By Donna Cipolloni  
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

NAS Patuxent River security forces and fire and emergency services personnel will be undergoing a Command Assessment of Readiness for Training (CART) aboard the installation Aug. 20-24.

The assessment, led by Commander, Naval Installations Command Headquarters, is used as the basis to determine whether the Naval Security Force is ready to conduct unit level training.

"CART is primarily an administrative program assessment with a significant operational component designed to evaluate post checks, evolutions and drills during the weeklong event," explained Hal Oakley, Pax River’s N3 base operations officer.

"During this timeframe, expect to see security and emergency personnel conducting drills and other evolutions to demonstrate their capabilities and level of proficiency to the CART assessors."

A team of 10 CNIC assessors will be looking at Pax River's standard operating procedures, preplanned responses and post orders, and its memorandum of understanding with other organizations. They will also be evaluating how well personnel respond to emergencies and threats by observing their response to a number of realistic scenarios that will play out throughout the week, and which may have an impact on personnel onboard the installation.

"The command will make every effort to give advance notice of these drills and evolutions via AtHoc, text, desktop notifications – all those things we're used to using," Oakley said. "That will also include placing signs reading 'Exercise in Progress' during the drills; and we ask personnel to please remain clear of drilling areas to the maximum extent possible."

Begun only a few years ago, CART is a relatively new program, and it is the first time Pax River personnel are preparing for their first Command Assessment for Readiness Training to be conducted by CNIC Headquarters Aug. 20-24.

"On average, we'll get CART inspections every three years, depending on how well we do, and we'll have other assessments in the meantime," Oakley noted. "CART is just the first one, then there's a regional assessment and a final evaluation, which is basically our final exam that will take place in about 18 months."

Observers in orange vests evaluate the performance of security personnel during a realistic scenario played out as part of the 2018 Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield exercise. Pax River personnel are currently preparing for their first Command Assessment for Readiness Training to be conducted by CNIC Headquarters Aug. 20-24.

Following CART, a report will be generated of the CNIC team's overall assessment.

"Based on that report, we'll work through any deficiencies noted to completion," Oakley said. "Then we'll report back to CNIC through the region."

Gahagan helps NAWCAD unveil new Innovation Hub maker space

NAWCAD Commander, Rear Adm. Shane Gahagan, opened the command's new Innovation Hub (iHUB) during a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 1.

The iHUB is a new maker space created to foster and enhance the command's organic talent for rapid response to fleet needs. Open to the entire workforce, the space offers digital fabrication and prototype machinery, laser cutters and milling machines, 3D printers, programming software and electronics, work benches and hand tools, data and application development software and high-tech conference space. It is also home to the FabLab, NAWCAD's mobile suite of digital fabrication and rapid prototype machines.

Executive Director of NAWCAD, Leslie Taylor, spoke alongside Gahagan about the modern facility's mission to deliver warfighting capabilities faster.

"We do great work to keep naval aviation the best in the world," Taylor said.

"Let's keep innovating for the fleet."

The iHUB is located in Building 407 and is open to all NAVAIR employees from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Check out https://myteam.navair.navy.mil/ad/nawmade for more information.

From NAWCAD Public Affairs

NAWCAD Commander, Rear Adm. Shane Gahagan and Executive Director Leslie Taylor talk with NAWCAD personnel inside the Innovation Hub, located in Building 407. On Aug. 1, Gahagan cut the ribbon officially opening the facility, which is better known as the iHUB.