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Navy blue goes brown



& green

New command insignia show riverine mission's true colors

The Navy's new riverine combat forces have rolled out two command insignia, providing symbolic representation of changing missions in green- and brown-water environments.

Falling under the new Navy Expeditionary Combat Command are several existing units — Seabee battalions, explosive ordnance disposal teams, expeditionary logistics units, salvage dive teams, coastal warfare squadrons and mobile security units — that had been scattered throughout the fleet.

The NECC insignia uses blue and green waves to represent the littoral, or coastal, environment, according to Lt. Jim Hoeft, public affairs officer for NECC.

The globe symbolizes the reach of NECC forces. The weapons represent expeditionary force sailors as “guardians of the sea [trident] and shore [broadsword],” he said.

One of the units created within the NECC is Riverine Group 1, whose symbol depicts a brown ocean covering the globe to represent the unit's mission operating in

so-called “brown water.” It uses a whole globe “because the group can access any coast or inland waterway anywhere, any time,” Hoeft said.

The three stars on the logo represent the three squadrons that will fall under Group 1.

In the middle of the symbol is a Vietnam-era gunboat, the Patrol Boat, River, or PBR. Although the Navy no longer operates the PBR, it's used to acknowledge the roots of today's Brown Water Navy.

— Andrew Scuto