



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Oct. 5-11, 2021

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SECNAV:

[SECNAV: New Navy Strategic Guidance Emphasizes Deterrence in the Pacific](#)

(USNI 6 Oct 21) ... Heather Mongilio

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[Who's Who in Defense: Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy](#)

(Breaking Defense 8 Oct 21) ... Catherine Macaulay

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RESEARCH:

[New LP-CRADA Between NPS, TMGcore Focused on High-Density Computing](#)

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(Military and Aerospace Electronics 4 Oct 21)

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FACULTY:

[Is Europe's Energy Crisis a Preview of America's?](#)

(Foreign Policy 5 Oct 21) ... Brenda Shaffer

Join FP columnist Adam Tooze and deputy editor Cameron Abadi as they explain the week's biggest economic news, from debt ceiling negotiations to why the fortunes of China's property market matter to the world.



ALUMNI:

JJ Phelan, P.E., joins S&H Systems as VP of Sales

(DC Velocity 5 Oct 21)

Expert in material handling solutions design and sales as well as business operations and leadership onboard to develop and grow the sales team with a primary focus on exceptional service to existing and new customers... Mr. Phelan graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1995 with a BS in Systems Engineering. He also has a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and an MBA from the University of South Florida. Mr. Phelan's professional certifications include a license as a Professional Engineer in the State of Florida as well as a General Contractor's license in the States of Florida and Georgia. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Debbie, and together they have been blessed with two wonderful children, Joshua & Jacob. Mr. Phelan also serves on the board of directors for a local Non-Profit, Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE), and is active in supporting their mission. In addition to spending time with his family, Mr. Phelan enjoys exercising, being outdoors and playing golf with friends.

The Role of the US Navy in International Affairs Is the Topic of the Martin Forum

(University of Idaho 5 Oct 21)

Cmdr. Nicholas Meyers, commanding officer of the submarine USS Idaho, will deliver a free, public address, "The Role of the Navy in International Affairs: Economics, Politics and Security," at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, in ED 141 and online as part of the University of Idaho Martin Forum... Meyers earned a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering from Virginia Tech. He also studied at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and earned a master's in business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

Meet the East Bay fire captain and McCloud resident charting way for women in male-dominated field

(MT Shasta 5 Oct 21) ... Shareen Strauss

East Bay Fire Capt. and McCloud resident Heather Marques is a real standout in her industry... And if that weren't enough, last month she earned her master's degree from the prestigious **Naval Postgraduate School** operated by the U.S. Navy in Monterey in the Central Coast.

DEVSTARS Shine at MCTSSA

(DVIDS 4 Oct 21) ... Amy Forsythe

This summer, interns and developmental employees made direct contributions to Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity while learning about the Marine Corps' mission, Marines and the equipment they use... The DEVSTAR participants were mentored by multiple engineers while working with a team that included current NADP or SMART employees, as well as **Naval Postgraduate School** alumni serving on active duty.

Candidate Q&A: Jeff Graf

(Goskagit 6 Oct 21)

Occupation: Department director, Janicki Industries

Community involvement: Anacortes Planning Commission, 2017 - present; STEM tutor to local high school students; adult math instructor, Skagit Valley College.

Education: BS in Aeronautics, San Jose State University; MS in National Resource Strategy & Economics, Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Navy Nuclear Power Program graduate, **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Meet the man leading a revolution in AI-based sensor platforms

(Jerusalem Post 8 Oct 21)

Dr. Haim Amir of Essence is protecting seniors and families in 46 countries. For him, success means providing peace of mind... Amir excelled in school. As a standout student he eventually joined the Navy as an academic through the Technion, where he studied electronics engineering. During his tenure in the Israel Defense Forces he was placed in an elite unit, where he took part in designing strategic combat detection and anti-missile systems. From there, he was sent to the United States to do a PhD in computer science and electronics at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.



[Nobel Peace Prize 2021: Know More About Winners Maria Ressa And Dmitry Muratov](#)

(Republic World 8 Oct 21) ... Aparna Shandilya

Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their efforts to protect freedom of expression... She has taught courses throughout Southeast Asia on Politics and the Press for her alma mater, Princeton University, as well as broadcast journalism for the University of the Philippines. As author-in-residence and Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, she worked on her second book, From Bin Laden to Facebook. She is also a Visiting Scholar from South-East Asia at the **Naval Postgraduate School's** CORE Lab in Monterey, California.

[McDougall, Foote inducted into the Harvester Hall of Fame](#)

(Pampa News 9 Oct 21) ... Michael Foote

COL Michael Foote is a 1994 graduate of Pampa High School. Michael participated in football, wrestling, and student council for all four years of his high school career. He earned his Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 414 and was active in the First United Methodist Church youth group and the local Optimist League sports. Upon graduation, Michael was awarded an Army ROTC scholarship to the University of Oklahoma where he earned a degree in Health and Exercise Science and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery in the US Army... In 2010, the Army sent Michael to **the Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California where he earned a Masters of Science in Defense Analysis. Michael then returned to the 5th Group as a Major where he commanded A Company, 3rd Battalion and the Group Advanced Skills Company, served as a Battalion Executive Officer, and the Group Operations Officer. He deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE to numerous locations across the Middle East including Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq focused on the counter-ISIS fight.

[Rotarians Set to Hear Environmental Report This Week](#)

(Pasadena News 10 Oct 21)

Yavuz Atila, who leads the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) Western North America Regional Chapter, will be speaking at the Rotary Club of Pasadena's luncheon meeting on Wednesday, October 13... In 1990, he received his MS degree from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey. After resigning from the Turkish Navy in December 1992, he moved back to Monterey and worked as the Information Systems Director for the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) at Monterey. In 2003, he founded his own company, Monterey Bay Technologies, Inc., providing IT solutions, sales and services to small to midsize businesses and organizations.

[Loveland City Council, Ward III: Steve Olson](#)

(Reporter Herald 10 Oct 21) ... Max Levy

Years in Loveland: My wife Teri and I have resided in Loveland for 22 years.

Professional background: Retired. Previously a licensed certified public accountant and partner in the nation's largest CFO organization, B2B CFO.

Education: Bachelor's in health care administration from George Washington University; master's in financial management from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. I almost have sufficient credits for a second master's degree in statistics.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

October 19: [SGL with Mr. Dave P. Luber, NSA's Cybersecurity Directorate: Cyber Vulnerabilities and its Implications for National Security](#)

October 25-29: [Center for Executive Education NSLS Seminar](#)

November 16-19: [Center for Executive Education SPEAR Workshop](#)



SECNAV:

SECNAV: New Navy Strategic Guidance Emphasizes Deterrence in the Pacific

(USNI 6 Oct 21) ... Heather Mongilio

The Navy's approach to China is to deter, not to fight a war, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro told Naval Academy midshipmen on Tuesday night.

Instead, the Navy needs to work with allies to help countries China threatens and ultimately show China that it has no maritime allies, which will, in turn, discourage Beijing from an invasion of Taiwan.

Del Toro spoke to midshipmen as part of the Forrester Lecture Series at the academy. During his speech, he previewed his upcoming strategic guidelines, with a focus on China.

But as the Navy pivots to China and the Indo-Pacific, there are lessons still to learn from the country's withdrawal from Afghanistan, Del Toro said, answering a question from a midshipman about how those strategic failures can inform the approach toward China. Senior leadership needs to look at the past 20 years to try and prevent similar mistakes from happening again.

"It's not easy, and we're going to spend years doing them," Del Toro said. "And that's helpful. It's healthy for our nation. It's healthy for armed services. It's healthy for each and every one of you."

Although the U.S. military withdrew from Afghanistan, it does not mean that terrorism ceases to exist. It will rise up again, whether in the Middle East, in the Indo-Pacific or elsewhere, Del Toro said.

But the Navy needs to pivot to the next threat, which is China and Beijing's goal to take Taiwan, he said.

