club 56 and their involvement with the community by participating in one of their fundraisers in Bldg. Z-133 in Tidewater.



YN1 Tamiko Golff and LS1 Elisa Tillett present gifts to children of SSC Atlantic personnel at the USO annual Christmas party.

New Professionals Council Atlantic

NPCA plankowners end terms, new representatives named

By Holly Quick

The New Professionals Council Atlantic (NPCA), established in November 2008, recently saw a turnover in members. Initial members who established the NPCA and formalized the charter have reached the end of their terms, and a new group of eager and enthusiastic New Professionals have taken over.

According to Chairperson Alesyn Merry, “The council will be involved in a number of program initiatives and improvements in the coming year.”

The NPCA is standing up a committee to revise the Master Development Plan (MDP) for all New Professionals across the command. The revised MDP will maintain consistent structure and goals while focusing to meet certain areas of the career development models for specific competencies.



NPCA Washington, D.C., representative Colin O'Brien.

Another committee being stood up by the NPCA will focus on a strategy for rotations. The committee will aim to develop and implement a formal rotation policy for the New Professionals, which will be reflected in all development plans.

New Professionals Council Atlantic

| Name | Code | Position |
|-------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Alesyn Merry | 12530 | NPCA Council Chairperson |
| Eric Rich | 54422 | Mission Funded Representative |
| Ashley Savage | 54570 | Tidewater Representative |
| Danielle Shoemake | 54380 | New Orleans Representative |
| Colin O'Brien | 54530 | Washington D.C. Representative |
| Julie Straub | 12580 | 1.0 Competency Representative |
| Leah Beckham | 22400 | 2.0 Competency/NAIP Representative |
| Ted Seabolt | 55230 | 5.0 Competency Representative |
| David Huffman | 59110 | 5.0 Competency Representative |
| Kevin Bush | 52310 | 5.0 Competency Representative |
| John Engberg | 55250 | 5.0 Competency Representative |
| Kristin Moore | 71000 | 7.0 Competency Representative |

The NPCA is also planning to implement “New Professional Mentors,” a program which allows younger professionals in the command, in addition to the already established formal mentors, to guide the newer NPs as they transition into the program. “This will greatly help improve our mentoring program and make our newest employees feel at ease,” Merry said. The NPCA is working to gather a pool of New

Professional Mentors for each location and competency, likely those in their second or third year of the program or recent graduates who really want to be



Photo by Joe Bullinger

NPCA representatives from Charleston pictured above from left are Julie Straub, John Engberg, David Huffman, Kevin Bush, Leah Beckham and Alesyn Merry.



New representatives for Tidewater area New Professionals are Ashley Savage, left, and Eric Rich.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

NPCA members who reached the end of their terms and exited the council, from left, Dan Jones, Coleman Lowry, Waleed Barnawi, D.J. Tyree and Bruce Billian pose with Executive Director Chris Miller. On VTC screens, from left, are Holly Quick and Jeff Welch.

mentors.

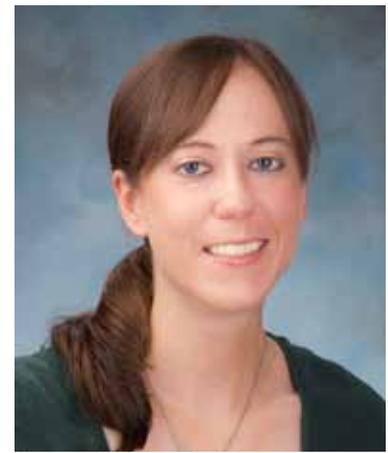
One of the biggest initiatives for the NPCA is planning the Second Annual New Professional All Hands, scheduled Oct. 26 and 27. The council is busy co-ordinating



New Orleans representative Danielle Shoemake.



Charleston representative Ted Seabolt.



Charleston representative Kristin Moore.

events, speakers and team building activities. The NP All Hands will include several team activities throughout the two days to include a 90-minute Lean Six Sigma event, innovation brainstorming and team trivia, among others.

The NPCA also plans to continue enhancing the New Professional community through monthly brown bags, social

activities, and volunteer and outreach efforts.

During a recent awards ceremony, SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller recognized outgoing NPCA members, including Dan Jones, Coleman Lowry, Waleed Barnawi, D.J. Tyree, Bruce Billian, Holly Quick and Jeff Welch.



Photo provided

The Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is commissioned and opened during an Oct. 1, 2010 ceremony.

SSC Atlantic, Navy Medicine teams support historical opening of James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center

By Ronald Mueller

A significant historical event took place Oct. 1, 2010, in North Chicago, Ill. On that day, the first-ever integrated, federal health care facility was commissioned and opened, culminating an eight-year initiative launched by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VHA). SPAWAR and Navy Medicine teams were a part of this historical effort. The military, civilian and contractor workforces played significant roles in successfully supporting and executing the information technology and infrastructure requirements. SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine teams designed and executed the information architecture needed for this federal medical treatment facility to provide patient services to VA and DoD beneficiaries and to conduct its daily business operations. This first federal health care facility of its kind has been named in honor of highly decorated Navy captain and NASA astronaut James A. Lovell, who commanded the Apollo 13 mission. The James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC) truly represents the first-ever medical treatment facility to completely integrate the services of two federal government health care departments.

