NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

"WHERE SCIENCE MEETS THE ART OF WARFARE"

> *"We must have elite institutions that are focused on defense problems, and this is why the Naval Postgraduate School was started in the first place."*
>
> **— U.S. Navy Adm. Sam Paparo, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**

MISSION

Provide defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service.

Who we are

We are who we serve:

NPS is a Naval command with a defense graduate university mission. We are defense educators, subject matter experts and staff serving those who serve our Nation.

What we do

Education, Research, Innovation:

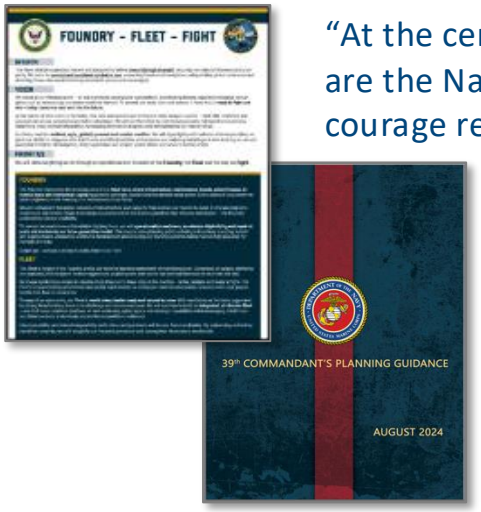
NPS develops warrior talent and innovative research solutions through Master's and Ph.D. programs for the Department of the Navy, DoD, U.S. Government, partners and our allies.

Why it matters

For decisive advantage:

NPS ensures the technological leadership of the future force. Our graduates have the technical and intellectual edge to deter and prevail in the all-domain battlespace.

Innovation driven, NPS develops Warfighters and Warfighting solutions.

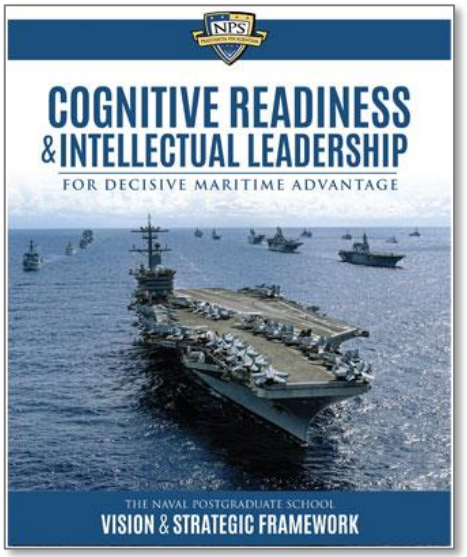


"At the center of this vision is the Sailor. Our men and women are the Navy's main weapon system – their skill, resilience and courage remain our greatest asymmetric advantage."

- CNO Priorities

"We must continue to capitalize on the inherent brilliance of our Marines and implement their innovation at speed."

- CMC PLANNING GUIDANCE



EDUCATION
Extend reach and increase the focus of defense-unique and naval-relevant education

RESEARCH
Increase the impact of applied research that is fully informed and directly contributes to warfighting solutions

INNOVATION
Lead naval innovation via a collaborative ecosystem connecting warrior-scholars with academia and industry

INSTITUTION
Enabled by a learning organization with a shared mission-focused culture developing defense leaders in modern and technologically relevant facilities.

OUR COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

EDUCATION SUPPORTING NAVAL REQUIREMENTS

WARFIGHTER DEVELOPMENT

Critical and strategic thinkers able to problem-solve, adapt, innovate, and lead

- Naval Engineering
- Combat Systems
- Cyber and Information Systems
- Data Science and Decisions
- Global Security and Strategic Competition
- Defense Systems Management
- Space Technology and Operations
- Maritime Battlespace Environments
- Modeling, Simulation, and Visualization

Minimum Viable Solutions

Rapid Prototyping *and* Field Experimentation

WARFIGHTING DEVELOPMENT

Classified and applied research and innovative solutions

- Long-Range Fires
- Non-Traditional Sea Denial/MDA
- Counter-C5ISRT
- Terminal Defense
- Contested Logistics
- Live, Virtual & Constructive/GEMS/M&S
- Navy Operational Architecture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Robotic Autonomous Systems
- Energy Security

APPLIED RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF NAVAL PRIORITIES

The Department of the Navy is driving innovation across every corner of the enterprise.

