



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – December 14-20, 2021

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JEOPARDY:

NPS Professor Wins Big in “Jeopardy!” Professors Tournament Final

(Navy.mil 18 Dec 21) ... Lt. Cmdr. Edward Early

(NPS.edu 18 Dec 21) ... Lt. Cmdr. Edward Early

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Naval Postgraduate School Professor Wins ‘Jeopardy’ Tournament

(Monterey Herald 20 Dec 21) ... Aaron Sittig

(Swift Headline 20 Dec 21) ... Aaron Sittig

(The News Motion 19 Dec 21) ... Tony Campbell

(The Teal Mango 18 Dec 21) ... Archana Kabra

(HITC 18 Dec 21) ... Disha Kandpal

(Gwinnett 17 Dec 21) ... Archana Kabra

(ET Canada 17 Dec 21) ... Becca Longmire

As of Friday, there is only one person who holds the title of the first-ever Professors Tournament Champion on “Jeopardy”: Naval Postgraduate School associate professor Sam Buttrey.

Jeopardy! Crowns Its First-Ever Professors Tournament Champion — Who Won the \$100,000 Grand Prize?

(TV Line 17 Dec 21) ... Dave Nemetz

(Report Door 17 Dec 21) ... Erin Clark

(Fox 28 17 Dec 21) ... Paige Strout

(Jeopardy 17 Dec 21)

(Deadline 17 Dec 21) Denise Petski

Now we know who’s going to the head of the class: Jeopardy!’s first-ever Professors Tournament wrapped up on Friday with Sam Buttrey taking home the grand prize.

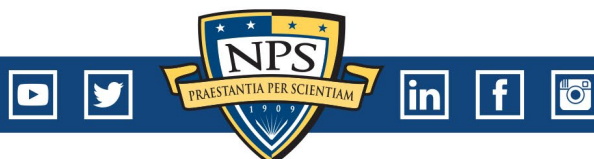
Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, won Friday’s edition of the syndicated game show, earning the \$100,000 first-place prize money. Ed Hashima, a history professor at American River College in Sacramento, California, placed second and earned \$50,000, while Alisa Hove, a botany professor at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, came in third and took home \$25,000.

NPS Associate Professor Crowned Champion of Jeopardy! Tournament [Video]

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(Global Circulate 19 Dec 21) ... Shawn Taylor

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[California Professor Advances to Finals of Jeopardy! Tournament](#)

(California News Times 15 Dec 21)

(KSBW 15 Dec 21)

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[NPS Professor Sam Buttrey is in the 2021 Jeopardy! Professors Tournament Finals](#)

(Monterey County Now 14 Dec 21) ... Agata Popeda

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['Jeopardy!' Fans Believe the New Finalist Resembles Steve Martin](#)

(Washington News Day 14 Dec 21) ... Jonathan Edwards

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(Newsweek 14 Dec 21) ... Ryan Smith

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After a highly intense game, Sam Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, was seen as the first contender to qualify for the Professors Tournament final.

GRADUATION:

[NPS Distinguished Alumnus Congratulates Fall Quarter Graduates, Encourages Continued Applied Education](#)

(NPS.edu 17 Dec 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

NPS Distinguished Alumnus retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt offers the commencement address to the 2021 Fall Quarter class during the graduation ceremony, Dec. 17. Wendt encouraged the class of 331 graduates to use their knowledge, remember their classmates, and to tell their colleagues about the educational opportunities waiting for them at NPS.

RESEARCH:

[Assessing Shooting Threats Is a Matter of Life or Death. Why Aren't Experts Better at It?](#)

(Ed Week 16 Dec 21) ... David Riedman, Jillian Peterson and James Densley

David Riedman is the co-creator of the K-12 School Shooting Database at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Jillian Peterson is a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University. James Densley is a professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University. Densley and Peterson are co-founders of the Violence Project and co-authors of "The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic."

[Xerox Inks Multi-Year Software Deal with Oracle to Launch New Businesses Faster](#)

(3D Printing Industry 20 Dec 21) ... Hayley Everett

Global digital document and printing firm Xerox has partnered with cloud computing and software company Oracle to allow new businesses born inside Xerox to launch and monetize their services more quickly... In the two years since, Xerox has continued its expansion into 3D printing, having lined up and eventually scrapped a speculative \$27 billion bid for multinational printing firm HP, and incorporated Vader System's technologies into its first printer, the ElemX. The ElemX is currently being tested at the US **Naval Postgraduate School** as part of a research partnership exploring the potential for 3D printing to transform how the military supplies its deployed forces.

