Abstracts are invited for the Quarterly Technical Exchange Meeting Forum to be held on September 10, 2015. The broad areas of interest include and pertain to your technological areas of work or any other work that you are doing for the war fighter. This forum also accommodates and provides a platform for the new technical and professional presenters to polish their talents. This technical forum provides an opportunity to network, broaden horizons, and know more about other areas of interest at Crane. Employees can take one hour of DAWIA training credit for attending this meeting. The meeting starts with the opening remarks from a member of Command/Management. The paper presentation is for 15-20 minutes. Please send a short abstract of 100-120 words to maroof.qurashi@navy.mil for Sept 10, quarterly forum.
NSWC Crane is located on the third largest naval installation in the world and is situated on 100-square miles in the southern region of Indiana noted for rolling hills, limestone formations and caves, and the Hoosier National Forest. Southern Indiana is a large region comprised of 18 counties and hundreds of miles of efficient interstates, cruising highways, hilly rural roads and meandering byways. The northernmost point of the region is two hours south of Indianapolis. The eastern and southern part of Southern Indiana borders Kentucky and the winding Ohio River forms the border between Southern Indiana and Kentucky. To the west, the Wabash River hugs Southern Indiana and borders neighboring Illinois.
The American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE), Southern Indiana Section and the New Employee Development Organization (NEDO) hosted their fifth annual cookout at the Crane Marina on Thursday, July 16. The event allowed members of the two organizations to network with one another and their families while enjoying a beautiful summer day at Lake Greenwood.

NEDO and ASNE work together closely to promote their events and programs while helping to fulfill NEDO’s main purpose—helping new employees assimilate into Crane. The cookout, which was attended by around 60 people, assisted in that goal by allowing recently hired individuals to meet with new people in a relaxing, low-key environment. Besides food, the event featured pontoon boat rides and water trikes along with other water activities such as skiing and canoeing.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) Commanding Officer CAPT Jeffrey Elder and family members attended the cookout and enjoyed the opportunity to chat with new employees. “NSWC Crane draws the best and brightest professionals from southern Indiana and beyond, and this is a great, informal opportunity to get to know them a little better,” he said. Elder also praised ASNE for its sponsorship of NEDO and dedicated support to new hires and naval engineering.

ASNE is the leading professional engineering society for engineers, scientists and allied professionals who conceive, design, develop, test, construct, outfit, operate and maintain complex naval and maritime ships, submarines and aircraft, and their associated systems and subsystems. The Crane Chapter consists of diverse professionals to include engineers, scientists, logisticians, technicians, program analysts and administrative personnel as well as community and family members. NEDO is an organizational grouping of recently hired employees, established to assist in the indoctrination of these individuals into the Crane workforce. New hires are members for their first five years at Crane.
During a recent trip to Washington DC I was privileged to be able to fit the annual ASNE Business Meeting and a Monthly Council meeting into my schedule. During the Business Meeting President Ashe discussed the state of the Society and the actions being taken to improve the health of the Society in alignment with the recently approved Strategic Plan. In short, ASNE continues to struggle with financial viability but we believe the path to a reinvigorated Society is to implement the Strategic plan and I will tell you the staff and committees are energized and executing their actions to ensure success.

The monthly council meeting was the first with the Society’s new President, RADM Anthony (Tony) Lengerich, USN (Ret). During this meeting President Ashe handed over operations to RADM Lengerich. The agenda for this meeting was packed and we did not make it through all the items. The majority of time was spent on the report from the Ways and Means committee on the financial status of the Society and approval of the FY16 budget. There was a long and passionate discussion but in the end the budget was approved with a sense of the Council that cost savings and revenue generating elements of the FY16 budget be brought forward and implemented in FY15 where feasible. The remainder of the meeting was filled by new President Lengerich discussing his vision and expectations for Council during his term. I will tell you that I am impressed by President Lengerich and his passion to leave the Society in an improved financial position by the end of his two-year term. It is fortuitous that the new President was also Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee that developed the Society’s Strategic Plan.

