



SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

We Deliver For Our Clients!

What a powerful way to describe the work we do every day.

As many of know, delivering NGEN requirements "Now" is the next level of our demonstrated commitment to the needs of our Sailors and Marines and all those who support them. We are delivering the added interoperability, mobility, performance and security our clients' missions require, as well as the flexibility and functionality that is NMCI.

Put simply, the enhancements we are making to NMCI today - deliver much of what the Navy is looking to achieve in the coming years with NGEN.

So, thank you for all of your hard work.

And, special thanks to NMCI team member, Geoff McFather. Geoff is one of NMCI's program managers working out of Norfolk. His most recent project was the transition of more than 700 users from a legacy network onto NMCI. This capability is a huge step forward for the Navy and Marine Corps and how they do business.

Geoff McFather - Delivers For Our Clients

Kevin Durkin
Vice President of Navy Programs





Geoff McFather **IS NGEN NOW**

Program Manager, Second Fleet Transition EDS, Norfolk

From its role in the Cuban Missile Crisis, to the invasion of Grenada and during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the U.S. Second Fleet has seen it all.

To meet current mission requirements, Second Fleet commander, Vice Admiral Melvin Williams, wanted "improved collaboration, interoperability, and effectiveness" on Second Fleet's network, and he looked to EDS to help. Having seen NMCI in action at his previous command in Norfolk, Va., Admiral Williams sought to bring the same technologies to Second Fleet. Geoff McFather, an eight year EDS veteran, was just the person to lead the team.

As the Program Manager for the Second Fleet transition, McFather was responsible for coordinating and overseeing all aspects of NMCI delivery to Second Fleet - and making it happen quickly. With the initial order placed at the end of June and a critical completion date of August 31, 2009, McFather and the EDS team had their work cut out for them.

"One of the most difficult challenges we faced was ordering and receiving the equipment at the correct time," said McFather. "We were working with pieces of network hardware that were in high demand, but are produced in small quantities and require a long lead-time for ordering. We had to get the parts we needed to get the job done. I was impressed by the perseverance of this EDS team. They worked together and with other business units inside EDS to get the parts we needed. Without their creativity and innovative solutions, we simply would not have been able to make this work."

The U.S. Second Fleet, which is based in Norfolk, is responsible for protecting more than 38 million square miles of the Atlantic Ocean, from the North Pole to the South Pole, and from the east coast to the shores of Europe.

McFather and his team worked diligently through the summer to complete the transition to NMCI, while maintaining seamless operations and rigorous security on the network.

"When you work with those who are protecting and serving, there is no room for error," says McFather. "We had to get it right the first time because Second Fleet is an operational command and must be ready to respond 24x7x365."

Along the way, McFather and the EDS team earned several "BZs", meaning Bravo Zulu - Naval speak for "well done." Capt. Jeffrey Link, Second Fleet N6, singled out McFather when announcing the successful completion of the project, "Mr. Geoff McFather tirelessly coordinated every action by the EDS team to transition services, deliver hardware, resolve problems, and migrate users onto NMCI."

The transition of more than 700 SIPR and NIPR NMCI seats, as well as the stand-up of both a classified Command & Control (C2) Communities of Interest (COI) network and an unclassified COI Sockets Direct Protocol (SDP) network, concluded ahead of schedule on August 28th.

"While there were hiccups along the way, I am pleased to report that the transition went smoothly without ever causing the command to miss a beat," said McFather.

"Some folks said it couldn't be done, but we did it," said McFather. "I'm proud of our work in delivering NMCI to Second Fleet. It is my hope that the solutions we delivered to Second Fleet will become the model for the Navy's other numbered fleets in the near future."

As a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, McFather works diligently on behalf of both the NMCI network and the Navy. In his spare time, McFather serves as a counselor for the U.S. Naval Academy, helping students from 20 separate Hampton Roads area high schools with their applications and conducting entrance interviews. He also serves as a deacon in his church, the baritone singer in a Southern Gospel Quartet, and spends his free time caring for and fox hunting with his 4 prized horses.