



# Surface Forces Logistics Center

SFLC EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE FLEET

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# POLAR STAR’S DRY-DOCKING EVOLUTION

BY LTJG SARAH PASSILLA



On April 1 2024 USCGC POLAR STAR docked for the fourth year of its Service Life Extension Program (SLEP). This five-year maintenance program begins each dry dock with a multi-hour evolution to settle the 399 foot icebreaker onto over 100 support blocks. This requires precise positioning and collaboration between the dry docking staff, cutter crew and the Polar Star Sustainment Office. This years docking took place at Mare Island Dry Dock in Vallejo, California and was completed in record time. The dock was readied by the cutter’s port engineering team to accommodate POLAR STAR on the *(continued on page 4 )*

# CO CORNER

I am constantly impressed every day by the dedicated people we have serving in the mission support community. Despite the resource challenges that we face, from workforce shortages to maintenance funding shortfall, you all continue to find ways to deliver superior mission support. I am grateful to each one of you for what you do day-in and day-out. Since last quarterly newsletter, we have made strides on several fronts. First, after being vacant for several years, we finally have a volunteer to serve as the Baltimore Area Regional Mission Support Ombudsman. I'd like to welcome aboard, Ms. Ryane Page. She brings many years of experience having served as an ombudsman before. She is a great fit to our mission support community, and later in the newsletter you will have a change to meet her. Second, SFLC has been honored with taking the leadership role for all of CG-4 in developing the directorate-wide transparency and accountability action plan. The purpose of the action plan is to enhance our commitment to the core values and remove bad behaviors from our ranks that are inconsistent to the core values. You have probably seen that two very senior Coast Guard personnel have recently been removed from their leadership positions for loss of confidence related to this. Finally, we held a Naval Engineering Community Leadership event where senior folks from across all CG-45 and key stakeholders met for a week to discuss the strategic direction for mission support. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks/months. As I close, I can't emphasize enough the importance of the command philosophy of people, performance, and purpose. An integral part that binds all three of these together is partnerships. Whether it is the critical relationship between the wardroom and chief's mess, collaboration with industry and navy, or the professional bond between our valuable civilian workforce and our military members, it's those partnerships that serve as key enablers allowing us to provide superior mission support to the fleet that our nation depends on!



CAPT Andrew Pecora

*Captain Andrew Pecora  
Commander, Surface Forces Logistics Center*

# CMC CORNER

Happy Summer SFLC Family!

It has been a busy time for some lately with the PCS season upon us! Please continue to look out for one another as this is a stressful time for some with PCS, Retirement, family concerns and busy/demanding work schedules. I wanted to take this time to remind everyone of the SFLC Command Philosophy and reemphasize portions of it:

Respect everyone recognizing we are diverse, and all have something to contribute.

Demonstrate compassion by being intrusive leaders.

Set the example and hold our shipmates and ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity.

We all play a role and have a responsibility to create a zero-tolerance culture for harmful behaviors. We can do this together by building a strong foundation of preventive culture through awareness, training, and continued adherence to our core values – Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty!

I challenge you to be the positive change you want to see!  
ROLL TIDE!

*SKCM Derrio Foster  
Command Master Chief, Surface Forces Logistics Center*



SKCM Derrio Foster

# CG-45's CORNER

Hello from Coast Guard Headquarters and the Office of Naval Engineering!