If any member desires to have access to proceedings of the Council meetings please contact me. Later that evening I had the pleasure of attending the Council Turnover Dinner held and the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington Virginia. This is an amazing facility that I’ve had the pleasure of attending several events at. We began with a social hour where I was able to meet all the staff of ASNE and several of the new Council members; and I was also able to reconnect with several past Presidents and old friends. After dinner the official program began with opening remarks by President Ashe followed by recognition of several individuals who have provided exemplary service to the Society in the past couple of years. After the official handover to the new President and his charge to those assembled we adjourned for the evening.
For your information the complete staff member roster for your Society is as follows:

Krista Akins – Administrative Assistant
Colleen Carrigan – Naval Engineers Journal Production Editor
Erica Smedley Cox – Education Manager
Madeline Forseman – Director of Meetings/Membership
Frankie Hamme – Marketing Manager
Mike Huling – Associate Director for Corporate Relations
Leeann Kirchner – Programs Coordinator
Nancy Lackey – Controller
Dr. Leigh McCue – Executive Director
Adey Medhin – Senior Manager for Communications
Kendra Newman – Senior Manager for Programs
Michelle Redmon – Programs Coordinator
Megan Sinesiou – Associate Director for Programs & Operations

The next morning I was able to meet briefly with Dr. McCue and several members of the staff to discuss restarting the Southern Indiana symposium. I was asked to have this discussion by Mr. Harkness, Global Deterrence and Defense Department Director on behalf of NSWC Crane. I came away this meeting with the commitment from the Society to help the Southern Indiana Section in our efforts to restart our symposium in the new environment required by the Navy. You can expect a visit to NSWC Crane by Dr. McCue in the near future (Sep 3 is the current date) for a familiarization tour and further discussions about restarting the symposium!

The following are a few photos from the Council Turnover Dinner.
CAPT Glenn Ashe, USN (Ret), outgoing President, provides opening remarks
Incoming ASNE President RADM Anthony "Tony" Lengerich, USN (Ret) makes remarks
Some of the assembled guests
NSWC Crane, University of Southern Indiana Strong Partnership

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) and the University of Southern Indiana announced a renewed Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) on Monday, June 22 during an event held on the USI campus. The event included representatives from both Crane and USI, including NSWC Crane Commanding Officer CAPT Jeffrey Elder and USI President Linda L. M. Bennett.

“Our relationship with NSWC Crane has elevated our University as a nationally-recognized best practice in technology transfer from the Department of Defense,” said Bennett. “We continue to collaborate on strategic initiatives in order to develop a strong ecosystem for innovation in the southern Indiana region.”

The Crane-USI partnership has provided USI students with entrepreneurship opportunities through USI sponsored programs such as Technology Commercialization Academy (TCA), Eagle Innovation Accelerator and Tech on Tap. From these programs, hundreds of ideas have been generated utilizing Crane technology and patents and four start-up businesses have been incorporated and sustained. Furthermore, the formal agreement helps bolster USI’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program, intellectual property development and experiential learning opportunities. “Both USI and Crane are committed to research and discovery of advanced technology initiatives,” said Elder. “This collaboration is an added bonus to NSWC Crane because it introduces us to some very bright, technically advanced students while exposing them to the critical technical workload we perform for the
Warfighter. This is one of many partnerships that can serve as a pipeline for future employees and the students can benefit by ultimately obtaining great technical jobs right here in southern Indiana.”

During the event on Monday, students involved with USI’s TCA and Innovation Accelerator programs demonstrated projects they have been working on in recent months. USI student Logan Hayford, of H&H Heating Sources, LLC, provided his product, “Cuisine Caterer”, for demonstration. Hayford used a thermal target patent from Crane that has been utilized in sniper training for his product, which produces an oxidative reaction to heat food. H&H Heating Sources is currently working with manufacturers in California to commercialize the Crane technology.

NSWC Crane and USI have operated under a Memorandum of Understanding since 2007 and a PIA since 2009. The ongoing partnership, along with the resulting increase in learning opportunities for USI faculty and students, led to the creation of a full-time position at USI dedicated to management of the Crane-USI partnership. In addition, the partnership helps support several components of the university’s strategic plan, including enhanced experiential learning opportunities and providing leadership to both Indiana and the region. As NSWC Crane’s partnership with USI continues, local industries will see further benefits from the commercialization of military technology coming out of Crane.

