NAVFAC Engineer and Expeditionary Warfare Center Announces 2014 Civilian Engineer of the Year

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, PORT HUENEME, Calif. – The Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) announced its 2014 Engineer of the Year Jan. 16.

Galen Marks, P.E. was selected as the command’s civilian engineer of the year for his work as team lead overseeing the Hardened Installation Protection for Persistent Operations (HIPPO) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) project.

“Galen his team designed and incorporated new technologies into a kit for the repair, restoration and recovery of fuel and water for the HIPPO project,” said NAVFAC EXWC Commanding Officer Capt. Mark. K. Edelson. “This has significant impact to Sailors, Marines and troops deployed in combat zones, and the award recognizes Galen for his dedication and exceptional work in support of the fleet and the warfighter.”

The JCTD developed a scalable, resilient-structured solution to ensure continuity of operations in the face of major man-made and natural disruptions, and it incorporates innovative technologies to separate and reuse fuel contaminated with aqueous fire fighting foam.

The kit also offers new capabilities including bypass, inline and valve repair, fuel recovery and storage. A revised modular system allows faster access to tools and vital parts, along with expeditious transport by unmodified H-60 helicopters.

These technologies will enable warfighters to resume battle within six hours after an attack, instead of the days and weeks under previous systems and capabilities.

Marks also performed a failure investigation in a 950 kW Wind Turbine Generator at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, quickly identifying the root cause and developing an economically feasible repair solution for $45,000. He supervised restoration of key generator drive end bearings, bringing the turbine online much sooner than more expensive alternate plans costing $1 million.

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Marks led a survey team in the production and distribution of a key compressed air system at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, resulting in cost savings of more than $1 million annually. He also developed a Business Case Analysis (BCA) examining six alternatives, and that research has shown that an additional $1.1 million in energy savings will be realized by implementation of a combination of BCA alternatives.

“This is truly a great honor for me personally, but it would not be possible without the hard work, resourcefulness and contribution of my team members,” said Marks. “I humbly accept this award in their behalf.”

NAVFAC EXWC is the Navy’s premier activity for facilities and expeditionary technology solutions, engineering services, equipment logistics and products needed to equip the fleet and meet warfighter requirements. EXWC also delivers specialized engineering and technology solutions that support sustainable facilities and provides logistics and expeditionary systems support for Navy combat force capabilities.

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