STEM Outreach at Naval Research Laboratory at Stennis Space Center

presented by

Shannon Breland

Public Affairs/STEM Outreach
“You’re a girl. You don’t want to do that.”
“You can teach.”
“You can do a lot of things—especially with the U.S. Navy.”
Collocated Research and Operational Centers

**Operations**

- Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV)
  - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO)
  - Oceanographer of the Navy
  - U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF)
    - Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CMOC)
      - Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO)
        - Fleet Survey Team
        - Naval Ice Center
        - Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC)
    - Anti-Submarine Warfare Center (NOAC)
    - ISR Component
    - Special Warfare Comp.
    - Mine Warfare Center (NOMWC)

**Research**

- Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)
  - Chief of Naval Research
    - Naval Research Laboratory
      - NRL-SSC
      - NRL-MRY
      - Universities
      - Office of Naval Research

**Key**

- Washington, DC
- Monterey, CA
- Norfolk, VA
- Stennis Space Center
NRL Mission

To conduct a broadly based multidisciplinary program of scientific research and advanced technological development directed toward maritime applications of new and improved materials, techniques, equipments, systems and ocean atmospheric and space sciences and related technologies.

• **Primary in-house research** for the physical, engineering, space, and environmental sciences.

• Broadly based exploratory and advanced development program in response to identified and anticipated Navy needs.

• Broad multidisciplinary support to the Naval warfare centers.

• **Space and space systems technology** development & support.

• Assumes responsibility as the Navy’s corporate laboratory.
Acoustic Simulation, Measurements and Tactics Branch
Conducting basic and applied research in undersea physics.
- Acoustic signal processing
- Physical acoustics
- Acoustic systems
- Acoustic simulation
- Measurements and Tactics

Oceanography Division
Executing a research program to understand, define and predict dynamical, physical, bio-physical and optical processes of the open, coastal and littoral ocean.
- Numerical models and satellite data
- Field experiments using measurements from ships, buoys, moorings and autonomous underwater vehicles
- Advanced data assimilation techniques
Marine Geosciences Division

Conducting a multidisciplinary program of applied scientific research and technology development in marine geosciences, geospatial information and related technologies.

- Digital mapping and charting design
- Seafloor characterization
- Sedimentary processes, behavior and microstructure
- Data compression techniques and exploitation
- Bathymetry extraction from remote and acoustic imagery

Support Services

Provides necessary administrative support for division personnel.

- Legal counsel and contracts
- Public Affairs
- Safety, Facilities and Security
- High Performance Computing management
### Personnel (full-time personnel only)

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<table>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>197</strong></td>
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Who do we hire?

The best civilian scientists.

- Computer scientists
- Physical scientists
- Geophysicists
- Research physicists
- Electronics engineers
- Geologists
- Oceanographers
- Microbiologists
- Research biologists
- Mathematicians
- Civil engineers

And the best support personnel.

- Financial analysts
- Facilities specialists
- Administrative technicians
Recruitment, Hiring and Training Programs

• Pathways (student temporary employment)
• NRC/ASEE Postdoctoral Fellowships
• Karle Fellowships
• Edison Program and Long Term Training Program
• Summer Faculty
• Intermittent Hires from Academia
• Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (high school)
• National Defense Education Program
• STEM2Stern
Why do we care?

National Security.

Without a steady stream of scientists and engineers, the Navy's ability to maintain its S&T superiority will falter over time.

Consequently, increasing the STEM pipeline has become a critical priority for the Navy so that we are capable of tackling the challenges of the future.

The Navy must recruit and retain the best and brightest young scientists and engineers--the next generation of scientists and engineers who will bring their talents to our country's Naval laboratories and warfighting centers.
Program Description

- Four main activities
  - SeaPerch
  - FIRST
  - Mathcounts
  - Teacher Training

- Goal: **InSuRe** the future
  - **Inspire** students to pursue STEM careers.
  - **Share** the Navy mission with our community.
  - **Retain** local talent for NRL’s future workforce.

Key Participants

- **90 partner schools** (active in > 30)
- Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative
- NASA – Stennis Space Center
- The University of Southern Mississippi
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
- Northshore Community Foundation
- Hancock County Library System
- SPAWAR Atlantic (New Orleans)
- Naval Oceanographic Office
- Special Boat Team-22 (SEALs)/NAVSCIATTS

Calendar 2011 – 2012 School Year

- **FIRST Lego League** season (Oct-Nov)
- **MATHCOUNTS** 10 Clubs & Comp. teams (Oct – March)
- **SeaPerch** season (Dec-Mar)
  - 1st Gulf Coast Regional Challenge – March 10
  - 6 Summer Camps planned (June-July)
- Science fair and career fair “season” (Jan-Feb)
- **FRC Season** (Jan-March)
  - Bayou Regional Competition – March 15-17
- **Girls Excited about Math and Science** (March 8)
- **Teacher Training** (June-July) – ASM International, Sally Ride Science, Science Literacy, GNO STEM Initiative
- **Mission Ocean** (TBD)

Funding

- **NDEP:**
  - FY09 ($240K) ➔ 2009 – 2010 school year
  - FY10 ($200K) ➔ 2010 – 2011 school year
  - FY11 ($190K) ➔ 2011 – 2012 school year
  - FY12 ($220K) ➔ 2012 – 2013 school year

- **ONR:**
  - FY12 ($50K) ➔ act ONR rep for STEM in MS

Funds roughly split between coordinator/S&E salaries and schools.
FIRST

- FLL
  - Boyet Jr. High (Slidell)
  - Bonne Ecole Elementary (Slidell)
- FRC
  - Mandeville High School (NAVO)
  - Haynes Academy (Metairie)
  - Northshore High School (Slidell)
- 5 Army and Air Force teams
Mathcounts

- Extra-curricular math club and/or competition team
- Materials and teacher stipends provided
- S&E mentors visit classrooms weekly
- Pilot program with St. Tammany Schools
  - Little Oak Middle
  - Clearwood Jr. High
  - Boyet Jr. High
  - Monteleone Jr. High
  - Tchefuncte Middle
  - Fontainebleau Jr. High
SeaPerch

- Underwater ROV built and operated by students
- Tools and SeaPerch kits provided at no cost
- Navy S&E visits
Inspire...

When asked how to improve science education in the U.S., middle and high school students and their parents overwhelmingly #1 response was to get teachers who are excited about science.

(PASCO Scientific, 2008)
Teacher Training

- SeaPerch Workshop
- CASE
- GNO STEM
- University of Southern Mississippi
- ASM/Materials Science Foundation
Further Information

Shannon Breland (Mensi)
Naval Research Laboratory
Public Affairs/STEM Outreach
Mail Code: 7030.4
Bldg. 1005, Rm. A-14
o. 228-688-5328
Shannon.breland@nrlssc.navy.mil

Program Websites
www.ndep.us

www.stem2stern.org