



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – June 29- July 5, 2021

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EDUCATION:

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[Forging the Fleet of the Future: The NPS–Fleet Research Program](#)

(USNI June 21) ... USMC Capt. Christian Thiessen

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Speaking at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF), Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said, “Energy is not only for the United States or Germany, but for the whole world... **Naval Postgraduate School’s** Dr. Brenda Shaffer, a faculty member of the Energy Academic Group, chaired a panel on energy at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya Turkey from 18-20 June 2021.

[NPS Oceanography Professor Wins National Science Foundation CAREER Program Grant](#)

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Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Assistant Professor of Oceanography Dr. Mara Orescanin was recently awarded a five-year grant through the highly-competitive National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER program.



The grant will afford Orescanin with an opportunity to build on her already existing research exploring intermittent rivers, bar-built estuaries and beach breaches and closures, all of which can have considerable impact on amphibious operation planning and execution.

ALUMNI:

[SkyRunner Hires Michael Jensen as Chief Strategy Officer to Lead its Global Defense Strategy](#)

(PRNewsWire.com 29 June 21)

SkyRunner, LLC, designer and manufacturer of the SkyRunner MK 3.2, Special-Light Sport Aircraft, named retired Lt. Col. Michael Jensen as Chief Strategy Officer to spearhead an aggressive Global Growth Strategy through strategic international partnerships... A longtime advocate for integrating light aviation into Special Operations, Jensen named SkyRunner in his 2012 **Naval Postgraduate School** Thesis as exactly the type of vehicle that SOCOM needed. He recognized that vehicles like SkyRunner, "represent an opportunity to distribute risk across a special operations team to dramatically reduce the risk to mission. They provide a unique capability that is complementary to current aerial platforms but have significant advantages in certain mission sets. Using simple aircraft with the right blend of technology and innovative tactics, special operators could achieve decisive tactical advantages in specific threat environments."

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Retired Army General Joseph Whitlock has amassed an unmatched body of knowledge and experience in the areas of strategic planning and policy formulation over the course of his 34-year Army career... His professional career as an Army officer began when he received a bachelor's degree and officer commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served in a number of positions of increasing responsibility while also pursuing two master's degrees during his military service. His advanced degrees include a Master of Science in Operations Research degree from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies at the United States Command and General Staff College.

[L.A., Chicago appoint interim leaders](#)

(American School & University 1 July 21) ... Mike Kennedy

The nation's second- and third-largest districts have interim leaders in charge as the 2021-22 school year begins... From 2007 to 2017 was the district's Chief Financial Officer. Immediately before rejoining the Los Angeles Unified, she was the chief business officer for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. She also previously served as Executive Director of Business at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[St. Louis Fire Department Promotes Derrick Phillips to the Rank of Fire Deputy Chief](#)

(Homeland Security Today 3 July 21) ... Damon Reyes

On June 22, Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson of the St. Louis Fire Department selected Derrick Phillips to the rank of Fire Deputy Chief. In his new position, Deputy Chief Phillips will oversee operations as the Administrative Chief & Operations Deputy Chief for the A-Shift and coordinate the activities of battalions and captains of the fire department... Deputy Chief Phillips holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management at Columbia College and completed two master's degrees last year – one in Homeland Defense & Security at **Naval Postgraduate School**, and another in Public Administration at Arkansas State University.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

July 13, 2021: [SGL with Congressman Adam Smith, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee \(HASC\)](#)

August 9-13, 2021: [Center for Executive Education NSL Seminar](#)



EDUCATION:

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Understanding the role of cyberspace in military operations is not limited to just the cyber experts and practitioners, especially in this modern era of Great Power Competition. With this in mind, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is launching the all-new CY4000 “Cyberspace and Military Operations” course, a new one-credit online class for the upcoming Summer Quarter, starting July 6, and it is open to all students.

