



# NPS IN THE NEWS

## Weekly Media Report – Mar. 16-22, 2021

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### RESEARCH:

#### 1. [Hybrid JIFX Leverages Virtual, Field Experimentation for Record-Setting Event](#)

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(*NPS.edu 17 Mar 21*) ... Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Leonard Weston

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### EDUCATION:

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Seeking ways to provide more educational opportunities for senior enlisted Marines, Sgt. Maj. of the U.S. Marine Corps Troy E. Black explored options and possibilities with faculty and students at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) during a visit to the campus, March 9.

### FACULTY:

#### 4. [Kashmiri diaspora view: US can 'unlock' Afghan conflict via Indo-Pak truce on J&K](#)

(*Counterview 17 Mar 21*) ... Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

(*Kashmir Media Service 17 Mar 21*) ... Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

The Kashmir question is one of the oldest unresolved international problems in the world. The experience of nearly seven decades has shown that it will not go away and that an effort is urgently required to resolve it on a durable basis. 'Durable', in this context is synonymous with 'equitable'. It is imperative, whatever be the rights and wrongs in the equation as far as arguments go, real populations with a pronounced sense of identity of their own, with their suffering and their aspirations rather than just legal title and merit are involved... We hope that Turkey will take into consideration the recommendations made by Professor Patrick J Larkin, **Naval Postgraduate School**,

Monterey, California, he made in March 2013, “The U.S. will not be able to achieve a lasting peace in Afghanistan without the unilateral support of Pakistan and India. If the conflict in Kashmir can be reconciled, this will aid U.S. objectives of a secure Afghanistan... Only by finding a final status on Kashmir with South Asia be able to achieve a real, lasting peace.”

## ALUMNI:

### 5. [Training Air Wing Four Aeromedical Safety Officer Earns DoD Recognition for Leadership, Excellence](#)

(DVIDS 15 Mar 21) ... Anne Owens

The Department of Defense named Training Air Wing 4’s aeromedical safety officer (AMSO) recipient of the 2020 Military Health Systems and Allied Health Excellence Leadership Award... A native of Missoula, Montana, Greil is a 2003 graduate of Montana State University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and neuroscience. He earned his doctorate from the University of Montana in 2008. Most recently, he completed the Space System Operations/Engineering Certificate program through **Naval Postgraduate School** and is the only Navy Medical Service Corps officer with cross-discipline training in medical research and military satellite systems. He works with TW-4’s four undergraduate pilot training squadrons, is responsible for training new aviators in aviation life support systems and egress survival, and manages a physiological events investigation team of 10 military officers and flight support contractors.

### 6. [SJHS Graduate Brett Johnson Earned his Wings on Route to Commander in the US Navy](#)

(TAPinto 16 Mar 21) ... Saint Joseph Highschool

Brett Johnson, a native of South Amboy, NJ, is a SJHS Class of 2000 graduate and currently serves as a Commander in the United States Navy. While at SJHS he was a member of the Track and Field team and participated in extracurricular activities including boxing for the Knights of Columbus, volunteering with the South Amboy First-Aid squad and the USAF Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol. He always had a passion for aviation and from an early age knew that he wanted to be an aviator. The United States Naval Academy (USNA) was his ideal first stop in pursuit of this dream and was his top choice (and the only school he applied to). Through a great deal of effort, including leveraging the SJHS alumni network, he was selected as a member of the Class of 2004.

While attending USNA Brett competed on the boxing team, and while he did not know it at the time, he would marry one of his classmates years later. He graduated with a B.S. in Political Science in 2004 and attended the **Naval Postgraduate School**, earning a M.S. in Systems Technologies in 2005. That summer, he reported to Pensacola to begin flight training; “My two years in Pensacola were some of the most challenging and rewarding times of my life. I immediately fell in love with the Navy helicopter community. The opportunity to save lives and support the fleet are what set my sights on the rotary community.”