"For the first time since the defeat of the Soviet Union, we have a strategic competitor with naval capabilities and capacities that rival and, in some areas, even surpass our own," Del Toro said. "It's not just the ships and the weapons that concern me. It's what Beijing does as it strives to achieve leverage over its competitors. It uses every advantage in a corrosive, extractive and dangerously irresponsible manner."

The United States has not changed its posture toward Taiwan, although it is constantly reviewing the policy, Del Toro said, responding to a midshipman. So far, the policy in place has been effective at keeping peace with China, although he has noticed something change over the past 10 years that warrants a look at the policy.

"So it's incredibly important as leaders, especially civilian leaders, for us to always be revisiting the policy to make sure that we either tweak it, change it or get rid of it," Del Toro said. "I would argue that as China continues to do the things that it does, we're going to continue to revisit that policy to make sure that we're pursuing a policy that serves our national security interests and the economic interests of the entire world, quite frankly."

The United States is having discussions with Taiwan and other countries in the Indo-Pacific to figure out ways to work more closely, with the common goal of deterring China, he said.

The first priority of Del Toro's strategic plan will be maintaining global dominance, building off of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's plan for integrated deterrence through a ready and agile force. The strategic guidelines also incorporate the Marine Corps' Force Design 2030 and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday's navigational plan.

The second priority focuses on strengthening strategic partnerships, Del Toro said. Unlike China, the United States does not treat its allies as satellites, he said.

The Navy is looking ahead to determine the investments it needs to make to achieve its deterrence goal. Already, Del Toro and his office have submitted the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and is now looking at the needs for FY 2024. That includes advancements in cybersecurity, Del Toro said, although he did not share details.

"We have to fight on every front," he said. "On space, cyber, on land, on sea, under the sea, above the sea, everywhere. It takes all of those efforts collectively for us to be successful."

The third strategic goal is empowering people, Del Toro said. He is focused on increasing educational opportunities for the sailors in the service. His strategic plan calls for more investments in the U.S. Naval War College and the **Naval Postgraduate School**.



The Navy also opened the U.S. Naval Community College to allow sailors and Marines to learn while serving, which started its first pilot program in January 2021 with up to 600 enlisted service members. The second pilot program classes are expected to commence by fall 2022 with up to 5,000 students.

Del Toro placed an emphasis on continued learning, particularly for officers. In order to retain officers, the Navy needs to provide opportunities for them to develop sub-specialties through postgraduate education.

“If you’re just a pilot your whole life if you’re a surface warfare officer your whole life, or a submariner your whole life, well, it’s nice to be able to do different things when your ashore [...] and a build those subspecialties that you can take with you, and then inspire a whole different set of people, you know, whether it be in the intel community or wherever your passions take you is also incredibly important,” Del Toro said.

The key to retainment is an understanding that the Navy is a return on investment that will help their future.

There also needs to be opportunities that allow sailors, Marines and officers to have experiences they cannot get elsewhere, he said. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the ability to visit other ports, one of the highlights of serving in the U.S. Navy, but Del Toro is hopeful that visits will resume as the pandemic begins to come to a manageable level.

Retaining officers starts with leadership, Del Toro said. Junior officers need to be encouraged and inspired by senior leadership so they can do the same for the sailors and Marines they lead.

That also means investments in a diverse fleet, Del Toro said. As secretary of the Navy, he wants to see recruiting done across the country and across genders, races, ethnicities and sexual orientations.

“So for as long as I’m Secretary of the Navy, I’m going to make sure that we have the right investments in place so that everybody in this country has an equal opportunity to come here to the United States Naval Academy and can serve in our Navy and Marine Corps very proudly,” Del Toro said.

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Who’s Who in Defense: Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy

(Breaking Defense 8 Oct 21) ... Catherine Macaulay

Del Toro arrives at the Pentagon during a time when the Navy is looking to develop a long-term strategic plan that keeps pace with China’s increasingly sophisticated naval technologies.

Responsibilities

- Carlos Del Toro was confirmed as the 78th Secretary of the Navy on August 7.
- The Department of the Navy consists of both the Navy and the Marine Corps, and is responsible for the welfare of more than 900,000 sailors, marines, reservists, and civilian personnel. In his new position, Del Toro will be working closely with Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin and Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen H. Hicks.

Stated Priorities

- Del Toro arrives at the Pentagon during a time when the Navy is looking to develop a long-term strategic plan that keeps pace with China’s increasingly sophisticated naval technologies. As Navy Secretary, Del Toro will be addressing how to best balance readiness with modernization priorities.



- Evaluate the Navy’s three, major modernization programs: a new class of nuclear-powered submarines; a new destroyer; and a 6th generation fighter plane.
- Examine Navy operations, research and development programs, and ship-building plans in order to align with Congressional funding. The Navy’s fiscal 2022 budget request is \$211.7 billion.
- Del Toro supports the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which calls for fielding a 355-ship Navy by 2030, but believes that maintaining “capability and lethality” will require more than merely “numbers of platforms.”
- Invest in new capabilities and technologies such as hypersonics, missile technology, cybersecurity and computing power.
- Create a working, naval strategy for the Indo-Pacific region, in keeping with the military’s shift away from the Middle East. This includes defending Taiwan should China attempt to take control of the island.
- Address the threats posed by climate change.

Quote

- “The climate crisis demands U.S. Navy investment precisely because it exacerbates every other challenge our Navy faces, including great power competition,” he said during the Senate confirmation hearing in July.
- “Already, installation resilience is an issue, with vital installations facing threats from rising sea levels. Building energy and environmental resilience into our installations will make them more combat effective.”

Areas of Expertise

- A retired Navy commander, Del Toro brings an expertise in military operations, space systems engineering, program management, information technology, and legislative affairs.

Professional/Military Career

- Founded SBG Technology Solutions in 2004, after retiring from military service. The Alexandria, VA-based firm offers program management and engineering services to both federal and private sector clients in the areas of IT modernization, cybersecurity, space systems, and health and training, among others.



- During a 22-year Navy career that spanned multiple appointments and tours of duty, Del Toro served on destroyers, a cruiser, and an aircraft carrier, deploying to the Mediterranean during the Cold War and to the Persian Gulf during Operation Shield and Storm.
- In 1998, he commanded the USS Bulkeley (DDG 84), then America's newest guided-missile destroyer, which he led through its maiden voyage and first deployment. The vessel was one of the first mixed-gender warships.
- Serving on Navy shore assignments, Del Toro worked as senior executive assistant to the Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and special assistant to the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget where he helped manage DoD budgets, along with those of the Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the Peace Corps.
- Commissioned as a surface warfare officer upon his graduation in 1983.

Education

- U.S. Naval Academy, B.S. in aerospace engineering – 1983.
- Holds an M.S. from the Naval Postgraduate School; an M.A. in national security from the Naval War College; and an M.P.S. in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Personal

- Carlos Del Toro was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1961. The following year, his family immigrated to the U.S. after his father was released from imprisonment under Fidel Castro and given a 48-hour visa. Arriving in America, the family lived in the west side district of New York City known as Hell's Kitchen before settling in Queens, NY.
- "This is a man of enormous, enormous character," said Senator Mark Warner before the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 13.
- Married for 38 years to Betty Del Toro, chief financial officer of SBG Technology Solutions. They have four children, and a granddaughter.



Affiliations/Awards

- The first Hispanic president of the White House Fellows Foundation and Alumni Association.
- His company, SBG, was awarded the “2020 Small Business Success Story” by the Small Business Administration.
- Elected to the board of directors of the Stimson Center in 2019.
- Elected president of the White House Fellows Foundation and Alumni Association in 2018.

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RESEARCH:

New LP-CRADA Between NPS, TMGcore Focused on High-Density Computing

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(NPS.edu 5 Oct 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Lenny Weston

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and TMGcore, a company specializing in the development and commercialization of emerging technologies, signed a five-month Limited Purpose Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (LP-CRADA) beginning Aug. 19.

As part of the agreement, TMGcore is initially installing their OTTO Edgebox in the NPS main data center. The Edgebox is a high-density, two-phase liquid immersion cooling data center that has potential in Navy, DOD applications ... NPS students and faculty will be exploring some of them.