"Naval education curricula, research, and experiential learning all contribute to the total force's professional development— and all need to continuously evolve to ensure that our personnel have the competencies to succeed against any challenge."

— Naval Education Strategy

Education: students are the priority

Operationally experienced students apply their insight and academics to solve real problems. 2026 Enrollment: ~2,275

- **Masters: 1,727**
- **Ph.D: 86**
- **Cert./Non-degree: 462**
- **Many more in short courses**

- **By Service:**
  - Navy: 992
  - USMC: 304
  - Army: 191
  - Air Force: 87
  - USCG: 11
  - Civilian: 492
  - International: 196

International partners

Asia	
Armenia	1
India	1
Indonesia	5
Israel	5
Japan	1
Jordan	3
Maldives	1
Mongolia	3
Nepal	3
Oman	1
Pakistan	4
Philippines	7
Saudi Arabia	1
Singapore	21
South Korea	12
Sri Lanka	4
Taiwan	6
Turkey	3
Yemen	1

Africa	
Algeria	2
Djibouti	1
Ghana	2
Mozambique	1
Niger	1
Nigeria	3
Sierra Leone	2

Caribbean & Central America	
Belize	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1

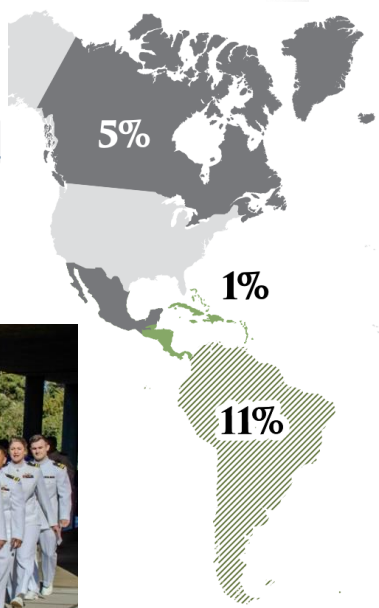
Europe	
Belgium	1
Croatia	2
Denmark	1
Estonia	1
Georgia	2
Germany	8
Greece	10
Lithuania	1
Netherlands	2
Norway	4
Romania	1
Sweden	4
Ukraine	1

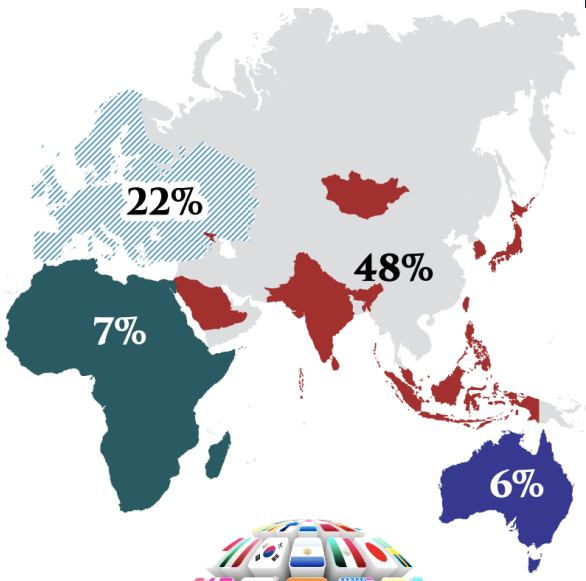
North America	
Canada	2
Mexico	6

Oceania	
Australia	11

South America	
Argentina	2
Brazil1	2
Chile	3
Colombia	1
Peru	1

- Partners and allies study alongside, fosters learning and strengthens coalitions





- Over 200 in 2025

Academic Program Areas:

Responsive education programs designed to meet relevant warfighting knowledge and skills requirements.

Combat Systems

Cyber and Information Systems

Data Science and Decisions

Defense Systems Management

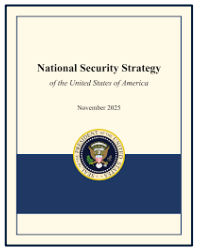
Global Security and Strategic Competition

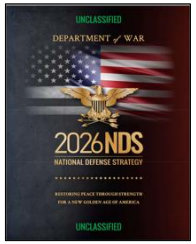
Maritime Battlespace Environments

Modeling, Visualization & Simulation

Naval Engineering

Space Technology and Operations





From Idea to Impact:

Strategically aligned, operationally focused.