### 7. [U.S. Embassy Welcomes New Defense Attaché](#)

(U.S. Embassy 18 Mar 21)

On March 11, United States Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Tony Greubel hosted a reception to welcome Commander Victor Lange, U.S. Defense Attaché, and to farewell Commander Constantine Panayiotou, the outgoing attaché. During the remarks, CDA Greubel expressed appreciation for Commander Panayiotou’s three years of service and welcomed the Langes into the Embassy family... Commander Lange is a Naval Aviator and native of Huntsville, Texas. Lange graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and earned his MBA at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2017. CDR Lange has served three deployments to the Western Pacific with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6. CDR Lange served two years aboard the USS KEARSARGE as the Flight Deck Officer and Assistant Air Officer among other assignments. Ashore, from 2008 – 2011, he served as Aide de Camp to the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at Operational Joint Forces Headquarters NATO in Naples, Italy. He has received numerous military and academic honors. He is accompanied in Fiji by his wife Karissa, and their two daughters.

### 8. [Tiburon taps San Mateo lieutenant as police chief](#)

(Marin Independent Journal 18 Mar 21) ... Lorenzo Morotti

Tiburon officials have selected a San Mateo police lieutenant as the town’s next police chief, filling a post that had been vacant for six months... Monaghan graduated from Union Institute and University in Sacramento with a



bachelor's degree in criminal justice management. He also holds a master's degree in security studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey.

## **GOVERNMENT CONTRACT:**

### **9. [CAE USA issues challenge to \\$106.9M Space Force award](#)**

*(Washington Technology 18 Mar 21) ... Nick Wakeman*

CAE USA Mission Solutions is pushing back on the government's decision to award a \$106.9 million Space Force training contract to a competitor... The institute is the U.S. Space Force's organization for continuing education and as well as supporting education programs at the Air University, **Naval Postgraduate School**, and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

## **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:**

**March 26:** [Winter Quarter Virtual Graduation Ceremony](#)

**April 8:** Virtual Town Hall

**April 13:** [V-SGL with Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill: Missile Defense and Technology Warriors](#)

**April 15:** President's next "Ask me Anything" 15-1600 (ICYMI: [view 18 March AMA](#))



## RESEARCH:

### Hybrid JIFX Leverages Virtual, Field Experimentation for Record-Setting Event

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For nearly 20 years, the Naval Postgraduate School's Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (JIFX) program has hosted quarterly in person experimentation events at the NPS Field Lab located at Camp Roberts, California. The events fostered collaboration between military, commercial industry and academia to experiment with and evaluate emerging technologies.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the JIFX team led by Dr. Raymond Buettner, NPS Associate Professor of Information Sciences, facilitated a shift to a completely virtual format, like countless organizations committed to their mission were required to do. And there were advantages to the approach that extended the reach and the value of the event.

Demonstrating the team's adaptability, the latest JIFX 21-2 event was completed as a hybrid event bringing together a nationally-distributed audience virtually to exchange insights on emerging technology, and participate in a live collaborative experiment with the exchange of critical data and imagery in real time.

A total of 325 participants representing 208 unique government agencies, military commands, and private companies were able to showcase their latest technologies, and in some cases test and evaluate them either in simulation or live on location at the NPS Field Lab at Camp Roberts with ground and airspace availability.

According to Buettner, the ready accessibility of the virtual format garnered JIFX 21-2 the largest span of participants a JIFX event has ever had. The silver lining to operating in a virtual environment was that participants who normally could not make the event physically were able to join online to make virtual presentations, have detailed conversations and be involved in the virtual Technology Exposition (TechExpo) portion of JIFX, which is all about evaluating potential new or improved capabilities for the warfighter.

JIFX Deputy Director Michael Richardson noted, "Our goal is to continue refining our capabilities to host hybrid events in the future where the central focus will be live, in person, experimentation at our field laboratories, which facilitates great collaboration between the experimenters, while also linking those activities with other research, commercial, and military audiences through the virtual capabilities we have proven over the last year."

