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Navy Disestablishes MCAST

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By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matt Daniels

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) -- Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command (MCAST) officially disestablished May 16 after five years of service during a small ceremony aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana - Dam Neck Annex in Virginia Beach, Va.

Capt. Marc Gordnier, commanding officer of MCAST, formally stood-down the crew, presented awards, and then spoke about the pride he felt in the command's accomplishments and their contribution to the Navy before presenting the command's ensign to Rear Adm. Frank Morneau, commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC).

MCAST was formed in 2009 from the merger of two commands-Maritime Civil Affairs Group (MCAG) and Expeditionary Training Command (ETC)-under the guidance of NECC. The MCAST mission is to man, train, equip, and deploy both active duty and reserve expeditionary Sailors worldwide in order to conduct Civil-Military Operations (CMO) and Security Force Assistance (SFA) training in the maritime environment, as directed, in support of U.S. Navy missions.

During its establishment, MCAST has conducted three types of missions in support of all six Geographic Combatant Commanders (GCCs): Enduring/Expeditionary (Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa), Global Fleet Stations (Southern Partnership Station, Pacific Partnership), and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) operations (Hurricane Sandy, Operation Unified Response).

MCAST's Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) delivered maritime expeditionary training and instruction to partner nation militaries in support of U.S. Embassy Country Teams' strategic and security assistance plans. With a curriculum of 24 courses, MCAST's SFA Detachment delivered timely, focused, custom training in the host nation's language. During fiscal year 2013, MCAST SFA executed 45 percent of the U.S. Navy's SFA missions.

Morneau oversaw the disestablishment of MCAST in accordance with a message received Dec. 13, 2013, from the Chief of Naval Operations approving the disestablishment of MCAST during fiscal year 2014. MCAST and its capabilities were identified for disestablishment during a comprehensive efficiency review to improve the department's overall combat and combat support capability and to reduce the total cost of ownership. Other forces will assume the MCAST capabilities on a case-by-case basis.

For more news from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command , visit www.navy.mil/local/necc/.

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