This is the essential purpose of this LP-CRADA ... to test and evaluate the Edgebox technology and identify how it can enable novel research requiring high-performance computing solutions, leveraging the experience of NPS researchers in the identification of applicable use cases that advance the mission objectives of military operators.

"One of the benefits [of this technology] is being able to pack a lot of computers in a relatively small space and be able to keep it cool," said Dr. Jeff Haferman, NPS' Information Technology and Communication Services (ITACS) Director of Research Computing, and Principal Investigator on this effort. "The other is that it can really be thought of as a somewhat mobile computing platform that could easily go on a submarine or ship."

Haferman explained how allowing for a relatively small container to house an exorbitant amount of computing power allows for capabilities in hazardous terrain, like the desert. The ability to do weather forecasting to foresee oncoming dust storms or other adverse conditions, for example, would create an advantage for the warfighter.

NPS High Performance Computing Systems Architect Eric Adint said that the graphics processing unit (GPU) in the Edgebox could have an impact on the available platforms needed to run some of the advanced weather forecasting models that the Navy uses.

"It's the next generation or the next evolution of high-performance computing," said Adint. "We're trying to make sure that we have the right tools for our professors here so that [the faculty] can create the models and the algorithms to generate the next generation of [meteorology and operational oceanography] and remote sensing intelligence."



As a defense-focused graduate university, NPS with its .EDU network offers a powerful and flexible platform for advanced cyber education and applied research. For the students at NPS, the LP-CRADA offers them a chance to see this new innovative technology and learn about it from a research and development stage to bring that knowledge to the fleet.

"They'll be using it when they graduate and it is a new technology, so we have a lot of students that are doing things, quite frankly, we didn't do a year ago," said Haferman. "One of the focal points of NPS is innovation, and this is an innovative technology. It is something that is just going to market and we want to expose students to this type of technology early. You can't find this in many other data centers right now."

While NPS, and in turn the DOD, have plenty of upside in this LP-CRADA, TMGcore will be able to see how their Edgebox works when put through scenarios and tests from outside sources. TMGcore's Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing Brad Furnish said that deploying the Edgebox at NPS taps into the innovative minds that know how to use the technology for the military's specific purposes.

"What we want out of this is a true collaboration of here's where we can go, here's what we can use it for, and here's how we can adapt it so we can use it in other fields," Furnish noted. "We're looking forward to collaborating with NPS, and this is the beginning of what we feel is going to be a very long relationship."

[New LP-CRADA Between NPS, TMGcore Focused on High-Density Computing > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[New LP-CRADA Between NPS, TMGcore Focused on High-Density Computing - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

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Navy eyes 5G and multi-access edge computing to exchange data with unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs)

(Military and Aerospace Electronics 4 Oct 21)

Experts from wireless communications expert AT&T will install 5G and multi-access edge computing (MEC) equipment at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, Calif., to help the military explore ways to use the technologies to enhance national security. Mobile World Live reports.

The Military & Aerospace Electronics take:

5 Oct. 2021 -- Chris Smith, vice president of civilian and shared services at AT&T Public Sector and FirstNet, told Mobile World Live that Naval Postgraduate School officials want to use 5G and MEC to connect unmanned vehicles in the air, on the ground, and under the sea.

AT&T is deploying millimeter wave spectrum, citing research this can detect underwater sonar signals as they reach the surface. Smith explains that 5G could provide good connectivity to enable submarines to transmit information without surfacing.

AT&T also will also install a 4G- and 5G-compatible mobile tower at the **Naval Postgraduate School** to co-locate edge compute resources to help Navy researchers process information on-site not only for advanced communications, but also for virtual- and augmented reality services.

[Marine Special Ops Command Hones its 'Cognitive Raiders' \(nationaldefensemagazine.org\)](#)

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FACULTY:

Is Europe's Energy Crisis a Preview of America's?

(Foreign Policy 5 Oct 21) ... Brenda Shaffer

Join FP columnist Adam Tooze and deputy editor Cameron Abadi as they explain the week's biggest economic news, from debt ceiling negotiations to why the fortunes of China's property market matter to the world.

An energy crisis is affecting almost every part of the globe, marked by record-high energy prices, tight supplies, and power blackouts. Some of the world's richest countries and U.S. states such as California have been struggling to keep their electricity systems stable.

The first energy crisis in decades has come as a shock to many, who seem to have forgotten how energy insecurity reverberates onto every major sphere of public life: the economy, national security, the environment, and public health. As the world's most traded good, energy is involved in everything we buy and consume, so energy prices and shortages significantly impact economic growth. Because energy is the most important input in manufacturing, stable prices and supplies are key to economic competitiveness. Electricity and fuels for heating, cooking, and transport are major items in every household budget, and price increases disproportionately affect the poor. Similarly, government institutions and infrastructure need stable and affordable energy supplies to function, putting public safety and health at risk when electricity supplies aren't steady. Energy security has to be treated like national security, and governments need to ensure it.

The current energy crisis is particularly acute in Europe. Prices for natural gas, coal, and electricity have exploded, leading to protests over household power bills in Spain, 1970s-style gasoline shortages in Britain, and worryingly low supplies of natural gas across much of the continent as a possibly very cold winter is fast approaching.

Europe's example can be especially instructive for other countries. No other place has invested so much money and made such policy efforts to reconstruct its energy markets. Yet nowhere have the failures been as great. How did Europe create its energy crisis, and what are the lessons for others?

Much of the debate over Europe's energy troubles blames either renewable energy or fossil fuels, depending on one's standpoint in the culture wars into which energy and climate policies have been drawn. Critics of reliance on renewables point out their dependence on intermittent wind and sun (which were lacking across much of Europe this year), while their proponents point to the volatility in fossil fuel prices and lower gas imports from Russia.

The current European Commission has turned energy policy into a mere subset of climate policy, with little attention paid to supply security or energy affordability.

In reality, Europe's energy policy failures are much more complex and have little to do with the debate over renewables and fossil fuels. Achieving energy security requires carefully balancing market forces, technologies, policies, and geopolitics, which doesn't fit into ideological templates. The truth is that both the right's market ideology and the left's reflexive market suppression have contributed to the current energy crisis.

Consider how Europe has designed its energy markets. As part of its energy trade liberalization, the European Union encouraged member states to move to gas delivery contracts based on the daily spot price instead of negotiating fixed, long-term prices with suppliers, such as Russia's Gazprom. This view was based on market ideology more than a thorough analysis of how to achieve security of supply and lower prices. This policy created several negative outcomes. First, relying on spot markets with their daily ups and downs increased Russia's ability to sway gas prices. As Europe's biggest gas supplier with a lot of spare capacity, it can release or limit supplies and thus effectively set prices. In addition, eliminating fixed-price contracts mitigates against stable supplies. Natural gas production and new pipelines are very expensive, requiring billions of dollars in investments and many years of development. This creates a disincentive for a more diverse set of producers to invest in supplying gas to Europe, increasing Russia's power over the market. A factor in the current crisis is Russia's unwillingness to rev up gas shipments to Europe.



With less gas supplied by pipelines, Europe has had to rely increasingly on imports of more expensive liquified natural gas, where it competes for shipments with East Asia, which is used to paying much higher gas prices than Europe. During periods of high demand, Europe thus has to pay Asian prices for additional supply, instead of the cheaper price of pipeline gas from its own regional suppliers.

But while the EU is formally committed to relying on market forces, it has often subordinated those to pursue political goals. With European governments mandating a greater share of renewables in the energy mix, utilities are not allowed to select the most economically viable fuels. Moreover, most governments limit the electricity and natural gas prices they are allowed to charge consumers, so utilities control neither the prices of fuels nor what they can charge customers. Moreover, because the main renewable sources of energy—solar and wind—are highly variable depending on the weather, utilities must maintain an entire second network of always-ready backup power plants using natural gas, coal, or other sources in order to ensure a stable electricity supply and prevent blackouts. Maintaining this spare capacity, which sits idle when the sun shines and the wind blows, naturally costs a lot of money. It is not paid by the renewable energy producers but by the power utilities, which pass those costs on to the public. In response to rising energy prices, governments in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and elsewhere have stepped in with new price ceilings, abandoning all semblance of a mar

In virtually every country that has closed nuclear plants, clean electricity has been replaced with dirty power.