Located in Martin County, the Naval Surface Warfare Center develops technology for military use in electronic warfare, special missions and strategic missions. The USI/Crane partnership has a few different components. One is focused on technology commercialization and transfer — finding commercial uses for the technology and patents that Crane workers are developing for the military. “We’re basically giving access to students and faculty to this Crane technology where they wouldn’t otherwise have any access to technology like that,” said Ashley Watson, marketing coordinator for USI Outreach and Engagement. So far, Watson said, the Crane partnership has produced four start-up companies. Another part of the USI/
Crane partnership involves promoting the so-called STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math to area youth. Under this part of the partnership, USI and Crane have developed a “lending library” of scientific and technical equipment that rural high schools can borrow. The partnership has also established robotics and Lego building competitions locally. “Where we’ve actually got to in a short amount of time is tremendous,” said Brooke Pyne, technology transfer manager at Crane.

Source: NSWC Crane Public Affairs, Local Newspapers
Crane News
"It's All About the Ships."

NATO experts visit NSWC Crane: Six experts from NATO's Land Combat Group, Dismounted Soldier Systems and Weapons and Sensors teams met with Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division personnel in late June and early July. Guests from Norway, Great Britain and Canada were represented in the group, which is part of a Team of Experts (ToE) formed to establish standard test procedures for the evaluation of small arms suppressors. During the three-day meeting, team members consulted with subject matter experts from NSWC Crane on methods to effectively and objectively measure spectral emissions from a small arms system utilizing a suppressor during operation.

NSWC Crane Power and Energy personnel performed the annual inspection of installed batteries onboard USS HELENA (SSN 725), USS NEWPORT NEWS (SSN 750), and USS MONTPELIER (SSN 756) at the Norfolk Naval Base, May 26-29. While onsite, the Crane team reviewed battery operations and records, trained ship crews on battery operations and maintenance, as well as, assisting with initial operations and records for the recently installed battery on NEWPORT NEWS.

NSWC Crane personnel completed In-Service Engineering Agent installation support for the MK-53 Decoy Launching System Ordnance Alteration aboard the USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) and USS TRUXTUN (DDG 103) in Norfolk, Va., on May 26-29.

NSWC Crane Division engineers received a DoD Value Engineering award for their support to the Army CEASAR program during Operation Enduring Freedom, which increased performance and reliability as well as resulted in $55.7M savings and cost avoidance.

NSWC Crane personnel completed the installation of MK-53 Decoy Launching System Ordnance Alterations (ORDALTs) aboard the USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) on June 26. The MK-53 ORDALTs provide for enhanced deployment of off-board decoys for the installed Electronic Warfare capability on LSD 50 in an Anti-Ship Missile Defense environment.

NSWC Crane personnel successfully completed a system groom aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) on July 10 in Norfolk, Va. The team performed diagnostics and alignments, and repaired all casualties for the AN/SLQ-32A(V)4 and MK-53 Decoy Launching System.

NSWC Crane personnel further completed installation and operational verification tests for the Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) Electronic Surveillance Enhancement (ESE) 6.0 aboard the USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52) in San Diego, Calif., July 14. The SEWIP ESE 6.0 provides enhanced situational awareness and Electronic Warfare capability to US Naval Forces while conducting a variety of operations.

NSWC Crane Electro-Optics personnel recently traveled to USCG Station Gulfport, Miss., to install a MARFLIR II Electro-Optic/Infrared (EO/IR) system on the 87’ Marine Protector Class Patrol Boat, USCGC BONITO (WPB-87341). The new system contains a HD color camera, HD mid-wave infrared camera, a low light camera, and an eye safe laser range finder. The USCGC BONITO is the third USCG vessel to receive the new MARFLIR II as a production installation.
NSWC Crane and the University of Southern Indiana (USI) completed their 11-week long Technology Commercialization Academy (TCA) program that started on July 16. This is the 4th year of the USI TCA which brings undergrad students of a variety of backgrounds together to review, assess, and ideate commercialization opportunities and to develop marketing/business plans around a product that utilizes a NSWC Crane patent disclosure. On the last day, the students briefed their projects to the NSWC Crane command and learned about future employment opportunities at NSWC Crane.