Operationally informed applied research develops talent and technology solutions to increase net warfighting advantage:

Vice Provost Warfare Studies

Central Connector between the Service HQ, Fleet, and Fleet Marine Forces to academic expertise for collaborative problem solving.

– Translate –
– Integrate –
– Advocate –

Vice Provost Research & Innovation

Supports NPS education with relevant defense-focused basic and applied interdisciplinary research and innovation.

– Align –
– Elevate –
– Enable –

Academic Departments

Provide defense-focused, naval-unique advanced technical, professional, and graduate education for warfighting advantage.

– Responsive –
– Relevant –
– Accredited –

How we do it

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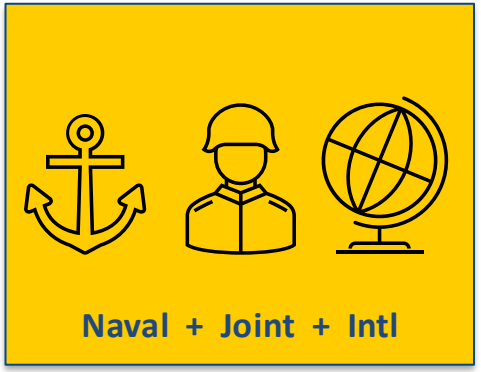

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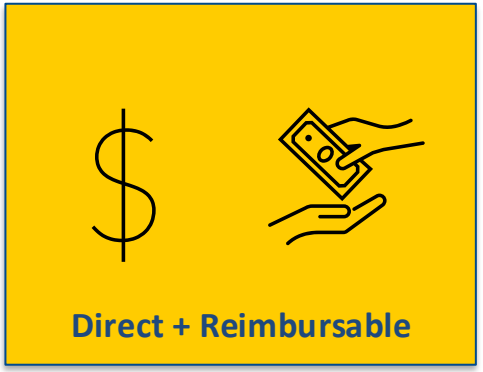


The Business of NPS:

- NPS utilizes a University Operating Model (UOM) with reimbursable operations for education and research leverage in a resource-constrained environment.
- Reimbursable operations, while complex, deliver diverse grad-ed and research results.
- High value: **Twice the school for half the price**. ~$125m direct funding augmented by roughly the same from sponsored reimbursable education and research.

(NPS Annual Reports: https://nps.edu/web/guest/nps-annual-report)

Innovation: "ideas to impact"

OFFICE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

WHAT

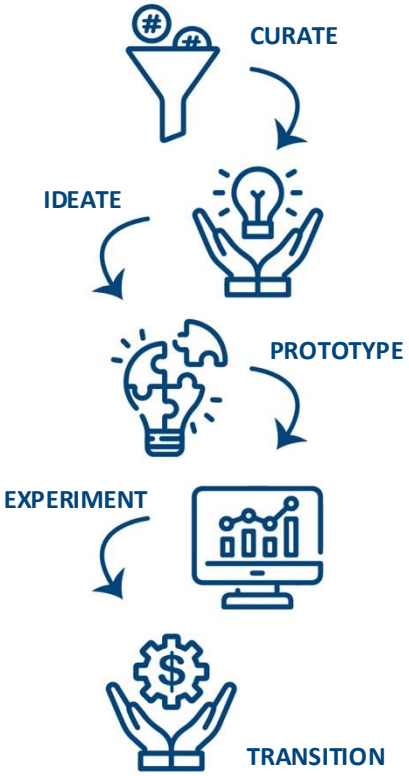
Challenges faced by the fleet and force are considered for solutions through engagement with fleet and force customers.

Potential solutions identified during the creation process are produced for further exploration.

Concepts are thoroughly researched and developed in preparation for evaluation and testing.

Developed concept prototypes are evaluated in a field or laboratory environment.

Researched and tested concepts are forwarded for acceptance and adoption by the Navy and Marine Corps.



HOW

Annual Warfare Innovation Continuum (WIC) workshops define viable concepts that meet capability challenges.