Climate change and the policies to curb it lie behind skyrocketing gas, coal, and electricity prices in Europe and Asia.

Europe also hasn't resolved how it deals with major spikes in energy demand, such as during an extended cold spell. No price is going to move energy to another market if it requires turning out the lights on one's own people. During a brutally cold winter in early 2010, some European governments ignored contractual obligations to transit gas in order to provide heat to their own publics. With gas supplies at their lowest levels in many years going into the winter, this problem could exacerbate Europe's energy crisis further.

Even as Europe invests trillions of dollars in building out renewable energy, it has neglected crucial investments in its electrical grid. Stable electricity and natural gas provision requires complex systems of storage, backup, infrastructure, and supply redundancy—which the private market on its own does not provide. Government either needs to require that energy providers maintain adequate storage and backup mechanisms or provide them itself. Worse, governments pushing electricity use with lavish subsidies for electric vehicles without a reliable electricity system to meet that increased demand are setting the stage for further systemic blackouts.

Lastly, Europe's policymakers have stopped engaging in the geopolitics of energy. In the past, the EU successfully improved energy security by building out the bloc's internal gas pipeline grid and welcoming new supply projects, such as the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea. All these increased the security of Europe's gas supply and broke Russia's monopoly in many places. However, the current European Commission has turned energy policy into a mere subset of climate policy, with little attention paid to supply security or energy affordability. While major new sources of natural gas have been found in close proximity to Europe—in the Eastern Mediterranean, for example—European leaders have bowed to activist pressure and not seriously pursued any of these newly available sources. And the systematic closing of nuclear power plants in several European countries (including almost the entire German fleet) following the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident has removed a secure and steady source of clean energy and is one of the main factors behind the current energy crisis.

Will the United States go down the same path and soon experience a European-style energy crisis? There are many parallels, and both the February electricity crisis in Texas and rolling power blackouts in California give a preview of what could lie ahead.

For the first time in decades, Washington seems to be ignoring energy geopolitics, too. Just like Europe, the Biden administration has made energy policy a subset of climate policy. The administration's policies have held back a revival of domestic oil and gas production after the pandemic-induced collapse of demand. Private-sector investment in oil and gas has also been held back by pressure to divest from fossil-fuel companies, perceived public opposition, and investor pressure to conserve capital. Beyond



U.S. borders, Washington seems content with asking OPEC to pump more oil, though it remains unclear how it helps the environment (let alone energy security) if fossil fuel production simply shifts from the United States to OPEC and a few other countries. If Washington continues to inhibit domestic energy production, the world will return to the energy geopolitics of the 1970s, with OPEC back in control of prices and supplies. This would bring few climate or environmental benefits but increase geopolitical challenges.

The Biden administration has also canceled several energy pipeline projects that could improve domestic security of supply. This is particularly significant for gas, where high global demand for liquefied natural gas will likely be met with more U.S. gas exports, leading to higher prices for U.S. industry and consumers.

And while a wise policy would seek to diversify energy sources, the federal government and many U.S. states are pushing to transition transportation and other sectors to electricity. The largest U.S. energy markets—California, New York, and Texas—already have systemic electricity supply problems, yet Washington is incentivizing increased electricity demand. It's not just a matter of power sources: Just as in Europe, the power grid to accommodate the higher electricity demand doesn't yet exist.

The United States—and other countries around the world—should take a close look at Europe's failed energy policies and take the current energy crisis as a warning not to slide down the same path. While private companies can produce, transmit, and sell energy services, it's government the public turns to when the lights go out. No government—in Europe, the United States, or elsewhere—will be able to succeed with any of its policies without stable and affordable energy.

[Is Europe's Energy Crisis a Preview of America's? \(foreignpolicy.com\)](https://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2020/10/15/europe-energy-crisis-preview-america)

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ALUMNI:

JJ Phelan, P.E., joins S&H Systems as VP of Sales

(DC Velocity 5 Oct 21)

Expert in material handling solutions design and sales as well as business operations and leadership onboard to develop and grow the sales team with a primary focus on exceptional service to existing and new customers.

Michael Holland, President and COO of S&H Systems, is pleased to announce that JJ Phelan, P.E., an industry veteran, and proven leader, has joined S&H Systems as VP of Sales.

Mr. Phelan brings over 17 years of experience within the Material Handling Industry as well as 9 years dedication to service as an officer in the United States Navy. Prior to joining S&H, Mr. Phelan spent a year working in Amazon's North American Core Fulfillment team as a Program/Project Manager under a short-term arrangement through their third-party provider for contracted employment. Preceding his temporary employment for Amazon, Mr. Phelan led another material handling systems integrator, TriFactor, as their Chief Operating Officer and President for 16 years. Ahead of that experience, Mr. Phelan cut his teeth developing his leadership, management, and technical skills as a Surface Warfare Officer and as an Engineering Duty Officer in the US Navy for the first 9 years of his professional career.

At his core, Mr. Phelan is an engineer. His professional passion is learning processes within business operations and then designing and applying technology to those processes to achieve the necessary return-on-investment goals. Those goals typically include increased product throughput, improved order accuracy, or reduction in operating costs. "We are so excited to have JJ join the S&H family. His talents and skills will fit perfectly within our organization. However, most important, is that he is guided by a moral compass that aligns with our core values here at S&H," stated Michael Holland.

Mr. Phelan graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1995 with a BS in Systems Engineering. He also has a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and an MBA from the University of South Florida. Mr. Phelan's professional certifications include



a license as a Professional Engineer in the State of Florida as well as a General Contractor's license in the States of Florida and Georgia. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Debbie, and together they have been blessed with two wonderful children, Joshua & Jacob. Mr. Phelan also serves on the board of directors for a local Non-Profit, Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE), and is active in supporting their mission. In addition to spending time with his family, Mr. Phelan enjoys exercising, being outdoors and playing golf with friends.

[JJ Phelan, P.E., joins S&H Systems as VP of Sales \(dcvelocity.com\)](#)

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The Role of the US Navy in International Affairs Is the Topic of the Martin Forum

(University of Idaho 5 Oct 21)

Cmdr. Nicholas Meyers, commanding officer of the submarine USS Idaho, will deliver a free, public address, "The Role of the Navy in International Affairs: Economics, Politics and Security," at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, in ED 141 and online as part of the University of Idaho Martin Forum.

Meyers served aboard the USS Columbia and as navigator and operations officer aboard the USS Alaska. He also served as the executive officer of the USS Greeneville before taking up residence in Virginia as staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, Undersea Warfare Division. Meyers was flag lieutenant and aide to Vice Admiral William Hilarides, then-commander of Naval Sea Systems Command.

"U.S. Navy does a lot to make sure world oceans are safe for navigation among other missions," said Romuald Afatchao, clinical professor and associate director of the Martin Institute and Program in International Studies. "Cmdr. Meyers's presentation will explore the many roles the Navy fulfills in the context of our engagement abroad."

Meyers earned a Bachelor of Science in computer engineering from Virginia Tech. He also studied at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and earned a master's in business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

The forum is sponsored by the University of Idaho Martin Institute and the Program in International Studies. Since 1999, the Martin Institute has organized a series of lectures on international issues as part of the Martin Forum. Ideally suited to a non-partisan audience, the lectures feature experts from the U of I community and beyond. Martin Forum speakers deliver a public lecture, visit classes when possible and meet with campus and community audiences in informal settings.

[The Role of the US Navy in International Affairs - University of Idaho \(uidaho.edu\)](#)

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Meet the East Bay fire captain and McCloud resident charting way for women in male-dominated field

(MT Shasta 5 Oct 21) ... Shareen Strauss

East Bay Fire Capt. and McCloud resident Heather Marques is a real standout in her industry.

