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NSWCDD engineer makes racing history, Page 7

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NAVSEA/NOSSA Team Wins 2012 SECNAV Safety Excellence Award

By Jamal Wilson
Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity

The safe execution of the mission is, and always has been, paramount in American military and civilian operations, whether it's here at home or at forward-deployed locations throughout the world.

Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA) and U.S. Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A) have been working collaboratively to ensure this safety for America's warfighters supporting the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan. This joint effort was recognized in a ceremony held July 11 as these organizations were awarded the 2012 Secretary of the Navy Safety Excellence Award as an Emerging Safety Center of Excellence. The ceremony was held at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Safety Excellence Award was established by the Honorable Gordon R. England, who twice served as Sec-



U.S. Navy photo by Jamal Wilson

Capt. Jason Gilbert and Karen Burrows (center with award), along with representatives from U.S. Forces Afghanistan, are pictured with (from left) Lt. Gen. Frank Panter, Deputy Commandant Installations and Logistics; Undersecretary of the Navy Robert Work; Vice Adm. Philip Cullom, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics; Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, Commander Naval Sea Systems Command; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety Paul Hanley.

retary of the Navy, to recognize Navy and Marine Corps commands that demonstrate "extraordinary excellence by sustained mission success

with simultaneous exemplary safety performance." From its advent in 2002, the award has become the Department of the Navy's premier ven-

ue to recognize commands, teams and programs that promote the safety of Sailors, Marines and civilians, and protect aircraft, ships and facilities from mishap.

The award's objectives are to promote excellence in mission readiness by mishap and hazard reduction through the implementation of effective safety programs, to fully integrate operational risk management principles throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, and to establish a sound safety culture.

"I believe the pertinence of this award is the visibility it brings to this new and crucial system safety engineering presence in a forward-deployed combat command," said NOSSA systems safety engineer Michael H. Demmick, an integral part of the winning team, speaking about what this recognition means from a systems safety perspective.

Recognizing the gap that currently exists between formal acquisition and field-based use of some military

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Dahlgren women honored with inaugural museum exhibit

By Andrew Revelos
Staff Writer

The inaugural exhibit of the Dahlgren Heritage Museum was unveiled to a large crowd at a July 25 ceremony and panel discussion at the University of Mary Washington's (UMW's) Dahlgren Campus. The exhibit, "Women in Science and Technology at Dahlgren," wowed attendees with informational photo displays and an original Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) uniform from the World War II era. The panel discussion featured four professional women who have left their mark on Dahlgren, three of whom remain actively employed on-board the installation.

Ed Jones, president of the Dahlgren Heritage Board, kicked off the ceremony by describing his connection with the base. "Like many of you, I have personal connections to Dahlgren," he said. "My father, Arthur Jones, worked in Dahlgren for 30 years, from 1942 to 1972. My father worked with people like Charles Cohen, William Kemper, David Brown, Ralph Niemann, Russell Lyddane, Bernard Smith, Jim Colvard: these are iconic names from Dahlgren history."



U.S. Navy photos by Andrew Revelos

The panelists at the Dahlgren Heritage Museum exhibit opening at the UMW Dahlgren Campus on July 25, from left to right, Dawn Murphy, program manager at NSWCDD, Cynthia Holland, lead instrumentation engineer for the Naval Electromagnetic Railgun, Gladys West, a retired Dahlgren employee who worked in satellite data analysis, and Ann Swope, chief of staff for NSWCDD.

The crowd buzzed with recognition and at least one of those big names, Jim Colvard, a former technical director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) who serves on the Dahlgren

Heritage Board, was in attendance. The ceremony served as Dahlgren reunion of sorts - many of the current and former Dahlgren employees who attended found themselves not only depicted in the exhibit, but among

Dahlgren Heritage Museum posts first exhibit

The Dahlgren Heritage Museum ceremony at University of Mary Washington (UMW) Dahlgren Campus marked a milestone in the two-year collaboration between the Dahlgren Heritage Board, UMW, the Navy and local leaders and museum supporters to celebrate the story of Dahlgren. The exhibit, which will stay at the UMW Dahlgren Campus as part of an agreement with the Dahlgren Heritage Board, is the first official exhibit of the Dahlgren Heritage Museum. "We're very proud of it," said Mark Safferstone, executive director of the UMW Dahlgren Campus. "We think that it really demonstrates the university's engagement and commitment to this region and it also provides the museum with a venue for permanent displays."

old friends and former co-workers.

Pat Smith worked in Dahlgren from 1956-1993 and attended the exhibit opening. She recognized her old boss in a 1950s photo depicting him with the Naval Ordnance Relay Calculator (NORC), one of the world's first supercomputers. As a retired woman professional, Smith certainly

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Women: University of Mary Washington hosts first exhibit for Dahlgren Heritage Foundation

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does not fit into the stereotypical conception of a computer programmer. And yet, before the ideas of modern feminism reached the mainstream, before Silicon Valley transformed the way the world communicates and shares information, Smith had a hands-on role in the pioneering technology of the computer era. "I must have punched a million [programming] cards," she said. "It seemed that way when you loaded cards by hand."

