

K-GRAM #12

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Spring has sprung! Armed Forces Day was this past weekend and Memorial Day is around the corner.

My travels in April immediately after tax day took me to Omaha, Nebraska for briefings and tours at the US Strategic Command. Your Executive Workforce (EWF) was also aboard for one of its quarterly staff meetings where we were able to meet with **VADM Carl Mauney**, Deputy Commander USSTRATCOM and also, **RDML Frank Caldwell**, Deputy Commander Global Strike (GS). We conducted a unit visit with **CAPT Ron Page** (unit CO) and his NR STRATCOM GS, as well as the Remote Drill Site (RDS) of NR NIOC Minneapolis, headed by OIC, **LCDR Grant Carmichael**. Even in the middle of the nation's heartland, great work is being accomplished by NNWG's finest!

Here is a picture of the EWF in front of the USSTRATCOM HQ building. Thanks to **CTTCM Lionel Miller** for his photographic talents





CAPT Scott Miller (NNWG Director of Training) holding up a rocket, or is it a missile?

The next weekend took me to Fort Meade with a Friday Amtrak “detour” up to Newtown, Pennsylvania (just north of Philadelphia) to visit the Lockheed-Martin factory facility that is building the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellite. Myself, **CAPT Bill Rothwell** (NNWG Vice Commander), **CAPT Jim Rodman** (NNWG Space Domain Director), **CAPT Karen Hard** (NNWG N1R), **CDR John Archer** (CO NR NIOC Ft. Dix), and **CTRCM Pam Buelow** (NNWG CMC), all were provided with briefings and an extensive tour of the factory ending with a close look at the MOUS #2 satellite in its final stages of completion. The NNWG has the SPAWAR Space Field Activity (SSFA) 466 unit drilling at the Lockheed-Martin Newtown plant; these Sailors are led by unit CO, **CAPT Warren Vaneman**. Although a small unit, they are engineers and space cadre experts serving not only in Pennsylvania, but also at SPAWAR San Diego, CA,

NAVSOC Point Magu, CA, and Sunnyvale, CA. These men and women, officers and enlisted, and their counterparts in our other “space” units in the NNWG are an integral part to the Navy’s space missions. Most work in the industry as civilians. BZ!

A really cool thing happened as I arrived at BWI airport on 30APR. There I was, feeling a bit down because, well, it was my second long weekend trip in a row, and I was missing a family wedding event. I was thinking about the details of the weekend’s Domain Director’s meeting at OPS3, but as I was walking past one of the many airport “watering holes,” I noticed a huge crowd of our warriors in desert cammies. Although not a unique site at BWI, I looked closer and, Holy Smokes, I eyed **LT John Cerevey** (NR NIOC Great Lakes) and I looked at the others ... my goodness, there were several other NNWG Sailors! Among that group was **CWO3 Albert Keller** (NR NIOC Devens), **LT Tomas Prado** (NR NIOC Medina), **YNC Christopher Turner** (NR NIOC Washington), **CTNC Troy Boudreaux** (NR NIOC Pensacola), **CTMC Douglas Stein** (NR NIOC Pensacola), **CTR1 Scott Lamb** (NR NIOC Ft. Dix), and **CTR1 Kirt DeJaynes** (NR NIOC Great Lakes)! Among them were also several of their active duty colleagues, who all told me with all seriousness that these RC Sailors were indispensable and in many cases they owed their lives to our folks. Our NNWG Sailors had just disembarked a commercial aircraft from Iraq and were waiting for another flight to a southern Army base for de-mob. Thankfully, they were all smiling and could not believe “the Admiral” was there to meet them. Yes, I did admit it was a “great coincidence,” Fate to be sure, but many handshakes, well-wishes, and a round of adult beverages later, I was on cloud nine that evening as I made my way to “The Fort.” I was as proud as I have ever been of these folks and for all of our Individual Augmentees.

**NNWC RC Sailor of the Year (SOY): EN1(SW) Michael Watson (JMAST Aurora);
runner-up: CT11 Anthony Bolouri-Rad (NR NIOC Washington)**

NNWG AC SOY: CTR1(SW) Dwayne Hensley (CID-ARI, Corry Station, Pensacola)

NNWC Linguist SOY: CT11 Christopher Hudak

Other trips in May took me to the NNWC HQ for meetings with **VADM Denby Starling** and **RADM Ned Deets**, and then immediately on to a drill weekend with a unit visit to NR NIOC Detroit. This unit is two Sailors shy of 50 members on the RUAD --- phenomenal recruiting growth over a two year span. BZ! To **CDR William Baas** (and his predecessor, **CDR Glen Murray**) and his crew at NR NIOC Detroit and its RDS at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH.

Yes, it is time for the Spring PRT cycle (I passed!) My hamstring pull from shoveling snow last December is mending well. Slowly, but it’s almost 100%. I think that a half marathon this fall is still possible, so I signed up for 13.1 miles of fun. The best thing is that I have lost 14 pounds since late-February by eliminating all salty snacks, refined sugar, and pop (...sorry, “soda”). Anyone who knows me well, knows of my weakness for these treats. I plan on keeping this going so that I’ll look presentable on June 5th

when I have the distinct honor and privilege to serve as the reviewing officer at the RTC GLAKES boot camp graduation. This will be special for me because my great-nephew, **SA Sean Shields**, will become a Sailor in our great Navy. The circle of life continues ...

That is all for now. TFK BT K