The online events, included the TechExpo, consisted of demonstrations on, and in-depth conversations about, emerging technologies. During the TechExpo, companies discussed and demonstrated projects such as an augmented reality (AR) contact lens that could potentially allow the warfighter to have an overlay of pertinent information over the real world without obstructing vision, while another company presented a new mask with the potential to provide enhanced filtration for viruses and bacteria.

A major line of experimentation for JIFX is Unmanned Vehicles and Autonomous Systems (UVAS). For JIFX 21-2, the co-directors of the Navy's UVAS Working Group spoke to the government representative. Leading that discussion was Reid McAllister, Director of Integrate Maritime Mobility Systems at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division.

"Our membership is supporting nearly every unmanned product that the naval forces have in their pipeline," said McAllister. "We have subject matter expertise from NAVAIR, Naval Sea Systems Command and certainly Naval Information Warfare Systems commands. The partnership with Naval Postgraduate School, and Sea Land Air Military Research Initiative (SLAMR) has been highly effective. Ultimately, what we're trying to do is align [participants] with the national and naval force's strategic objectives.

"NPS is really helping us out is when you start getting into that private industry and academia and the outreach that they greatly afford us," he noted.

McAllister further noted this enterprise accelerates the delivery of new capabilities to the warfighter while fostering a one-team collaboration effort incorporating high-velocity learning principles.



While the virtual events were ongoing, creative minds like NPS researcher Aurelio Monarrez and student U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Luke Klena, were conducting live experimentation at the NPS Field Laboratory. Their work in the field involved mitigation of Radio Frequency (RF) in combat scenarios with the help of the Joint Vulnerability Assessment Branch (JVAB), a mainstay at JFIX that assesses and identifies security vulnerabilities in RF and computer networks.

"JIFX provides students unique and relevant research [oriented] for warfighters, and its relevancy comes from industry, DOD and warfighters all out here together at a low-cost barrier," said Monarrez.

The technological experiments in the field are in an early enough stage, Monarrez added, that the researchers and students can provide feedback to the agencies and companies fielding the technology for potential modifications.

For Klena, he noted that he and his fellow students didn't realize what JIFX and NPS' Field Lab could do for them until they were actually on the ground there. Access to research assets, ground space, and air space were made available, giving them chance to translate theoretical work into applied research and hands-on experience.

Buettner added that collaboration is the key to JIFX. The evaluation of divergent perspectives in defense, industry and academia force a comprehensive analysis by the tech providers, leading to a very concise understanding of how the technology responds to national security and why is it worth the investment in manpower, material, facilities and time.

"The JIFX environment not only maximizes discovery but it enables the development of solutions," said Buettner. "Along the way JIFX creates a unique, militarily relevant environment for educating future leaders regarding not only emerging technologies but the human processes and networks that lead to success."

[Hybrid JIFX Leverages Virtual, Field Experimentation for Record-Setting Event > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

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## VSGL:

### **Nobel Prize Winning Physicist Discusses Quantum Reform of the Metric System**

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Nobel Prize recipient Dr. William Phillips, a pioneer of atomic timekeeping used by the Navy, spoke virtually to Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students, faculty and staff on the topic of "Quantum Reform of the Metric System" and how the frontiers of metrology are important to the Navy during the latest Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) series, Feb. 16.

Over the years, Phillips has conducted extensive research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), earning him the Nobel Prize in Physics as the leading researcher in the laser cooling and trapping of atoms, leading to new kinds of physics measurements and processes such as high-resolution spectroscopy, atomic clocks, atom optics and atom interferometry. Funded in part by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), Phillip's work yielded many relevant Naval applications, in particular precision timekeeping, navigation and quantum information.

During the lecture, Phillips spoke on several modern advances in the world of metrology and physics. He explained, as he called it, "the biggest innovation since the French Revolution in measurement."

"The nature of that revolution was that the international system of units, the modern metric system, was changed in a dramatic way," said Phillips. "The international system of units bases all measurement on seven base units, the kilogram, the meter, the second, the ampere, the kelvin, the mole and the candela. And today, all of those base units are now defined by fixing values of fundamental constants of nature."



