

## Celebrating Successful Partnerships

Spring has definitely arrived here in Washington, DC. As I headed for work this morning, I was serenaded by a host of songbirds, who were obviously ecstatic to see the orb of the sun just beginning to appear on the horizon.

This month has been extremely busy. The Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division (N45), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), Commander, Naval Installations (CNI), the Chief of Information (CHINFO), the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and environmentalists from other agencies and national volunteer organizations joined together to plan and promote the Navy Department's annual celebrations of Earth Day.

The Earth Day theme, "Celebrating Successful Partnerships," was adopted by the Navy to recognize the collaboration that takes place among Navy, Marine Corps, industry, government, academic, and nonprofit organizations to enable the sea services to accomplish their primary mission of national defense while safeguarding the environment.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment, Don Schregardus, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, Connie DeWitte, both attended to show their support.

Although unable to attend the Navy Memorial event, the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health, Alex Beehler, expressed interest in both Earth Day and Arbor Day plans for this year, noting with pleasure the broad variety of events Navy commands are hosting locally, across the nation, and in other parts of the world.

The next issue of Currents will feature highlights of the event at the Navy Memorial and other locations, so stay tuned. One need look no further than the pages of this magazine to see that strong effective partnerships are essential for integrating green technology into our operations, efficiently sharing data among the services and other agencies, and ensuring that we all continuously learn more about the ecosystems in which we live and operate.

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Several senior Navy and Department of Defense officials expressed interest in Earth Day activities this year, and many attended and participated in the public Navy Earth Day event at the U.S. Navy Memorial. The Federal Environmental Executive, John Howard, attended and expressed pleasure at our very successful partnering efforts. At the invitation of Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, General Motors Corporation placed a fuel cell powered automobile on display.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, H.T. Johnson, was our keynote speaker.

Earth Day is a bully pulpit for raising awareness of the Navy's environmental stewardship, and those of you who contribute to Currents magazine are helping the cause immensely by providing substantial, articulate success stories for the fleets, installations, and the public to read, and for the leadership to draw upon as evidence of our strong commitment—not just on Earth Day, but every day. To the writers, thank you, and to the readers, enjoy! ⚓

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