

# Rich Maritime Tradecraft Heritage Docks at NGA Campus East

BY HOWARD COHEN, BATHYMETRY BRANCH CHIEF

**On June 6, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) Maritime Safety Office (SH) docked at its new home port at the NGA Campus East in Springfield, Va. The Maritime Safety Office lives up to a proud tradition by providing geospatial intelligence in support of NGA's navigation safety mission, national security objectives, international obligations, intelligence activities and joint military operations.**

"We have moved several times over the past 25 years and this is the most satisfying," said Peter Doherty, office Deputy Director. "Our new home brings together cohesion amongst the workforce in a state-of-the-art facility. We've come a long way since the beginning from a rented house near the White House in 1830, and the dedication from our maritime workforce to the safety of navigation mission has never faltered."

NGA's maritime tradecraft professionals—including maritime analysts and bathymetrists—work cooperatively with their counterparts in the National Ocean Service, the Naval Oceanographic Office, the U.S. Coast Guard, contractor partners and nearly all foreign hydrographic offices worldwide. Their duties are performed in fulfillment of NGA's marine navigation obligations under U.S.

Code, Title 10 and other federal and international laws and regulations in support of national security goals, concerns and strategies.

The Maritime Safety Office's tradecraft dates from Dec. 6, 1830, when the U.S. Navy established a depot of charts and instruments to collect navigational charts, publications and instruments. This was the government's first attempt to assume responsibility for hydrographic surveying and charting.

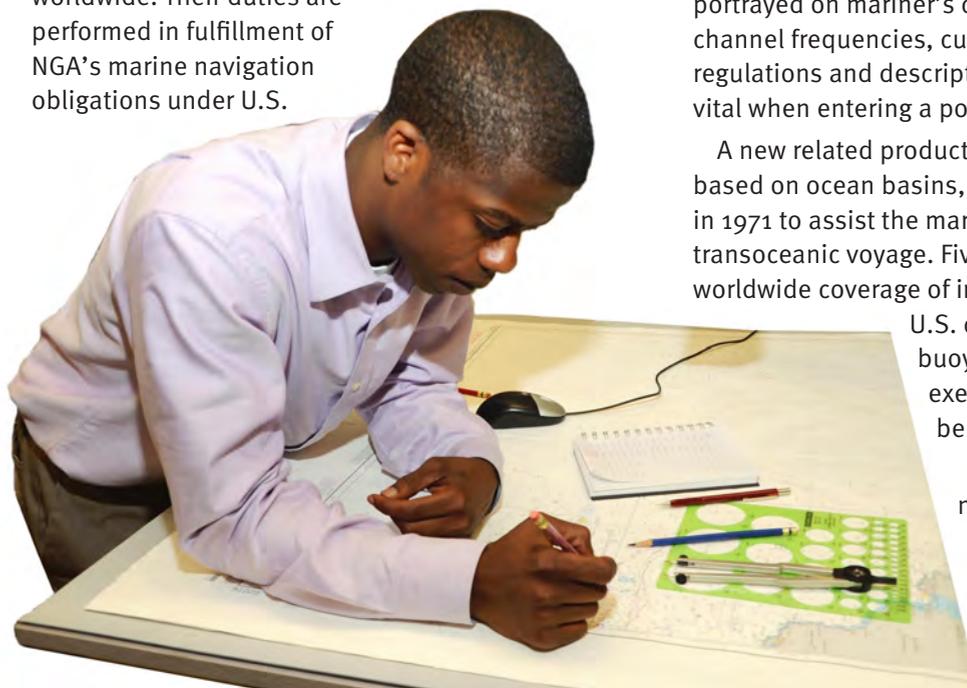
By the early 1850s the depot had gained global recognition as an observatory and a hydrographic office, largely through the dedicated work and contributions of noted scientists Louis M. Goldsborough, Charles Wilkes, James M. Gilliss and Matthew Fontaine Maury. They specialized in the fields of navigation, hydrography, astronomy and oceanography, respectively.