Developed by a diverse group of NPS professors, including those from the Computer Science and National Security Affairs departments, CY4000 goes beyond the technology of cyberspace to explore its workings, uses and significance.

“Many people know something about some of the topics in CY4000, but not everyone is familiar with the broad set of issues associated with the use of cyber-related technology,” said NPS Distinguished Professor of Computer Science Dr. Cynthia Irvine, representing the group that developed CY4000. “This class is intended to provide everyone with a baseline, and then a springboard from which to increase their knowledge and understanding of this complex domain. Because both the technology and geopolitical context in which it operates is rapidly evolving, we hope that this course can be regularly updated to reflect change.”

Students will not just learn about different aspects of cyberspace, but also how they interconnect, which is essential when formulating a cyberspace strategy.

“There are a lot of moving parts to understanding what goes on in cyberspace, and all of these have to be understood to some extent,” said Irvine. “For example, our military may consider taking out networks in a certain area as part of an operation, but that may affect humanitarian activities as well as allied military missions. The course is intended to touch upon many issues and allow students to view cyberspace from the perspective of Great Power Competition.”

Irvine added the course will provide a unified framework within which students will gain an overview of cyberspace, and then be able to focus on specific topics and become more conversant in areas of particular interest.

CY4000 joins the NPS catalog of one-credit courses, and will consist of 21 pre-recorded lectures taught by several professors and subject matter experts (SME) covering cyber power in the GPC, the cyber enterprise, cyber technology, the operational domain, and strategy, power and policy.

“The philosophy behind the course is that by having SMEs give the lectures, the central ideas associated with each topic will be carefully conveyed,” noted Irvine. “A total of 18 members of the NPS faculty and staff are teaching the course. We are very lucky to have such a large number of faculty members with deep, diverse knowledge of cyberspace-relevant topics.”

While open to all NPS students, the course’s developers would like to see it extended beyond the NPS campus to reach a large number of Naval officers.

“I think it will be very useful to ensure that everyone has a good appreciation of cyberspace and its place in military operations because it’s a very fast-moving ecology,” Irvine said. “Not only do we want to touch NPS students who are shaping the future, but we want to make sure that decision makers and those in the rest of the force have this broad perspective.”

[NPS Launches “Cyberspace and Military Operations” Course Open to all Students > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

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Forging the Fleet of the Future: The NPS–Fleet Research Program

(USNI.org June 21) ... U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Christian Thiessen

The Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS's) mission is to "provide defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval services." Most of the nearly 1,500 resident students are midlevel officers, with proven professional records from across the Department of Defense and international partner forces.

In the 18 to 27 months officers and staff noncommissioned officers spend getting a technical degree at NPS, they often experience a disconnection from the fleet because of the perpetually changing operational environment. For the Marine Corps students, this disconnection is exacerbated by a three-year payback tour that further removes them from their primary occupation. This can lead to the atrophy of occupational proficiency, particularly for those with technical specialties, effectively giving officers a "shelf life" for their operational experience that may compromise the currency of their thesis research.

Since mid-March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the possibilities of asynchronous or semi-synchronous graduate education. With many students and professors adapting to these times, there are new opportunities for NPS students to conduct directed studies with industry partners or operational units. Students now have an opening for an experiential touchpoint back to the fleet, while gaining knowledge in high-demand skills that are needed throughout the force.

While each curriculum's specialized training is relevant to tackling narrow problems, NPS should also provide Marines and sailors with tangible ways to see how their research can be combined with that of others to solve real problems. In David Epstein's book *Range*, he argues that by creating personnel with a wide variety of practical skills, highly effective organizations are better prepared to solve wicked problems.¹ An exchange program between NPS and the fleet will create a cohort of interdisciplinarians by taking experience from a student's undergraduate degree, operational tour(s), supporting establishment billet(s), and their time at NPS.