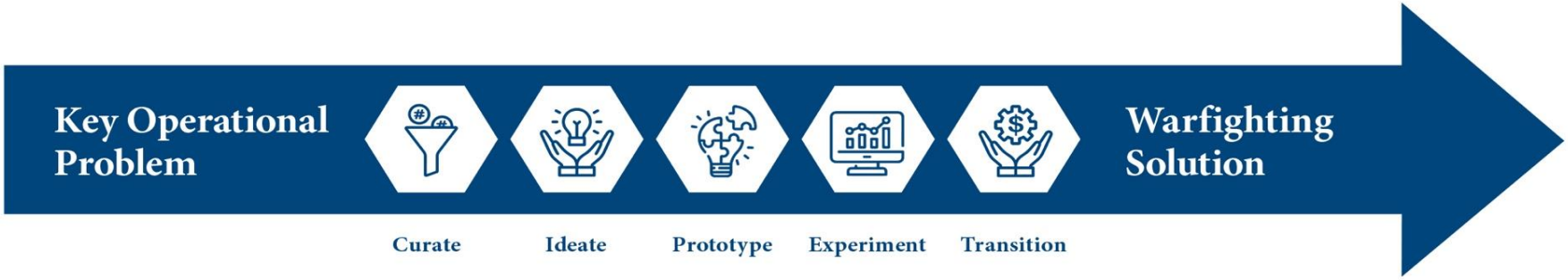
Warfare Innovation Workshops (WIW) explores WIC-defined concepts which areas of interest to DON and SoW stakeholders.

The Naval Innovation Exchange (NIX) teams form to explore relevant new technology solutions, and practices for adoption.

NPS' Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (JIFX) program provides a venue for the testing and evaluation of new technology applications.

The Interdisciplinary Transition Teams (ITT) use acquisition knowledge to move solutions to programs of record or warfighter end users.

Innovation Operating Concept:



Current NPS Innovation

WARFARE INNOVATION CONTINUUM

A campaign of analysis focused on an overarching warfighting challenge. Design teams develop minimum viable solutions.

NAVAL INNOVATION EXCHANGE TEAMS

Starting student-faculty-industry teams refine minimum viable solutions, explore mature technologies and warfighting application to accelerate adoption Naval customers.

FIELD EXPERIMENTATION (JIFX)

Identifies, influences, and accelerates early-stage technology development to enable rapid adaptation and adoption.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRANSITION TEAM

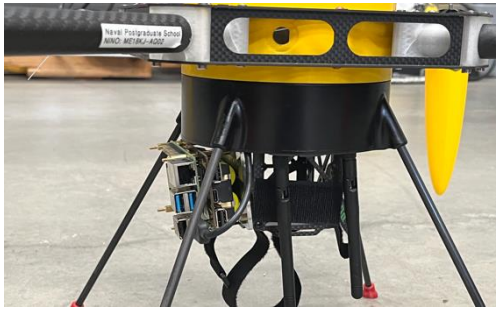
Integrates technical, acquisition, and operations to accelerate capability transition to Program Executive Offices.

Established coherence around innovation activities within existing NPS education and applied research in support of warfighter development and solutions.

The process NPS enables cross-disciplinary teams, NR&DE and industry involvement leveraging in-resident student experience, faculty expertise enhancing learning, while developing fully informed prototype solutions. The envisioned Naval Innovation Center facility will increase speed and scale.

Where science meets the art of warfare…

(More examples at: https://nps.edu/web/guest/nps-mission-impact-report)

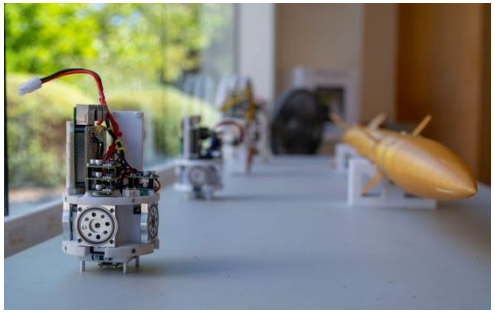


Developing leaders who will transform warfighting:

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Christian Thiessen and his advisor Dr. Britta Hale, Associate Professor, Dept. of Computer Science, are the recipients of a 2025 patent awarded to NPS. Their invention, and the subject of Thiessen's thesis, is a small, low-cost, counter-Unmanned Aerial System (cUAS) called the Detachable Drone Hijacker.

