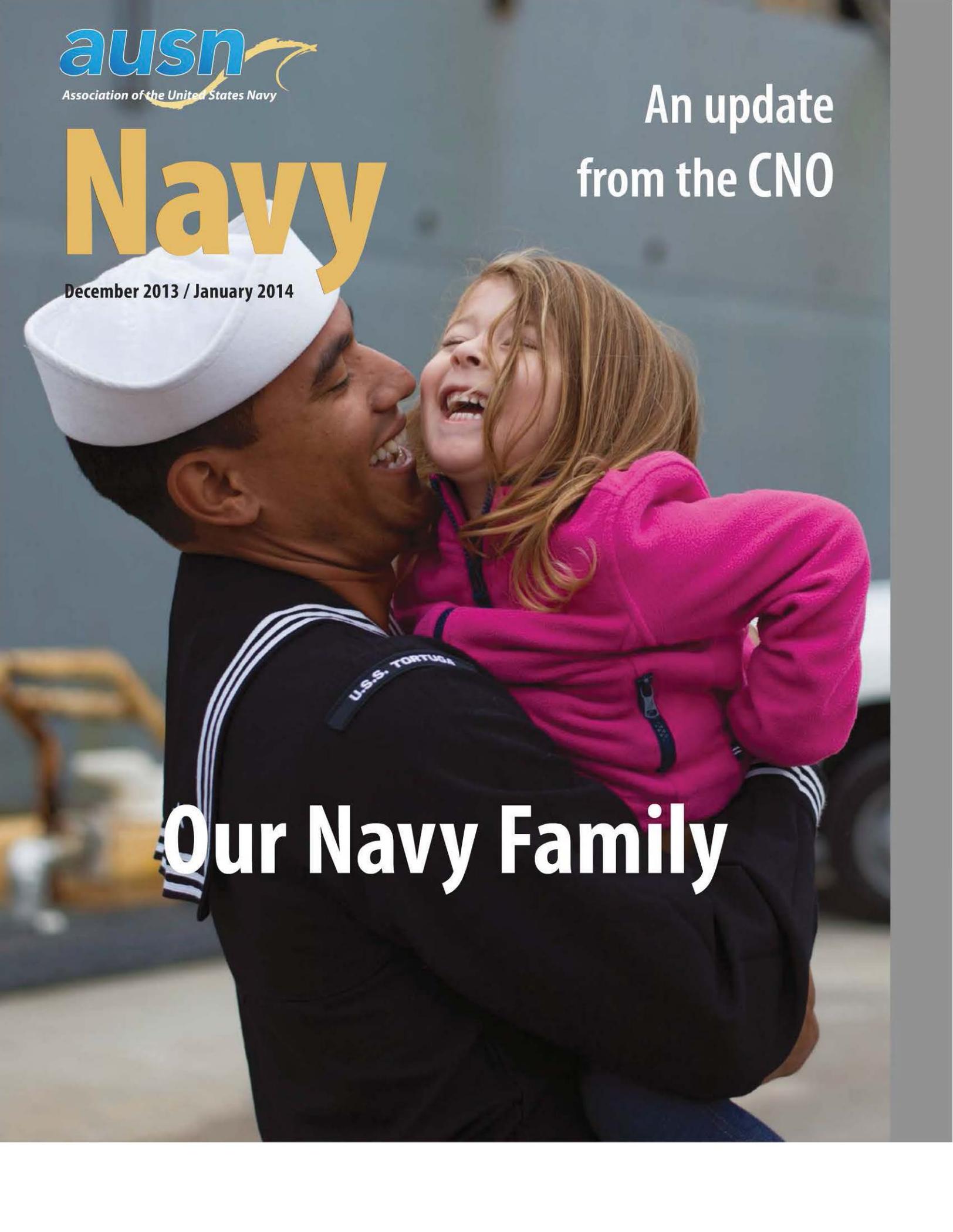


An update
from the CNO

Navy

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SeaPerch classroom training

Photo courtesy of CAPT James Monahan

18 U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

"The Naval Sea Cadet Corps was exactly what I needed as a teenager. I tried other youth programs, but only the Sea Cadets gave me self-confidence and the sense of pride at wearing my country's uniform."