A new initiative from the Naval Warfare Studies Institute at the NPS, called the NPS-Fleet Research Program (FRP), is designed to bring applied research from NPS to the operational forces. The FRP will provide units with students from various disciplines as interns and technical consultants. This provides NPS with focused applied research, the fleet with increased warfighting capability, and NPS students with an improved capacity to solve hard problems. While this initiative was originally focused on Marine Corps operations in the information environment (OIE), it can take any form needed by a sponsoring command.

The FRP also will create incentives for students to seek autonomy in their research and its impact on their warfighting communities. Most important, the FRP provides the services with well-informed and motivated officers who know how to solve difficult problems.

To analyze this program through the lens of a civilian company's talent management, look to the summer associate program at high-profile law firms such as Gunderson Dettmer (GD). GD is one of the highest profile venture law firms globally and recently won PitchBook's seventh consecutive award for Most Active Venture Law Firm. Winning seven years in a row is no easy feat and shows that GD is a leader in attracting and retaining some of the best venture capital attorneys across the globe. This unprecedented level of activity makes considering GD's summer associate program worthwhile.

For approximately ten weeks during the summer between their second and third years in law school, students descend on GD's global campuses as summer associates. Summer associates are immediately thrown into the mix with client interactions during their first weeks on the job. The GD experience differs vastly from that of its peers, as most first- and second-year associates at rival firms do not get client exposure. The high level of trust placed in summer associates to dive into client engagements gives them a sense of autonomy and directly correlates to the firm's talent acquisition and sustainment program. Most law students never get this type of challenging, meaningful, and substantive experience, making it clear that GD understands the value of experiential learning and that innovation leadership is an organizational priority.² By replicating the current internship programs offered by elite organizations such as Gunderson Dettmer, the Department of Defense will have another way to maintain and sustain the force of the future.



The FRP provides a structure for NPS students and the fleet to benefit. Recently, the program began its pilot in support of Exercise Pac Sentry-21, a joint-coalition exercise between the staffs of I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), Third Fleet, U.S. Army Pacific, and Australia. In early June, one student and one faculty member traveled to Camp Pendleton, California, to meet with leaders and other professionals from the I MEF Information Group, the I MEF Fires and Effects Coordination Center, the Naval Information Warfare Center-Pacific, Third Fleet, and the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity. During their time in southern California, they experienced firsthand some of the pain points that occur when coordinating, planning, and executing operational exercises. This experience was truly eye-opening for the team as it was able to take a multitude of potential thesis topics back to NPS. This first iteration of the FRP has ensured that the student's operational experience does not go stale, and gave the faculty participant a method of identifying new research lines of efforts to keep up with evolving concepts and capabilities.

By creating a collection of interdisciplinary officers, U.S. warfighters will be empowered to develop future warfighting concepts and remain adaptive to hard problems. Finally, this program will help meet the Marine Corps' talent management goal in the 38th Commandant's Planning Guidance by retaining high-performing Marines "inclined to learn, think, and innovate." The Sea Services are in a critical transition period where they must stay ahead of and innovate faster than their competitors. The NPS-Fleet Research Program is a way to satisfy that end.

[Forging the Fleet of the Future: The NPS-Fleet Research Program | Proceedings - June 2021 Vol. 147/6/1,420 \(usni.org\)](#)

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RESEARCH:

NPS Students' Acquisition Research Steals the Spotlight at Annual Symposium

(NPS.edu 1 July 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

During the 18th annual Acquisition Research Symposium (ARP) in May, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students presented theses and research projects to the Department of Defense (DOD) acquisition community during a virtual Graduate Student Research Poster Show.

The students' research covered various aspects of acquisitions such as price analysis factors and developing international wireless solutions. They spent a lot of time on their research to find improved ways to bring relevant technology from developers and experts to the warfighter, bridging the gap known as the Valley of Death that separates the two.