The FHCC initiative began in October 2002 when VHA and DoD signed an executive council memorandum directing the partnership between the existing VA and Navy medical facilities North Chicago. This partnership evolved into a three-phase initiative that took eight years to bring to a successful conclusion Oct. 1, 2010. These three phases are summarized below.

- Phase 1 concluded in October 2003 when Naval Hospital Great Lakes (NHGL) transferred its in-patient mental health services to the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center (NCVAMC).

- Phase 2 was a partnership supported by a \$13 million VA renovation and modernization project for the NCVAMC. This phase expanded the emergency room services and surgical care departments. NHGL subsequently transferred its emergency room, intensive care and surgical operations to the NCVAMC. This phase was completed in June 2006.

- Phase 3 represented a Navy Medicine East (NME)-designed and managed military construction (MILCON) project for a new facility on the NCVAMC property, later named the Joint Ambulatory Care Center (JACC). This construction project produced a 201,000-square-foot, \$130 million medical treatment facility. In addition, this phase also supported renovation of 45,000 square feet of existing NCVAMC spaces and construction of a new, modern parking garage for JALFHCC. The JACC houses a state-of-the-art joint data center supporting VA and DoD Military Health Services (MHS) information, business, medical and clinical systems.

The JALFHCC initiative is officially considered to be a five-year, congressionally mandated demonstration project. In accordance with the 2009 and 2010 National Defense Au-

thorization Acts, DoD and VHA officials signed an executive agreement to integrate NHCGL and NCVAMC and to “operate a system of healthcare known as the DoD/VA Medical Facility Demonstration Project, Federal Health Care Center.” During the next five years, the JALFHCC will support both VA/DoD healthcare and DoD operational readiness missions and will have a staff of VA and Navy Medicine personnel. It is, perhaps, the emerging model for a number of additional federally-mandated and supported VA and DoD initiatives that will integrate and consolidate medical treatment services of two facilities into a single streamlined, and more efficient, FHCC serving both VA and DoD populations.

SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine IT personnel began supporting the JALFHCC project and the associated IT requirements in September 2008, a full six years after this initiative and planning began. The NME Regional Information Systems Officer (RISO) approached Naval Medicine Information Systems Support Activity (NAVMISSA) leadership requesting NAVMISSA and SPAWAR formally support Navy Medicine interests with the JALFHCC initiative and appoint a dedicated project manager to support Navy requirements and interests. In October 2008, NAVMISSA agreed to provide a resource from its Enterprise and Engineering Technical Services team at SSC Atlantic in Charleston, under an initial task order, to conduct an evaluation and study of the NHCGL server room to develop an enterprise IT model for supporting joint federal medical facilities. Initial support through June 2009 was governed by this task order. SSC Atlantic subsequently entered into four distinct statements of work (SOW) with NME to directly support the full range of IT activities for joint JALFHCC requirements and the integration of NHCGL into the JALFHCC. Since July 2009, a number of SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine teams have been engaged in the IT planning, design, collaboration, implementation and sustainment activities to support the JALFHCC opening.

The initial evaluation and study involved an analysis of the systems, programs and network structure at NHCGL and their operational requirements. The project manager and engineers conducted a full engineering assessment of NHCGL’s server room and the Great Lakes Recruit and Training Command clinics. The key deliverables of this effort were the identification of all the Great Lakes hardware and hosted Navy Medicine and MHS systems, a full master inventory that was maintained for the next two and a half years to support the transition of MHS and Navy Medicine systems into the JALFHCC environment, and the initial network design for the JALFHCC architecture and infrastructure. The resulting analysis was then applied to the JALFHCC operational requirements. The study produced a detailed systems analysis, determination of IT and network design options, and recommendations that supported JALFHCC planning. The study and resulting network solutions could also provide an initial baseline for future FHCC initiatives.

The SOWs that were signed by NME and SSC Atlantic covered a wide range of IT related activities. In simple terms,

the NME RISO turned to SSC Atlantic and its Navy Medicine professionals to develop the plans, design multiple solutions and execute the most critical IT requirements to enable the JALFHCC to function. First, the major -- and most enduring -- SOW established the requirements for the provisioning of the full range of project management activities. The appointment of a full time SSC Atlantic project manager satisfied this need. The project manager was tasked to oversee the planning and execution of countless IT requirements and to represent NME and SPAWAR in VA-DoD discussions and multiple workgroups. He also worked in collaboration with VA, DoD, MHS and other governmental agencies to bring about the successful implementation of the necessary IT actions to support the VA and DoD user population. Finally, the project manager protected the vital interests of the Navy’s recruit and training missions thereby ensuring a seamless and transparent transition to the JALFHCC; the early mandate from senior leadership stated the recruit and training missions and the Navy’s only recruit pipeline could not be jeopardized in any way. This dedicated and highly successful project management support was provided from July 2009 through May 2011. This SOW constituted \$455,000 of labor to the JALFHCC projects.