Besides her dual role as fire captain and paramedic for the Alameda County Fire Department, she trains future firefighters, serves at the California State Office of Emergency Services and has leadership roles in different statewide organizations.

As time allows since arriving with her family in 2020 to the area, she also volunteers at the McCloud Fire Department.

And if that weren't enough, last month she earned her master's degree from the prestigious **Naval Postgraduate School** operated by the U.S. Navy in Monterey in the Central Coast.

Marques could be making inroads for other women to follow. For her thesis, she wrote about women in the fire service, "Working Fire: Recruitment, Retention, and Retirement of Women Firefighters."



Women firefighters are still relatively rare in most fire departments in the United States. Only 4% of career firefighters are women, while among volunteer firefighters, women account for 11%.

[East Bay fire captain, McCloud resident charts the way for other women \(mtshastanews.com\)](http://mtshastanews.com)

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DEVSTARS Shine at MCTSSA

(DVIDS 4 Oct 21) ... Amy Forsythe

This summer, interns and developmental employees made direct contributions to Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity while learning about the Marine Corps' mission, Marines and the equipment they use.

MCTSSA hosted 21 students as part of the Developmental Science and Technology and Research Scholars program. These students, often referred to by the program's acronym, DEVSTARS, augmented MCTSSA's workforce and received hands-on experience in preparation to be the next generation of engineers.

While at MCTSSA, the interns made strides in many areas such as augmenting cyber resilience, supporting long-range communications and reducing electromagnetic spectrum signatures.

"There's a pressing need to develop the next generation of engineers to fill the civilian ranks within MCTSSA workforce," said Lt. Col. Michael Liguori, commanding officer at MCTSSA. "It's become a top priority in the past couple of years to recruit and retain civilian engineers in a highly competitive job market."

Upon receiving assignments to MCTSSA, the students quickly coalesced into a self-named "Intern Platoon." This allowed them to better share technical and learning resources and to help one another with various assignments.

The DEVSTARS program aimed to help students improve their engineering skills and provide them with opportunities to apply relevant academic studies to emerging Marine Corps challenges. Each scholar was selected for their ability to contribute to current and future efforts and received a contribution plan for their internship.

Pathway programs

There are several programs that facilitate and funnel qualified and potential engineers within the Department of Defense:

DoD Science, Math and Research for Transformation (SMART) program
DoD College Acquisition Internship Program (DCAIP)
Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP)
Naval Acquisition Development Program (NADP)

The DEVSTAR participants were mentored by multiple engineers while working with a team that included current NADP or SMART employees, as well as **Naval Postgraduate School** alumni serving on active duty.

DoD and Department of Navy organizations planned and coordinated selection and hiring activities; sponsored and funded travel, stipends or pay; and provided noncompetitive opportunities for hiring. Most of the internships began in June and ended in late August.

The Office of Naval Research provided additional stipends, enabling some extensions into September.



Preparing for the summer surge

Preparing for the surge of temporary help began last year when MCTSSA's engineering leaders identified areas of skills and capabilities needed in the near-, mid- and long-term. As a result, the command developed 2021 work and study plans for the students.

MCTSSA teams reviewed more than 3,000 applications to find the best mix of academic, technical and extracurricular experiences among the applicants. After selecting the most qualified applicants, mentors hosted virtual and physical visits to MCTSSA's Camp Pendleton, California, location to ensure expectations were set accurately before making the final selections to work at MCTSSA.

Joy Champion, Marine Corps Systems Command's engineering competency manager, assisted with the selection and placement processes. Champion also met with interns and developmental employees during a visit to MCTSSA.

Developmental employees, in some cases, are part of the MCTSSA workforce at the beginning, middle or end of their own experiences in SMART or NADP developmental assignments. They were essential to successful preparations, said Liguori.

Learning the mission of the Marines Corps

In July, interns and developmental employees received orientation classes from Marine leaders about the constructs of a Marine Air-Ground Task Force in Warfighter Support Division.

Then they headed to the School of Infantry - Camp Pendleton to observe new infantry Marines advance through their weapons qualifications. They also watched Marines operate in a training environment, which included moving with body armor, carrying heavy loads, setting up communication equipment, and embarking and disembarking on Marine Corps ground vehicles.

"Events like this allow entry-level employees to have a perspective on the Marines they support and to see their operations in action," said Bernard Traphan, MCTSSA's director of Program Engineering Support Division. "I think they were surprised how difficult certain aspects of the job were for the Marines, which gives them motivation to come up with bright ideas to make things easier for the Marine out in the field."

MCTSSA interns observed Marines as they called-for-fires and launched artillery on a designated range aboard Camp Pendleton. Understanding how Marines operate in the field or in a combat zone, MCTSSA developmental employees and interns gained a better understanding of the environment where their systems and Marines must operate.

"I feel it was important to conduct this event because it built a sense of camaraderie and fostered a sense of community within the developmental employees," said Spencer Holloway, a cybersecurity test engineer who entered into federal service through the NADP. "I would have loved to experience something like this my first summer so I'm happy they were able to."

DEVSTARS contributions

Interns were assigned to specialty cyber teams where they learned about emerging tools and how to employ them in a variety of environments. They also gained an understanding of penetration testing and participated in cyber testing of the M777 Lightweight 155mm howitzer.

Multiple interns entered into the Advanced Concepts Cell, where they complemented electromagnetic spectrum efforts by developing artificial intelligence tools for signal processing to help Marines fight and win in spectrum-denied/contested environments.

Interns also worked with test tool developers to create and improve tools to automate MCTSSA testing. The tools reduce errors and time required to run tests by over 50%. They simultaneously increase accuracy and repeatability while also raising confidence in the results of testing, accurately predicting usability by Marines. Electrical engineering interns assisted the MCTSSA Electromagnetic Spectrum team, conducting radio experiments to enhance very long-range communications in Expeditionary



Advance Base Operations.

An intern named Jared Fox, a Marine veteran currently attending University of California at Los Angeles, received a MCTSSA Bar-Raiser award for assisting units with field spectrum monitoring and measurements and in the development of radio software.

MCTSSA, an elite, full-scale laboratory facility operated by the Marine Corps, is a subordinate command of Marine Corps Systems Command. MCTSSA, based at Camp Pendleton, provides test and evaluation, engineering, and deployed technical support for Marine Corps and joint service command, control, computer, communications and intelligence systems throughout all acquisition lifecycle phases.

[DVIDS - News - DEVSTARS Shine at MCTSSA \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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Candidate Q&A: Jeff Graf

(Goskagit 6 Oct 21)

Occupation: Department director, Janicki Industries

Community involvement: Anacortes Planning Commission, 2017 - present; STEM tutor to local high school students; adult math instructor, Skagit Valley College.

Education: BS in Aeronautics, San Jose State University; MS in National Resource Strategy & Economics, Industrial College of the Armed Forces; Navy Nuclear Power Program graduate, **Naval Postgraduate School.**

Why are you running?

Anacortes is my home. My family and I moved here in 2004 after living in numerous cities throughout our military experience, and my wife and I will retire here. My interest is the long-term success of Anacortes. More importantly, I believe I can make a difference. ... My strengths in communications, collaboration and fiscal accountability developed during my military and private industry career, as well as my four-plus years as an Anacortes planning commissioner, are directly relatable to this role and will allow me to successfully execute the responsibilities entrusted to me by the residents of our community.

In my opinion, the best and most qualified candidate is someone with “skin in the game” – a longtime Anacortes resident who owns property and pays their taxes, has led and managed a large organization, has managed a budget, is truly non-partisan and has the breadth and depth of experience to provide fair, balanced, researched and pragmatic policy guidance and recommendations.

What qualifies you for the position?

My 35 years of military and civilian experience make me uniquely qualified to be a council member and responsible for the review, approval and oversight of the City’s large and complex budget, its various laws and ordinances, and the performance of its employees. ...

During my Naval career, I led operational units as large as 20 departments and 5,000 personnel, with operating budgets in excess of \$250 million. As a planning commissioner since 2017, I have become intimately familiar with the many issues facing the City today.