One change that directly affected the Navy was atomic timekeeping. Now, instead of using a traditional timekeeping method, the United States uses atomic clocks to more accurately navigate the Earth.

“The reason atomic timekeeping is so important is because it improves the accuracy of satellite navigation systems,” said Phillips. “By receiving signals from those atomic clocks, ships at sea, aircraft and ground-based operations can tell not only what time it is, but where they are anywhere on the face of the Earth to within a few meters, almost instantaneously. This is huge for the Navy and huge for not just the rest of the military, but the civilian sector as well.”

Phillips believes that he will continue to work closely with the U.S. Navy and military writ large.

“We've concentrated here about how important measurement is for the military,” continued Phillips. “We haven't exhausted that at all. If you think the military isn't interested in electrical measurements, think again. This is really, really important. And so, bringing the electrical measurements into this unified system and making measurements absolute and straightforward is really important throughout the military.”

After his prepared remarks, Phillips spent time answering questions from NPS students who asked about fundamental constants, agreement within the scientific world on measurement standards, and validity of other scientific timekeeping methods.

U.S. Navy Lt. Nathan Redder asked, “How certain are we that fundamental constants remain constant after billions of years?” To which Phillips replied, “I believe a constant [with physical dimensions] will remain the same because it has been defined already, and we should be thinking about [dimensionless] constants as possibly changing. But there are smart people who I respect who disagree with me, and there is still room for discussion about this.”

Another student, U.S. Navy Lt. Sasha Barnett asked about the struggles that Phillips and his peers have faced trying to get the world to agree on measurement standards. Phillips responded by saying, “It wasn't easy. We had to get the United States, China, Russia, England, India, Pakistan and multiple other countries to agree, and they all did. I think that is a testament to scientists from around the world who came together and agreed on something. I think it also gives us hope for the future.”

[Nobel Prize Winning Physicist Discusses Quantum Reform of the Metric System > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[Nobel Prize Winning Physicist Discusses Quantum Reform of the Metric System - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](#)

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## EDUCATION:

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Seeking ways to provide more educational opportunities for senior enlisted Marines, Sgt. Maj. of the U.S. Marine Corps Troy E. Black explored options and possibilities with faculty and students at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) during a visit to the campus, March 9.

In the Great Power Competition environment, all branches of the Department of Defense are looking for ways to get an edge over our adversaries, and the Marine Corps believes a more educated enlisted force could do just that.

“Throughout history, the United States military has always rose to the challenges that we have faced,” said Black. “And in today's world, we have to find a way to make everyone from the freshest private to the oldest general ready for whatever comes next.”

Currently, there are 245 Marines enrolled in 22 different curricula at NPS ... Nine of these students are enlisted.



“We need to invest more in our enlisted community,” said U.S. Marine Corps Col. Randy Pugh, the Senior Marine Representative at NPS. “We need to take advantage of the courses that NPS offers to enlisted members. The infrastructure is there already, we just need to capitalize on it.”

Black describes a Marine as constantly being in a perpetual state of deployment. They either are preparing to deploy, are currently deployed, or are just back from a deployment. He says the Marine Corps needs opportunities that let enlisted Marines take courses at different times and eventually earn a degree rather than being sent to a university somewhere for multiple years. “Enlisted education is a career-long process,” he said.

NPS follows a more traditional approach to graduate education. Students attend the university for a defined period of time and are sent back to the fleet and force to apply their knowledge. With time restrictions, that is not always possible. NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau is prepared to tackle that challenge.

“We are not restricted,” said Rondeau. “We have the capacity and would be excited to help the Corps in any way we can. We are in this together, shoulder to shoulder, and we will do whatever we can to maximize the warfighting capability of the Marine Corps.”

Master Sgt. Travis Hollingshead, a student pursuing a degree in Applied Cyberspace Operations, believes that NPS is a great option for enlisted Marines.

“It has provided me with an opportunity to expand my already existing experience and expertise in the field by giving me new and emerging challenges to tackle with research,” said Hollingshead.

