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Today's NMCI Projects Enhance Navy's IT Capabilities for Tomorrow

There's no time like the present to deliver on the future.

A few weeks ago, our NMCI team introduced a new "NGEN Now" profiles program to highlight the incredible work each of you is doing on NMCI every day. While the Department of the Navy prepares for their next phase of Naval networking through the NGEN contract, the enhancements we are making to NMCI today deliver much of what the Navy is looking to achieve in the coming years. We are delivering the added interoperability, mobility, performance and security our clients' missions require, as well as the flexibility and functionality that is NMCI.

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.

Contributing to NMCI's success is Gene Esquivel. Gene is a project manager out of EDS' San Diego office where he works on the Data at Rest (DAR) projects. This is the first time that data encryption has been done on a network of NMCI's size.

Gene, thank you for the hard work and dedication you bring to NMCI.

Kevin Durkin
Vice President of Navy Programs





GENE ESQUIVEL IS **NGEN** NOW

Senior Project Manager, NMCI Data at Rest Encryption Security Solution Program
EDS, San Diego

Gene Esquivel equates his role as senior project manager for the NMCI Data at Rest (DAR) program to that of a puppeteer: he must have a steady grip on many moving strings to make a move forward on this complex project. An eight year EDS veteran, Esquivel is no stranger to project management. Since September 2007, he has overseen the multiple projects that encrypt the "at rest" data of all NMCI users.

Esquivel and his team are responsible for developing DAR, which is a security solution that meets Department of Defense (DoD) requirements for the protection of data on unclassified computers. DAR ensures that the data on NMCI users' hard drives is both protected and encrypted. Due to the size of NMCI, the DAR program is enormous and complex in scope, and extremely important to the security of NMCI users. For example, if an NMCI user loses his or her laptop - or it is stolen - it will be rendered useless to the thief; only the verified owner of that laptop will be able to access the data.

Esquivel and his team are in the process of encrypting the entire hard drive on all NMCI user workstations, including all of the data written to removable storage devices - such as external Universal Serial Bus (USB) hard drives, flash drives (thumb drives), compact disc (CD) drives, digital video discs (DVDs).

"When I go home and I've met my objectives for the day and my milestones for the month, I am elated because I've done something that is hard in project management - it's hard to keep to a schedule," admits Esquivel. "What drives me and makes me the happiest is to take a project of this magnitude and drive it to completion by its promised dates."

Esquivel cites team diversity and professionalism as his favorite parts of working on the Data at Rest project.

"As a team, we work to a common goal and often one team jumps in to assist another to accomplish this. One of my favorite sayings is 'think outside of the box.' We must constantly find new and innovative ways to meet our goals."

With such a large team spread across the country, Esquivel likes to ensure his team is constantly in touch. "There is always the potential for conflict. But as a team, we try very hard to keep our eye on the project and not personal issues. We live by the motto to 'not take anything personal.' I am very proud of each and every team member that has gone above and beyond to accomplish our goals."

One of the greatest achievements on this project to date has been the deployment of the DAR solution with minimal user issues and disruption. Esquivel's team has created a full spectrum of training, service desk and communications materials to help users prepare for the DAR deployment - which has helped increase DAR's success rate.

Esquivel and his wife - who is also employed in information technology - live in San Diego, Ca. with their two yellow Labradors. They both recently completed their masters degrees with a 4.0 grade point average, and both were summa cum laude graduates of their respective programs. The couple's grown children, a daughter and a son, live in Alaska and New Orleans. Esquivel says his home is built for parties and he and his wife spend much of their time entertaining their extended family from Alaska, California, Nevada, Texas, Florida, Nicaragua, and Mexico.
