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Navy's international training command selects top civilian

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity (NETSAFA) announced their selection of the civilian of the quarter (COQ) Nov. 4.

Lon Oliver, the NETSAFA Saudi Arabia Country Program Manager (CPM) was chosen as COQ for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2014.

“I am truly honored to be selected as civilian of the quarter, especially with such a talented, diverse and dedicated civilian workforce here at NETSAFA,” said Oliver.

He has served as the Saudi Arabia country manager for nearly one and one-half years, and before accepting his current position, he worked for three years as a CPM for seven countries within the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations. Oliver, a retired surface warfare officer, began his civil service career five years ago and appreciates that NETSAFA has allowed him the opportunity to remain connected to his military roots.

Olivers' supervisor, Ron Cooper, CENTCOM operations division supervisor, nominated him for the award, and says his Navy experience has indeed paid big dividends.

“His knowledge, professionalism, and outstanding demeanor have continued to resonate and impress the senior U.S. Navy, Royal Saudi Naval Force

(RSNF) and Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) leadership involved with the security cooperation program,” said Cooper.

As a CPM, Oliver develops education and training programs for officer and enlisted personnel covering the entire spectrum of surface, sub-surface and air warfare for Saudi Arabia. He provides technical advice in the assessment of training capabilities, logistics, and language training. His daily tasks require that he maintain up-to-date information on training available to international students, and plans to establish, disestablish, or change future training capabilities. He works closely with Navy International Programs Office (NIPO) and Saudi Navy International Programs Office (SNIPO) to stay abreast of constantly changing pricing policies resulting from congressional mandates and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) policies. He also coordinates as required with USN, RSNF and RSAF leadership to assure mutual interpretation of policy guidance.

“Lon has tackled the ever-changing demands of the biggest and most manpower-intensive program assigned to the NETSAFA operations department and perhaps within the command,” said Dave Babcock, Operations department head. “His professional demeanor and ability to appropriately scope intricate Saudi issues to satisfactory resolution mark him as a manager who is clearly in a league of his own in satisfying the diverse demands of his position.”

NETSAFA is the U.S. Navy’s agent for international education and training and coordinates training support to international governments and international organizations. As a field activity of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), the command serves as a focal point for all security assistance training program issues, coordination and advice within the U.S. Navy.

For more information about NETSAFA, visit <https://www.netsafa.navy.mil>.

Additional information on the Naval Education and Training Command can be found on the NETC website: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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