“We need all the Marines to be critical and creative thinkers and problem solvers going forward,” said Pugh. “I think that it begins with education, and education never stops. So, once you've got what you can at the bachelor's level, then you need to go and do graduate education. And when you mix that in with hands-on learning through research, that's really where it starts to gel. Then you get people that can solve just about any problem that gets thrown in front of them, whether they've seen it before or not.”

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## FACULTY:

### **Kashmiri diaspora view: US can 'unlock' Afghan conflict via Indo-Pak truce on J&K**

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The Kashmir question is one of the oldest unresolved international problems in the world. The experience of nearly seven decades has shown that it will not go away and that an effort is urgently required to resolve it on a durable basis. ‘Durable’, in this context is synonymous with ‘equitable’. It is imperative, whatever be the rights and wrongs in the equation as far as arguments go, real populations with a pronounced sense of identity of their own, with their suffering and their aspirations rather than just legal title and merit are involved.

The Kashmir dispute primarily involves the life and future of the 23 million people of the land. Because of its impact on relations between India and Pakistan, however, it directly affects the peace and stability of the region of South Asia that includes Afghanistan as well. This is a region, which contains one-fifth of the total human race.

The following considerations are most pertinent for an assessment of the dispute by the policy-making agencies and personalities of the world powers, including the United States. When the Kashmir dispute erupted in 1947-1948, the United States championed the stand that the future



status of Kashmir must be ascertained in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of the territory. The United States was the principal sponsor of the resolution # 47 which was adopted by the Security Council on April 21, 1948 and which was based on that unchallenged principle. Following the resolution, the United States as a leading member of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP), adhered to that stand. The basic formula for settlement was incorporated in the resolutions of that Commission adopted on August 13, 1948 and January 5, 1949.

The part played traditionally by the United States Government is apparent from: The appeal made by President Harry Truman and British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee that any contentious issues between India and Pakistan relating to the implementation of the agreement on Kashmir must be submitted to arbitration; the appointment of an eminent American, Admiral Chester Nimitz, as Plebiscite Administrator on Kashmir; the appeal personally made in 1962 by President John F Kennedy to the President of Ireland to the effect that Ireland sponsor a resolution on Kashmir in the Security Council reaffirming the resolutions of the Commission; the forceful advocacy by the US Delegation of points regarding the demilitarization of Kashmir preparatory to the plebiscite at countless meetings of the Security Council from the years 1947-48 to 1962 and its sponsorship of twelve substantive resolutions of the Council to that effect; the protracted negotiations conducted by another distinguished American, Frank Graham, from 1951 to 1958 in the effort to bring about the demilitarization of Kashmir, making possible the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles stated on February 5, 1957 that: "We continue to believe that unless the parties are able to agree upon some other solution, the solution which was recommended by the Security Council should prevail, which is that there should be a plebiscite."

On 15 June 1962, the American representative to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, stated that: "...The best approach is to take for a point of departure the area of common ground which exists between the parties. I refer of course to the resolutions which were accepted by both parties and which in essence provide for demilitarization of the territory and a plebiscite whereby the population may freely decide the future status of Jammu and Kashmir. This is in full conformity with the principle of the self-determination of people which is enshrined in Article I of the Charter as one of the key purpose for which the United Nations exists."

Unfortunately, all these pronouncements and commitments by the United States remain unfulfilled until today and Kashmir dispute has brought both India and Pakistan to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. Now, it is being said that peace between India and Pakistan could help unlock another conflict with even higher stakes for the United States: the war in Afghanistan. Indeed, a growing chorus of experts has begun arguing that the road to Kabul runs through Kashmir – that the U.S. will never stabilize the former without peace in the latter. Suddenly, bringing India and Pakistan together seems to be very much in America's interest. Which makes the Biden administration's determination to avoid the issue increasingly hard to fathom.