Source: NSWC Crane Public Affairs, COMNAVSEA All Hands, Early Bird
External NEDO Event:
CORK & FORK LIVE MUSIC SERIES
When: Saturday, August 29 . 4pm - 9pm
Where: Creekbend Vineyard
Join us at our Creekbend Vineyard for live music on our farmhouse lawn. Spread out with family or friends, take a twirl to the tune of a live band, and sip and savor wine and great food, all with the stunning vineyard landscape as a backdrop. More info: oliverwinery.com/corkandfork
Free admission. Free parking.

NEDO August Tour:
Linear Accelerator Facilities
When: August 26th - 1000
Where: Building 3059
The LINAC is a two-section L-band accelerator powered by two 20-megawatt klystrons. The electron beam can irradiate test items; or, the electrons can be impacted on a target to create high-energy Bremsstrahlung pulses. The tour will take place on Wednesday August 26th at 1000. Please RSVP if you are interested in going as we have a limit of 20 people for this tour.

You can find more information about the LINAC from the tri-fold brochure found at the following link:

https://sharepoint.cran.nmci.navy.mil/dept/g/gxm/gxmr/Public%20Documents/linac%20trifold.pdf
Onboarding New Hires

Front Row (L-R): Marti Leslie, Wynter Wagoner, Gabrielle Godsey, Michelle Stanforth, Marisa Ohl, Lauren Walker, Anna Cummings, Cameron Reed, Anders Douglass, Taylor Allen and Nick Uebelhor.

Second Row: Nate McMackin, Chuck Hutchison, Courtney Hart, Angie Shake, Paige Shirley, April Seitz, Tom Gunderson, Ryan Woodward, Jeremy Crutcher, Corey Searl, Austin Schulte and Robert Kuykendall.

Third Row: Eric Pulse, Zak Eckerle, Jeff Wray, Nathan Monroe, Indra Chakraborty, Lucas Allison, Caleb Michel, Conner McQuellon, Jacob Smiley and Cody Bishop.

Fourth Row: Ronnie Shields, Travis Vincent, Jason James, Ryan Mathias, Sean O’Brien, Bart Hill, Benjamin Hogan, Nathaniel Husted, Max Irwin, Calvin Meisenheimer, Alex Ray and Charles Robinson.

Not Pictured: Summer Smith, Adam Zehr, Lauren Christopher and Noah Roberts.

Source: NSWC Crane Public Affairs
Innovation

_The following are some notes from a webinar on Federal Innovation, survey reports via Government Executive, Speakers: Dan Doney, Chief Innovation Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency and Barbara Lopresti, Chief of the Technologies Management Office, Census Bureau._

Why is Innovation critical to the future success of federal agencies? The report found that Innovation is necessary within federal agencies to offset tighter budgets and prevent deviation from mission goals.

So what’s hindering Innovation in federal agencies? Leadership. Sixty percent of federal employees cite lack of leadership within their agency as the main deterrence in adopting new ideas. Innovation isn’t always about invention—it’s also about improving effectiveness.

As federal agencies aim to meet expanding citizen demands, reduce costs and identify more efficient ways of operating, even incremental improvements can make an impact. Perhaps this is why federal employees and agencies look to innovation as a means to deliver public service for the future. Forty-four percent of federal managers say that they innovate to improve mission delivery.

A desire to be productive and contribute to innovative solutions motivates federal employees, according to a recent Accenture survey. Sixty percent say a commitment to public service drives them, and 40 percent say more efficient operations is a goal of innovation within their agency.

Agencies can unleash innovations that improve government efficiency by championing innovative ideas from across the organization, applying a structured approach to innovation and using digital tools to maximize the potential reach and impact of each innovation.