I will actively listen to residents’ ideas and concerns and discuss all options and possibilities with city and county stakeholders. I will commit to only provide solutions that meet the community’s needs, are achievable and remain within budget.

I believe City Council members are elected to represent everyone. My ability to work with all sides of an issue will be critical to our community’s success, and my non-partisan approach will provide that benefit.



Biggest obstacle facing the city?

The City lacks a general consensus on its future identity. Do we want to be a “charming small town,” or a “coastal retirement/tourist destination” or a “maritime-based industrial city”? This decision will have a profound impact as we direct the City’s growth and development efforts going forward. ...

I have found numerous economic studies dating back to the early 2000s – each performed by consultants at a significant cost to the taxpayer – all gathering dust in the City’s archives. We are no closer today to defining what we want to be tomorrow than we were in 2006.

We must develop a strategic roadmap sooner than later to address the vision and scope of the City’s future, with the goal of attaining a majority consensus and unimpeded by the small but vocal special-interest group(s).

No more consultants — we have dedicated and well-experienced residents with the expertise to lead this effort. With the support from business owners, the Chamber and City Hall, I know WE can be successful.

Top three priorities if elected?

Government accountability and transparency, improve affordability, revenue growth and development. ...

Government accountability and transparency: We must establish a more disciplined approach to the city’s budget, prioritize critical services based on performance and constituent needs, fund the “must haves” before the “nice-to-haves,” and make the budget simple and straightforward to understand.

Improve affordability: Anacortes has a finite amount of developable space, so we must rebalance the single-family/multi-family home start ratio by building more affordable multi-family dwellings – apartments, condos, and townhouses. Further, in partnership with the Port of Anacortes and the Chamber of Commerce, we must influence the expansion of existing industries and attract new ones that offer working families an opportunity to achieve a living wage.

Revenue growth and development: Let’s capitalize on the revenue opportunities our City could realize from its location and natural beauty. In partnership with the Chamber and local business owners, we must strive to revitalize our Commercial Business District by increasing customer traffic to retail shops, restaurants, and hotels, creating a pedestrian-friendly entertainment area with indoor/outdoor dining options, and tie it to the waterfront that draws residents and visitors for its beauty and entertainment.

What ideas do you have to increase the supply of more affordable housing?

1. For the last 10 years, the single-family/multi-family home start ratio has been 5:1. We must shift this ratio and rebalance with more MF home starts. This would provide more smaller (market-rate) housing options, which should lower the cost to own or rent.

2. Consider 20-year multi-family tax exemptions. We currently have eight- and 12-year options, which do not appear to be often used. Work with developers to find out why and if a 20-year option would be more of an incentive to build MF housing.

3. Reform the city’s permit process to expedite the turnaround and reduce the cost if the project includes a certain number of affordable units. Anecdotal evidence would suggest the status quo is too costly and unnecessarily delays the project and drives up the cost.

4. The City cannot afford another Fidalgo Flats fiasco. While most residents support more affordable housing, this project brought to light the importance of neighborhood character preservation. Better communication with neighborhoods must be a consideration for all future projects.

How should the city respond to homelessness in this community?

We must respond with compassion to those residents who are in urgent need. To achieve this, we must continue to support the local organizations best capable to respond. For example, the non-profit Anacortes Family Center provides a continuum of care with the goal of providing each individual or family a pathway to success. The Anacortes Housing Authority provides government-subsidized low-income housing and some access to services. Both organizations have plans in place to increase their respective capacities to better support local residents in need.



The City also has well-established partnerships with Skagit County Public Health, Island Hospital and the Anacortes Police Department, and access to other resources such as First Step, the Salvation Army, Friendship House, and the YMCA Teen Oasis Shelter.

An entirely different matter, however, is the unfortunate transient homeless population. Anacortes is a very attractive location and if we permit transient homelessness, we are essentially promoting Anacortes as a safe haven. Transient homelessness must be discouraged and individuals committing crimes should be dealt with by law enforcement and the judicial system.

[Candidate Q&A: Jeff Graf | News | goskagit.com](#)

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Meet the man leading a revolution in AI-based sensor platforms

(Jerusalem Post 8 Oct 21)

Dr. Haim Amir of Essence is protecting seniors and families in 46 countries. For him, success means providing peace of mind.

“We are creating a multi-layered ‘iron dome’ that will protect our loved ones,” said Dr. Haim Amir. “I strive to give everyone peace of mind.

“And in many ways – Essence is already doing just that.”

Amir believes innovation and creative thinking are key to improving safety, health and well-being – and that is how he has been operating for more than 27 years.

The founder and CEO of Essence Group, which is made up of three companies that together have an installed base of over 70 million devices deployed by Tier-1 service providers worldwide, has one goal: To provide peace of mind to all of his customers through the use of innovative technologies.

Amir has developed a company that sits at the forefront of the worlds of security systems, IoT, connected living and artificial intelligence, providing wireless safety solutions for businesses, families, elderly and vulnerable populations.

BUT HIS story did not begin with the founding of Essence in 1994. It started when he was just a 10-year-old boy from Morocco and his parents and four siblings boarded a ship to Tel Aviv bound for new horizons in Israel.

As his family’s boat arrived at the dock, the crowd burst into applause at the sight of the “Holy Land.” But life was not as easy at first as they had hoped.

The family was set up in a transit camp, their home a mere 39 square meters. There was no electricity. No shower. The bathroom was outside.

“I was just a young child, but still, I deeply felt our family’s situation, living in a constant state of survival,” Amir said. “We all had to reinvent ourselves in order to survive. Just to survive.”

The family’s economic situation was difficult.

“There was no money, but my parents would sacrifice everything for the education of my siblings and me, to help ensure that our lives would be better than theirs.”

Amir excelled in school. As a standout student he eventually joined the Navy as an academic through the Technion, where he studied electronics engineering. During his tenure in the Israel Defense Forces he was placed in an elite unit, where he took part in designing strategic combat detection and anti-missile systems. From there, he was sent to the United States to do a PhD in computer science and electronics at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

He graduated magna cum laude and then returned to Israel.

“During my service I was part of a team that developed strategic combat systems, satellite missile detection capabilities, and anti-missile defense systems,” said Amir

“When I came back, I asked myself: ‘How can I take this knowledge and protect people in their everyday lives?’”

He decided to take the skills he learned in the army and the wisdom he gained in academia into the private sector and develop sensors and security systems using advanced mathematical algorithms, radar



technology and his vast knowledge in computers and electronics to protect civilians - to make the world a better place.

He and his wife, Rivka, founded Essence in their basement in Herzliya. At the time, Amir was 45 years old.

“When I think back to those first years, I think that the need to survive, the desire for basic security, became the basis of everything my company, Essence, is today,” Amir said.

ESSENCE GROUP now makes innovative, cloud-based, end-to-end security and healthcare solutions for professionals and end-users – solutions that solve real-life problems and make people’s lives better. All of the company’s systems are designed to provide their users with security and peace of mind, at home and on the go.

The group is active in three major industries: security, healthcare and skincare.

“Today, Essence’s systems are already installed in more than four million homes,” Amir said with a smile. “Our sensors, controllers and AI-based algorithms are deployed in 46 countries across the globe.

“But my true pride and joy is that innovative Israeli technologies save lives every hour of every day - all over the world.”

Amir was watching his parents age at around the time that the company was founded. He was overcome with a desire to make their lives better and safer while still allowing them to be at home. The Essence SmartCare system, a package of technology solutions catered to the senior market, was developed.

MDsense, an advanced AI-based RADAR fall detection system, provides monitoring and immediate response to falls, without the need for seniors to wear an emergency pendant. It forms a key component of the company’s Care@Home product suite, an enhanced aging-in-place telecare services platform.

The company recently expanded into the remote patient monitoring space with the launch of VitalOn, which combines telecare, wellness and remote health monitoring capabilities into a comprehensive platform for active seniors and older adults living with chronic conditions.

During the pandemic, the need for such technologies became even more acute, as even elderly people who were used to getting out and interacting with others were forced to stay at home to protect themselves. They also became separated from their loved ones, who might not have been able to visit for fear of spreading the disease but left their elderly relatives at risk with no one to check on them.