FACULTY:

[CHDS Instructor Brown Wins Outstanding Professor Award](#)

(Homeland Security Today 20 Dec 21)



Center for Homeland Defense and Security senior lecturer and thesis advisor Dr. Shannon Brown has been named the winner of the Lieutenant Commander David L. Williams Outstanding Professor Award.

The award is presented to the faculty member of the **Naval Postgraduate School's** (NPS) Graduate School of International and Defense Studies (IDS) who has demonstrated the greatest dedication to the learning and intellectual growth of students, in-residence and abroad, and through that dedication had the greatest impact on the individual students and the course as a whole.

ALUMNI:

California Surfer Becomes Combat Helicopter Pilot

(RedStoneRocket 15 Dec 21) ... Skip Vaughn

He was a Southern California surfer with an "American Graffiti" lifestyle. He'd go to different beaches and surf the waves during the weekdays and cruise Hollywood Boulevard at night. He worked as an LA truck driver to pay for his fast car... During his 22 years in uniform, he spent eight and half in schools. He earned a bachelor's with a dual major in economics and business management from the University of Tampa in 1975. He earned a master's in electronic warfare systems engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 1983.

Graduation of CELP 2020 Cohort

(DVIDS 13 Dec 21) ... Lt. Bobby Dixon

U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC) graduated five civilian and two naval officers from the CNMOC Executive Leadership Program (CELP), Nov. 19, 2021.

This year's graduating cohort:

LCDR Casey Burgener from Fleet Survey Team (FST) and **Naval Postgraduate School** (NPS)

Norwich University Names Danielle Pelczarski as Chief of Staff

(Norwich 13 Dec 21)

Vermont Business Magazine Norwich University President Mark Anarumo announced that Danielle Pelczarski, deputy commandant of the California State University Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California, has been named senior vice president and chief of staff, effective March 2022... Pelczarski's education encompasses several degrees from the Joint Forces Staff College, **Naval Postgraduate School**, Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business, Miami University of Ohio, and Hiram College.

Chad Houck Withdraws Candidacy for Idaho Secretary of State

(The Idaho Statesman 17 Dec 21) ... Ian Max Stevenson

Chad Houck, who had been a member of the competitive Republican race to lead the Idaho Secretary of State's Office, is withdrawing his candidacy, according to a news release. Houck, the current chief deputy in the office — the top position below Secretary of State Lawrence Denney — was considered to be fairly well-positioned in the race. Denney's wife, Donna Denney, served as Houck's campaign treasurer, according to previous Idaho Statesman reporting. In the release, Houck said he was withdrawing primarily for family reasons...Houck, who recently received a master's degree in Homeland Security Studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, said he still will pursue cybersecurity work outside of government.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

December 25: Christmas Day (Federal Holiday – December 24)

December 26: International Report Date

December 27: Reporting Date

January 1: New Years Day (Federal Holiday - December 31)



JEOPARDY:

NPS Professor Wins Big in “Jeopardy!” Professors Tournament Final

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Who is Dr. Sam Buttrey? The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) professor will forever be memorialized as a trivia answer – phrased, of course, in the form of a question – for avid fans of the hit TV quiz show “Jeopardy!”

Buttrey, an associate professor in NPS’ Operations Research department, was the big winner in the inaugural “Jeopardy!” Professors Tournament, which was recorded in Los Angeles earlier this fall and televised Dec. 6-17.

“Of course, I’m gratified to have played well – even recognizing that there is a substantial dose of luck in the game,” said Buttrey, who was on campus Dec. 17 to watch his victory in the tournament’s final episode on TV with other NPS faculty and staff members. “The actual game play was a lot of fun for a big ‘Jeopardy!’ fan like me, too.”

During the tournament, hosted by Mayim Bialik, Buttrey matched his knowledge against 14 other professors from universities and colleges throughout the United States.

After winning his first two matches in the first round and semifinals, Buttrey advanced to the two-day finals against Ed Hashima, a history professor at American River College in Sacramento, and Alisa Hove, a botany professor at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C.

Buttrey compiled the highest cumulative total score during the finals, which were televised on Dec. 16 and 17, and captured the tournament’s grand prize of \$100,000, as well as a berth in the show’s 2022 Tournament of Champions. Hashima, who finished second, earned \$50,000, while third-place finisher Hove earned \$25,000.