Assignment Year 2024 has begun and we anticipate that it will be a busy one, providing challenges and opportunities across our Naval Engineering community. Specifically within CG-45, we are preparing for substantial turnover among staff and leadership positions. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our arriving and departing CG-45 team members: CAPT Chris Wolfe, CG-459, retired on June 14th following 26 years of dedicated service. He has been relieved as Chief of Ship Design by CAPT Doug Graul who is fresh off a Fellowship with RAND. CDR Matt Smith, CG-452, retires on July 3rd, culminating an incredible 5 years at CG-45 and 20 years of service within Coast Guard Naval Engineering. CDR Smith will be relieved by LCDR Keoni Hutton who will be reporting to Headquarters following a successful EO tour onboard CGC WAESCHE, trending behind CDR Brian Fitzpatrick (CG-451 also prior WAE EO). CDR Chris Cart has departed CG-459 and will be reporting to SFLC as Small Boat Product Line Manager. LCDR Kyle Ennis has fleeted up from CG-451 to replace CDR Cart on the Ship Design Team. LCDR Nate Dufresne, Workforce and Policy Manager, is heading to be XO at ISVS PRO Baltimore and will be replaced by LCDR Laurin Teegarden who will be reporting from EO on CGC TAMPA. LT Chad Huemme will depart from the IBCT Systems Manager position this summer to work with our logistics partners inside the Defense Logistics Agency, with LT Molly Yuan reporting in from SFLC-PBPL as his replacement as IBCT Systems Manager. CG-451 will also welcome LT Jamie Hardey in AY24 as the CG-451 LRE Systems Manager. More new additions to the CG-452 team this summer include LTjg Mohammad Diakite to the Vessel Environment Manager position and Mr. Mulugeta Marye to the Operations Research Analyst position.



CAPT Thomas Lowry, Sr.

I'm extremely grateful for the leadership and accomplishments that our departing shipmates had on the Naval Engineering program and community writ large. I'm equally excited to see our inbound and newly reported team members build upon those successes and navigate Naval Engineering to new heights.

Across the fleet, we are also welcoming 45 new Student Engineers from the Coast Guard Academy Class of 2024. These newly commissioned Ensigns will be reporting to afloat engineering assignments to develop a robust foundational knowledge of shipboard engineering which will prepare them for a prosperous career. Please look out for them, offer guidance and maximize the learning opportunities that will help them succeed. I'm eternally thankful for the MKCS that helped me find my way on my first afloat engineering assignment. And one could argue that MKCS' leadership investments in me are directly traceable to my lifelong success as a naval engineer!

*Captain Thomas Lowry Sr.  
Chief, Office of Naval Engineering*





*(continued from front page)*

day of its arrival. This includes pin-point measurements of block heights and placement within the dock. The crew prepared the ship to match an ideal loading condition to allow the cutter to enter the dock at the precise angle that was needed. Accountability of liquid loads within all tanks on board is taken and controlled. As POLAR STAR entered the dock the Mare Island staff worked quickly to verify positioning from all reference points. Communication became vital as the water was drained from the graving dock. Draining took multiple hours as hundreds of thousands of gallons of water were removed and the cutter was slowly lowered. Measurements must be taken frequently to ensure POLAR STAR was safely situated as the load was transferred to the blocks. Each party involved performed safely and efficiently, demonstrating their breadth of knowledge during one of the most dangerous engineering evolutions in shipboard maintenance.

## A WEEK AT THE 2024'S NAVAL ENGINEERING PQS WORKSHOP

By LTJG Ryan Casey

Under the direction and leadership of CDR Alexandra Cherry, LT Freemont “Buddy” Hinkle and LT Stephanie Motta, the fifth Naval Engineering PQS Workshop was held at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD this past April. The central focus of the workshop was designed in helping Naval Engineer officers in their completion of chapters five and six of the Naval Engineer Personnel Qualification Standard, COMDTINST M3502.11C. Completion of these chapters helped in paving the way towards NEN-10J certifications. Through the course of the week, participants were given dedicated classroom time from seasoned Naval Engineers to teach sections of chapters five and six, and computer lab time to review practical portions of the PQS. In addition, participants were able to a mock availability and given a tour of the yard and the Coast Guard fleet warehouse, the Inventory Control Point (ICP) for spare parts for Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) product lines. CG-45 Workforce Management and CG-OPM2 also were invited to discuss the Naval Engineering bonus programs, career planning and progression, officer specialty codes, promotion boards, and advanced education opportunities. One of the greatest highlights included a speed mentoring session and social event to encourage networking between junior and senior Naval Engineers. Overall, the workshop was a great opportunity for junior Naval Engineers to complete required training on a condensed timeline and to build a support network that will grow with them through the ranks.