Three additional NME-SSC Atlantic SOWs governed the technical and engineering support for the JALFHCC integration. The second SOW established the requirements to design and build out two data centers in North Chicago. The first was the joint data center in the JACC originally intended to support three separate networks and enclaves (VA, MHS and Navy Medicine) and all the medical and business systems required for the JALFHCC to operate. As planning evolved and several unforeseen issues arose it became necessary to identify another Great Lakes facility to host a satellite data center, in Bldg. 1017 (Osborne), to house and support the Navy Medicine and Great Lakes systems. Both of these data center projects were negotiated by SSC Atlantic and NME with the American Power Conversion (APC) Corporation. APC designed and installed the infrastructure (power, cooling, and equipment cabinets) for both data centers. SPAWAR executed and administered the contracts valued at \$710,000 and ensured NME requirements were fully met by APC. The installation of APC systems and hardware to build out the two data centers was completed prior to the established critical milestone of Sept. 1, 2011 to support the official Oct. 1, 2011 JALFHCC opening. Completion of the two data centers made available the critical infrastructure for relocating all the MHS and Navy Medicine systems from the NHCGL server room to these two new data centers. The NME project manager played a pivotal role in these two large projects, ensuring the data centers were completed in accordance with JALFHCC project milestones and ready to support the transition and activation of IT, medical and business systems required for the JALFHCC to begin serving patients.

The third SOW established the direct SSC Atlantic engineering support to NME in the areas of IT transition and



JALFHCC's combined mission means active duty military, their family members, military retirees and veterans are all cared for at the facility.

engineering support. Specifically, this contracted SSC Atlantic to provide the resources to (1) transition the Navy Medicine Enterprise Systems from the Bldg. 200H server room to the new satellite data center, (2) evaluate the Great Lakes servers and design, implement and provide follow-on support for a virtualization solution, and (3) evaluate, determine and implement the necessary transition requirements for the Great Lakes Navy Medicine network configuration resulting from the migration of systems from the existing server room to the new satellite data center. Actual work on this multi-faceted contract was started by engineers in April 2010 and was completed with the final transition of the Navy Enclave systems to the new satellite data center in late February 2011. An SSC Atlantic team of engineers traveled to the site and worked closely with the Great Lakes IT team to successfully relocate all the active systems to Bldg. 1017 without a single incident and with no impact to continuing medical care at Great Lakes. This SOW was valued at \$540,000.

The fourth SOW established the requirements for changing the connectivity of several Navy Medicine Support Command tenant organizations at Great Lakes from Bldg. 200H to the Naval Health Clinic New England, located in Groton, Conn. To facilitate continued IT services to these organizations, SSC Atlantic was tasked to implement a solution and infrastructure design originally derived during a separate SSC Atlantic engineering study. This work started in October 2009 and was completed in January 2011. Multiple challenges had to be overcome including long haul circuit actions, local fiber-optic service availability to one of the buildings at Great Lakes, procurement and upgrading of hardware in one of the Support Command organizations, and configuration of network devices. SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine teams worked closely with external agencies and the respective IT staffs to execute all the required actions. This SOW was valued at \$113,000.

In addition to these formalized SOW contracts, there were

a large number of other activities supported and directly managed by the SSC Atlantic-appointed project manager. These were substantial efforts requiring significant time, personnel and financial resources and included the following:

- MCiS Local Area Network (LAN) and Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) deployment and installation of a complete LAN and WLAN within the JACC facility. MCiS teams also provided infrastructure and cabling support for the Bldg. 1017 data center. They also accomplished LAN work in other Great Lakes facilities.

- SSC Atlantic personnel designed, procured, installed and configured a new system specifically designed for the JALFHCC operations and to support the integration of two distinct user and medical staff populations. This system, referred to as the Application Virtualization and Hosting Environment (AVHE), was developed and deployed to the JALFHCC to support the access requirements for medical personnel on both campuses. AVHE provides access to the entire suite of critical medical and clinical systems including the DoD's Composite Health Care System (CHCS) and Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA) and the VA's Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) and Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista).

- Procurement, deployment, installation and configuration of the MHS Network Protection Suite (NPS) in the JALFHCC data center. This task was accomplished by the SSC Atlantic Lead supporting the MCiS Network Protection (NP) Deployment team. It involved the procurement and integration of new hardware devices for the existing Bldg. 200H NP suite and later the transition and expansion of the existing suite to the FHCC data center. It also required an intensive effort to redesign the network infrastructure supporting the VA, MHS and Navy Medicine in North Chicago. This MHS NP suite was critical to the activation of the DoD and MHS medical systems in the FHCC data center and access to those systems by the entire medical community.

- Installation and activation of CHCS, AHLTA, AVHE and the MHS medical systems residing on blade server platforms within the JALFHCC data center. It involved countless hours of effort and long days of troubleshooting connections, testing user access and determining and implementing hardware configuration changes. This effort required SSC Atlantic, VA, and MCiS teams to be on site in North Chicago for an extended time period. The resulting successful operation of each individual system and the communications required between systems are a testament to the expertise, commitment, innovation and teamwork of multiple agencies and individuals.

- Virtualization of existing Great Lakes servers. SSC Atlantic engineers evaluated all the active servers and developed a design plan to virtualize selected Navy Medicine servers as part of the transition process. This project involved a procurement action and subsequent site visit in late September 2010. This solution was then relocated to Bldg. 1017 as part of the March 2011 transition. This effort substantially supported the Navy's Cyber Asset Reduction and Security (CARS) initiative resulting in the reduction of the server and network footprint while also transitioning the systems into the 1017 data center.