There is a convergent thinking among Indian, Pakistan and American scholars that key to progress of peace in Afghanistan lies in Kashmir. On one hand, Indian Independent thinker and writer, Pankaj Mishra wrote in the 'New York Review of Books', "As always, the road to stability in Pakistan and Afghanistan runs through the valley of Kashmir," and on the other hand, Pakistani journalist, Ahmed Rashid wrote in 'Foreign Affairs' on October 11, 2010, "The road to Kabul runs through Kashmir... There can be no peace in Afghanistan until these two neighbours (India and Pakistan) sit down and talk about a common approach to both Kabul and Kashmir, rather than negotiating by proxy war."

There can be no peace in Afghanistan until India and Pakistan sit down and talk about a common approach to both Kabul and Kashmir

And see the similarities of idea with an American journalist, Jonathan Tepperman who wrote in 'Newsweek' on February 10, 2010, "To understand why Kashmir is so important to Afghanistan, start with the fact that the U.S. can't defeat the Afghan insurgency without Pakistan's help. Fear of India also keeps Pakistan from putting enough troops on its 2,250-kilometer-long Afghan border, which the Taliban



still cross at will... Yet even he (Richard Holbrooke) concedes that Kashmir makes Afghanistan 'more difficult to resolve', and Washington simply can't afford to avoid it if it hopes to leave the region any time soon."

And Dutch independent write and researcher, Laura Schuurmans is equally passionate to suggest to the world powers to intervene in both crisis: Kashmir and Afghanistan. She wrote in November 2013, "The world will have to take notice of this issue if it really wants stable and durable peace in Afghanistan, south Asian subcontinent and consequently the whole world...A new beginning can start from Kashmir and therefore, peace and stability can return to Afghanistan through the valleys of Kashmir."

Incidentally, it was on March 8, 2021 that Zalmay Khalilzad, US Negotiator on Afghanistan met with General Bajwa of Pakistan and discussed the issue of Afghanistan and matters of mutual interest. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken has announced to sponsor a meeting on Afghanistan. Foreign minister of India and Pakistan along with foreign ministers of China, Iran, Russia and United States are invited. It has been suggested that the meeting will take place in Turkey. Turkey's President Erdogan has already said on March 1, 2021, "Developments in Afghanistan are closely related to the security and stability of the region. We closely follow the developments in friendly and brotherly Afghanistan. We hope that the peace process which aims to put an end to the ongoing conflicts of more than 40 years succeeds."

We hope that Turkey will take into consideration the recommendations made by Professor Patrick J Larkin, **Naval Postgraduate School**, Monterey, California, he made in March 2013, "The U.S. will not be able to achieve a lasting peace in Afghanistan without the unilateral support of Pakistan and India. If the conflict in Kashmir can be reconciled, this will aid U.S. objectives of a secure Afghanistan... Only by finding a final status on Kashmir with South Asia be able to achieve a real, lasting peace."

I believe that the time has come that the United Nations and world powers, particularly the United States intervenes in Kashmir to bring peace and prosperity not only to Kashmir but also to the whole region of South Asia, including Afghanistan. Dr Syed Nazir Gilani said it best, "Kashmir solution would help US and NATO forces to have a credible respite. They would have a strong impregnable complementary military shield in Pakistan, which would be a reliable constituent to build peace in Afghanistan."

In this regard, President Biden can listen to Steve Coll, Dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, who wrote in 'New York Review of Books' on September 30, 2010, "Silence and indirectness about the conflict is no longer workable...The United States does not need to intervene directly in Kashmiri negotiations to support the Indo-Pakistani peace process. It does, however, need to rediscover the sense of urgency and international leadership that characterized its engagement with Kashmir in the 1950s and early 1960s."

And we hope that President Biden will heed to the advice of President Barack Obama who said on October 30, 2008, "The most important thing we're going to have to do with respect to Afghanistan, is actually deal with Pakistan... We should probably try to facilitate a better understanding between Pakistan and India and try to resolve the Kashmir crisis so that they can stay focused not on India, but on the situation with those militants."