The Francis Scott Key Buoy

## WHAT I LEARNED THROUGH CCTI

By MKC Felix Elias

The Chiefs Call to Initiation (CCTI) process marked a pivotal moment in my journey to Chief. Its significance lies not only in its ceremonial aspect but in its profound implications for personal growth, professional development, and camaraderie. Through CCTI, I learned the value of commitment, resilience, and the importance of community. It underscored the coast guard ethos, reminding me of my responsibility not only to myself but to those around me. It instilled a sense of purpose, grounding me in the traditions and principles that guide our path. Most importantly, CCTI taught me that initiation is not merely a one-time event but an ongoing process of self-discovery and refinement, a journey fueled by dedication and powered by the wisdom of those who came before us.

*MKC Felix Elias*



MKC Felix Elias

# WELCOME OUR NEW OMBUDSMAN

Hello! My name is Ryane Page and I am honored to serve as your Ombudsman. As your Ombudsman, my priority is to be a constant source of support. The reasons that I serve are simple. I serve you. I serve your families and love ones. I serve to make a difference.



Our Ombudsman Program connects families to the Command and the Coast Guard – ensuring that families have access to the highest level of support.

As your Ombudsman, I can provide support in several ways!

- I serve as the primary point of contact for command families. We are available to answer questions, to address concerns, and to provide guidance and support.
- I serve as the primary communication link between families and the Command.
- I am an information and referral specialist – We provide information, resources, and referrals to unit families.
- I serve as a representative and advocate for Coast Guard families.
- I can provide assistance during the transition and relocation process.
- I maintain a confidential contact/distribution list. This list is used to relay messages and to distribute information.

In the event of a disaster of emergency, I would relay any available messages, work to ensure the safety and well-being of families, and work in a coordinated manner with the appropriate departments and organizations to provide disaster relief to those affected.

In addition to disasters, I also serve as a source of support during times of personal crisis or emergency – connecting families and individuals to the resources and support that may be needed and serving as a channel of communication between the family and Command.

I am accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for emergencies and 8:00-2000 for all other concerns or questions. You are never without support – I am here to help.

Very Respectfully,

Ryane Page

SALC Ombudsman

ombudcms@gmail.com

706-691-4117

# LDAC MONTHLY WORKOUT

By LT Hayden Cherry

Starting in September 2023, LDAC hosted its first workout of the month in partnership with the opening of the CG Yard's outdoor gym. The goal of these workouts to build comradery through a challenging but accessible workout, spreading information and awareness for important events, cultural groups, and more. Coordinating with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), LDAC creates a workout in honor of the monthly observance. LDAC member, LT Hayden Cherry, LTJG Tyler Clemmer, and CrossFit certified coach LT Lisa Pietruszka curate the workouts by incorporating the exercise movement, repetitions and set numbers to reflect the history of the observance. Through discussion prior to the workout, we can all learn more about the people, events, and communities that have paved the way for our country and especially the Armed Forces.

We would love more people to come out! This is a great opportunity to get outside for some fresh air and sunshine, build stronger muscles and cardiovascular health as well as meet people outside of your unit. A mid-day workout builds more energy and trying new exercises builds confidence that you can do hard things! As a reminder, these are available for all fitness levels. Modification for weighs and movements are always given.

Thank you to the CG Yard MWR Program for the \$100k+ investment to establish a new outdoor workout facility. The facility includes rigs for pullups, rope climbs, wall ball shots, and rings. A full complement of olympic barbells, plate weights up to 45lbs, dumbbell sets up to 50lbs complement the rowers, ski ergs, bikes, and jump ropes all available to use for cross training or functional fitness workouts.