Essence’s SmartCare products played an important part in the global effort to keep seniors safe with major implementations in “COVID hotels” and municipal programs in countries such as the Netherlands and Brazil.

Amir said that his platforms focus on communication and dignity. Rather than intrusive cameras, for example, a battery-powered radar uses AI-algorithms to detect the position of an individual. If the radar senses that he or she has fallen, an alert will be sent to a call center and a two-way voice channel automatically opened. The algorithms can also detect heart and breathing rates and let the right people know if the elderly person being monitored is in stress.

“With Essence’s technology, the elderly can go on living in their own homes, in their own neighborhood, within their own communities,” Amir said. “They can continue an independent life.”

BUT HIS solutions do not stop there. He also focuses on home and office security solutions to keep burglars at bay.

Earlier this year, Essence launched its WeR@Home+, the new generation of its field-proven smart home security system, an IoT cloud-based platform for managing all security and smart home functions from a single application.

Next to launch is the ActiFend solution, which promises to revolutionize security by introducing the concept of detection, verification and intervention in a standalone security device that detects a possible intruder, verifies their identity with HD imaging and then actively repels burglars with a proprietary, non-invasive smoke shield that actively forces and intruder out.

During a recent Zoom interview, he demonstrated some of his small but powerful devices.

“We are creating a multi-layered ‘iron dome’ that will protect our loved ones,” Amir said.

His company has also taken on a social responsibility pact, focused on developing technologies that are also better for the planet and reduce waste.



“And all of this beautiful technology is produced here in Israel,” he said proudly.

His company operates out of Herzliya and manufactures in Ofakim, employing nearly 1,000 people, 150 of them with special needs – “amazing people working every day to produce our products.”

He and his wife recently launched the Amir Foundation for Education to provide educational support to families in Ofakim and the periphery so that all children will have a chance to succeed.

“I want all the children of Israel to have a chance to go to university and study technology and be a part of this fantastic hi-tech nation,” he said. “It is extremely important to me that they become part of the global technology revolution.”

So, for Amir – a little boy from Morocco – life has completed a full circle.

“I strive to give everyone peace of mind,” he said, “inside and outside, for the elderly, the children and the whole family. It is the way I give back to my parents and my country.”

[Meet the man leading a revolution in AI-based sensor platforms - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

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Nobel Peace Prize 2021: Know More About Winners Maria Ressa And Dmitry Muratov

(Republic World 8 Oct 21) ... Aparna Shandilya

Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their efforts to protect freedom of expression.

Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their efforts to protect freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia, respectively. “Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda,” said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee as she announced the prize in Oslo, on October 8. Ressa and Muratov have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their brave fight for freedom of expression. At the same time, they are ambassadors for all journalists who fight for this ideal in a world where democracy and press freedom are increasingly threatened.

Who is Maria Ressa?

Maria Angelita Ressa became this year's first female Nobel laureate and the Philippines' first independent Nobel laureate. Maria A Ressa is the CEO and executive editor of Rappler, a social news network based in the Philippines. Ressa has worked as a journalist in Asia for nearly three decades, the majority of which she spent as the bureau chief of CNN in Manila (1987-1995) and subsequently Jakarta (1995-2005). She was CNN's main investigative correspondent covering terrorism in Southeast Asia and the author of *Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Newest Qaeda's Operations Center in Southeast Asia* (Free Press, 2003). She became the president of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs in 2005, where she spent six years defining strategic direction and overseeing more than 1,000 journalists for the Philippines' largest multi-platform news operation.

Ressa was named one of Time's Person of the Year 2018 as one of a group of journalists fighting fake news worldwide. Ressa is one of the 25 leading figures on Reporters Without Borders' Information and Democracy Commission. Ressa was awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize in April 2021.

She has taught courses throughout Southeast Asia on Politics and the Press for her alma mater, Princeton University, as well as broadcast journalism for the University of the Philippines. As author-in-residence and Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, she worked on her second book, *From Bin Laden to Facebook*. She is also a Visiting Scholar from South-East Asia at the **Naval Postgraduate School's** CORE Lab in Monterey, California.

Maria Ressa uses her right to free speech to expose abuses of power, the use of violence, and the rise of authoritarianism in her native Philippines. Ressa has demonstrated herself to be a brave supporter of freedom of expression as a journalist and CEO of Rappler. Rappler has criticised the Duterte administration's controversial and fatal anti-drug campaign. The campaign resembles a battle waged



against the country's own people due to many deaths. Ressa and Rappler have also exposed how social media is being used to propagate false information, harass dissenters, and sway public opinion.

Who is Dmitry Muratov?

Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov is a Russian journalist and the editor-in-chief of the Russian daily Novaya Gazeta, which the Committee to Protect Journalists has described as "the only authentically critical publication with national significance in Russia today." The publication is noted for its in-depth coverage of delicate issues like government corruption and human rights violations. He was the editor of the newspaper from 1995 until 2017.

The Committee to Protect Journalists awarded him the International Press Freedom Award in 2007. The prize honours journalists who have demonstrated courage in protecting journalistic freedom in the face of threats, incarceration, or violence. He was awarded the Legion of Honor, France's highest honour, in the degree of Chevalier on January 18, 2010. (Knight). In Middelburg, the Netherlands, on May 29, 2010, he received the Four Freedoms Award for Freedom of Speech for the Novaya Gazeta. He spent five years at Lomonosov Moscow State University's Faculty of Philology when he discovered his passion for journalism. He networked with local publications and worked part-time in journalism while in college. Muratov started working as a correspondent for the Volzhsky Komsomolets newspaper in 1987. At this publication, Muratov was given a chance to express himself and prove himself truly. His superiors were so impressed that he was promoted to Head of the Komsomolskaya Pravda Youth Department by the end of his first year and then to the editor of news pieces.

Dmitry Andreyevich Muratov has fought for the freedom of speech in Russia for decades, despite increasingly difficult circumstances. Novaya Gazeta has published critical pieces on various topics since its inception in 1993, including corruption, police aggression, unlawful arrests, election fraud, and "troll factories," as well as the use of Russian armed forces both inside and outside Russia.

[Nobel Peace Prize 2021: Know more about winners Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov \(republicworld.com\)](https://republicworld.com)

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McDougall, Foote inducted into the Harvester Hall of Fame

(Pampa News 9 Oct 21) ... Michael Foote

COL Michael Foote is a 1994 graduate of Pampa High School. Michael participated in football, wrestling, and student council for all four years of his high school career. He earned his Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 414 and was active in the First United Methodist Church youth group and the local Optimist League sports. Upon graduation, Michael was awarded an Army ROTC scholarship to the University of Oklahoma where he earned a degree in Health and Exercise Science and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery in the US Army.

Following his initial officer basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Michael was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he served in the paratroopers for four years. He deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division during this assignment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Upon return from Afghanistan, Michael was promoted to Captain and selected for the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg where he earned the coveted Green Beret in 2005. He was then assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his time at 5th Special Forces Group, he commanded SF ODAs 596 and 5313 deploying to Iraq on multiple occasions as a part of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM where he was recognized for his leadership and valor.

In 2010, the Army sent Michael to **the Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California where he earned a Masters of Science in Defense Analysis. Michael then returned to the 5th Group as a Major where he commanded A Company, 3rd Battalion and the Group Advanced Skills Company, served as a Battalion Executive Officer, and the Group Operations Officer. He deployed in support of Operation



INHERENT RESOLVE to numerous locations across the Middle East including Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq focused on the counter-ISIS fight.

After completion of his time in 5th Special Forces Group, COL Foote was selected to attend the Advanced Military Studies Program at the School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he earned a Masters of Military Science.

In 2017, COL Foote was selected to command US Army Garrison Fort Greely, Alaska where he was responsible for the operational readiness and defense of the nation's strategic ground-based missile defense field and the Army's Cold Regions Test Center.