1. Leadership can play a key role in fostering innovation by encouraging internal and external idea sharing. Sixty percent of federal managers’ report that a lack of leadership support deters them from adopting new ideas. Leaders can help by supporting collaboration and encouraging employees to bring forward ideas on how to improve their agency’s performance. Agencies can also provide outlets for innovation, such as rotational ‘innovator’ positions and development programs, which increase the support to bring them to reality.

According to Accenture’s survey, only 21 percent of agencies have given employees opportunities to work on independent projects. Only 9 percent set aside time for brainstorming, which presents a major opportunity for improvement.

2. Often times, innovation is the output of structured, yet flexible processes. Federal agencies can bring new ideas to fruition faster by creating an innovation process that introduces and prioritizes ideas that will yield the best outcomes. Agencies might share or “crowdsource” an innovation idea so that the broader agency population can weigh in on which innovations to pursue. As the best ideas emerge, agencies can provide organizational support and resources to ‘operationalize’ the idea. Throughout
implementation, the agency can refine recommended ideas and measure progress through defined milestones and goals aligned to the intended benefits.

According to Accenture’s survey, just 28 percent of federal managers say their agency tracks the performance of new initiatives after implementation and 66 percent say their department/agency does not set specific innovation targets or benchmarks. By applying such structure, government agencies can measure progress against goals—and even celebrate successes along the way.

3. There is no reason for innovation to be confined by walls or work schedules. Digital collaboration tools, such as social media, mobility or cloud-based sharing, can foster 24/7 innovation among federal employees and across agencies.

Federal employees want opportunities to collaborate through digital means. Forty-six percent of federal employees say they draw inspiration from their coworkers, and 40 percent say they get it from other departments/agencies. However, only 6 percent of federal managers surveyed rate their agency’s digital collaboration tools (e.g. social media, mobile apps, cloud-based live sharing tools) as “excellent.”

Government has recognized a need to bring proven, digital technology to enable innovation and improve government efficiency.

What’s next?

Encouraging innovation across the organization, creating processes that support idea development and enabling access to digital tools may not transform an agency. However, they will establish the building blocks federal employees require to better use innovation to address public sector challenges. With leadership commitment and openness to new ideas and approaches, agencies can make innovation part of their culture, explore new ways to operate more efficiently and effectively, and deliver public service for the future. Learn how innovation can accelerate government efficiency and effectiveness.

Innovation isn’t always about invention—it’s also about improving effectiveness. Accelerating innovation and federal government efficiency will require leaders to work across their organizations in new ways. In this article, we highlight approaches to harness the power of individuals at all levels, establishing processes that make ideas a reality more quickly, and using enabling technologies to fuel government efficiency.

Encouraging innovation across the organization, creating processes that support idea development and enabling access to digital tools may not transform an agency. However, they will establish the building blocks federal employees require to better use innovation to address public sector challenges. With leadership commitment and openness to new ideas and approaches, agencies can make innovation part of their culture, explore new ways to operate more efficiently and effectively, and deliver public service for the future.

Navy & Marines Test Glasses for Augmented Reality System

By
Katherine H. Crawford
Office of Naval Research

Marines were able to turn a lush golf course into a hostile battleground complete with tanks, mortar fire and smoke at a demonstration on May 21 using an augmented reality training system from the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

At Marine Corps Base Quantico in Quantico, Virginia, the Augmented Immersive Team Trainer (AITT) moved one step closer to its ultimate goal of giving warfighters glasses that can be worn to enhance augmented reality training scenarios.

The term “augmented reality” refers to a live environment onto which virtual images are superimposed. Think of watching a football game on television and seeing the yellow first-down line added to the screen you’re watching. This is different from “virtual reality,” which is a wholly computer-generated environment in which users immerse themselves.

The system, which can support a wide array of live, virtual and constructive training scenarios, is “only limited by the imaginations of those using it,” said Dr. Peter Squire, a program officer with ONR’s Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department.
The glasses, or “optical see-through” components, were recently completed, and this was the first time they were hooked up to the AITT system. Representatives from the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were present to watch the Marines test out the newest iteration.