Industry partnerships bring emerging technology to NPS and the Fleet:

Three NPS students Developed and tested resilient communication terminals and autonomous navigation capabilities on the Saronic 6' Autonomous Surface Vessel (ASV), Spyglass. The team leveraged an NPS industry CRADA with Saronic as part of the NPS Innovation Operating Concept.



Relevant research delivers solutions:

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Dillon Pierce's doctoral research developed and demonstrated advanced rocket capabilities with an emphasis on cost efficiency and production capacity. Pierce built and flight-tested functional guided missiles using commercially available components and completed 43 test flights in just over 18 months, with a total development cost under $300,000.

Recent successes include…

Largest Advanced Manufacturing (AM) Demo in DOW History at RIMPAC 2026:

NPS conducts applied research in the operating environment. The NPS team in our Consortium for Advance Manufacturing Research and Education (CAMRE) deployed multiple 3D metal printing technologies aboard ships and ashore to develop concepts of operations for at sea replenishment, including use of autonomous deliver vehicles and artificial intelligence solutions at RIMPAC.

NASA Astronaut and Artemis II Pilot Victor Glover Returns to NPS:

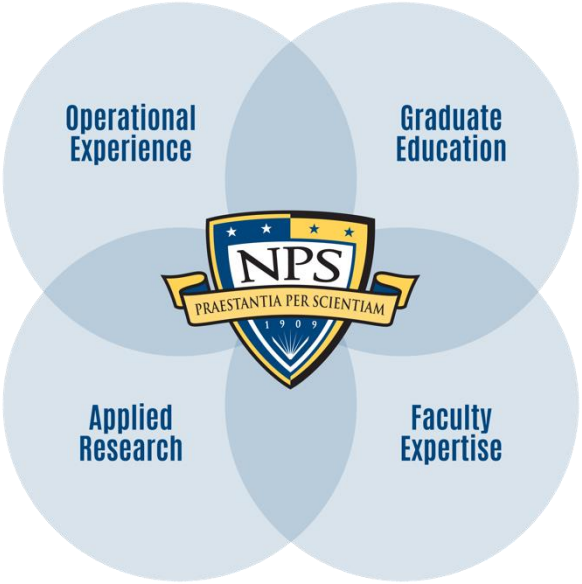
U.S. Navy Capt. Victor Glover, NASA Artemis II astronaut, and NPS alumnus visited NPS in June 2026 to share stories of his historic voyage around the Moon. NPS is the alma matter to more than 44 NASA astronauts, more than any other graduate school in the nation.

NVIDIA DGX GB300 Supercomputer Installed at NPS:

The DGX GB300 expands NPS' ability to expose experienced military officers and defense professionals to frontier computational capabilities before they return to positions of increased responsibility throughout the Fleet, Joint Force, and Allied Commands. Use cases include weather modeling, oceanic and operations research, to disaster resilience and response planning.

The NPS difference

Only NPS synchronizes student *operational experience* and *graduate education* with *applied research* and *faculty expertise*, to deliver innovative warfighting solutions and leaders educated to understand and employ them.



- NPS is **Responsive** to operational needs through tailored education and research.
- NPS complements the Naval research community through **Interdisciplinary** education and **Applied** research producing **Innovative** solutions to relevant problems.
- NPS offers **Classified** coursework and research in controlled laboratories on our **Secure** campus.