In May of 2021, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. He is currently stationed at Carlisle Barracks, PA, where he is attending the Army War College.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, three Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, and a Joint Service Commendation Medal. He has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

Michael is married to the former Danielle Valcourt of Lawton, Oklahoma. They have two daughters, Caroline and Emily.

Class of 1980

JEFFREY J MCDOUGALL is the President and owner of JMA Energy Company, which he founded in 1986. JMA is a privately owned oil and gas exploration company with interests in over 2000 oil and gas wells primarily in the deep Anadarko Basin of Oklahoma. In addition, Mr. McDougall has interests in various energy service companies, as well as diversified interests in casinos, horse racing, gaming technology and commercial and residential real estate. JMA and its affiliated companies are headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mr. McDougall has been an active member of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association (OIPA) and, its successor, The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma, ultimately serving as its Chairman from 2015 to 2017. Mr. McDougall is currently a Chairman Emeritus on the Board of Directors, and has had other prior leadership positions including, Executive Committee, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Federal Issues Committee Co- Chairman. In addition, Mr. McDougall has served as the President of the Wildcatters Club of Oklahoma while leading its political efforts, including providing testimony before committees of the United States Senate and House on several occasions in support of oil and gas producers issues.

Mr. McDougall holds a B.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering from The University of Tulsa and has served as a past member of the Board of Trustees of The University of Tulsa. In October of 2010, The University of Tulsa recognized Mr. McDougall's continued commitment and support by naming its McDougall School of Petroleum Engineering in his honor. In April 2013, Mr. McDougall was inducted into the College of Engineering and Natural Science Hall of Fame at The University of Tulsa.

[McDougall, Foote inducted into the Harvester Hall of Fame | Pampa News \(thepampanews.com\)](#)

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Rotarians Set to Hear Environmental Report This Week

(Pasadena News 10 Oct 21)

Yavuz Atila, who leads the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) Western North America Regional Chapter, will be speaking at the Rotary Club of Pasadena's luncheon meeting on Wednesday, October 13.

He will discuss the Rotary Club's environmental focus during his talk. The meeting is open to the public.

Atila is a current member, founder, and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row. He joined the Rotary Club in April 2005 and served as club president in 2010 to 2011, and Assistant



Governor in 2011-2012. He served as the District 5230 Governor in Central Coast California in 2016-2017 and the District Trainer for 2017-2018.

Yavuz joined the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) in August 2019.

In November 2010, Atila started the annual “The Rotary Foundation/End Polio Luncheon” bringing Rotary clubs together to celebrate the Rotary Foundation Month and promote the End Polio Now campaign, which became a district-wide event over the years. In May 2009, he founded the Sunnyvale STAR (Silicon Valley Turkish American Rotary) Club, and the Rotary Club of Carmel Sunset in June 2017. He attended the Leadership Monterey Peninsula Class of 2013 and started the “Ocean for Youth” project to bring students from inland areas to visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Yavuz was born in Sinop, Turkey. He graduated from the Turkish Naval Academy in Istanbul and spent an eight-year Naval career on frigates in the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

In 1990, he received his MS degree from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey. After resigning from the Turkish Navy in December 1992, he moved back to Monterey and worked as the Information Systems Director for the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) at Monterey. In 2003, he founded his own company, Monterey Bay Technologies, Inc., providing IT solutions, sales and services to small to midsize businesses and organizations.

[Rotarians Set to Hear Environmental Report This Week – Pasadena Weekendr \(pasadenanow.com\)](http://pasadenanow.com)

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Loveland City Council, Ward III: Steve Olson

(Reporter Herald 10 Oct 21) ... Max Levy

Years in Loveland: My wife Teri and I have resided in Loveland for 22 years.

Professional background: Retired. Previously a licensed certified public accountant and partner in the nation’s largest CFO organization, B2B CFO.

Education: Bachelor’s in health care administration from George Washington University; master’s in financial management from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. I almost have sufficient credits for a second master’s degree in statistics.

Age: 74

Family: I have two surviving children. My oldest daughter died of melanoma in 2008. Teri and I have 13 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. I am blessed in that all my children and grandchildren (except a grandson in the U.S. Air Force) reside within 25 miles of my home.

1) What could the city do to improve the quality of life in your ward specifically? How would you, as a councilor, help accomplish that?

Ward III is a very diverse ward. For those along the Colo. 402 corridor, which is the second of two east-west accesses to Loveland, traffic has grown to be a significant irritation. For those in the downtown area, the growing number of homeless on the streets is an emerging concern. As kids reach adulthood, the high cost of housing is a barrier for many who desire to remain in Loveland. I have been working on all these issues for the past four years. I am the liaison to the Affordable Housing Commission and the Loveland Housing Authority. The primary focus of both is to expand our inventory of affordable homes. Like many of our citizens I have participated in the public forum for crafting a vision for the 402 corridor and addressing the overall traffic concerns of all of Loveland. I have been the city representative to the Larimer County Behavioral Health Commission, where I have advocated for the addressing of the unique needs of the homeless population to receive ongoing support such as getting to and from medical appointments. I have advocated for the city hiring what has been termed a “lead agent” to develop a strategic plan for homelessness in Loveland and coordinate among the numerous nonprofit and faith-based organizations currently serving the homeless. That is soon to be implemented.

2) Under what circumstances would you support using financing tools, such as bonds or certificates of participation, to fund capital projects? When would you prefer to see the city pay cash up front?



The city currently has a bond rating that is the envy of other communities. This is due in part to the wise management of debt and limiting the city's exposure to liability. The bonding for Pulse is an excellent example of using debt to finance a municipal project. The key to using bonds is ensuring there is a designated revenue stream to repay the bonds. In the case of Pulse, the payments for services by subscribers is the revenue stream that repay the bonds. Certificates of participation are another alternative, but again, I believe there must be a designated revenue stream to ensure repayment of the purchasers of the certificates. I believe the city should be capped as to the amount of debt that the taxpayers are at risk for. Loveland should not become a debtor city.

3) Are there any groups in Loveland whose voices you feel are underrepresented currently and who you would like to represent specifically if elected?

In the past year and a half, a couple of councilors have advocated for a new commission for special-interest groups. It is my observation that when groups that actually represent a small percent of the population receive special representation there follows a demand for special privileges. The creation of a special commission for small segments of the population of Loveland divides the community. We are better served by a commission that unites the community. I would be in favor of a citizens' advisory commission composed of citizens representing all sectors of our community but not dominated by any one sector. That commission could serve to advise the council on issues that are truly community issues, not one that is solely for one minority group.

4) In the past year, the City of Loveland has faced and settled multiple lawsuits against police stemming from alleged incidents of excessive force. Do you believe there is a culture tolerant of excessive force within the Loveland Police Department? What changes, if any, do you believe should be implemented to improve the department?

The behavior of two police officers in dealing with an elderly women with dementia cannot be excused or overlooked. In my opinion, the couple other instances that I reviewed could have been avoided had the citizen cooperated with the police rather than escalating the situation by arguing and refusing to comply with the request from the officer.

I do not believe there is a culture in our police department that is tolerant of excessive force. The Loveland police had over 100,000 interactions with the public this past year. Officers are trained to exercise restraint. Citizens are not, and if drugs or alcohol are a factor, a situation can easily escalate.

I also have confidence in the integrity of the executive leadership of the police department to learn from past mistakes and take appropriate corrective action. It was a common practice during my 29 years of service in the U.S. Navy to complete what was termed "after-action" reviews. This was a review of a significant event to determine the lessons that could be learned. When the results of all three investigations looking into police policies and procedures stemming from the Karen Garner case are available, there will likely be a number of recommendations that will have implication for future policing practices.

5) What is the most significant long-term challenge you believe Loveland will face over the next four years?

I believe the most significant long-term challenges facing Loveland over the next four years fall under the heading of "growth." There are four areas that I believe we will need to continue to address, perhaps more aggressively than the past and they are: attainable/affordable housing, homelessness, traffic and water.

[Loveland City Council, Ward III: Steve Olson – Loveland Reporter-Herald \(reporterherald.com\)](http://reporterherald.com)

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