

**Institute of Navigation
DC Section Meeting Summary
Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**Location: USCG Navigation Center
7323 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315**

Summary/Highlights: The third meeting of the revitalized DC Section of the Institute of Navigation (ION) in 2015 was hosted by the US Coast Guard (USCG) Navigation Center (NAVCEN) the evening of October 21, 2015. The program was entitled “USCG Navigation Center - A focal Point for Maritime Situational Awareness”.

In attendance were over 40 current and past ION members, their guests, the NAVCEN Commanding Officer, CAPT Russell E. Holmes and members of the NAVCEN staff (see attachment 1). The evening’s activities commenced with a social hour (1800-1900) held at the *House of Dynasty Chinese Restaurant* located at 7550 Telegraph Rd (a few hundred yards south of the entrance to the base). The meeting at NAVCEN began at 1915.

The agenda for the meeting, as advertised, was:

1915 — 1945: DC Section Meeting

1. Officer Vacancies—Path-Ahead

2. Approach for drawing in new ION Membership—Senior Design Projects

1945 — 2030: NAVCEN Presentation/Tour

Officer Vacancies: As the initial part of the evening’s agenda, the Section elected two new officers who have dedicated themselves to getting the DC Section back up and running. Mr. Gary Thomas (CDR USCG Retired) was elected as the Section Chair and Mr. Michael McGinn (Oceaneering International, Inc) was elected as the Section Treasurer. As the outgoing/acting Chair and Treasurer, Doug Taggart indicated that he will remain active in the Section helping in any way he could at the pleasure of the new chairman.

Senior Design Projects: Doug Taggart proposed to the Section that a future meeting include invitations to local University Professors. The purpose of the invitations would be to stimulate the initiation of Senior Design Projects in the area of PNT/Navigation topics in the local universities that could possibly attract new student membership. Doug indicated this idea was suggested at the ION’s National Executive Board meeting held in Tampa at the September 2015 GNSS ION conference. There was general concurrence from those in attendance that this idea should be explored further at a future meeting. The local universities will need to be surveyed to identify those that are involved in the PNT/Navigation area and the Professors that could be invited to participate in the DC Section activities.

Prior to the NAVCEN tour, an impromptu book presentation was made to CAPT Russell E. Holmes by Mr. John McHale. The book presented was titled: *Men of the Menkar: United States Coast Guard World War Two Naval Exploits*. This book is a documentary history of the Menkar's role in the U.S. Coast Guard's World War II Secret Loran Program, which made possible the US B-29 high level bombing of the Japanese mainland. The navigation coverage provided by the Loran program is recognized as one of the major contributions to the early defeat of the Japanese Empire.

In accepting the book, Captain Holmes commented, "This book will be a valued addition to NAVCEN's library serving as a historical reminder of the very important role that electronic navigation systems have played in our nation's history."

Pictures of the book presentation follow:



NAVCEN Mission Overview: Captain Holmes welcomed the attendees and Rick Hamilton who provided an overview of the Navigation Center's mission. The Center's mission is dedicated to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of U.S. waterways as well as responding to the needs of civil GPS users.

The NAVCEN services include:

- Operating the Nationwide Differential GPS (NDGPS) System.
- Operating the Long Range Identification & Tracking (LRIT) Business Helpdesk.
- Operating the Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS).
- Digital publishing of Notices to Mariners & the Light List.
- Disseminating Navigation Information through a 24/7 Operations Center & the NAVCEN Website.
- Managing Legacy Integrated Aids to Navigation Information System and transition to the Aids to Navigation Information Management System (USAIMS)
- Managing electronic charting portfolios for Coast Guard units.
- Serving as the primary U.S. government interface with GPS civil users (except aviation and DoD).
- Receiving and coordinating investigation of GPS outage reports.

Following the Mission Overview the Operations Center spaces were toured by the group.

The meeting ended at 2130. The next meeting of the DC Section will be held in early 2016 (date and place TBD).

Submitted by

Ron Beard
DC Section Secretary

Attendee List

ION DC Section
21 October 2015
Sign-in Sheet

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