The rapid increase in computational power witnessed through the years at Dahlgren was driven by the needs of various programs, such as the Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) program. That program eventually produced the Polaris, Poseidon and Trident submarine-launched missiles. Raymond Hughey headed the FBM Geoballistics Division in Dahlgren and was surprised to find an exhibit featuring a photo of his younger self with several co-workers, including physicist Charles Cohen. Hughey received a John Augustus Dahlgren Award for his FBM work, but reminisced about Cohen when he saw the display. "He was the greatest scientist I've ever had the fortune to work with."

Gladys West, a retired mathematician and satellite data analyst who worked in Dahlgren and was one of four speakers at the ceremony's panel discussion, said the exhibit made her feel famous. "It's fantastic, magnificent and well-done," she said. "It's an honor. It makes you feel like you're somebody special."

Of course, West is someone special. "The majority of my work was done analyzing satellite data, which in turn is used for the Global Positioning System (GPS)," she said. She laughs when she considers how far that technology has come. "We have a GPS in the car."

Do West's grandchildren have any idea that their grandma helped develop the GPS in the car? West grinned. "I don't think they really have the whole [picture] yet."

While a personal connection to Dahlgren may be helpful in understanding the role its employees played in many areas of historic technology, Jones told the audience such a connection it is not necessary to appreciate the history. "You don't have to have a personal connection [to Dahlgren], you don't have to have lived on the base for 18 years like I did, you don't have to have a dad who worked there for 30 years, to know that the story we are beginning to tell is a compelling story that is going to resonate not only with those of us who have personal connections, but all across this community, all across this region, all across this nation," said Jones. "It's a compelling story, the story of Dahlgren past, present and future. And the impact this incredible base has had on the ability of this nation to be a leader in the world, is a story we are indeed proud to tell."

Jones said he was thrilled with the exhibit



Pat Smith, computer programmer, worked onboard Dahlgren from 1956-1993. She recognized her boss in this display, which also depicts the historic Naval Ordnance Relay Calculator (NORC).

and used the occasion to make a long-awaited announcement. "Today, in your presence, we have a very significant and meaningful opening to celebrate in this fantastic exhibit on Dahlgren history, and particularly on the role of women the science and technology at Dahlgren," he said. "So ladies and gentlemen, in your presence, as the president of the Dahlgren Heritage Foundation, on the 25th day of July, 2012, I declare the Dahlgren Heritage Museum open for business."

The crowd reacted with enthusiastic applause and Jones thanked Safferstone, UMW and its president, Rick Hurley, for hosting the exhibit. "The greatest support we have for tonight has come from the University of Mary Washington," said Jones. "In the presence of [UMW] President Rick Hurley, may I say on behalf of someone who cares about the Dahlgren community, thank you for coming to Dahlgren. Thank you for making this facility here not only a center for education and training, but as a place where groups like ours and other groups can come together and form community again."

Like many who attended the exhibit opening, Hurley expressed a personal connection to the displays. "We're delighted to be able to host the exhibit, which has a little bit of meaning to me because my mother was a WAVES," he said. "Seeing the uniform brings back a lot of memories of pictures of my mom when she met my father during World War II."

Capt. Pete Nette, commanding officer of Naval Support Activity South Potomac (NSASP), praised the collaboration between the Dahlgren Heritage Board, UMW, local leaders and museum supporters. "Since my arrival [in Dahlgren] nine months ago, I've watched with amazement how quickly this team put such a great project together in con-

junction with the supportive community, the base and surrounding leadership," he said.

Capt. Michael Smith, commander of NSWCDD, congratulated all whose work has made the dream of a Dahlgren Heritage Museum possible and said his organization was dedicated to continuing the innovative spirit for which Dahlgren is renowned. "At NSWC in Dahlgren, we believe that there is no limit to what any our civilian employees can do. We are committed to keel-building, to mentoring and to opportunities for continuing education and advancement. Our people are our greatest asset."

Panel Discussion

The audience was treated to first-hand accounts of the historic role women have played in Dahlgren. Jones asked four current and retired Dahlgren employees about how things like gender and race affected their work onboard the installation. The talents of the highly-educated, accomplished group of women professionals who make up the panel had hands in several of the most famous Dahlgren programs.

Jones' first question asked the panelists what attracted them to a career in science and technology. For Dawn Murphy, a program manager at NSWCDD and one of the panelists, the decision came in high school.

"I decided to major in computer science before I actually saw a computer," said Murphy. "I liked the technical side of it, I liked mathematics, but I really didn't want to be a teacher."