- Procurement of a new, robust, redundant Cisco core switch and the deployment, installation and configuration of the Navy Medicine NPS in the satellite data center. The team de-installed and relocated current hardware devices from the existing NPS in Bldg. 200H and incorporated the new core switch and other new network devices to implement the new NPS in Bldg. 1017. This new NPS was operational Feb. 14, 2011. This NP Suite activation was the final event needed to support the final transition and relocation of the Navy Medicine systems from the existing server room to the satellite data center. This requirement was supported through a solid teamwork and collaborative approach and with SSC Atlantic teams on site from Feb. 23 through March 1, 2011. It was accomplished without any impact whatsoever on the users or upon medical operations. On Feb. 26, the satellite data center and its Navy Medicine Systems were declared fully operational.

In addition to the efforts already outlined there were two very significant and time consuming projects involving an NME-VA partnership. These projects included the following:

- Telecommunications Project. The VA designed, funded and installed a completely new telephone system to support the JALFHCC and to provide phone services for the JACC facility. Included within the overall design and project were new telephone switches for the Great Lakes facilities. These new digital switches replaced aging and difficult to maintain telephone switching systems. DSN service was also provided for authorized users on the FHCC Campus. The NME project manager was heavily engaged in the design and specific requirements needed to support each Great Lakes facility and planning and executing the installation. Additionally, the VA project manager added fiber optic cabling requirements to the telecommunications project to provide connectivity from Bldg. 1017 to the JALFHCC. The end result was a contiguous single mode fiber network from the FHCC data center to Bldg. 1017 and to each of the six other Great Lakes facilities requiring connectivity to the JALFHCC.

- Great Lakes Clinic Fiber Optic Cabling Project. Early in 2009 it became apparent that connectivity between Great Lakes facilities was inadequate to support existing requirements for bandwidth and performance had been degraded for many months. After considerable effort by NME to secure funding to upgrade to a fiber optic network, the VA agreed to fund this fiber project as part of the FHCC integration. An extensive 1½-year project effort ensued to develop and

implement the required fiber optic network for all the Great Lakes facilities. A partnership was established with the General Services Administration; they managed the contracts on behalf of NME, the VA and Great Lakes. The end result is a \$960,000 fiber optic network consisting of 20,000 feet of new single mode fiber cable and the elimination of the longstanding connectivity problems. The project provided the foundation for effective transition of DoD and Navy Medicine systems into the JALFHCC and supported bandwidth requirements for the new systems and future development initiatives.

The following SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine teams contributed to the highly successful JALFHCC implementation and transition of NHC Great Lakes into the first ever federal health care center over the past 2½-year period of time.

- 1) SSC Atlantic resources supporting the MCiS Network Protection Deployment Team.

- 2) SSC Atlantic resources supporting the MCiS LAN and WLAN Deployment. This team consisted of SPAWAR project engineers, electronics deployment team members from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and infrastructure and cabling deployment teams from VT Milcom.

- 3) Navy Medicine Enterprise Support Operations Center (ESOC) Team.

- 4) Navy Medicine and SSC Atlantic Enterprise Engineering and Technical Services team.

- 5) Navy Medicine Enterprise Information Assurance (EIA) team personnel.

- 6) SSC Atlantic ESOC Perimeter Protection Group (PPG).

- 7) SSC Atlantic personnel supporting the MCiS Wide Area Network (WAN) team.

- 8) SSC Atlantic personnel supporting the MCiS Network Operations (NetOps) Sub-Integrated Product Team (IPT).

- 9) SSC Atlantic personnel supporting the MCiS Application and Virtual Hosting Environment (AVHE) Sub-Integrated Product Team (IPT).

The JALFHCC has now been fully operational and providing the full range of patient care services since early December 2010. The effort that began nearly a decade ago has laid the foundation for future partnership initiatives between the VA and DoD. If this demonstration project proves successful, it stands a very good chance of being replicated in other parts of the country with Army, Air Force or Navy medical facilities merging with a nearby VA medical center into another federal health care center that will serve both VA and DoD beneficiaries. It is noteworthy that SSC Atlantic and Navy Medicine personnel and dedicated teams of subject matter experts played a very significant and enduring role in launching this first ever integrated federal health care center in North Chicago. Given the proven successes in North Chicago, one would expect SSC Atlantic to be called upon again in the future to be a critical partner in supporting the IT requirements for other initiatives of this scope.

Ronald Mueller is an SSC Atlantic industry partner employed by SAIC, Inc., and serves as Navy Medicine Project Manager.

Executive Director earns three major awards

SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller has been honored with three prestigious awards in the last three months.

Presidential Rank Award

Miller was recently selected a 2010 Meritorious Executive in the Presidential Rank Award Program. Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career senior executives and senior career employees with the Presidential Rank Award. Recipients are strong leaders, professionals and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. Award winners are chosen through a rigorous selection process.

Navy Superior Civilian Service Award

Miller was also recently presented the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award by Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) for Miller's service while acting as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Information Operations and Space (DASN (C4I/IO/SPACE)) from November 2010 to March 2011. Miller was tapped for this interim assignment upon the untimely death of the incumbent.

