

Sharing Our Successes

Welcome to the summer 2004 issue of Currents. Even though events in Washington have outpaced our schedule for finalizing the text of this publication, I believe you will find the content of this issue informative and worth the wait. Thanks for your patience.

Let me begin by saying a few words about Navy Earth Day 2004. Under the theme of “Celebrating Successful Partnerships,” Navy and Marine Corps commands throughout the U.S., and in many locations overseas, hosted or participated in festivals, cleanups, educational activities, and many other Earth Day-related events in cooperation with their local communities this year. Such programs are a stellar opportunity to create visibility for the Department of the Navy’s good works in the environmental arena. The dedication of base commanders, public affairs officers, base personnel, their families, and event coordinators from each installation’s environmental staff who make Earth Day events happen, makes it possible for local communities and government organizations to witness the many ways in which the Navy makes the environment a high priority while carrying out its national defense mission. Our ability to effectively perform our mission hinges not only on compliance with environmental regulations, but also on the effective manner in which we share our environmental programs with the world at large. We cannot desert the podium to those with opposing viewpoints. It is our responsibility to ensure our story is told fully and accurately, and to make sure all supporting science is accurately identified and made public.

In the process of creating this issue of Currents, we requested photos and summaries of Earth Day activities from installations that sponsored and/or participated in such events. The response was overwhelming. Despite expanding the Earth Day spread in this year’s magazine to almost twice the size of last year’s, we were unable to include all the photos and stories submitted. Regardless, we believe this article provides an excellent overview of the broad spectrum of activities that took place this year.

I congratulate and thank each of you who contributed to the article and to the Earth Day activities in your region.

In our next issue of Currents, we will introduce the new man at the helm of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division (CNO N45), RDML (Sel.) Mark S. Boensel. RDML (Sel.) Boensel reported to Washington, DC in July to take over the N45 slot, and will put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to offer his perspective for this column as the new Director.

RDML (Sel.) Boensel comes to us from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, where he served as Commanding Officer from April 2001 to May 2004. Designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1979, RDML (Sel.) Boensel made his first deployments aboard USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) and USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70). Over the course of his 25-year naval career, RDML (Sel.) Boensel has acquired great breadth of experience from the fleet side as well as the Washington DC/policy side of the Navy.

I look forward to working with RDML (Sel.) Boensel to help resolve the environmental policy issues the Navy is facing today, and feel confident that his leadership skills and operator’s perspective will ensure we remain sharply focused on achieving and sustaining operational environmental readiness. I know you will join me in welcoming him to our community of environmental professionals.

I want to thank you all for your magnificent support for the Navy environment and the many significant changes accomplished during the short time I was privileged to lead N45. ⚓

William G. Mattheis
Deputy Director, Environmental Readiness Division

