



Media Release

United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
Office of Public Affairs and Congressional Liaison
4301 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA 92110-3127
Desk: 619-524-3432 / Mobile: 619-925-4304
POC: steven.a.davis@navy.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 9, 2004 (NR-2004-106)

SPAWAR Team Tops \$20K Goal for MS Challenge

Ranks Third of 60-Plus Teams for 2004 Event

SAN DIEGO – In 2003, Kim Mallis' life changed in a way she never imagined. That May, the 35-year old fitness enthusiast was suddenly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. "A year ago, you couldn't have convinced me anything positive could have come from having MS," said the SPAWAR contract specialist and Encinitas resident.

Today, Mallis and nine fellow employees have come up with more than 20,000 positive reasons, and they're aiming to raise many more to find a cure for the disease. The 10-member "Frick, Frack & Friends Again" team recently surpassed its goal of raising \$20,000 for the 2004 Southern California MS Challenge Walk.

According to the MS Challenge Walk website, the three-day, 50-mile event is "a celebration of human spirit. Those who accept the challenge believe that one long journey over three days will ultimately shorten the road to the cure for multiple sclerosis." This year's walk will begin Sept. 10 in Carlsbad and will conclude Sept. 12 in downtown San Diego.

After her initial diagnosis last year, a group of concerned friends rallied around Mallis and was determined to make a difference. "We knew she feared the worst when she was diagnosed with MS," recalled team captain Toy Walker, a fellow contract specialist who lives in Rancho Bernardo. "We were going to do anything we could to support Kim, and last year's MS Challenge was the first important step."

Frick, Frack and Friends Again raised \$11,000 last year and has already surpassed its \$20,000 goal for this year. As a testament to teamwork and loyalty, only two other Southern California teams have raised more money than Frick, Frack and Friends Again for 2004.

"The medical community doesn't know exactly how the disease may affect me down the road. So what do you do? You make a difference today by raising money and awareness," said Mallis.

About SPAWAR / PEO C4I & Space (<http://enterprise.spawar.navy.mil>)

Headquartered in San Diego, SPAWAR's Office of the Chief Engineer designs the architecture and standards for FORCENet, the Navy's vision for network centric warfare and a pillar of the Chief of Naval Operations Sea Power 21 philosophy. SPAWAR's organizational partner – the Program Executive Office for C4I and Space – acquires, aligns and fields more than 100 C4I programs and projects to help make FORCENet a reality. Together, the two commands lay the foundation for dramatic increases in current and future readiness while simultaneously implementing FORCENet and a new era in warfighting capabilities.

Media organizations interested in SPAWAR / PEO C4I and Space initiatives can contact Steven A. Davis via the following: Desk: (619) 524-3432 / Cell: (619) 925-4304 / Email: steven.a.davis@navy.mil

###