The award citation lauded Miller's "superb leadership acquisition expertise and a tireless work ethic" in this highly visible and demanding position, noting that he also concurrently maintained his duties as the executive director and senior civilian of SSC Atlantic.

"His strategic guidance over the Navy's more than 125 C4I/IO/SPACE programs has provided the warfighter with integrated communication, information technology and intelligence systems that enable successful command and control of military forces," the citation noted. "In just his short tenure as DASN (C4I), Miller was able to quickly enable Navy Enterprise Resource Planning to forge a way forward with

a Full Rate Deployment Decision Review, was instrumental in resolving major budget issues with the Navy Multiband Terminal, and achieved a clearer understanding of the NGEN budget requirements."

'40 Under 40'

In April Miller was chosen for the 2011 class of "40 Under 40," an annual award which honors professional successes and community involvement of 40 people younger than 40 years old who are making their mark on Charleston's business community.

The award is sponsored by the *Charleston Regional Business Journal (CRBJ)*, a weekly magazine that focuses on business and business related news in the Charleston area. Miller is the first SSC Atlantic official to be named to "40 Under 40" since *CRBJ* started presenting the awards in 1998.

Miller and 39 other "rising stars" were highlighted in the April 25 issue of *CRBJ*, and he was also honored during a special ceremony May 3 at Alhambra Hall.



SSC Atlantic tops previous CFC per capita giving



Photo provided

SSC Atlantic was presented the Per Capita Achievement Award during a Coastal Carolina Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) awards ceremony at the Redbank Club March 17.

SSC Atlantic's Charleston employees donated more than \$293,800 to local, national and international charities, exceeding last year's total by more than \$6,000. The campaign ran from Sept. 22 to Dec. 15, 2010. SSC Atlantic had the highest per capita giving (total dollars divided by total employees) for activities with 500 or more employees.

From left, SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urban, SSC Atlantic CFC chairperson for Charleston Jean Linker, and Activities Coordinator Toni Montgomery show off the Per Capital Achievement Award.



The SPAWAR headquarters exhibit showing the SSC Pacific, CHIPS and SSC Atlantic booths.

Photo by Holly Quick

SSC Atlantic shows off at Sea Air Space Exposition 2011

By Holly Quick

The Navy League's Sea Air Space conference is the largest maritime exposition in the world. This year's event was held April 11 to 13 in National Harbor, Md., and centered around the theme, "Internationally Engaged: Ensuring Freedom of the Seas." The event provided a forum for attendees, exhibitors and speakers to engage in dialogue regarding international partnerships, maritime strength, the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base and alternative energy opportunities.

The exposition hosted a number of distinguished speakers including Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Sean Stackley. Conference attendees were able to engage with military leadership at the Sea Service Chiefs' Panel which included the Vice Chiefs from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. There were additional panels focusing on international partnerships, energy opportunities and maritime infrastructure.

SSC Atlantic was on exhibit at the SPAWAR booth demonstrating its C4I capabilities and how they provide end-users with a critical edge, elevating information dominance as a core warfighting capability. Also on exhibit were SPAWAR HQ, SSC Pacific, *CHIPS* magazine, and Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS).



Photo by Rick Naystatt

SPAWARSYSCOM Exhibit Coordinator Tina Stillions (left) and Director of Corporate Communications Greg Geisenman the SPAWAR booth at the Sea Air Space Exposition.



Photo by Rick Naystatt

SSC Atlantic Computer Engineer Colin O'Brien, (center) and SSC Atlantic Director of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Tom Egbert, right, field questions from an interested naval officer at the SSC Atlantic booth.



Photos by Joe Bullinger

St. J's voice lab in the spotlight

By Holly Quick

The Navy's only dedicated secure voice lab, operated by SSC Atlantic's voice systems integrated product team (IPT), is located at St. Julien's Creek in Portsmouth, Va. The voice systems IPT's mission is to ensure information superiority through the use of encryption, authentication and access control technologies to protect information traversing Navy voice circuits, whether tactical (radio broadcast) or strategic (telephone).

During a visit to "St. J's" in December, SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller toured the voice engineering lab. Members of the voice systems IPT -- voice systems lead, Jim Farley, unified capabilities sub-IPT lead, Kevin Thompson, and Portable Radio ISEA, Mike Le -- demonstrated the many functions of the lab including direct fleet support, verification and validation activity, cryptographic modernization, Automated Digital Network System (ADNS) Voice and Defense Red Switch Network (DRSN).

For more information about the voice engineering lab, check out the April-June 2011 issue of *CHIPS*, pg. 56, or go to www.chips.navy.mil.



While on site, Miller presented awards to several members of the St. Julien's Creek team, including Lightning Bolt, on-the-spot and length of service awards.



Above left, Mike Le briefs Miller as Kevin Thompson, at left, listens. Above right, Jim Farley explains the voice systems capabilities to Miller.

CYBERSPACE

The war on systems or information?

By Rich Bishop, 63100

If you were in a room of “cyberspace” professionals and asked each of them to define what cyberspace means, you would receive a different answer from each one of them. Cyberspace is not easily defined as it covers a wide range of capabilities, threats and operations. Cyberspace can be offensive or defensive in nature; cyberspace operations range from strategic to tactical with both non-kinetic to kinetic effects, can be unclassified to top secret and can help an economy or nation to thrive, or be devastated.

