

A Band of Army Green Among a Sea of Navy Blue NAWCTSD Leaders Talk Rivalry, Partnership with PEO STRI

By Megan Jeffers, PEO STRI External Affairs Specialist

We share a parking lot and security guards. We both eat lunch at Nature's Table and attend a CMWRA event every once in a while. Every now and then, one or two of them will burst into a Town Hall Meeting. Who are those people in, dare we say, "Navy" blue singing along to "Anchors Aweigh" every chance they get? You guessed it, it's our Navy comrades!

Working just next door at the de Florez building, the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando manages the ground we, the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), reside on. The Annex, for example, is cared for by our generous Navy landlords.

Commanding Officer, Capt. Bill "Roto" Reuter IV, is the head of both NSA Orlando and the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD). Assigned to the position in June 2010, Reuter will hold the title of commanding officer for two years until summer 2012, when the current executive officer, Capt. Steven "sNak" Nakagawa, will take on the commanding role.

When asked about his job as commanding officer Reuter exclaimed, "It excites me. It's such a tremendous opportunity."

"For Sailors, we're providing technologically immersive environments and simulators," said Reuter, who has logged more than 3,000 hours of flight time. Nakagawa, also a naval aviator, has flown 23 different types of aircraft.

While Reuter and Nakagawa oversee the day-to-day functions

of NAWCTSD and the innovation of its products and services, Walt Augustin, the technical director of NAWCTSD and director of the Human Systems Department for NSA Orlando, serves as the senior engineer and technical authority for Naval training systems.

With more than 60 years of interservice partnership between PEO STRI and NAWCTSD, the

needs. We get a better product at a cheaper cost," he added.

"You can't mandate collaboration," said Rob Matthews, the deputy technical director and director of Acquisitions and Operations for NAWCTSD. "It's the fact that [military, academia and industry] are in the same arena; co-location is the beauty of it."

"The components of different products is where collaboration

communicate to other pilots while in flight.

"It's not something you pick," Nakagawa, or "sNak," said. "It's something you're given or have earned."

While call signs seem pretty permanent once a pilot's been christened, they can actually change throughout one's career, Reuter, or "Roto," pointed out. "It depends on if you do something more humorous or infamous [than what earned you the original name]."

When asked about the inherent rivalry between the Army and Navy, Nakagawa teasingly chimed in, "Oh, it's on!"

"We do it because it's tradition, but more than that it builds the esprit de corps," Reuter said, noting the friendly rivalry that takes place at even the most senior levels of both organizations, like for instance when Ken Wheeler, the assistant program executive officer for business operations', office was covered in hundreds of tiny Dixie Cups.

Despite the good-natured banter, not all Army-Navy interaction is in jest.

"We're grateful for what the Army's done to lead the way," Reuter said, citing the format of PEO STRI's quarterly Town Hall meetings as one effort they've recently adopted. "I take a tremendous amount of pride in the good Army-Navy relationship that we have here."

"One team, one fight," Augustin added.

"We're proud of our long and enduring relationship, and we value our partnership," Augustin noted. "We look forward to another 60 years."



Capt. Bill "Roto" Reuter IV,
Commanding Officer

Capt. Steven "sNak" Nakagawa,
Executive Officer

future of joint Warfighter products looks bright. In addition to a partnership with the Army, Augustin, who was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2007, often works closely with Team Orlando to partner and share Warfighter tactics and training ideas for future joint-service endeavors.

"I think it's important that all the services are co-located," Augustin said. "Collaboration means better ways to meet Warfighter

has really occurred," Matthews, also head of program management at NAWCTSD, said. For example, there's been a lot of teamwork with the Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer.

And just what about those "nicknames" we hear the Navy patriots so fondly call each other by?

Referred to as call signs, the names are an aviation tradition, and almost everyone in tactical aviation has one as a way to com-