Vision: Fully modernized campus…

…with the Naval Innovation Center

https://nps.edu/campus-improvements

https://nps.edu/web/naval-innovation-center

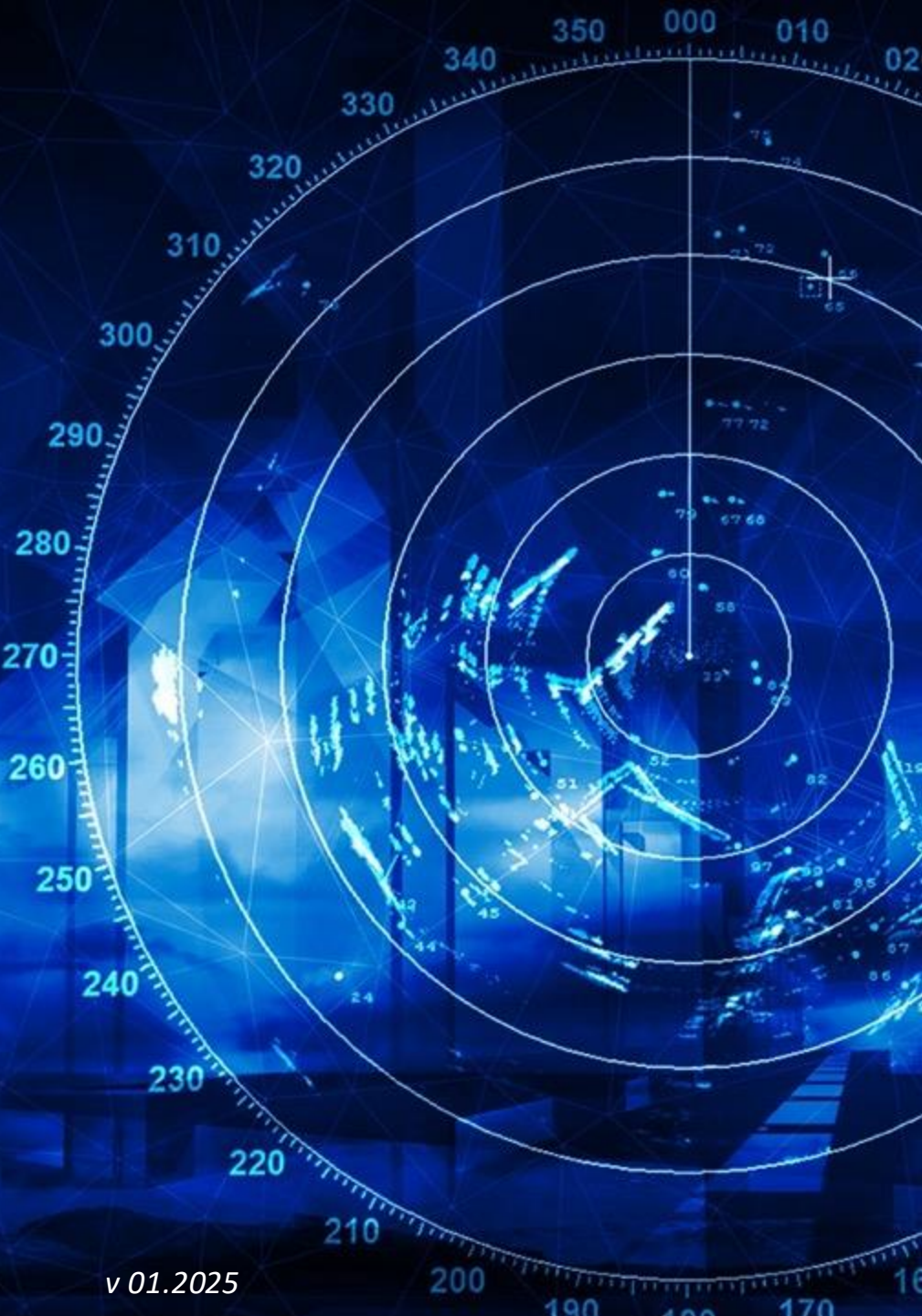
conceptual rendering

*"The Naval Postgraduate School is one of the world's preeminent institutions of military education. I want **our best warfighters coming to NPS** to develop their intellectual edge and turn their insights into real-world solutions for our Navy and Marine Corps." - 79th Secretary of the Navy*

*"…a **Naval Innovation Center at the Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California – right in the heart of our nation's leading technology corridor… will serve as a premier military education facility tailored to innovation and experimentation, serving as a technology resource for Navy and Marine Corps warfighting development commands, as well as a go-to partner of the defense industrial base, the technology sector, and academia…" - 78th Secretary of the Navy*

Fleet Priorities | **Partnerships** | **Innovation Education** | **Prototyping & Experimentation** | **Funding & Management**

Immediate Impact
Future Advantage
Enduring Leadership



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