Cyberspace is very real and is more than a virus on your home computer or a hacker trying to steal your personal information. In September 2007, Israeli jets bombed a suspected nuclear installation in northeastern Syria, what was so eye-opening was the Israeli bombers were never sighted on the Syrian radar defense system, supposedly state-of-the-art at the time and failed to warn the Syrian military of the attack. This failure appeared to be a direct attack on the computers running the radar system. It was suspected that the computer chips were fabricated with a hidden “backdoor” and by sending a preprogrammed code to those chips, they temporarily blocked the radar from detecting the aircraft.

Most of us have heard of Operation Buckshot Yankee where a worm created by a foreign intelligence agency was uploaded from a flash drive in the Middle East and contaminated Department of Defense (DoD) Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNET) and Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET). These attacks led the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to issue a policy banning the use of thumb drives on all government computer systems.

What if a foreign country embedded malware or a backdoor in their manufactured computer chips and at some future time they activate this malware and damaged critical systems running our nation’s infrastructure or defense systems? Imagine if you locked your car with the keys inside, you pull out your smart phone and unlock your car. Now imagine someone hacks into the automo-

bile’s electronic system and disables the engine or your electronic brakes? Would these be considered engineering flaws from the manufacturer or our defense contractors? In the meantime, various electronics and automobiles are recalled; the weapon systems are taken off line, costing the manufacturers and defense contractors millions or even billions of dollars. These attacks, even for a short period of time, would affect stockholders, defense readi-

ness and the economy. Once we determined that these events were cyber attacks, would these events be considered a terrorist attack? Act of war? Or just some teenage hacker trying to prove he could do it? How would the U.S. respond or retaliate, especially in light that conducting such actions is not against the law in many countries?

Today, social media and mobile devices had become the new favorite target, in April 2011, Symantec issued their annual report stating there were 286 million new cyber threats in 2010, an

increase of 93 percent. What has fueled these attacks are Web-attack toolkits that are sold over the Internet from anywhere between \$40 to \$8,000 dollars. Just like Skynet in the movie Terminator, these Bots are designed to work like agents that report to a central computer or computers controlled by a Botmaster. When millions of machines are infected with the same type of Bot, they make up a massive collective known as a Botnet. Some of these Botnets are annoying, where it tells a phone to constantly make a Bluetooth connection, to drain the battery. Others, like the Ikee.B worm, specifically searches for, and forwards financially sensitive information stored on iPhones and then attempts to coordinate the infected iPhones via a Botnet command and control server.

Today, throughout the DoD and industry cyberspace awareness, understanding, and training is greatly needed. As already noted, cyberspace affects all areas:

- N1/J1 (Personnel) to identify key cyberspace skill sets and obtain those personnel.
- N2/J2 (Intelligence) staff needs to identify the threats and trends and provide this information throughout the

Continued on page 33





Photos by Joe Bullinger

Classes for CMMI® for development, services completed

Graduates of the May 3-5 Introduction to CMMI® for Development (CMMI-DEV) class held at the Naval Weapons Station are pictured above, from left, front row Paul Campbell, Kraig Keyes, Joe O'Connell, Min-Jung Gantt, Ken Johns, David Cohen and Steven Miller; middle row Tim Gardner, Claire Commodore-Wheeler, Joy Newlin, Micheal Moody, Michael Thomas, Glen Hoffman and Nick Barrett; and back row Nelson Ohl, Lt. Jonathan Javier, Scott Henson, Edd Burns and Cmdr. Karl Eimers.

Graduates of the May 6 CMMI® for Services (CMMI-SVC) supplemental class held at the Naval Weapons Station are pictured below, from left, front row Tim Gardner, Paul Campbell, Kraig Keyes, Joe O'Connell, Joy Newlin, Micheal Moody, Glen Hoffman, Min-Jung Gantt, Steven Miller and Michael Thomas; middle row Lt. Jonathan Javier, John Foore, Claire Commodore-Wheeler, Scott Henson, David Cohen and Nick Barrett; and back row Nelson Ohl, Edd Burns, Ken Johns, Cmdr. Karl Eimers and Sarah Leitner.





Photos by Joe Bullinger



Joint Base Charleston job fair attracts 300

More than 300 people looking for career opportunities took part in an April 12 Joint Base Charleston job fair held in the SSC Atlantic conference center. The job fair featured employers from government and industries such as information technology, energy, aerospace, communications, engineering, health care. The fair also attracted military men and women looking to transition from active duty to civilian life. Prospective employers accepted resumes and applications to fill local and national vacant positions.

Cyberspace

Continued from page 31

force.

- N3/J3 (Operations) personnel must incorporate “cyber activities” into mission rehearsal and operations such as Military Information Support Operations (MISO), (formally Psychological Operations (PSYOP)).

- N5/J5 (Plans and Policies) should better integrate cyberspace activities in the mission planning process and address policies for counter-attack.

- N6/J6 (Communications/Networks) they need advanced tools and training, create deployable forensics teams and evolve new skill sets to counter and manage the ongoing attacks.

