

Mission

The mission of the NAVSEA Dam Neck Combat Direction Systems Activity (CDSA) is to provide acquisition support, life cycle maintenance, testing, and delivery for carrier, amphibious, frigate, and non-AEGIS destroyer combat direction systems, advanced sensor distribution systems, and other software-intensive combat control and electronic intelligence systems—and to perform such other functions and tasks as may be directed by higher authority.

CDSA creates and maintains computer programs for several combatant platforms and multiple versions of programs for each platform. CDSA's technical experts represent various functional disciplines such as engineering, software development, logistics, configuration management, and systems integration. In essence, CDSA is a one-stop shop. The collocation of technical experts for each platform and various disciplines provides a unique synergistic effect in that common problems are identified using a systems approach and solved using standardized methods. This, coupled with an ideal geographic location, provides capabilities that are unique to the Dam Neck site.

CDSA has evolved into a state-of-the-art software production and systems integration facility. In September 1997, it became the first Navy tactical software developer to attain the Carnegie-Mellon Institute's Capability Maturity Model Level III rating. Command assets include the High-Performance Computing Facility, the Multi-Functional Land-Based Test Site, the Collaborative Engineering Center, and connectivity to the Distributed Engineering Plant. The capabilities, work ethic, and facilities found at CDSA have made it an integral part of all Navy and Joint tactical systems development.

About Dam Neck Annex

CDSA Dam Neck Annex is located on the Atlantic coast, five miles south of the Virginia Beach resort area. Founded in 1941 as an anti-aircraft range, the base still boasts the nation's only open-ocean, live firing training facility featuring major caliber weapons.

Today, Dam Neck Annex is part of Naval Air Station (NAS), Oceana and is home to the Fleet Combat Training Center, Atlantic along with 13 other tenant commands. Dam Neck Annex rests on over 1,100 acres of highlands, marshes, coastal beaches, and sand dunes. The delicate ecological balance is maintained through active environmental preservation and recycling programs.

CDSA Dam Neck's unique location has many advantages for the Navy. Strategically located within 30 minutes of 50 percent of the USN Fleet, joint forces, and NATO Commands, as well as close proximity to NAS Oceana and major Army and Air Force Commands, Dam Neck has a distinct advantage providing training and testing services to the Fleet. Electronic links with the Norfolk Naval Base, NSWC Dahlgren, NAWC Patuxent River, and ACSC Wallops Island provide a broad range of electronic signals for joint testing and training in the adjoining VACAPES Operating Area, which offers the only test and training space in the world covered by land-based SPS-48, SPS-49, and SPY-1 radars. Further connectivity exists between CDSA Dam Neck, Newport News Shipbuilding, and Virginia academic facilities to allow joint cooperative testing, training, and research. Available on-line hardware at CDSA Dam Neck provides the Joint Task Force an environment to support both tactical team training and combat systems testing utilizing common sets of equipment that support the Battle Force Integration Test (BFIT) via the Distributed Engineering Plant (DEP). This combination of electronic connectivity uses a high-speed digital switch (HSDS) and the Dam Neck Annex wide-area network (WAN) to provide the operational user or acquisition manager with access to the Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) Land-Based Test Site, Intel Links, C4I data, Tomahawk, search radars, and Over-the-Horizon Link data. The Distributed Interactive Simulation (DIS) compliant Battle Force Tactical Training System, in conjunction with other Annex trainers, provides Defense Simulation Internet (DSI) connectivity. The multifunctionality of this site—in conjunction with the available hardware assets, support services, and intrafacility DIS connectivity—provides an ideal environment and location for multiservice development testing, integration testing, training, and independent verification and validation (IV&V) activities.

The Combat Direction Systems Activity (CDSA)

For over 38 years, the Navy's Combat Direction Systems Activity at Dam Neck has provided vital technical support to an ever-increasing variety of ships, aircraft, and submarines. The facility came into existence on March 1, 1963, when it was commissioned as the Fleet Computer Programming Center, Atlantic under the Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Atlantic. The center's mission then, as now, involved planning, developing, testing, and delivering computer programs for shipboard combat direction systems or, as they were once called, the Navy Tactical Data System (NTDS).

The center was upgraded to Command status July 1, 1971 and was renamed the Fleet Combat Direction Systems Support Activity (FCDSSA), Dam Neck. On January 2, 1992, FCDSSA Dam Neck was aligned with Port Hueneme as the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (PHD), Dam Neck Detachment under the cognizance of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

In December 2000, the PHD Detachment was disestablished and a new command established. NAVSEA CDSA Dam Neck was realigned under the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, with its current designation of Combat Direction Systems Activity (CDSA).

Historical Facts

The Dam Neck site is located on Virginia's Atlantic shore near where the first Jamestown settlers landed, where the infamous Blackbeard and other pirates were said to have buried treasures, where battles of the Revolutionary War were fought, where Blue and Gray clashed during the Civil War, and where German submarines sank American shipping vessels within yards of the beach during World War II. This area is full of colorful names such as London Bridge, Princess Anne, Cape Henry, Wolfsnare, Indian River, and Pungo. These names invite curiosity about the stories behind them and reflect the rich history of the English-speaking settlers and Native Americans who once lived there.



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