

March 26, 2015

Michael J. Rothe, M.B.A.  
Head, Biosciences Division  
Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific)  
53560 Hull Street, Code 715  
San Diego, CA 92152



Dear Mr. Rothe:

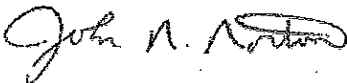
The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific), San Diego, California. The Council commends you and the staff for providing and maintaining an exemplary program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong institutional commitment to the program, evidenced by the impressive number of talented staff including military and contract animal trainers, animal care staff, veterinarians, and veterinary technicians; the state-of-the-art marine mammal hospital; the engaged Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, with thorough processes; the risk-based, life stage health assessments of all animals; the efficient frozen fish storage and processing commissary practices; the healthy, enriched dolphins and sea lions in a natural, open water system; and the provision of a unique learning environment for college student interns and the greater San Diego community. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, NRC 2011. Therefore, **FULL ACCREDITATION** shall continue.

Council acknowledges receipt of the correspondence dated October 31, 2014 detailing action taken relative to a concern expressed by the site visitors during the exit briefing. Specifically, the item addressed satisfactorily pertained to expanding the standard operating procedure for reporting animal welfare concerns to include anonymity and protection from reprisal.

Council has no further recommendations to offer for improvement of the animal care and use program at this time. We look forward to following your program activities and wish you continued success.

AAALAC International requires an Annual Report detailing changes made during the year in accredited units. In the interim, AAALAC International expects to be apprised in a timely manner of significant programmatic changes or concerns should they occur. Please note that, at your request, AAALAC International will provide your institution with a separate letter simply verifying that your animal care and use program is accredited. Should you also wish to distribute an electronic copy of this letter to program staff, a Portable Document Format (pdf) version will be sent upon request.

Sincerely,



John N. Norton, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President, Council on Accreditation

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