# Industrial Operations Division Annual MWD Regional Coordinator Conference

By LT Jim Ruona

The Industrial Operations Division (IOD) hosted an alignment conference for the Base Naval Engineering Department, Maintenance and Weapons Division (MWD) Coordinators. These coordinators supervise all MATs and WATs across the Coast Guard. This year, they met for three days in May to discuss various topics, focusing on three main themes each day. Notable speakers included SFLC CO CAPT Drew Pecora, CAPT Matt Gans LRE PLM, LCDR Greg Bredariol with CG-452, LCDR Todd Ray PBPL PDM Branch Chief, and LTJG Ryan Casey SBPL CCBP Manager. Each day, coordinators worked in groups to offer programmatic recommendations.

## Day 1: Quality Assurance and Quality Control

IOD proposed a Quality Program to benefit the fleet. Coordinators heard from LCDR Todd Ray, who discussed preventable casualties on PBPL cutters, and LT Jim Ruona, who shared the Aviation community's successful Quality Program and civilian quality standards. The need for a Quality Program was universally recognized, and coordinators made recommendations for future programs and identified potential pitfalls.

## Day 2: MWD Surge Support Needs and Challenges

LT Alex Sullivan discussed IOD's current methods for filling surge support needs and initiated a discussion on surge support standards. CAPT Matt Gans highlighted issues with the current process of requesting and employing surge personnel. Working groups recommended establishing clear workload expectations and suggested that IOD centrally manage surge personnel for the enterprise.

## Day 3: Leveraging Emerging Technologies

Discussions focused on enterprise IT tools and emerging technologies for data capture and maintenance closeout. Deloitte, an IT contractor, presented an app in development for the ASSIST team to capture trip reports and support efforts. LT Alex Sullivan proposed an app to streamline MAT and WAT maintenance requirements, QA/QC, and maintenance closeout. Coordinators provided valuable input to help develop an all-in-one maintenance workflow IT tool.

The conference facilitated critical discussions and generated actionable recommendations to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the MWD Coordinators' work across the Coast Guard.



Photo Credit: Joanna Formosa, IOD

# A MOCK INTERVIEW WITH BUSINESS SYSTEMS BRANCH CHIEF

I'm currently sitting down with Matt Zolnierek, the branch chief for the Business Systems Branch in the BOD. Good Morning, Matt. Many of our readers may not know what that means. Can you elaborate?

**Good Morning - sure. The Business Systems Branch exists to support the users of most of the SFLC business IT tools. The BSB personnel assist with data corrections or analysis, process troubleshooting, or ad hoc, on-the-job training. We also represent the user at the SFLC IT LCCB whose purpose is to approve changes to our IT tools.**

What business tools do you help support?

**Currently, we have teams that manage NESSS, FLS, FLS-MAM, Contract Workbook, DeSpecC, COGNOS. These systems work together under the "Vessel Logistics Systems," or VLS, umbrella. Anybody that has issues with these systems will probably be in touch with one of my team members at one point or another. The best way to get ahold of them is to submit a BOD request through SFLC Central, but there are also email distribution lists available as well. Most of that information can be found on the BSB sharepoint website.**

You mentioned the SFLC IT LCCB. Can you provide more explanation on what that is?

**Sure. IT stands for "Information Technology" and LCCB stands for "Local Configuration Control Board." Our primary purpose is to vote on the change requests that have been submitted to improve the VLS systems. Once they are approved, those change requests are worked by our development partners at the Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) and are eventually included in the production environment of those systems.**

Is there an expected average amount of time it takes for ALC to complete their development work?

**Unfortunately, no. Much of the pace of progress is determined by the level of effort to implement a requested change and the resources available to complete that work. SFLC change requests are also competing with ALC and SILC for development resources. Furthermore, that work is balanced with Coast Guard Headquarters priorities, which include many Cybersecurity requirements or Acquisition initiatives. It seems there are generally high expectations for how fast system enhancements should be pushed to our tools. In my opinion, this is because everyone typically carries a mini-computer in their pocket that can integrate productivity so seamlessly. But government is significantly slower than the private sector for multiple reasons; therefore, the readers should temper their expectations.**

Is there any hope for improved SFLC IT systems?