- N7/J7 (Training & Education) staff must incorporate cyber activities into military exercises, training event, edu-

cation classes and create advanced training systems using gaming technology such as Defense Advanced Research Program Agency CyberSense Program, and the

- N8/J8 (Requirements & Resources), support cyberspace program requirements and the funding required during the annual Program Objective Memorandum process.

In closing, cyberspace is real and will be with us for the rest of our lives. We need to get educated and trained on the threats and share this information with coworkers, family and friends. Don't download unknown files from unknown sources and be careful when accessing websites / Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). We should integrate organizing, training and equipping cyberspace activities in all of our military exercises, establish more cyber forensics teams and deploy these teams to support forward operations.

For more information on this subject call (813) 826-4367 or e-mail bishopr@socom.mil.

SSC Atlantic efforts lauded

Barrow presents the 'Voice of the Customer' to Health Systems Sub-Portfolio

By Kelly Thompson and Connie Gladding

The Health Systems Sub-Portfolio held its February Management Meeting Feb. 16 in Orlando, Fla., to coincide with the 2011 Services Symposium which began Feb. 17. In addition to the routine meeting topics one can expect at a management meeting, the Health System had the pleasure of hearing from one of their distinguished customers, Col. DaCosta "Dee" Barrow, MS, U.S. Army, program manager (PM) of the Military Health System's Electronic Health Record (EHR), known as Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application (AHLTA), an ACAT 1 program.

Barrow is also the PM of all other Tri-Service health care delivery applications supporting both garrison and theater and leads the Defense Health Information Management System (DHIMS) Office. Barrow represented the "Voice of the Customer" to the Sub-Portfolio and expressed his satisfaction working with SPAWAR and his intention to continue to procure and receive products and services from SSC Atlantic.

In addition, Barrow discussed the importance of the work that SPAWAR performs jointly with our customers as it supports the healthcare of the warfighter and sets the national pace for health information technology. To point out the urgency of our work, Barrow made the observation that while he was speaking with us, a service member is injured and needing critical medical care in the field and that SPAWAR products and services we will assist in the patient's care.

DHIMS, with SPAWAR support, provides around-the-clock and around-the-globe, trusted, reliable technology solutions for EHR applications.

The colonel used an analogy of two bouncing balls to represent those solutions. The first of the two balls was smooth and shiny and represented what someone less familiar with technology might think the EHR looks like. The second ball represented the reality of today's EHR management and technology solutions, and was made up of layer after layer of rubber bands. Each of the bands layered on the rubber band ball represented a piece of technology which could be removed, replaced or even added to.

At the end of the day, although it isn't as flashy as the shiny ball, the rubber band ball does what it is supposed to do ... it bounces. At the end of the day, our Military Health



Photos provided

Don Oswalt of SSC Atlantic's Code 633 poses with Barrow, after presenting the colonel with a SPAWAR ball cap.



Barrow thanks Russ Havens of SSC Atlantic Code 633 during the Health Systems Sub-Portfolio Management Meeting in Orlando.

System electronic health records help to save the lives of warfighters, veterans and family members.

Barrow was accompanied at the Health Systems Sub-Portfolio Management Meeting by the DHIMS Deputy Program Manager, Lt. Col. (P) Aaron Silver, MS, U.S. Army.



Photo by Joe Bullinger

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson visits SSC Atlantic

Philip Braswell of Code 522, right, briefs U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson on SSC Atlantic's Antarctic mission as SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon, left, listens. Wilson, who represents the 2nd District of South Carolina, visited SSC Atlantic March 22. After receiving a command brief by Urbon, Wilson toured the Air Traffic Control building.

University School of the Lowcountry students visit

University School of the Lowcountry students learn about SSC Atlantic's air traffic control mission and support to Antarctica during a visit the ATC building April 6. They also visited the RealWorld lab to learn about how gaming technologies are being used to create training scenarios for warfighters. In the Integrated Products Center (IPC) they learned about information sharing and the use technologies such as the Multi-Touch, Multi-User (MTMU) display. Located in Mount Pleasant, the private University of the Lowcountry features learning outside the classroom.



Photo by Joe Bullinger



Photos by Joe Bullinger

CHENG briefed on SSC Atlantic operations

Rear Adm. James Rodman, center, chief engineer for SPAWAR Systems Command, receives a brief from Pete Ward, Vehicular Integrated Solutions Sub-Portfolio Leader, as SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller listens in, during the admiral's visit to SSC Atlantic April 11 and 12. Hosted by SSC Atlantic Commanding Officer Capt. Bruce Urbon, Miller and SSC Atlantic Chief Engineer Bruce Carter, Rodman received briefs on a variety of subjects and toured the Test and Integration Facility, the MRAP/M-ATV Integration Facility, Common Submarine Radio Room, E2C lab and Air Traffic Control Building. He also had a working lunch with SSC Atlantic's engineering duty officers (EDOs).