“All of us at NPS are extraordinarily proud of Sam for his performance during the tournament and for the way he’s represented our school, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, and all of our military students who attend NPS,” said the president of NPS, retired Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau. “Like all of our talented defense-focused faculty members, Sam is not just an expert in his field, he is also dedicated to serving those who serve our nation in uniform. As Sam himself has pointed out during the tournament, ‘Just because you graduated doesn’t mean you stop learning,’ and that’s a valuable lesson for all of us.”

It has been a whirlwind two weeks for Buttrey, who said that he enjoyed his time on the “Jeopardy!” set with his fellow professors

“I think the whole process could have been intimidating, but instead it was like a weird camp holiday punctuated by bouts with makeup technicians and hair stylists,” he said. “The COVID protocols at the taping were very strict, and we weren’t permitted to use our mobile phones, so I got to spend a lot of time with the other contestants, and they were uniformly very smart and funny and interesting. I made genuine friends, and that’s rare enough in the world.”

In the span of the tournament, Buttrey was not only noted for his quick wit, but also for his uncanny resemblance to comedian Steve Martin – something which was pointed out by multiple social media users and news outlets.

“It’s been very entertaining for me – I can’t speak for Steve,” Buttrey said. “Steve Martin is not only hilarious, he’s also a serious author and talented musician. I have been told I look like him for years, but I think I saw the resemblance most clearly on the ‘Jeopardy!’ cameras. Sadly, though, I never get compared to the famously good-looking people like George Clooney or Brad Pitt or Halle Berry. Still, this instant internet-era fame has been a little weird and a little fun – I don’t expect to experience anything like this again.”

While he will eventually return to the “Jeopardy!” set for the Tournament of Champions, Buttrey is looking forward to a well-earned break for the holidays before returning to school in time for NPS’ winter quarter.

“I think this level of public scrutiny can start to get not just distracting, but exhausting,” he said. “I have no idea how Steve Martin gets through life. I will definitely have enjoyed my 15 minutes of fame,



but it turns out that that's just about the right number of minutes of fame. I'm looking forward to getting back to regular life."

[NPS Professor Wins Big in "Jeopardy!" Professors Tournament Final > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[NPS Professor Wins Big in Jeopardy Professors Tournament Final - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

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Naval Postgraduate School Professor Wins 'Jeopardy' Tournament

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As of Friday, there is only one person who holds the title of the first-ever Professors Tournament Champion on "Jeopardy": Naval Postgraduate School associate professor Sam Buttrey.

After two weeks and three rounds of competition, Buttrey took home the tournament's \$100,000 grand prize. Ed Hashima, a professor of history at American River College in Sacramento placed second and earned \$50,000; Alisa Hove, a professor of botany at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, came in third, taking home \$25,000.

"This has been the greatest time, and to come out ahead of all these other great players is something I'll remember forever," said Buttrey. "The group was uniformly so smart, charming and warm, and there's been a real feeling of camaraderie from the very beginning."

While accolades and rewards are an expected outcome of Buttrey's seasoned performance on the trivia show, what he enjoyed the most was the actual gameplay — like a true fan of "Jeopardy." From nights spent at his grandma's house growing up to his regular television routine with his wife, Buttrey has watched, played along with and dreamed of being on "Jeopardy" for decades. So when he won, Buttrey viewed the experience as a culmination of his longtime love for the show.

"It was a blast," he said. "I was delighted there were a couple of cases where I worked out a clue I didn't happen to know off the top of my head."

Buttrey also expressed his appreciation for the professors he became acquainted with through the course of the show.

"I made some real friends," he said.

Winning the Professors Tournament gives Buttrey an automatic spot in the "Jeopardy" Tournament of Champions, which features 15 previous "Jeopardy" winners from the past season. The field of competition for the clash of champions, which is set to include a 13-game winner, excites Buttrey for the level of gameplay and clues going forward.

"I watch 'Jeopardy' all the time, so I know there are going to be some very strong players there," he said. "But I'm pretty good at the game, so I feel like I have a shot at the title. I want to see if I can beat them."

Though eager to see how future rounds of "Jeopardy" shake out, the prospect of competing on the show's Champions Tournament isn't something he could have imagined before taking on and surpassing 14 other professors from across the country.

"I had no expectations that I would win," said Buttrey. "I think it was unreasonable to go in expecting but reasonable to hope, and I'm happy I made it out on the other end."

