

Grant to help FAU conduct military research

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Florida Atlantic University said the **Office of Naval Research** has awarded one of its institutes a \$2 million grant to investigate, design and build a prototype of a military base at sea. The project, which SeaTech - The Institute for Ocean and Systems Engineering is to look into, would be a rapidly deployable multi-mission platform to be used on operations the size of a Navy unit or larger.

The university said the Navy's doctrine for warfare by 2015 includes plans to use mobile, scalable, offshore facilities to support shore-based Navy, Marine, Army and Air Force operations. This would eliminate the need for a land base when conducting military operations.

The two-year project is to be headed by Frederick Driscoll, principal investigator and assistant professor of FAU's Department of Ocean Engineering. Driscoll is to lead researchers from FAU, two Navy laboratories and industry partners, **Oceaneering International** and **Marine Applied Physics Corp.**

"The necessary science and technology for operating such sea bases poses both significant ocean engineering challenges and the need for innovation in ship design, cargo transfer, sea-keeping and hydrodynamic performance," said Manhar Dhanak, SeaTech director, chair of FAU's Department of Ocean Engineering and project co-principal investigator. "Development of various ocean technologies is integral to enabling these mobile bases."