

International Committee on Military Medicine 2022

Moderated e-Poster (+5 min presentation & 2 min Q&A):

Title: Warfighter Force Health Multiplier : U.S. Navy Entomology Center of Excellence

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Summary: Navy Entomology has provided eight decades of continued support for operational forces worldwide since its inception in 1941. The Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida serves as the largest hub of military entomologists within the United States Department of Defense. NECE's primary mission is to protect the warfighter by delivering the latest technology and training for protection against arthropod pests and disease. To meet this mission, NECE offers contingency entomology training courses and leads operational exercise GATOR DAWN for its domestic and international partners. NECE global health engagement (GHE) programs support operationally strategic combatant commands (COCOMS) and public health partners by coordinating subject matter expert exchanges and identifying gaps in arthropod-borne disease surveillance and control programs across all COCOMS.

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Methods: To accomplish these missions, five departments have been established under Operations and Science Directorates: Operational Forces Support, Global Health Operations, Readiness and Training, Testing and Evaluation, and Research and Development. These departments are staffed with highly educated and skilled Entomologists, Molecular Biologists, and Preventive Medicine Technicians executing missions to protect the military warfighter and reduced the global burden of arthropod transmitted illnesses.

Conclusions: Department of Defense, domestic and international public health partners' benefit from the additional tools NECE provides as part of its mission to control arthropod pests and prevent vector-borne disease transmission.