[Naval Postgraduate School professor wins 'Jeopardy' tournament – Monterey Herald - swiftheadline](#)
[Monterey: Naval Postgraduate School professor wins 'Jeopardy' tournament – Monterey Herald](#)
[Naval Postgraduate School professor wins 'Jeopardy' tournament - The News Motion](#)
['Jeopardy!' Announces Sam Buttrey as its First Professors Tournament Champion - The Teal Mango](#)



[Meet Sam Buttrey, the winner of 'Jeopardy's Professors Tournament' \(hitc.com\)](#)
['Jeopardy!' Crowns First-Ever Professors Tournament Winner | Entertainment | gwinnettdailypost.com](#)
['Jeopardy!' Professors Tournament Crowns Its First-Ever Winner | ETCanada.com](#)

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Jeopardy! Crowns Its First-Ever Professors Tournament Champion — Who Won the \$100,000 Grand Prize?

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(Report Door 17 Dec 21) ... Erin Clark

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Now we know who's going to the head of the class: Jeopardy!'s first-ever Professors Tournament wrapped up on Friday with Sam Buttrey taking home the grand prize.

Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, won Friday's edition of the syndicated game show, earning the \$100,000 first-place prize money. Ed Hashima, a history professor at American River College in Sacramento, California, placed second and earned \$50,000, while Alisa Hove, a botany professor at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, came in third and took home \$25,000.

"This has been the greatest time, and to come out ahead of all these other great players is something I'll remember forever," Buttrey. said in a statement. "The group was uniformly so smart, charming, and warm, and there's been a real feeling of camaraderie from the very beginning."

Jeopardy!'s first Professors Tournament, hosted by Mayim Bialik, kicked off on Dec. 6 with faculty from 15 different colleges and universities competing.

The win also earns Buttrey a spot in Jeopardy!'s annual Tournament of Champions, which will feature former champs like Matt Amodio, whose 38-day winning streak was snapped in October. "I know there are some strong players, but I want to go up against them," Buttrey added. "I would like to play against Matt Amodio. He's a strong player, and I'd like to see how I can do."

['Jeopardy!' Professors Tournament: Winner Revealed | TVLine](#)

['Jeopardy!' Crowns Its First Professors Tournament Champion – Report Door - REPORT DOOR](#)

['Jeopardy!' Crowns First-Ever Professors Tournament Winner | FOX 28 Spokane](#)

[Sam Buttrey Is The First-Ever Jeopardy! Professors Tournament Champion | J!Buzz | Jeopardy.com](#)

['Jeopardy!' Crowns Its First Professors Tournament Champion – Deadline](#)

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NPS Associate Professor Crowned Champion of Jeopardy! Tournament [Video]

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(Global Circulate 19 Dec 21) ... Shawn Taylor

This Associate Professor of Operations Research at the Naval Postgraduate School has become the first-ever champion of the 'Jeopardy!' Professors Tournament.

Who is Sam Buttrey?

Buttrey claimed the tournament crown and the \$100,000 grand prize Friday evening.

He defeated Ed Hashima, a history professor at American River College in Sacramento, and Alisa Hove, a botany professor at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina.

"This has been the greatest time, and to come out ahead of all these other great players is something I'll remember forever," said Buttrey "The group was uniformly so smart, charming, and warm, and there's been a real feeling of camaraderie from the very beginning."



Buttrey's win has also earned him a spot in the next Tournament of Champions. The tournament will feature recent "super-streakers," including current 13-game champion Amy Schneider.

[California professor wins Jeopardy! Professors Tournament \(ksbw.com\)](#)

[Naval Postgraduate School professor wins 'Jeopardy' tournament - Global Circulate](#)

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California Professor Advances to Finals of Jeopardy! Tournament

(California News Times 15 Dec 21)

(KSBW 15 Dec 21)

An associate professor at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey has advanced to the Jeopardy final! Professor's tournament.

Sam Batley moved forward after winning \$ 26,401 in the semi-finals on Monday night. He defeated professors at the University of San Francisco and California State University, Fullerton.

Buttrey is currently one of three professors in the final. The remaining two finalists will be released on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

The tournament began with 15 educators from across the United States. The winner will bring back the \$ 100,000 Grand Prize and the Tournament of Champions spot. Champions will be crowned on weekends.

Jeopardy! It will be broadcast on KSBW8 at 7 pm on weekdays.

