



Press Release

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Lehnhardt assumes command of Navy Experimental Diving Unit

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – Cmdr. Keith W. Lehnhardt relieved Cmdr. Mark M. Matthews as commander, Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU), during a July 29 ceremony at the unit's Ocean Simulation Facility in Panama City, Fla.

Lehnhardt reports to NEDU following his assignment as assistant program manager for Special Systems Acquisition, Advanced Undersea Systems directorate at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). Prior to his program manager assignment, Lehnhardt led the submarine rescue exercises and numerous salvage operations while assigned to the Diving Systems Detachment, Deep Submergence Unit; and certified the U.S. Navy's atmospheric diving system.

NAVSEA Commander Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, who served as the ceremony's keynote speaker, welcomed Lehnhardt to NEDU and thanked Matthews for his leadership of the unit.

"Cmdr. Matthews led NEDU to partner with specialized operating units to develop advanced diving procedures and to support missions of national interest. Always keeping the safety of our divers as a priority, Matthews' leadership extended the reach and effectiveness of these units, while avoiding hundreds of millions of dollars of procurement costs typically required," said McCoy.

Matthews will report as NAVSEA's Director of Ocean Engineering and Supervisor of Salvage and Diving in February. His previous assignments included assistant fleet maintenance officer and Sixth Fleet salvage officer in Naples, Italy; Special Operating Forces Undersea Mobility Program Office project engineer; and executive assistant to the Program Executive Officer for Submarines. As the program manager for the Submarine Rescue Diving and Recompression System, Matthews certified and delivered the Navy's current submarine rescue system.

A field activity of NAVSEA, NEDU tests and evaluates diving, hyperbaric, and other life-support systems and procedures, and conducts research and development in biomedical and environmental physiology.

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