



United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
Office of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications
Contact: Steven A. Davis / steven.a.davis@navy.mil
Desk: 619.524.3432

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Fleet Stakeholders Conference Sheds Light on Navy's Vision for Tactical Networks

SAN DIEGO – The Fleet Stakeholders Conference 2010 convened June 15-17 at Northrop Grumman's Virginia Advanced Shipbuilding Carrier Integration Center in Newport News, Va. The purpose of the conference was for fleet representatives, N6s and selected operators/maintainers from multiple regions, commands and class of ships, resource sponsors and the acquisition community to have focused discussions on tactical networks and information assurance capabilities and requirements.

The conference was sponsored by the Tactical Networks Program Office (PMW 160) and the soon-to-be-established Information Assurance and Cyber Security Program Office (PMW 130).

“This is our signature annual event where afloat network stakeholders get together to discuss program priorities and address the challenges presented in the tactical environment,” explained Navy Capt. D.J. LeGoff, PMW 160's program manager. “With all type commanders and numbered fleet commanders represented at senior levels, we were able to fully communicate future capabilities and make sure we hear our stakeholders' feedback first-hand.”

The conference focused on ensuring awareness and providing transparency and understanding of PMW 130/160's programs in the fleet today and plans for the future. The objectives of the conference were to:

- Convey what the Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services (CANES) program is to stakeholders and explain how this will affect business processes.
- Explain what this will mean for legacy systems as the Navy transitions to CANES throughout the fleet.
- Communicate the road ahead for the Application Integration, Preferred Product List / System / Subsystem Interface List.
- Provide results of the Automated Digital Network System (ADNS) Increment III testing, lessons learned and obtain feedback on how to improve ADNS to ensure a smooth transition time period between Increment II and Increment III.
- Identify and address stakeholder network security issues and priorities.
- Outline contingency plans for dealing with unfunded requirements.
- Discuss short and long term information assurance initiatives and solutions.

Approximately 300 stakeholders participated, either in person or video teleconferencing. Of special interest was a flag / senior executive service panel where stakeholders received candid perspectives and asked questions of Navy leadership regarding the strategic direction of tactical networks and information assurance. Panel members included Rear Adm. Michael Bachmann, Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR); Rear Adm. Edward H. Deets, III, Commander, Naval Network Warfare Command; Rear Adm. Jerry Burroughs, Program Executive Officer for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I); Linda Newton, deputy chief of staff for C4I and command information officer, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Bob Stephenson, SPAWAR's fleet systems engineering executive.

The focal point of the conference was the Fleet Operator Panel. This panel provided stakeholders the opportunity to receive "deck plate" level insight into the systems and services fielded by the program offices. The conference's unique structure of panels and functional sessions enabled significant work to be accomplished in the alignment of priorities, resourcing, discussion of requirements and addressing ongoing issues and concerns.

The functional sessions were based upon the five PMW 130 / 160 working level integrated process teams, which explore Communications, Computing Infrastructure, Core Enterprise Services, Systems Management and Information Assurance. The teams view PMW 130/160 programs at an aggregate level in order to provide integrated solutions, services and capabilities to the fleet.

The results of the conference were a better understanding of the capabilities, priorities and issues facing PEO C4I as the fleet migrates to a network-centric, service oriented architecture environment. The PMW 130/160 programs recorded more than 100 action items that the program offices are committed to address during the next six months. Updates to the action items will be posted periodically at the conference website located at https://nserc.navy.mil/peo_c4i/pmw_160/FSC/default.aspx. This website is common access card accessible and available to all stakeholders to follow progress on action items throughout the coming months.

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