"The [Graduate Student Poster Show] has always been a cornerstone of the symposium, and I consider this the highlight of the entire symposium," said retired Vice Adm. David Lewis, NPS Chair of Acquisition. "This is really our seed corn for the school because all of what these students learn here will be applied to the rest of their Naval careers. And I'm sure every one of them, if you ask them 10 years from now, they'll tell you this is the class that made the difference for them. Each of the students will find something that they've learned here and will use it repeatedly."

Ideas for their theses originated from sponsors looking to explore new directions, or from acquisition issues they experienced firsthand during previous operational tours.

Symantha Loflin, an earned value management analyst for the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) who had previously worked with the Joint Acquisition Task Force for COVID-19 to work on glove production, said her thesis focused on how to expedite products into the national stockpile and into the hands of frontline workers who needed it.

"I'm using my education to build up the industrial base of bringing back manufacturing to the United States by Americans for Americans," said Loflin. "Through my research at NPS, I was able to use more than my earned value management experience and my production quality and manufacturing experience to assist with government contracting needs."



In addition to streamlining the process to bring goods from industry to end users, students researched how well their intellectual and educational resources were reaching out.

Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Smith, a Navy Supply Corps Officer, helped analyze the Navy Supply Corps 810 Program which allows Navy Supply Corps officers with the opportunity to attend a top-30 U.S. business school for an MBA.

"It was a great opportunity," said Smith. "[The 810 Program] is one a big investment, and we were able to show our sponsors how well the program was at retaining officers, and found potential for greater follow through on using the skills at commands where they're needed."

DOD attendees provided feedback on the students' theses, asked questions, and acknowledged their work and potential new avenues to explore to make acquisition's 'Valley of Death' narrower.

According to ARP Principal Investigator Dr. Robert Mortlock, "The students brought a unique, different perspective allowing us in the acquisition community to answer some really difficult research questions.

"This really highlights the critical thinking, problem solving, and resource management parts of student [research]," he continued. "We end up solving problems that I don't think we'd be able to solve if we didn't have the student researchers asking those tough questions and bringing their perspectives into view."

Check out the NPS Acquisition Research Program YouTube channel for short videos on student research projects.

[NPS Students' Acquisition Research Steals the Spotlight at Annual Symposium - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

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FACULTY:

The future of energy was discussed at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum [Video]

(Haberler 19 June 21)

Speaking at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF), Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said, "Energy is not only for the United States or Germany, but for the whole world.

Speaking at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF), Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said, "Energy is not only for the United States or Germany, but for the whole world. We have to come up with a plan. That's why this forum is so important," he said.

Held at NEST Convention Center in Antalya's Belek Tourism Center, Within the scope of the forum where Anadolu Agency (AA) is a "Global Communication Partner", the panel titled "Energy: What kind of future awaits us?" led by International Energy and Foreign Policy Expert Prof. Brenda Shaffer, includes Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitro Kuleba, Madagascar Foreign Minister Dr. Djacoba A. S. Oliva Tehindrazanarvelo, Former Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl and Energy e Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Dr. Alparslan Bayraktar attended as a speaker.

"Energy is not only for the U.S. or Germany, but for the whole world"

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arreaza said the transition of renewable energy from fossil fuels will take another 20-30 years, during which natural gas and oil will be used, adding that not every country has access to costly and high-tech renewable energy systems.

Arreaza continued:

"It is clear that countries in the south of the world do not have the funds to provide access to this technology. That's something that concerns the whole world. Energy is not only for the U.S. or Germany, but for the whole world. We have to come up with a plan. That's why this forum is so important. There should be multilateral planning for access to new technologies, production of technologies. We must give



countries that do not have sufficient funds access to these new technologies and to prepare for this transition process."

Kuleba pointed out that natural gas in Europe is more of a security issue than an economy.

The transition from fossil sources to renewable energy will take time, but the transition cannot be stopped, Kuleba said.

Kuleba pointed out that the most important issue in energy is infrastructure investment and said, "We know where to buy. We know where to supply it, but how?"