[Kashmiri diaspora view: US can 'unlock' Afghan conflict via Indo-Pak truce on J&K \(counterview.net\)](#)

[Kashmir and the Role of the United States » Kashmir Media Service \(kmsnews.org\)](#)

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## ALUMNI:

### Training Air Wing Four Aeromedical Safety Officer Earns DoD Recognition for Leadership, Excellence

(DVIDS 15 Mar 21) ... Anne Owens





## **SJHS Graduate Brett Johnson Earned his Wings on Route to Commander in the US Navy**

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Brett earned his “Wings of Gold” in 2007 and during his first operational tour he deployed twice to the Middle East in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2012 Hurricane Sandy brought him home as he supported the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission on board the USS SAN ANTONIO. In 2014 he was deployed as a member of the Crisis Response Element in support of SEAL and Special Boat team operations during OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE.

In 2015 Brett assumed his first “management” role as a Department Head with the “Tridents” of HSC-9. He again deployed in support of OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE this time aboard the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH as the squadron’s Operations Officer. “I’ve been very fortunate to have remained in the cockpit for 4 consecutive tours. I absolutely love to fly and the opportunities I’ve been given while serving my country in various arenas while doing what I love is extremely rewarding.”

Post Department Head he was selected as a fellow for the Secretary of the Navy’s Tours with Industry with Amazon Prime Air in Seattle, WA as a flight test specialist with the unmanned flight test team. This “real world” experience allowed him to “discover methods to adapt and incorporate business principles into Navy programs and techniques.” While he may not have been flying helicopters into the fight, he remained working on cutting-edge flight technology that aligned with his life’s passion of aviation.

Brett currently serves as Executive Officer of the HSC-28 “Dragon Whales” based in Norfolk, VA. This unique squadron provides both manned and unmanned helicopters for logistics, counter drug operations, combat search and rescue, anti-surface warfare, and airborne mine counter measures. He will take Command of HSC-28 in November 2021 and currently resides in Virginia Beach with his wife, Brenna, and their 3 children, Ryan, Quinn, and Shae.

Over his 16 years of service in the Navy, he has accumulated over 2,700 manned and unmanned flight hours in the HH-60 “Rescue Hawk,” MH-60S “Knight Hawk,” MQ-8B “Fire Scout” and various other unmanned platforms. Brett often finds himself reflecting on his time at SJHS; “SJHS provided me the opportunity to excel and build lasting friendships and relationships with alumni that have continued to support me, and instilled in me the necessary discipline to excel in a competitive environment, and maintain that dedication throughout my career, always pushing me to achieve my goals.”

[SJHS Graduate Brett Johnson Earned his Wings on Route to Commander in the US Navy | TAPinto](#)

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## **U.S. Embassy Welcomes New Defense Attaché**

*(U.S. Embassy 18 Mar 21)*



On March 11, United States Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Tony Greubel hosted a reception to welcome Commander Victor Lange, U.S. Defense Attaché, and to farewell Commander Constantine Panayiotou, the outgoing attaché. During the remarks, CDA Greubel expressed appreciation for Commander Panayiotou's three years of service and welcomed the Langes into the Embassy family.

"We warmly welcome Commander Lange and his family to Suva. His insights and energy will maintain and build the strong relationship we have with Fiji's disciplined forces and find new areas for cooperation and collaboration," said CDA Greubel. Of Commander Panayiotou's departure he said, "Constantine has consistently sought greater security assistance for our partners in the region, and we will see the benefits of his efforts to obtain new funding and programs for years to come."

Commander Panayiotou, who was formerly the longest serving attaché in Suva, handed over that title to Colonel Efran of Indonesia. The Honorable Speaker Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, representatives of the Government of Fiji, leaders of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), members of the diplomatic corps, and military representatives of Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom attended the reception.