California professor advances to finals of Jeopardy! tournament [Source link](#) California professor advances to finals of Jeopardy! tournament

[California professor advances to finals of Jeopardy! tournament - California News Times](#)

[California professor advances to finals of Jeopardy! tournament \(ksbw.com\)](#)

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NPS Professor Sam Buttrey is in the 2021 Jeopardy! Professors Tournament Finals

(Monterey County Now 14 Dec 21) ... Agata Popeda

The Naval Postgraduate School's own Sam Buttrey just reached the finals of the 2021 Jeopardy! Professors Tournament, where he has been competing against 14 other professors from various American colleges and universities. He was victorious in the semifinals on Monday, Dec. 13 and seems unstoppable.

The Monterey professor will now compete in the two-night final round starting Thursday, Dec. 16. The final show—where a champion academic will be crowned—will be broadcast this Friday, Dec. 17.

We wrote about Buttrey, associate professor of operations research at NPS, in the Nov. 26 print edition of the Weekly. This special series of Jeopardy! began Monday, Dec. 6 and has been running in a similar format to the other specials, during a two-week window. Right now, Buttrey has \$25,000 in awards guaranteed, but could end up getting \$50,000 or \$100,000. Buttrey and his wife, Elinda Hardy, have been fans of the classic TV game show for years and even tried out several times before he finally got in.

When discussing the games afterwards, Buttrey cannot stop marveling about the role of luck in the game, and how people panic and make impulsive decisions. "When it's happening, you are really immersed in it," he says. "It's intense to even rewatch it. I couldn't believe how quickly those 61 questions passed." (There are typically 61 questions per game.)

The buzzer training proved to his advantage, Buttrey says. He expressed his concern with it before—the fact that you have to be quick and nimble on top of being mentally quick and generally smart—but seemed to master his reflexes.



Do emotions intensify closer to the finals? “The pressure is building,” Buttrey says. “Especially when you see the scores of the other guys and you know you have to win.”

In terms of the questions he proudly answered, he remembers the last one, naturally. In the Monday semifinals, the final question was in the category “Kings and Queens.” The clue given: “Due to legislative action of 1707, she was officially the last monarch of independent Scotland.”

The question is tricky because things got pretty complicated between Scotland and England during that time. And while Mary Queen of Scots wasn’t the right answer, Buttrey admits it was a decent guess on behalf of his contender.

“It was Queen Anne,” Buttrey says. “I think it helps that I went to school in England and studied English monarchs.” He defeated J.P. Allen, a professor of business and innovation at the University of San Francisco, and Katie Reed, an associate professor of musicology at Cal State Fullerton.

Thursday and Friday's finals will bring even more excitement—and reveal an ultimate winner.

[California professor advances to finals of Jeopardy! tournament - California News Times](#)

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‘Jeopardy!’ Fans Believe the New Finalist Resembles Steve Martin

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(Newsweek 14 Dec 21) ... Ryan Smith

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After a highly intense game, Sam Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, was seen as the first contender to qualify for the Professors Tournament final.

While Buttrey’s intellectual prowess was worthy of dominating conversation, people flocked to Twitter after the show to comment on how much he resembled Martin from Cheaper By the Dozen.

It was easy to mistake Buttrey for the Hollywood cinema star, as he wore spectacles, had platinum hair, and had an easygoing disposition during his tenure on the screen.

“Congrats to @SteveMartinToGo on making the finals of the @Jeopardy professors competition,” one Twitter user wrote, tagging Martin’s account.

Another tweeted, “Interesting new role for @SteveMartinToGo as college lecturer and @Jeopardy tournament semifinalist ‘Sam.’”

Another admirer of the show joked, “Comedy may not be lovely, but Jeopardy is.” “I was expecting a cameo from Martin Short. #SteveMartin.” King Tut was a category on the show, therefore the relationship went beyond appearances during the episode. Martin, of course, is most known for his novelty song “King Tut,” which he first sang on Saturday Night Live in the late 1970s.

This isn’t the first time Martin has been confused for someone else in recent weeks. After it was pointed out that the man in the video resembled Martin, a benign video of a man playing with a Dachshund gained more attention in November.

Amee Vanderpool, a writer, uploaded the video, writing: “This morning, I need a man who looks like Steve Martin in a garden, tending to this dachshund. This appears to be part of a series called “Dads with Dogs They Didn’t Want.”” As the tweet gained traction, it drew Martin’s notice, prompting him to respond: “I’m relieved to discover that this isn’t me. I was beginning to question my sanity.” Following Monday night’s episode of Jeopardy!, Buttrey chatted with Clue Crew member Jimmy McGuire about his experiences in the inaugural Professors Tournament thus far.