" (Energy access issue) If you approach this issue economically, you will get an answer. However, if you approach it from a security point of view, you will get a completely different answer, as in Nord Stream -2 (North Stream-2). This pipeline undermines Europe's energy security and violates the principle of diversifying energy supply. This is a political thing, a political project," Kuleba said, stressing that the sole purpose of the North Stream-2 project is to exclude Ukraine politically, economically and strategically over the gas transit route.

"European countries are emotional during the energy transition"

Kneissl cited Germany's decision to take steps in this area after the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident in Japan, stating that European countries are being treated more sensibly than reasonable in the energy transition process.

The transition in energy is already in effect, Kneissl said, but the costs and prices of renewable energy systems and the demands of the peoples make it unclear where this transition will take them.

"TANAP is an extremely important example"

Bayraktar noted that today the energy world faces important and unexpected challenges, and that discussions centered on ensuring energy supply security are more focused on climate change. It's not possible to talk against them. But as for the facts, the market, it's the opposite, especially after the outbreak, 2020 and this year."

Emphasizing that natural gas is very important for Turkey, for the energy market and the economy, Bayraktar explained that 50 billion cubic meters of natural gas are consumed every year in Turkey, making it the 4th largest natural gas market in Europe.

Bayraktar stated that Turkey's need for more natural gas has increased and stated:

"We need to diversify supply routes. The Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) is an extremely important example. New energy sources, new hydrocarbon sources are coming to Turkey for our supply security. That's why it's a timely development. I am also on the BOARD of TANAP and this was a very successful project. Political will and commitment are key factors for the successful completion of TANAP. If we look at the other energy sources around Turkey, the first thing we need, like hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean, is political will and commitment. "

"Madagascar open for investment"

Madagascar Foreign Minister Djacoba Tehindrazanarivelo said his country is very rich in solar energy in renewable energy, but it is expensive because of the importation of raw materials for renewable energy systems.

Tehindrazanarivelo stated that Madagascar is very efficient in terms of solar, water, wind and open to investments.

[The future of energy was discussed at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum - News \(haberler.com\)](https://www.haberler.com/news/energy-discussed-at-antalya-diplomacy-forum)

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NPS Oceanography Professor Wins National Science Foundation CAREER Program Grant

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CAREER program. The grant will afford Orescanin with an opportunity to build on her already existing research exploring intermittent rivers, bar-built estuaries and beach breaches and closures, all of which can have considerable impact on amphibious operation planning and execution.

The NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program supports high-performing early-career faculty who have the potential to both serve as academic role models in research and education, and the ability to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. The program aims to help researchers build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership.

"It was pretty awesome getting [this award]," said Orescanin. "In the academic world, when you get that, it's a validation of the relevance and significance of your work. My goal is to tailor my research and provide relevance to the warfighter, so I'm excited to see how it transpires."

Her research titled, "Hydrodynamic and Morphodynamic Evolution of Beach and Breaching Closure," will provide insight on how coastal areas change in environments that go through wet and dry seasons providing valuable information for amphibious operation planning. As the wet and dry seasons shift, the waterline can change from one day to the next as an area that have water flowing as a river can be a coastal beach the next day. This sudden shift in waterline can make an area unpredictable and affect operations.

When referring to intermittent rivers as part of beaches, Orescanin noted, "Rivers are going to change the structure of your beach and it's going to change the firmness of the sand and currents in the surf zone. So, if you think down to the human level of special forces or ship-to-shore movements, doing a beach landing and having strong currents that are resulting from these rivers, this propagates changes affecting their safety and operations throughout the surf zone."

While she is the one at the front of the classroom, Orescanin said she often learns as much from her mid-career Navy and Marine Corps officer students as they do from her, providing an informed perspective on what the navy's operational needs are for amphibious and littoral operations.