Commander Lange is a Naval Aviator and native of Huntsville, Texas. Lange graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in political science and earned his MBA at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2017. CDR Lange has served three deployments to the Western Pacific with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6. CDR Lange served two years aboard the USS KEARSARGE as the Flight Deck Officer and Assistant Air Officer among other assignments. Ashore, from 2008 – 2011, he served as Aide de Camp to the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at Operational Joint Forces Headquarters NATO in Naples, Italy. He has received numerous military and academic honors. He is accompanied in Fiji by his wife Karissa, and their two daughters.

[U.S. Embassy Welcomes New Defense Attaché | U.S. Embassy in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu](#)

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## **Tiburon taps San Mateo lieutenant as police chief**

*(Marin Independent Journal 18 Mar 21) ... Lorenzo Morotti*

Tiburon officials have selected a San Mateo police lieutenant as the town's next police chief, filling a post that had been vacant for six months.

Ryan Monaghan, who has worked at the San Mateo department for 27 years, will start the new job on April 5. He was among 17 applicants for the position.

"I look forward to meeting and working with the engaged community members, our town leaders, allied agencies and especially all our town employees who are committed to providing the highest levels of service to everyone who lives, works and visits the town of Tiburon," Monaghan said.

The former chief, Michael Cronin, retired in September after a public backlash over an incident involving two Black store owners. In the incident, which was recorded on video, two Tiburon officers and a Belvedere officer pressed Yema Khalif and Hawai Awash to identify themselves after seeing them in their clothing shop at 1 a.m. Khalif claimed racial profiling, which the officers denied.

Two five-member interview panels, one consisting of community members and the other of professionals, held two meetings to narrow the applicants down to three, said Town Manager Greg Chanis.

The finalists were interviewed in person at Town Hall on Jan. 26 by Scardina, Public Works Director Steve Palmer, Community Development Director Dina Tasini and Administrative Services Director Suzanne Creekmore.

"I sat in on these interviews, but did not participate," Chanis said. "After the panel interviews, I met with each finalist for approximately 45 minutes to an hour, and then each finalist had the opportunity to tour the police station."

Monaghan accepted a conditional offer in February, Chanis said. The town has been conducting background and medical checks since then.



“All the applicants expressed an understanding of the events that have transpired in Tiburon in the last eight months,” Chanis said. “To be fair, some more than others.”

Monaghan’s “collaborative approach and demonstrated commitment to creating meaningful community engagement really set him apart from other candidates,” Chanis said.

Noah Griffin, a member of the town’s Diversity Inclusion Task Force, said he was one of two African American members of the community panel that interviewed the finalists.

“Although Ryan Monaghan was not my choice, I’m looking forward to working with him to find out what his plans are for community policing, diversity and inclusion, and hiring and promotion within the department,” he said.

The Tiburon Police Department has 12 sworn officers and four other employees, plus volunteer and reserve officers. Monaghan’s starting annual salary is \$195,000, which is 3% less than Cronin’s salary, Chanis said.

Monaghan graduated from Union Institute and University in Sacramento with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice management. He also holds a master’s degree in security studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey.

Monaghan has taught administration of justice at the San Mateo Community College District.  
[Tiburon taps San Mateo lieutenant as police chief \(marinij.com\)](#)

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## GOVERNMENT CONTRACT:

### CAE USA issues challenge to \$106.9M Space Force award

*(Washington Technology 18 Mar 21) ... Nick Wakeman*

CAE USA Mission Solutions is pushing back on the government's decision to award a \$106.9 million Space Force training contract to a competitor.

The contract was awarded to Sigmatech through the Federal Supply Schedule vehicle to support the National Security Space Institute.

CAE is arguing that the bids were not properly evaluated. If they had been, CAE says they would have won.

The contract covers instructor services to the National Security Space Institute.

The institute is the U.S. Space Force’s organization for continuing education and as well as supporting education programs at the Air University, **Naval Postgraduate School**, and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Courses offered there range from the basics -- Introduction to Space to higher level classes such as the Joint Space Planners Course.

Classes can take anywhere from a few hours to multiple weeks.

CAE filed its protest March 11 and a decision is expected by June 21.

[CAE USA issues challenge to \\$106.9M Space Force award -- Washington Technology](#)

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