When Commodore Matthew C. Perry negotiated a treaty in 1854 that established the U.S. presence in Asia, the depot composed Sailing Directions for the new ports that facilitated future trade. Now, 37 volumes of this publication provide expanded foreign coastal and port information that cannot be portrayed on mariner's charts. Knowledge of pilot channel frequencies, currents, local weather, port regulations and descriptive views of the area is vital when entering a port.

A new related product series, Planning Guides, based on ocean basins, came into existence in 1971 to assist the mariner in planning a transoceanic voyage. Five volumes provide worldwide coverage of information about non-U.S. countries, governments, buoyage systems, military exercises and mined areas to be avoided.

The Safety Office's most noted publication is the U.S. Notice to Mariners, which has maintained a

*Ryan Samuel adds a new Notice to Mariner's correction.*



NGA photo by Larry Franklin

continuous weekly production cycle since 1869. First published by the Bureau of Navigation, it is the oldest continuously running U.S. government publication. Until it went online only in January 2005, it retained a government publication's printing priority second only to the Congressional Record.

NGA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service and the U.S. Coast Guard jointly produce the weekly U.S. Notice to Mariners. U.S. military forces and civilian mariners worldwide use it to update and correct their U.S. charts and navigation publications. The U.S. Notice to Mariners informs the military and civilian maritime community about corrective information regarding hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels, navigational aids and other important data. It is the only publication officially authorized to update and maintain our nation's portfolio of nautical products.

The Maritime Safety website can be accessed via the NGA home page ([www.nga.mil](http://www.nga.mil)) under the products and services link or directly at <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>.

## Sept. 11 Revisited

By SUSAN H. MEISNER, OFFICE OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

**The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** (NGA) celebrates 15 years of geospatial intelligence as the nation remembers 9/11. NGA—then the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA)—was a youthful organization in 2001, still developing its processes, procedures and culture. The events of Sept. 11 supercharged those changes and launched a new era for the Agency, for the Department of Defense and for the Intelligence Community.

Following are two of the stories from the October 2001 *Edge*, the precursor to today's *Pathfinder* magazine.

***A Horrible View from the Washington Navy Yard***  
By PAUL HURLBURT, EDGE EDITOR (ABRIDGED VERSION FROM THE OCTOBER 2001 ISSUE OF THE EDGE)

Gail Betts-Anderson and her staff, Lyndell Walker and Barry Harrelson, have a commanding view from their 6th-floor offices in Building 213 at the Washington Navy Yard. In Betts-Anderson's office, the view is across a widening Potomac toward America's military center, the Pentagon.

As symbols of freedom and power, these buildings normally provide an inspiring and reassuring sight, but the morning of Sept. 11 the view across the river horrified NIMA employees. In the words of Betts-Anderson, Chief of the NIMA Research Division Washington operations (DSRW), what they saw was a sky full of "pitch black smoke."

Earlier that morning, Betts-Anderson was providing feedback to promotion applicants. Michael Betts, a division chief in the Imagery Analysis Office and her brother, had knocked on her door with the New York news.

"Terrorists have attacked the World Trade buildings. Keep your eyes open," she recalled him saying.

It wasn't long before Betts-Anderson's branch chief, Barry Harrelson, knocked. "Look out the window!" he exclaimed.

"Everything fell apart when the black smoke appeared," said Betts-Anderson. "I said, 'Oh, my, what's going on?' Somebody said, 'It looks like the Pentagon's been hit!'"

Almost immediately, Harrelson reappeared to report the news the Pentagon had been struck.

Minutes later, employees began evacuating the upper floors, as supervisors notified them. They regrouped on the windowless first two floors, but were soon told they could leave the building. None of Betts-Anderson's people did, she said, except for a worried employee located at a remote site in the Information Services Branch, Reggie Carver. His sister, Sharon Carver, worked at the Pentagon as an Army civilian. She was missing and later listed as a victim.

"They had the option to go, but we are a family," Betts-Anderson said. With responsibility for the NIMA Map Library at the Pentagon and providing support to imagery analysis operations