

Souda Bay, Naples, Oil Spill Response Capabilities Tested & Ready

Two-Day Oil Spill Exercise a Complete Success

Long before U.S. and world headlines were filled with images of the spill of national significance from the Deep-water Horizon oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. Navy recognized the importance of developing robust, capable oil spill response capabilities for Navy facilities and vessels worldwide. Recently these capabilities were evaluated and exercised in the Mediterranean Sea when Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) conducted a Navy On-Scene Coordinator (NOSC) exercise in Souda Bay, Greece and in Naples, Italy.

The NOSC Exercise (NOSCEX) 2010 was a coordinated multi-level, two-day exercise that simulated the accidental discharge of over 50,000 gallons of distillate Diesel Fuel, Marine from a Military Sealift Command Combat Logistics Force replenishment vessel while pierside at the Marathi Pier Complex in Souda Bay, Greece. The scenario was designed to exercise the tiered transition of incident management roles and responsibilities from (1) the Port Operations' first responders, responsible for minor incidents on the waterfront, to (2) the Souda Bay Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for incidents that exceed the capabilities of Port Operations, to (3) the Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Naples when the simulated oil pollution moved from areas of Souda Bay within military control to civilian areas, greatly increasing the potential for negative impacts. This migration, involving sensitive areas, host nation civilian authorities, and a significant increase in resources required, escalated the scope of the

For More Insights

FOR MORE INSIGHTS into the Navy's spill response capabilities and exercises, read our story entitled "Navy SUPSALV Participates in the Coast Guard's "Spill of National Significance" Exercise: Simulated Disaster Brings Together Nearly 600 Personnel" in the summer 2010 issue of *Currents*. The entire *Currents* archive can be found on-line at www.enviro-navair.navy.mil/currents.



response from local to regional. Key elements of the tiered transition are the integration of consistent oil spill guidance at each level of incident management, and connectivity among the various operations centers.

At the start of the exercise, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Souda Bay Port Operations immediately and effectively deployed its Tier I response equipment in an attempt to contain the simulated release, but it quickly became clear that the magnitude of the incident would exceed its capacity. The Souda Bay EOC was activated, and brought additional capabilities to bear including the assistance of Hellenic Navy assets, Naval Sea Systems Command's Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving technical guidance, and



NSA Souda Bay on-water spill response team deployment at NOSCEX 2010.
MC3 John Martinez

contractor support. The volume of the simulated release, and the speed at which it spread to non-military areas outside of Souda Bay, led to the decision to activate the CNREURAFSWA ROC in Naples to manage Tier II response capabilities, supporting the local incident commander with appropriate, scaled regional resources. The exercise progressed seamlessly over two days from emergency operations to coordinated response, through the recovery phase, demonstrating the capabilities of organic Navy assets, Hellenic Navy support, and Greek environmental support contractors. Additionally, environmental representatives from in-theater installations participated and received training on required environmental unit tools such as shoreline clean-up assessment team operations and contingency waste

management plan development, which are critical to a smooth transition to recovery. The CNREURAFSWA NOSCEX 2010 oil spill exercise was considered a success by all who participated, and the superb planning and organization for the event is viewed by the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division as a model for state-side and overseas NOSCs to emulate. ↴

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CELEBRATING American Indian & Alaska Native HERITAGE MONTH

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii celebrated Native American Heritage in November 2010 by hosting a Native American presentation of dance, music and traditions. This year's theme was "Life is Sacred, Celebrate Healthy Native Communities."

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Today, National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures of Native Americans and to inform the public of the rich heritage, history, and traditions of American Indian and Native American peoples.

Native Americans and Alaska Natives have served honorably in the United States Navy for more than 200 years and have made remarkable contributions to our naval history and the legacy of our nation.



Native American Dr. David Bevett performs a traditional inter-tribal dance during the Native American heritage observance at Lockwood Hall on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

*Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Mark Logico*

- Native American seamen served on Continental and state vessels during the War of Independence.

- During the Civil War, as many as 20,000 Native Americans contributed to Union and Confederate forces as auxiliary troops.

- More than 44,000 American Indians served during World War II, including Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Evans, of Cherokee and Creek ancestry, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. In the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, Navajo Code Talkers transmitted messages by telephone and radio in their native language, saving the lives of countless troops and helping win numerous island battles.

A showcase of American Indians and Alaska Natives from the Navy History and Heritage Command can be found at www.history.navy.mil.