“The glasses are leading-edge and are really pushing the technology of optical see-throughs forward,” Squire said. “But the glasses are just one component of the system. It’s the AITT system itself that’s revolutionary because it enables warfighters to turn any environment into a training ground.”

The glasses are more technologically advanced than the much-discussed Google glass—a head-mounted display that shows information in a smartphone-like format. Created through a Small Business Technology Transfer program, they have a much larger field of view than similar products that are commercially available. Marine Corps Maj. Le Nolan, an action officer for the Human Performance Training and Education (HPT&E) thrust area in ONR’s Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare and Combating Terrorism Department, described them as being like “a portable high definition PC [personal computer] screen in front of your eyes that can integrate and render complex information in a manner that does not exist for the typical heads-up displays Marines use today.”

The AITT program, now in its fifth year, will wrap up this fall with a final large-scale demonstration at Quantico. The program then will transition to the Marine Corps Program Manager for Training Systems for further testing and development.

“For Marines, this system increases their situational awareness, whether for training or operations, giving them a wider aperture for information to help make better decisions,” Nolan said. “And, in the end, that’s what we’re trying to do here in HPT&E: give warfighters enough information to make the best decision possible, but not overwhelm them with so much information that they can’t make sense of it.”

The AITT system could be an important tool in achieving the Marine Corps’ goal—as stated in the Marine Corps Vision & Strategy 2025—of having training that “accurately reflect[s] the situations, environments and peoples Marines will face” and preparing Marines “realistically for complex conditions” while using resources more efficiently.

Source Permission: Armed with Science (Office of Naval Research)
A manager might need temporary talent on a project and doesn’t have it on his/her team. Energetic employees in other parts of the agency may have those skills and would like to share them as a way of broadening their professional experience. How can they connect?

GOV Connect is an initiative sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management that reflects broader trends in the workplace toward project-based work. It allows federal employees to share knowledge, collaborate and apply their skills to address challenges that may be beyond their traditional job classification or organizational or geographic location. Announced a year ago, it is being piloted within several agencies and is poised to be spread across government in coming months.

When the Obama administration began developing its second-term management agenda in mid-2013, it reached out to agencies, asking for ideas. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Personnel Management suggested creating the equivalent of Task Rabbit for sharing skills across their agencies or departments. At the time, EPA had a pilot underway called Skills Marketplace, and when they suggested this, several other agencies jumped in saying they, too, were piloting or considering similar approaches. OPM offered to take the lead jointly with EPA. It announced a government wide initiative in March 2014, inviting agencies to propose pilots to test the concept.

In a memo to agencies in April 2014, OPM Director Katherine Archuleta said: “The goal of GOV Connect is to create a culture of excellence based on collaboration and teamwork that responds to mission demands without being unnecessarily limited by organizational silos.”
In doing this, it suggested pilots might adopt one of three workforce agility models:

Model 1: GOV Project. This model would be constituted of manager-initiated micro-projects in which employees apply to participate part time (e.g., up to 20 percent of their time) on projects posted by managers in their agency or in another agency.

Model 2: GOV Start. This model would involve employee-initiated micro-projects and self-organized professional networks in which employees identify a need, identify the collaborations needed, and assemble part-time teams. This grassroots approach contrasts with the management-driven approach.

Model 3: go Cloud. This model would pilot an approach in which employees are hired into an agency (or government wide), but not into a specific job. They would be tasked out to agencies on one or more specific projects on an as-needed basis. The cross-agency US Digital Service is an example of this model.

In its announcement, OPM offered to “provide both an overarching program and technological capability that encourages and enables, for example, rapid assembly of skills-based teams and deployment of talent within and across agencies.”

It said successful pilots would need to have senior-level champions with sustained support, who would play key roles in “securing buy-in from key stakeholders such as unions and front-line supervisors at agency headquarters and regional offices.”

Launch of the Pilots

OPM invited agencies to participate in March 2014. It asked that they designate executive champions and create pilot project design teams with the objective of testing various hypotheses, such as whether employees would be willing to participate in activities outside their current jobs that they would be passionate about or whether they would want to develop other professional experiences, as well as to test whether managers would be willing to support their staff’s participation in such activities.