According to NPS Dean of Research Jeffrey D. Paduan, the award reflects the quality of the applied research underway at NPS, and how this environment benefits the students.

"The recognition shows NPS faculty are among the best in the nation," said Paduan. "The five-year project funding is also a benefit for that it is designed to allow Dr. Orescanin time to plan and execute a significant research program in her area of coastal oceanography. Several METOC [Meteorology and Operational Oceanography] students are expected to participate in and benefit from the program over the course of those five years."

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ALUMNI:

SkyRunner Hires Michael Jensen as Chief Strategy Officer to Lead its Global Defense Strategy

(PRNewsWire.com 29 June 21)

(GovConWire.com 29 June 21) ... Carol Collins

SkyRunner, LLC, designer and manufacturer of the SkyRunner MK 3.2, Special-Light Sport Aircraft, named retired Lt. Col. Michael Jensen as Chief Strategy Officer to spearhead an aggressive Global Growth Strategy through strategic international partnerships.

The SkyRunner MK3.2 is the first FAA certified, Light-Sport aircraft to support DoD and CSAR missions. As the battle space continues to expand, new and innovative solutions are needed to solve



complex tactical challenges. SkyRunner combines both ground and air solutions to go almost anywhere and is customizable for multiple mission sets.

A longtime advocate for integrating light aviation into Special Operations, Jensen named SkyRunner in his 2012 **Naval Postgraduate School** Thesis as exactly the type of vehicle that SOCOM needed. He recognized that vehicles like SkyRunner, "represent an opportunity to distribute risk across a special operations team to dramatically reduce the risk to mission. They provide a unique capability that is complementary to current aerial platforms but have significant advantages in certain mission sets. Using simple aircraft with the right blend of technology and innovative tactics, special operators could achieve decisive tactical advantages in specific threat environments."

SkyRunner CEO Stewart Hamel received a copy of the thesis and immediately implemented many of its concepts. "That paper really changed our company's 'why,'" Hamel explained. "I originally built this aircraft to fuel epic adventures with my kids, but when we read Michael's paper, we saw a bigger vision. We could save lives!"

Hamel continued, "Lt. Col. Jensen's distinguished and decorated career with the United States Air Force and SOCOM forged an innovative and entrepreneurial leadership style. His bold leadership combined with a dense international network and passion for tech-driven, multi-functional aviation organizations make Michael ideally suited to lead SkyRunner's Global Defense Strategy."

Prior to joining SkyRunner, Col. Michael Jensen served for 20 years as a Special Tactics Officer in Air Force Special Operations command, culminating his career as the Deputy Commander of the 724th Special Tactics Group; an elite 700-person special operations unit based at Ft Bragg, NC.

He also served as a Lead Strategist for CHECKMATE; a hand-picked cell at the Pentagon charged with challenging and reconstructing Air Force war plans. CHECKMATE shapes military advice to the Secretary of Defense & The White House by providing strategic options during crises.

Michael's expansive operational background builds on a solid foundation of field experience. He led special operations missions on four continents during numerous deployments before founding and commanding the 26th Special Tactics Squadron; he assembled a crack team to build the 200-person Special Operations Unit from concept to combat deployment in less than 2 years. A Military Freefall Jumpmaster while on active duty, he is also an active private pilot, United States Parachute Association Accelerated Free Fall Instructor, and holds a PRO parachutist rating. After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 2001 with double majors in business and law, Michael earned three Master's degrees in business, strategy, and defense analysis.

Jensen will employ his operational experience and academic training to optimize SkyRunner's warfighting configuration by integrating low probability of intercept/detection mesh networking, secure communications, arming options, and by realizing government customers' bespoke requirements through SkyRunner's exceptional design and engineering team. "We are especially excited about SkyRunner's partnership with Collins Aerospace to roll out fully-automated optionally-manned SkyRunners and complete integration of the TASE 400 EO/IR (electro-optical/infra-red) sensor. These technologies open up a world of use-cases all around the globe," Jensen said.

