



## *Support to Operation Iraqi Freedom*

As reconstruction efforts continue in Iraq, U.S. Forces must be able to operate safely, efficiently and effectively. The Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), based at John C. Stennis Space Center in southern Mississippi, conducts oceanographic surveys and creates products that U.S. Forces rely on to transport troops and supplies within Iraq's ports, harbors and riverways.

Operational oceanography is the tie between the water environment and the mission. When forces are armed with detailed descriptions of the difficult environmental conditions they could face, in addition to superior weapons and training, operations have a greater chance of being executed rapidly and successfully.

NAVOCEANO provides these detailed environmental descriptions not only in Iraq but also worldwide to our military in response to their timelines—hours to days. Nowhere in the Department of Defense is this capability duplicated.

NAVOCEANO performs critical combat support services by being tied in, both virtually and physically, to ongoing operations. Within the walls of NAVOCEANO, employees run a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week watch organization, monitoring operations in the Arabian Gulf area. This allows NAVOCEANO to maintain awareness of what the warfighter needs and how fast it is needed.

### **NAVOCEANO Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Operational Support**

- ◆ NAVOCEANO created and produced more than 2,000 operational oceanography products in support of OIF and post-OIF activities.
- ◆ NAVOCEANO oceanographic survey vessels collected data in Iraqi rivers, waterways and ports and in the Arabian Gulf and created products that aided in safe navigation for U.S. Forces and supplies.
- ◆ NAVOCEANO's rapid-response Fleet Survey Team surveyed Iraqi coastal regions in response to emergent fleet requirements. They produced and disseminated navigation-quality, on-scene hydrographic information directly to the warfighters, which gave the Combatant Commanders the flexibility to plan and execute shallow-water missions in data-sparse areas.
- ◆ NAVOCEANO maintained a 24/7 watch and product creation status throughout the conflict.