**Absolutely! It's been a rollercoaster ride since ALC took over development and management of our systems. Many of the lows we had were when the initial transfer from C5I to ALC happened, but now ALC has been able to increase the availability of the systems significantly – unplanned downtime for NESSS and FLS specifically is near zero. ALC is also working on upgrades to Oracle for NESSS and FLS which will hopefully solve some of the irritating workarounds that are in place. They are doing excellent work in Elizabeth City, and I'm looking forward to the next couple of years to see what they can deliver.**

Any last comments before we end?

**Yes. I would like to thank the personnel in the Business Systems Branch for the work that they do. Over the past year, they processed about 4000 BOD requests with an average processing time of about 3 days, and significant majority were processed within one day! BSB wouldn't be successful without the diligence, efficiency, and effectiveness they demonstrate day-to-day.**

## MILESTONES: Military Personnel

### RETIRED PERSONNEL

MKCS Brown, Brian	CDR Dykema, Michael
YNC Aviles, Gabriel	CWO Clegg, Joshua
EMC Wootton, Jeffrey	SK1 Rodriguez, Luis
MKCS Turner, Tony	SKC Tankersley, Kenneth

### DEPARTURES

CWO Perry, Jason	MKC Giles, Brown
LT Morgan, Erin	LT Cashin, Colin
DCCS Versilus, Adam	GMC Chan, Andrew

### REPORTED

SK3 Smith, Ricardo (Active to SELRES)

## MILESTONES: Civilian Personnel

### New Employees

Daniel Bolen	Logistics Mgmt Spec	SBPL
Shellby Hammond	Purchasing Agent	CPD
Theresa Barret	Financial Mgmt Spec	ESD
Kiku Khan	Contract Specialist	CPD
Norman Fortin	Equipment Spec	IOD
Shannon Taylor	Material Handler	ALD
Maggie Trader	Contract Spec	CPD
Natalie Warren	Electrical Engineer	ESD
Bryan Lenz	Mechanical Engineer	ESD

### Promotions

Michael Farris	Contract Specialist	CPD
Carolyn Ward	Equipment Spec	ESD
Michael Lewis	IT Cybersecurity Spec	BOD
Jolynn Frendo	Electrical Engineer	ESD
Colleen Arnerich	Financial Mgmt Spec	LREPL
Kimberley Sison	Financial Mgmt Spec	IBCTPL
David Wells	Quality Assurance Spec	CPD
Orelia Parker	Supervisory Contract Spec	CPD
Adam Strohecker	Inventory Mgmt Spec	IBCTPL
Zachary Miller	Naval Architect	ESD
Denise Selph	Program Analyst	ESD
Gavriele Goss	Supply Mgmt Spec	BOD
Thomas Taylor	Equipment Spec	SBPL

### Retirements

Larry Lomax	Material Handler	ALD
Daniela Santia-Velez	Supply Technician	LREPL
Carl Orgain	Supv Engineering Tech	MECPL

### CEOQ

John Spencer	Inventory Mgmt Spec	SBPL
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## ANYONE GOT ANY IDEAS AROUND HERE?

Consider submitting an article or a photograph to the SFLC Newsletter!



### Article proposals/submissions for the Summer edition of the SFLC newsletter

#### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

- Submit all proposals to: LTJG Ryan Casey, Ryan.M.Casey@uscg.mil
  - Identify a newsletter "Area of Focus" that matches your piece; see below.
    - Keep article word count below 300 words, as much as possible.
  - Photo submissions (optional): JPEG, GIF, or PNG format 300 dpi or higher
- Please send proposals only. Before you write an article, approval of the proposal/content must be obtained from the Editor.
- Deadlines for receiving proposals is 31 May 2024

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**LTJG Ryan Casey, Editor in Chief**  
**Sean F. McDaniel, Graphic Designer**

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