OPM created a GOV Connect Design Team to help agencies and is co-leading this effort with EPA, which had been an early pioneer of the concept. The proposal sparked imaginations across government, and a number of agencies and regional Federal Executive Boards stepped up with ongoing or proposed initiatives, including:

- EPA’s Skills Marketplace
- The Housing and Urban Development Department’s Rotational Assignment Program and Innovation Time pilot
- The Social Security Administration’s Skills Connect

Many other agencies are undertaking similar experiments. The departments of Commerce, Transportation, State, Labor and Energy are developing new models or exploring options for their own pilots. The Los Angeles and San Francisco Federal Executive Boards have also offered to participate. The General Services Administration has developed an interagency program, Open Opportunities, and launched a new software platform with 18F. So far, eight agencies have posted tasks on the platform.
In the end, OPM hopes to identify models suitable for government wide adoption.

**What Agencies Are Doing**

GOV Connect is in the design and pilot phase. Melissa Kline-Lee, GOV Connects program manager at OPM, says: “Several agencies are in the process of designing and launching single-agency pilots in fiscal year 2015 to test one of three GOV Connect workforce agility models.”

**Next Steps**

OPM’s Kline-Lee says: “Single agency pilots will continue through fiscal year 2015 as we aim to increase the adoption of evidence-based practices and design multiagency pilots for fiscal year 2016 replication. Our goal is to incorporate lessons learned from both single-agency and multiagency pilots into designing the final GOV Connect program.”

Source: Promising Practices of Gov. Exec
How Do You Measure the Effectiveness of Government?

By

Paul Eder

With the 24-hour news cycle and at-your-fingers access to the latest stories, the American people have plenty of information constantly available to them. And whether they know it or not, they are using much of that information as a de facto source for evaluating the effectiveness of government.

Each of us serves as a self-contained big data processor, tagging data elements in our own minds and using the information later to formulate decisions such as preferred presidential candidates, favored legislative efforts, and opinions about policy nuances that we may not even understand to be nuanced or policy-related.

With this context in mind, I aim to bring some clarity and simplification to a question that has very complex and multidimensional answers: How do the American people measure the effectiveness of government? For this article, I will use the term “government” to refer collectively to federal, state and local entities.

The answer to this question is complex because the American people are a wildly diverse lot. Any schema that claims to capture the way “we” think must be broad and flexible enough to encompass the idiosyncratic ideas of many individuals. Therefore, I have devised five distinct characteristics (noted by the acronym STEPS) employed by individuals for evaluating the government, with the caveat that they must be clear but lack rigidity and allow for individualized definition.
I propose that each of these characteristics serves as a meta-tag that our collective minds use to sift through the variety of information about government that we confront. The measures for each of these characteristics are determined within each person’s mind, and each characteristic is weighted by the personal importance to the individual.

Measures of strength can include perceived military might, unemployment rates, technology base and reputation (or capacity?) for innovation, and global education rankings. An individual may prefer an open show of strength through the presence of bases and weapons systems in multiple countries and a reduction in unemployment. Alternatively, individuals may prefer indirect paths to strength, such as defense spending or spending per pupil in elementary and secondary education.

Regarding transparency, people often decry political gamesmanship and backroom deals as examples of transparency deficits. When government enacts legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act and the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, citizens are given the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of processes pertaining to open government. When this happens, individuals may judge that openness on such factors as the speed of information retrieval or the quality of data available on USASpending.gov.

Measurement pertaining to the economics of government is often perceived as one of the biggest political footballs. Economics can cover such areas as gross domestic product, government debt and deficits, reports of government waste, and the projected financial stability of programs like Social Security. Depending on one’s politics, a measure like the amount of deficit a government runs may be perceived as a net positive or a net negative, but either way, it is certainly a lens through which citizens evaluate government effectiveness.

