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NCBC rated highly effective after participating in Final Evaluation Problem

By Ryan Labadens
NCBC Public Affairs

Months of preparation paid off for the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., which earned a certification of highly effective and an overall installation score of 89 percent for the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) it participated in Oct. 15-17, 2019.

The FEP, a Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) assessment that was initiated in 2015, is designed to inspect the command, control, communications and Navy security departments and emer-



"This ensures that the installation is ready to respond and recover from both natural and man-made disasters that could happen here, and the CBC Gulfport team should be proud of the effort that they put in to get to this point," said Bobrowski.

Ensign William Clark, NCBC Gulfport security officer, noted the team effort that came into play to help make the FEP a success for NCBC.

"Everyone just worked together very well," said Clark. "The support we've been given by all the participating departments and tenant units was incredible. We appreciate them allowing us to use their facilities and working along with us to help get us through this. The overall cooperation and support we received was outstanding."

Capt. William Whitmire, NCBC Gulfport commanding officer, praised all the units and personnel that participated in the FEP, as well as the NCBC Gulfport community, for a job well done.

"We scored above the overall fleet average, and while it was a very challenging week, Team Gulfport did an amazing job," said Whitmire. "I'm super proud of the team and immensely grateful to our base community for the support they've provided us throughout all the preparations and training we had to do for this. It's a huge win, and the Gulfport community showed once again that when we pull together, there's nothing we can't accomplish."

gency operations response on all U.S. Navy installations. Installations are slated to undergo a FEP assessment once every three years.

The FEP is the final phase in a three-step evaluation process, which includes the command assessment of readiness and training (CART), regional assessment (RAS) and the final evaluation problem (FEP).

The FEP is essentially a rigorous three-day assessment that includes evaluating administration and record-keeping, the emergency operation center (EOC) and the capabilities of the security and fire departments on the installation. The assessment can involve situations such as recovering from natural disasters such as tornados or flooding to handling people carrying improvised explosive devices or active-shooter scenarios. Inspectors from U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) and Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) all came onboard NCBC Gulfport to evaluate the installation on its security and emergency operations readiness.

Chris Bobrowski, CNIC emergency management program specialist and one of the inspectors for the FEP, commended NCBC Gulfport for its performance during the assessment.

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New FFSC counseling, advocacy supervisor talks about Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness

By Ryan Labadens
NCBC Public Affairs

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport saw a familiar face take over a new position recently. Dr. Jamie Williams became the center's new counseling and advocacy program supervisor Sept. 30, 2019.

Williams, a Mississippi native from Meridian, originally started working here at FFSC in August 2011 as a clinical counselor/family advocacy program case manager.

"I've always known that I liked therapy and counseling, but I don't think it came to fruition until my senior year in undergraduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi," said Williams, who noted that a recruiting letter sent out to the seniors by the director for the Marriage and Family Therapy Master's program there is what peaked her interest in that career path.

"Before I got that letter, I had never heard of marriage and family therapy," said Williams. "So I went and met with her and just fell in love with the whole concept of what MFT [Marriage and Family Therapy] is all about."

As the counseling and advocacy program supervisor, Williams oversees the clinical staff at FFSC, especially in regards to the family advocacy program, and assists with domestic violence and child abuse cases.

While the staff there does offer counseling, they don't actually treat patients for conditions like depression or anxiety, said Williams, but they can counsel patrons for adjustment disorders, provide marital and families counseling as well as counseling for children. Williams mentioned that FFSC currently has five counselors on staff.

One of the first items Williams focused on in her first month in her new position was the theme for this year's Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month, "Mobilize Help for Safer Relationships." This year's theme for the month of October centers on how to recognize and prevent technology-facilitated abuse in relationships, such as texting and posting on social media to bully, harass, stalk or intimidate a spouse or partner.

"I don't think people realize the impact of using [social media] against a person, checking their phone text messages, emails and how harmful that is and intrusive that can be – even in a marital relationship," said Williams, who noted that FFSC can provide more information on the different types of technology-facilitated abuse. "It's abusive – it's emotional abuse, and I think there's been a big push recently for people to recognize how technology can be used to abuse."

FFSC held various events throughout the month of October to generate awareness for this issue, including a Domestic Violence Prevention Proclamation signing by NCBC Gulfport leadership Oct. 2. These events are geared toward helping people recognize the signs of technology-facilitated abuse, what kinds of boundaries should be established and how to build trust within a relationship.

"If there are trust issues in the marriage or the relationship, come in and get some counseling for that. It's important to talk about those trust issues and how trust can be established without resorting to abusive methods," said Williams.



FFSC also offers free educational courses, such as anger and stress management, and conflict resolution for individuals and couples who want to improve their communication skills, and to hopefully help stop domestic violence before it starts. It also offers assistance for victims of domestic violence.

For more information about the types of programs and assistance FFSC offers, contact FFSC at 228-871-3000. Williams also can be contacted about the center's family advocacy program and counseling services at 228-871-3674.

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