Jensen chose to join SkyRunner because he sees the value that the aircraft brings to a complex and rapidly changing strategic competition landscape. He added, "As our national strategy pivots toward equipping our partners and allies around the world, SkyRunner represents an incredible amount of sustainable capability that our partners can use now and maintain in the future. The team specifically designed ruggedness and redundancy as core features. It burns automotive gas and is maintained with simple hand tools and off-the-shelf parts."

Hamel said, "Michael's insights will be valuable in evaluating and infusing new technologies with the SkyRunner platform. These strategic partners offer force multiplier capabilities to the benefit of our US special operation forces, and partner nation warfighters."

[SkyRunner Hires Michael Jensen as Chief Strategy Officer to Lead its Global Defense Strategy \(prnewswire.com\)](#)

[Air Force Vet Michael Jensen Joins SkyRunner as Chief Strategy Officer - GovCon Wire](#)

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General Joseph Whitlock is a proud supporter of Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund, helping Veterans & their family with college

(EINPressWire.com 3 July 21)

Retired Army General Joseph Whitlock has amassed an unmatched body of knowledge and experience in the areas of strategic planning and policy formulation over the course of his 34-year Army career.

During his previous career as a Major General, Joe was assigned to a number of important assignments. These include two Combatant Commands, the Headquarters of the Department of the Army, and the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

His professional career as an Army officer began when he received a bachelor's degree and officer commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served in a number of positions of increasing responsibility while also pursuing two master's degrees during his military service. His advanced degrees include a Master of Science in Operations Research degree from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies at the United States Command and General Staff College.

Having a very high regard for all the sacrifices that soldiers make for the country, Joe looked for other ways to support not only soldiers but also their families. While still serving in the Army and continuing beyond, he has been an enthusiastic and consistent supporter of nonprofit organizations that provide different types of assistance to veterans, soldiers, and also their families.

While in the Army Joe committed to making anonymous monthly contributions to these deserving causes through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the annual Army Emergency Relief (AER) fund drive. Since his retirement he has chosen to actively promote and support charities that assist soldiers and their families, such as the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund (www.johnnymac.org) and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS (www.taps.org), among others.

The Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund is a nonprofit organization close to Joe's heart. It was named after his 1986 classmate, John "Johnny Mac" McHugh, who was killed in action on May 18, 2010 while serving in Afghanistan. It started off as the West Point Class of 1986's plan to help his surviving family. From there, their vision expanded as they were inspired to help many more families.

Over the years, this initiative has awarded scholarships to over 3,000 veterans and military family members. Since its inception, the organization has coordinated events that generated millions of dollars which were used to help surviving family members get through college. This year Joe pledged to make monthly contributions to this nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to giving back to the community through education.

Now that it is graduation season once again, Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund will be there to assist many veterans and surviving military family members who need assistance to finish their college education. With an outpouring of continuous support from donors more scholars will have the chance to reach their dreams and have a brighter future.

In connection with this, General Whitlock has advice for those entering college. Having a clear objective is just as important in life as when you are in the military. As incoming college students, it is important to have clear goals and a set of steps on how you plan to achieve them by the time you graduate and start working in the real world. It is important to seek advice from parents, mentors, and friends. However, make sure that you are in charge of everything you do because your future depends on your actions and decisions now. Don't let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do. Instead, take charge and follow your dreams.

Upon his military retirement, Joe also welcomed new opportunities as he joined the Global Advisory Board of IKAR Industries this year. He also ventured into realizing one of his dreams by starting Whitlock Strategic Outcomes LLC, a company with which he plans to provide consulting services soon. Joe's experience and knowledge as a general officer and strategist were important considerations in IKAR's decision bring him on board. He has extensive experience in leading complex government negotiations, conducting strategic planning, collaborating with the United States National Security Council, and participating in global international partnerships, among other things. These assignments



and experiences provide the foundation of Joe's knowledge and abilities, which will enable him to excel at IKAR industries.