In measuring effectiveness of public goods, people consider a variety of categories, from transportation to environmental initiatives to insurance policies available through the Affordable Care Act. The importance of these goods to any individual may fluctuate on a yearly or even a daily basis. For example, transportation infrastructure woes may be bemoaned every morning during rush hour, whereas health insurance accessibility may only be important during a year when one loses one’s job.

In contrast, the importance of social goods is based on a persistent sense of morality. Accordingly, individual measures of the effectiveness of these goods may be more long term than individual measures of public goods. For example, the fairness of the criminal justice system, the importance of social security, and attitudes toward government involvement in abortion are less likely to change based on the length of one’s commute this morning or the recentness of one’s visit to a public park. Sometimes, social goods are intertwined with public goods such as when subsidies are provided for health insurance on state exchanges. In this instance, the exchange itself is a public good but subsidies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strength</strong></td>
<td>Relative influence over other stakeholders in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transparency</strong></td>
<td>Degree of openness in government communication and data availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics</strong></td>
<td>Soundness of financial footing. Judgment of whether the value delivered is worth the cost of delivering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Goods</strong></td>
<td>Products and services provided by the government to improve quality of life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Goods</strong></td>
<td>Products and services provided by the government to promote social, procedural, and economic justice.</td>
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based on the principle of supporting lower income people are a social good, and a
citizen may develop different measures of effectiveness on these disparate
attributes of the program.

While certainly open to interpretation, these STEPS together provide a high level framework for
determining how individual citizens evaluate government effectiveness. It is probably not comforting to
those executing the business of government that the actual measures of success will vary from person to
person. Nonetheless, politically, it helps to have such a framework so that government leaders can
recognize how they are being evaluated, if not what the actual measures are. This awareness is one more
driver for agencies to make sure high-quality data is available to inform the judgments that people will
inevitably make.

Source: Gov. Exec.
Southern Indiana Section Officers and Committee Chairs for 2014-2016

Section Website: https://sharepoint.cran.nmci.navy.mil/org/nongov/asne/

Officers:
Chair - Maroof Qurashi
Vice Chair - Nova Carden
Secretary - Tiffany Adams
Treasurer - Dr. Courtney Boykin

Committee Co-Chairs:
Programs: Beth Martin & Vernell Thomas
Membership: Daniel Horstman & Nova Carden
Publicity: Rachael Wiseman
Scholarship: Chelsea Harrison
2013 Symposium: Dr. Brian Olson & Raymon Smith
Webmaster: Cindy Shirley
Science Fair: Melissa Dyal
Awards: Amy Fellers
Regional Council Member: Brad Secrest

Why ASNE?

Finally, and perhaps most important, often we get asked the question, "What's in it for me?" when we ask employees to join ASNE. The historical answer has revolved around networking opportunities and the opportunity for technical interchange. While those are certainly true and good reasons for joining, they are not perhaps the most important. One of our members put it very succinctly recently when he said, "It's not about you, it's about Crane". What that means is that we as ASNE can do things for Crane that we as Crane cannot. Vibrant and active professional societies are important to the future of Crane. We are able to leverage our resources to get Crane visibility and recognition. Think of the symposium, the luncheons, the distinguished lecturers; we target individuals for those events who we want to visit Crane. We are continually working with Corporate Communications, Command, and the Departments to target individuals for symposium and luncheon speakers; our goal is to get those individuals who can influence our national advocacy in the Focus Areas here for a visit. We continually work to enhance the reputation of Crane in our outreach efforts to local communities. The next time you're recruiting a new member and they ask why then should join, explain to them the importance of supporting the work we do.

The Purpose of ASNE is to:

• advance the knowledge and practice of naval engineering in public and private applications and operations,
• enhance the professionalism and well-being of members, and
• promote naval engineering as a career field.

NAVAL ENGINEERING includes all arts and sciences as applied in the research, development, design, construction, operation, maintenance and logistic support of surface and subsurface ships and marine craft, naval maritime auxiliaries, ship related aviation and space systems, combat systems, command control, electronics and ordnance systems, ocean structures and fixed and mobile shore facilities which are used by the naval and other military forces and civilian maritime organizations for the defense and well-being of the Nation.

You need not be an engineer to join!