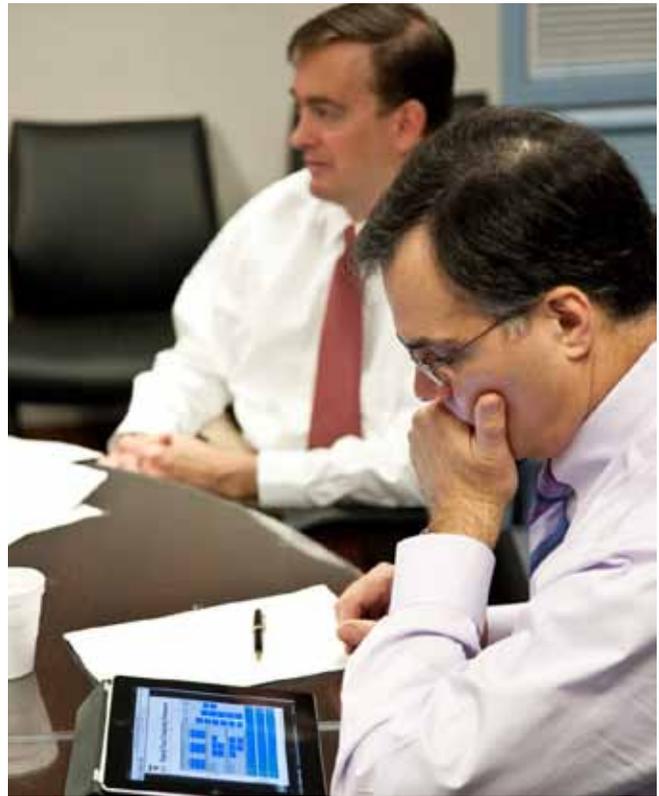
Coolican pays visit to Charleston facility

Col. Michael Coolican, USMC, Deputy to the Deputy Commander, Systems Engineering, Interoperability, Architectures and Technology (DC, SIAT) for the Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), tours SSC Atlantic's MRAP C4ISR integration facility during a recent site visit. Coolican was accompanied by several other MCSC division heads and certification leads during the March 16 visit.



Kelley views MRAP integration

U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley, commander of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) and MRAP Joint Program Executive Officer, chats with an M-ATV integrator during a visit to the MRAP/M-ATV integration facility March 22. He also received a command overview and briefs on capability-based engineering framework, intelligence programs and MRAP and AAV C2 C4ISR vehicle integration.



ASN RDA official visits

Dr. John Zangardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Information Operations and Space, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition), right, looks at a Cloud Pilot brief being given at SSC Atlantic May 13. Zangardi was also briefed by SSC Atlantic Executive Director Christopher Miller, left, Chief Engineer Bruce Carter and Dave Bates, and he toured labs in Bldg. 3146.



Up, up and away

Charleston area business and education officials were hosted at SSC Atlantic March 18 to see the capabilities of the center and explore avenues of collaboration. While at SSC Atlantic the visitors received a brief by Tom Glaab in the Integrated Products Center and viewed a hover craft in action, above. They were also briefed by about the center's outreach activities by Director of Workforce Optimization Gary Scott.

Changes to SSC Atlantic social media sites

The individual SPAWAR headquarters, SSC Pacific and SSC Atlantic social media sites have been consolidated into a single account for each social media service (Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube).

SSC Pacific's and SSC Atlantic's unique social media sites have been transitioned to "SPAWAR." Once the consolidation is complete, the old accounts will be deactivated.

The systems centers were among the Navy's early adapters of social media and this unification of effort is the next step in the maturity of the program.

A few of the benefits include a more unified picture of SPAWAR to the internal and external public, and coordinated efforts to deliver key messages, news and information through posts, tweets and videos. The consolidation will also eliminate duplicative information on multiple social

media feeds and capitalize on more content, news and success stories

All legacy stories, pictures and videos have been transitioned for each social media service.

If you have a news or success story you'd like to share via social media or any other medium, call SSC Atlantic's public affairs office at (843) 218-5801.

If you wish to become a SPAWAR Facebook fan, visit <http://www.facebook.com/spaceandnavalwarfaresystemcommand>.

To follow us on Twitter, see <http://twitter.com/SPAWAR-HQ>.

To view the SPAWAR YouTube Channel, visit www.youtube.com/teamspawar.

To view SPAWAR photos

on Flickr, see: www.flickr.com/teamspawar.



Deadline for Summer issue of *The Chronicle* July 15

What's happening in your world that our readers need to know about? We need to know by July 15.

We are already collecting content to fill the pages of the Summer 2011 issue of *The Chronicle*. If you have a story that you'd like to see there, the deadline to submit it is July 15. Send it to susan.piedfort@navy.mil.

Contact the editor any time with a story idea at (843) 218-4973, DSN 588-4973 or by e-mail.

We look forward to reading your stories about the great work you're doing as a part of the SSC Atlantic team. The power of your experiences is even greater when you take the time to share them!



Thank you to all who submitted!

And the winner is...



Portofino Italy
May 2010

Mike Hartman
Code 55810

Send in *your* best shot

We are now soliciting submissions from
SSC Atlantic employees for next issue's contest.

The Employee Services Association will offer the winner a choice of a command coin,
thermal mug, cookbook (if available) or \$5 credit on another logo item.

MWR will offer a certificate for a free lunch in the Cooper River Cafe to the winner.

Send your best shot to susan.piedfort@navy.mil or joseph.bullinger@navy.mil.



SSC Atlantic employees check out the information tables during an April 22 Earth Day celebration that highlighted the center's recycling and environmental programs. See pages 4 and 5.