PMA-265 R&S team leads the way in digitization efforts

By Katie Walsh
PMA-265 Communications Specialist

The F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) Readiness and Sustainment (R&S) Integrated Product Team (IPT) is leading several high-level digital data initiatives, with many of these efforts being scaled for future use by other type/model/series (T/M/S) aircraft, to save the Navy valuable time and money.

The most groundbreaking effort has been the development of the Naval Aviation Enterprise’s (NAE) first Readiness Forecasting Modeling and Simulation process, which will enable the program office to predict and mitigate aircraft readiness needs up to five years in the future.

This effort to better use data for aircraft readiness analysis began about a year ago, with the goal of building an entire mission-capability model for various readiness initiatives, said acting PMA-265 Forecasting Lead Justin Zarzaca, who took over the project in March.

That included forecasting supply shortages, maintenance, out-of-reporting maintenance, equipment and manpower, Zarzaca said. The first data simulations available with the tool are a line-of-balance analysis, which provides scheduling management for continuous construction projects, and a funding shortfall analysis. More data simulations are being developed.

“Here’s wholesale, retail and executive categories, and for each we’re showing what the predicted and forecasted stock levels are going to be,” Zarzaca said. “We’ll be better able to forecast to our supply posture and say, ‘Here’s what we’re seeing down the road. What are we going to do about this?’ We can show them the results.

Golfers back on the greens at Cedar Point Golf Course

Open for business, by appointment only

By Donna Cipolloni
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After being shuttered for 14 weeks due to COVID-19, the staff at Cedar Point Golf Course welcomed golfers back to the links July 3, following NAS Patuxent River’s Health Protection Condition shift from Charlie to Bravo.

“The past three months have been a stressful time for everyone and I think people are in need of outdoor recreational activities after being cooped up inside for so long,” said Kevin Conlon, golf course manager and head golf professional.

“Now that we’re back open, the course is in fantastic condition and people are really going to enjoy themselves”

Fired up and ready to go

“Taking advantage of the prolonged down time, and the unusual situation of not having to worry about interfering with play, golf course staff tackled a number of improvement projects, both inside and outside.

“The biggest project we took on was cutting out and putting down sod around six of the greens areas at holes 10 through 14 and also at hole 18,” Conlon said. “The fringe – the grass immediately surrounding the green – was a troubled area and we removed grass that didn’t perform as well as we like. We put down a truckload of new sod several weeks ago; it’s all healed and it took beautifully.”

Dead and damaged trees were removed, concrete and asphalt work was accomplished, the parking lot was cleaned up of natural debris such as sticks and pebbles, walkways were power washed, caulking was redone, and various housekeeping projects were completed in and around the clubhouse.

“Also, during the closure, they completed the demolition of the old Officer’s Club,” Conlon noted. “For golfers returning, it’ll be the first time they’ll see the property down to the ground. Grass seed was planted and it looks completely different now, with a beautiful unobstructed view of the Chesapeake Bay from the parking lot.”

While it may have appeared not much was happening on the holes during the shutdown, nothing could be further from the truth.

“A golf course is a living, breathing organism and you aren’t able to let golf course grass sit weeks on end without maintenance,” Conlon explained. “Grass on the greens has to be mowed every day. We were maintaining the golf course throughout the entire 14 weeks it was closed. We could pay attention to areas that needed it and we could go out and apply any chemical we needed at any time of day. The fairways are the best they’ve ever looked. We had to keep things prepared and be ready to open at a moment’s notice. As a team, we worked very hard.”

Teeing off, with restrictions

Under the current situation, anyone coming to the course to play is required to call ahead and reserve their tee time. Walk-ins are not allowed.

“Customers can call three days in advance for a reservation; for example, call Tuesday morning for a Friday tee time,” Conlon said. “We have