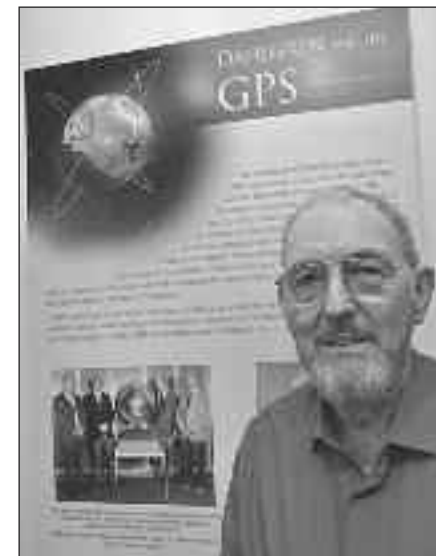
Cynthia Holland, lead instrumentation engineer for the Naval Electromagnetic Railgun, was attracted to science and technology at an even earlier age. "I've been into science since I was a toddler, literally," she said. "I was looking through a telescope when I was three years old. I was making models of dinosaurs and researching their names when I was six years old and making presentations to rooms full of adults. I didn't go to summer camp; I went to space camp. I've been a nerd my entire life and proud of it."

For Ann Swope, chief of staff for NSWCDD, working in a science and technology career was a family affair. "My entire family is scientists and engineers, primarily scientists," she said, who went into environmental science because of her passion for environmental issues. While pursuing her graduate degree, Swope accepted an internship in Dahlgren, in part because it was close to her husband's home.

Gladys West went into science and technology because of her knack for those subjects in school. "The advisors encouraged me to go into math and science," she said, who went on to major in mathematics at college and worked as a teacher before her desire to have a government job brought her to Dahlgren.

Jones' next question was about how race and gender affected the work of the panelists.

West, who is African-American and began working in Dahlgren while much of the na-



Raymond Hughey, a retired Dahlgren employee who once headed the Geoballistic Division for the Fleet Ballistic Missile program, noticed a photo of his younger self in the exhibit. He was pictured alongside renowned Dahlgren scientist Charles Cohen.

tion was segregated, offered her insight. "It was a state in which a lot was not spoken," she told the audience. "Words were not said out loud, but you knew within yourself that there were limitations to where you could eat, where you could sleep and there were limitations to the way you were accepted when you would go to other places. Therefore, you sort of went along with the flow and kept it pretty safe and sound." West added that such challenges did not discourage her from continuing her work and said she noticed improvements in race and gender relations by the time she retired.

For Swope, who began her career in the 1980s, working in facilities that were not designed to accommodate women presented some unique challenges. Her first assignment took her to a building with one bathroom and a sign on the door was flipped to designate the gender of the occupant. "It only took one trip to realize this is a men's restroom," she said, which roused a laugh from the audience. "So from then on I just had to cross the street to [another] building that had two restrooms."

As late as the year 2000, Murphy found herself in a similar situation when she worked onboard ships that often did not have female quarters. Murphy did manage to find accommodations in the absent admiral's quarters. "I had my own head, my own room and it was a great week."

All of the women agreed that professional skills matter more in Dahlgren than gender. Motherhood, however, is a factor inseparable from the female sex, though the panelists found Dahlgren to be accommodating.

"Ninety percent of my challenges [at work] have nothing to do with my gender," said Holland. "That begs the question, what is the other 10 percent? I came [to Dahlgren] with a very young child. I had just given birth a few months prior."

Holland was complimentary of her organization and co-workers for an environment that is accommodating to motherhood. "I found my co-workers, management and facilities all very supportive."

Swope, who has had three children while in a full-time career, also found her male co-workers to be supportive. "It's been a wonderful career."

For West, an employee's skills always mattered more than anything else in Dahlgren. "Even though I came here in 1956, so many years ago, I do think that's true and it was true during that period also. You have to stand your ground and do your work, do your thing and be part of the workforce."



National Night Out Celebration

Tuesday, August 7
Indian Head Village Green Park
5:30-8:30pm

Free Admission-Fun For The Whole Family!

NO BICYCLE PARADE AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN
Ticket Booth Opens 6:00pm-7:15pm — Free!
Carnival Games & Inflatables for the Kids - Open 6:00-8:00pm
CC Sheriff's Office N.N.O. Coloring Contest (Ages 1-12) 6:00-8:00pm
Displays, Demonstrations, Handouts
Cookout Food Served 6:00-8:00pm
Live Entertainment featuring **The Bucket List Band**

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME - LEAVE YOUR PORCH LIGHTS ON SUNDOWN TO SUN UP!
& Join the Town of Indian Head's Townwide Neighborhood Crime Watch Program
Interested participants and all service, youth, fraternal, sports, religious, & other organizations wanting to participate/volunteer—contact Karen (240)375-4061 or karen@townofindianhead.org

