

# K-GRAM #6

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As I sit down to write this edition of the K-Gram, my back aches a bit from having to shovel and sno-blow about 5 inches of snow that fell on the Detroit metropolitan area last night. The calendar says “spring,” but here in Michigan one learns that anything wintry can still happen until at least after Memorial Day.

When last we met, my travels have taken me to eight more units--- it certainly helps that the Norfolk area has seven outstanding and operationally-distinct units focused within all three of our domains! In other words, each of these superb units serves seven different supported AC commands using a wide variety of superior skills and capabilities. While in Norfolk during a weekend in February it was my privilege to receive briefings from each RC unit as well as tours of NCTAMSLANT by CO, **CAPT Lee Johnson, Jr.**, and at NIOC Norfolk by **CAPT William Leigher**. Later that month I spent four action-packed days as the guest of **CAPT Sean Filipowski** at NIOC Ft. Gordon, Georgia. No matter where I visit, the AC/RC integration effort borders on “normal operations.” The usual request from our AC counterparts is “how can we obtain additional RC support?” Ah, life is good.

Local personnel always ensure that liberty call is made memorable during these visits. For example, the Norfolk area RC Chief’s Mess of the seven **Norfolk** units invited all hands to their rib-fest at Poppa’s Pub just outside the gate one at Little Creek. It is an establishment owned and operated by a retired Boatswain Mate Master Chief, and has a rep as a “biker bar,” but it was a most welcoming establishment. A great time was had by all. Our **Ft. Gordon** weekend happened to coincide with the unit CO’s and SEL’s of the SIGINT units feeding into that NIOC’s operations structure. A Saturday evening BBQ took place at a rustic on-base hunting lodge following a period of skeet shooting by those with the gift of good eyesight and aim ... not me. By the way, on my first morning in Georgia, I accepted an invitation to run three miles in formation at “oh-dark-thirty” with **CAPT Filipowski** and the khaki crew of the NIOC. It was 28 degrees and wouldn’t you know it, I forgot to bring my cold weather sweatpants! I think I made quite an impression wearing a hat, ear warmers, hoodie, gloves, and ... running shorts. Sure, either Michiganders are hearty or just plain wacky.

Your NNWG senior staff is still heavily participating on a panel known as the Executive Steering Group (ESG) of the Navy NETWAR FORCENet Enterprise (NNFE). This group is charged with identifying and honing our metrics collection relative to the RC of the NNFE. We are still working hard at answering the “so what” question for **VADM Starling** when it comes to our collective contribution to the enterprise. I was honored to

chair the second face-to-face meeting of the NNFE RC ESG in February. The ESG's efforts resulted in the continuing work of two existing working groups: mission employment, and reporting format. A sub-group also developed the framework for an additional four charters: under resourced mission areas; communications strategy; cross program support; and contingency response. We are on target to largely deliver a product to the Commander by the end of this fiscal year.

Let's talk space! Remember the successful shoot-down of that wayward satellite last month off the Hawaiian Islands? Well, our own space cadre member, **CDR Warren Vaneman**, (NNWG's Assistant Deputy Reserve Vice Commander-Tactical) just happened to be performing an AT during that timeframe. Due to his extensive civilian expertise at the National Reconnaissance Office, and while the world watched, he was extended by three weeks to work the event. His previous surface warfare credentials created a "perfect personal storm" for this RC Navy officer. Well done, Commander! BZ!

On to the subject of Individual Augmentee's. As of 20MAR08, the NNWG has 28 officers and 74 enlisted under IA orders (7.3% of the force). Overall, about 70% of the NNWG members remain eligible for mobilization. The watchword is "readiness." New requests come in daily and those currently on watch must eventually be relieved. **LCDR Smith-Beck** at the OSO desk at NNWC Little Creek, VA, and **LCDR McMahan** at the Mission Management directorate at NNWC Fort Meade, MD, keep track of this metric while facilitating all calls for IA's that come from U.S. Fleet Forces through the Reserve Forces Command.

**CAPT Clusen** is traveling this week to New Orleans to engage with our RESFOR professionals to discuss various RC and Echelon IV issues. April and May will see the second meeting of the NNWG Executive Workforce, and then your NWSO's and Domain Director's will get together for a status check of operations. Our work never stops.

Congratulations to **CTN1 (IUSS) Patrick Griffin** of NR NIOC Washington! He is the NNWC's RC Sailor of the Year! He now moves on to the RESFOR competition level. Best of luck Petty Officer Griffin.

I have now been your flag for almost six months. I would be less than truthful if I said that I was in a comfortable "groove." Given the dynamics of this job, I am certain that such a situation will never occur. The complexity of this command is daily-changing. The learning continues and my good fortune is the ease at which all of you are eager to teach me what you do and how you do it. Thank you.

That is all for now. TFK BT K