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NWC Rocketeer

Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California 93555-6001

Vol. XLIV, No. 46/November 24, 1989

Center mission conserves environment

China Lake ranges remain a treasure trove of cultural, wildlife and historic resources

"China Lake is a national treasure of prehistoric values," says Jerry Boggs, head of the Environmental Resources Management Branch in the Naval Weapons Center's Public Works Department. Boggs, a biologist by training, is responsible for a wide range of cultural, natural and wildlife resources at China Lake.

The more than one million acres of land covered by NWC is home to a large variety of flora and fauna including four species of animals considered endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. Boggs and a small staff in the Center's

Public Works Department are tasked with preserving, as best they can, these precious resources for the future.

Boggs said the nature of NWC's mission makes it possible for the Center to remain this treasure storehouse of cultural and wildlife values unique to California's Mojave Desert region. "Our mission doesn't require a lot of surface impact and that's the saving grace for our cultural artifacts; we aren't churning up the ground with hundreds of tanks or other vehicles," he added.

"Our main job is support of the Center mission. We study areas proposed for project work to determine what kind of

resource values are present and then develop plans which mitigate damage to the resource or alternatives to a particular site before the work is cleared to go forward," commented Boggs.

NWC is required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) to conduct an environmental assessment of project work. Boggs noted Tom Campbell is the Center's environmental coordinator tasked with ensuring this coordination between projects and the environmental people. Commenting on the possibility of litigation if NWC fails to follow NEPA regulations, Boggs said, "It is imperative

people follow the procedures for environmental compliance."

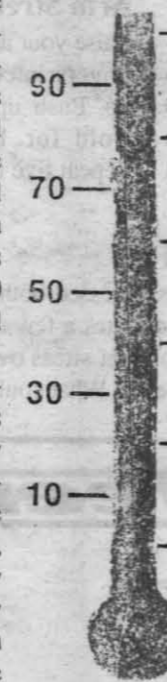
In working for preservation of cultural artifacts, Bill Eckhart and Meg McDonald are responsible for surveying work sites and recording finds of these resources. Boggs noted there are rock shelters, ancient village sites and remnants of tool making by ancient native Americans found throughout the Center's north ranges.

In addition, the Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons are "probably the finest collections of ancient rock art in the United States and possibly the entire North (Continued on Page 10)

CFC effort exceeds expectations with \$255,000 from China Lakers

Showing the kind of support national and international non-profit organizations supported by generous gifts of the people. Last year, 32 percent of China Lake employees participated and pledged about \$200,000. This year the participation percentage was about the same, but employees were exceptionally generous.

The six-week-long fund drive is the one and only time every year federal employees are solicited, on-the-job, to support a charity fund drive. The new record high in pledges means more funds for area,



Many organizations serving China Lakers, including the United Way of the Indian Wells Valley, will benefit from those who dug deep into their pockets to support the drive.



AWAY HE GOES--Dr. Tom McGill (left) of NWC's Environmental Division and two helicopter crew members looked on in 1983 as a young bighorn sheep bounded from its cage after being transplanted to NWC's north range area.



BIG WIG--Gerry Schiefer, former NWC technical director, accepts a license plate from Mike Biddlingmeier identifying Schiefer as DNL and "a former NWC big wig." (See added photos Pg. 8).

NWC advances on cold fusion

Recent experiments conducted on "cold fusion" by three China Lakers have met with some success.

Dr. Melvin H. Miles, an employee of the Research Department's Chemistry Division, headed up the experiments. Helping in this research effort were Dr. Kwang H. Park and Dr. David E. Stilwell. Dr. Park is currently and Dr. Stilwell was previously working at NWC on post-doctoral fellowships awarded by the Ameri-

can Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Dr. Stilwell has recently taken a job teaching at South Oregon College.

Cold fusion gained media prominence in March of this year when two chemists claimed to have achieved fusion at room temperature at the University of Utah with a simple laboratory experiment. Their experiment is basically the same one being conducted at NWC.

The experiment involves

wrapping a rod of palladium metal with a wire of platinum and putting the two electrodes into "heavy water" where the hydrogen atoms are twice as heavy in a form called deuterium. Electric current is then applied to both electrodes. Some deuterium ions may then fuse together to form heavy atoms. The fusion products are still a matter of considerable controversy. Helium 4 has been theorized but experimental

(Continued on Page 6)