— Lieutenant Matt Landry, USN

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"We've got to have current readiness. We've got to be able to do today's job today and be where it matters, when it matters."

— Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert, USN

ON THE COVER

A Sailor greets his family as the amphibious dock landing ship USS *Tortuga* (LSD 46) returns from Fleet Activities Sasebo. *Tortuga* was replaced as a forward-deployed asset by USS *Ashland* (LSD 48).

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Abe McNatt

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In conjunction with this issue, the VET JOBS column will be featured exclusively at www.ausn.org.

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U.S. Naval Academy STEM Program: Getting students excited about Science



Midshipman Second Class Derrick Garner (front row, 4th from left) pilots the drone as STEM students look on.

Photo courtesy of LT Teng Ooi

By LT TENG K. OOI, USN, PHD
and
CAPT LINDA J. BELTRA, USN, MD

The United States Naval Academy's 2013 Summer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program is designed to encourage 8th to 11th graders to pursue a course of study in STEM-related subjects throughout high school, college and beyond. The aim is to integrate STEM-focused concepts across the curriculum and pave the way for students to succeed academically in mathematics and science. An effective and practical way to stimulate student interest in STEM is to show how mathematics and science are applied to create exciting technologies.

This year's Summer STEM theme was "Extreme Technology Annapolis Edition 2013." The program showcased the latest in technological advances in a wide variety of science and engineering topics to include Energy and Light, Infrastructure, Transportation, Cybersecurity, Environmental Challenges, Flight and Fluids, Automation, Simulation and Modeling, Biometrics and Robotics. Students were able to participate in project-based modules using a hands-on, real-world approach to solving design and analysis problems in the Naval Academy's world-class laboratory facilities. This unique learning environment promotes engineering "habits of mind," such as systems thinking, optimization, innovation, creativity and team work. It exposes students to a problem-based environment outside the traditional classroom. The 2013 program featured modules which allowed students to build a robot; design, build and fly

a rocket; explore ciphers, codes and cryptology; test for signs of bioterrorism attacks and use chemistry to develop new energy sources.

One popular module was “How Helicopters Fly: An Introduction to Rotor Aeromechanics.” The technical objective in this module was to teach students about rotor aeromechanics of vertical lift aircraft. The students learned how to assemble and build a model rotor and test the operations of the rotor in vertical and forward autorotation. Then they optimized the rotor performance by experimenting with different rotor blade pitch settings. Finally, the helicopter module featured a flight demonstration of a commercially built quadcopter drone, the Parrot AR.Drone 2.0. This remote-controlled flying robot can take off vertically, hover and fly in all directions and land vertically on its own. The demonstration helped to enhance the understanding of rotor aeromechanics concepts, as well as the engineering technology and flight operations of the drone.

“Our hope is that these application-oriented activities, like building a rotor or flying a quadcopter drone, will help students understand the power and beauty of mathematics and science and spark a renewed interest

in STEM courses in high school,” said Visiting Professor Scott Davids, the creator of the Rotary Wing Engineering STEM module. “A solid foundation in mathematics and science in high school will allow these students to pursue higher education and future careers in engineering and technology. Explaining how a helicopter works is a fun and interesting way to do this.” ↴

About the authors: Lieutenant Teng K. Ooi, USN, PhD, is employed with the Missile Defense Agency/Advanced Technology Research Directorate and is currently on recall orders to active duty as an assistant professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, Mathematics Department. Captain Linda J. Beltra, USN, MD, is employed with the Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL.

Visit www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem
for more information on the
U.S. Naval Academy STEM Program.



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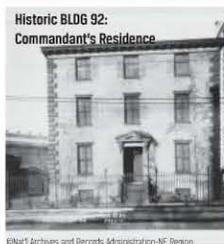
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