[General Joseph Whitlock is a proud supporter of Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund, helping Veterans & their family with college - EIN Presswire \(einnews.com\)](#)

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L.A., Chicago appoint interim leaders

(American School & University 1 July 21) ... Mike Kennedy

The nation's second- and third-largest districts have interim leaders in charge as the 2021-22 school year begins.

Megan K. Reilly, deputy superintendent in the Los Angeles Unified District, has been tapped to serve as interim superintendent of the system, the nation's second-largest public school district. She is replacing Austin Beutner, who announced his retirement earlier this year after three years in the top job.

In Chicago Public Schools, the nation's third-largest district, Jose M. Torres has been appointed interim Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools. He replaces Janice Jackson, who resigned as Chicago Schools CEO in May after serving more than three years in the job.

The two administrators will lead their districts while their school boards carry out a search for more permanent replacements.

Reilly has served as the Los Angeles district's deputy superintendent of business services and operations since June 2019. In that capacity, she oversees human resources, finance, facilities, transportation, information technology, school safety and other areas. During the pandemic, she has been integral to the success of meal distribution centers, the distribution of devices and hot spots to students and educators, and meeting the complex demands of the reopening of schools.

From 2007 to 2017 was the district's Chief Financial Officer. Immediately before rejoining the Los Angeles Unified, she was the chief business officer for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. She also previously served as Executive Director of Business at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Torres has been superintendent of the U-46 district in Elgin, Ill., and was a regional superintendent in the Chicago system. Most recently, he was president of the Illinois Math and Science Academy in Aurora.

In addition to Jackson's departure, two other high-ranking administrators have left the Chicago school system this spring. Chief Education Officer LaTanya McDade has departed to become superintendent of the 90,000-student Prince William County (Va.) district. Arnie Rivera left his job as the district's chief operating officer to become chief administrative and equity officer for Chicago's Navy Pier.

[Interim CEO named for Chicago school system | American School & University \(asumag.com\)](#)

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St. Louis Fire Department Promotes Derrick Phillips to the Rank of Fire Deputy Chief

(Homeland Security Today 3 July 21) ... Damon Reyes

On June 22, Fire Chief Dennis Jenkerson of the St. Louis Fire Department selected Derrick Phillips to the rank of Fire Deputy Chief. In his new position, Deputy Chief Phillips will oversee operations as the Administrative Chief & Operations Deputy Chief for the A-Shift and coordinate the activities of battalions and captains of the fire department.

Phillips will work closely alongside Jenkerson in planning and setting department goals, conducting proper training, establishing procedures, and serving as a liaison between the district, departments, committees, and other outside agencies.

Previously, Phillips served as a Battalion Chief over Training & Homeland Security. He also served as a Chief Fire & Explosion Investigator and Fire Captain, totaling over 26 years of experience with the St. Louis Fire department.



Deputy Chief Phillips holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management at Columbia College and completed two master's degrees last year – one in Homeland Defense & Security at **Naval Postgraduate School**, and another in Public Administration at Arkansas State University.

Phillips is also an HSToday Mission awardee, having won two awards in 2018 and 2020 for his thesis study which developed the First Responder Joint Intelligence guide. This established a comprehensive list of intelligence requirements for the fire department in ensuring timely, relevant, and specific intelligence pertinent to effective strategic planning, operational coordination, and tactical decision-making. You can learn more at our previous HSToday webinar where we had the honor to host Derrick Phillip's brief on the critical fire service intelligence processes.

With his many accomplishments and major contributions to the fire department as well as to the homeland security community, Derrick Phillips is proudly welcomed as Fire Deputy Chief for the St. Louis fire department.

[St. Louis Fire Department Promotes Derrick Phillips to the Rank of Fire Deputy Chief – Homeland Security Today \(hstoday.us\)](#)

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