When asked what the problem was, This is a condensed version of the information.

['Jeopardy!' Fans believe the new finalist resembles Steve Martin. | The Washington Newsday](#)
[Fans of the game show 'Jeopardy!' believe a new finalist resembles Steve Martin. ★ Ceng News](#)
['Jeopardy!' Fans Think New Finalist Looks Just Like Steve Martin \(newsweek.com\)](#)



GRADUATION:

NPS Distinguished Alumnus Congratulates Fall Quarter Graduates, Encourages Continued Applied Education

(NPS.edu 17 Dec 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

NPS Distinguished Alumnus retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt offers the commencement address to the 2021 Fall Quarter class during the graduation ceremony, Dec. 17. Wendt encouraged the class of 331 graduates to use their knowledge, remember their classmates, and to tell their colleagues about the educational opportunities waiting for them at NPS.

Recognizing the achievements of the latest graduating class, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) celebrated its Fall Quarter 2021 graduates on Dec. 17 during a graduation ceremony held inside King Auditorium, and broadcast live on the web around the world.

NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau welcomed the graduating class and the family members who joined them for the in-person ceremony.

“I’d like for us to approach this graduation with a heart of celebration for our nation and for ourselves and what we’ve been able to do to serve that nation,” said Rondeau. “You will make your mark upon the service and the organization that you serve. It is not about this Friday. It’s about next Monday when you go now and embark upon the work that is expected of you and of us as we continue on our lifelong journey of knowledge.”

The commencement speaker was NPS alumnus and retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric P. Wendt, who most recently commanded NATO Special Operations Headquarters before retiring in early 2021. Wendt highlighted how valuable NPS is for education while congratulating the 331 graduates, including two doctoral degree recipients, and nine international students from seven countries.

“I will tell you what you all know – NPS is simply a national treasure with cutting-edge research and brilliant motivated students from a variety of backgrounds,” said Wendt. “There’s joint interagency with combined multinational thought that pushes forward, integrating technologies with human experiences.”

Wendt, who earned his Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs at NPS, shared his experience studying on campus and applying his skills for the Army, and how this graduating class can now do the same.

“As you depart back to your commands, you leave with a great deal of new knowledge – including, most importantly, the ability to think through and solve problems and improvements needed to execute our national security strategy,” said Wendt.

Reflecting on how he used his NPS education, Wendt talked about his experience with Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines in 2002, where he used models from NPS professors to develop a holistic assessment tool that in turn informed the campaign plan used against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in Basilan.

“The key takeaway is that all of you will receive this world-class education, gather a significant amount of useful knowledge, and learn not just what to think, but how to think,” Wendt noted. “Don’t leave that process with you when you go back to your unit. Don’t leave it in your thesis.”

In addition to the wealth of knowledge and critical thinking taken in during their time at NPS, Wendt encouraged the graduating class to remember how valuable their peers and faculty are.

“Remember your classmates and stay connected,” Wendt said. “You’ve got a remarkable network available to you. When you go out and are conducting operational combat missions, it’s very rare that you’ll find that it is a single country or branch involved. You’re going to meet each other again and again all around the world, and you’re going to have to solve problems ... You’re also going to have to integrate work with a lot of irregular forces to accomplish the mission. So look to your left and right today and stay connected.”

Wendt ended his address encouraging his fellow new alumni to spread the word about NPS to their peers back in their units.

“When you go back out to your units and organizations, don’t keep this a secret,” concluded Wendt. “From the Joint Services team members, civilians, to the interagency, let them know about NPS and let them know about the world class education that’s waiting for them out here in Monterey if they throw their hat in the ring and apply for a term. Congratulations to all of you and your families!”

To watch the ceremony, an interview with award-winning graduates and read to more about the class, visit the NPS Graduation website.

[NPS Distinguished Alumnus Congratulates Fall Quarter Graduates, Encourages Continued Applied Education - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

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RESEARCH:

Assessing Shooting Threats Is a Matter of Life or Death. Why Aren’t Experts Better at It?

(Ed Week 16 Dec 21) ... David Riedman, Jillian Peterson and James Densley

David Riedman is the co-creator of the K-12 School Shooting Database at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Jillian Peterson is a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University. James Densley is a professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University. Densley and Peterson are co-founders of the Violence Project and co-authors of “The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic.”

In Davison, Mich., 20 miles north of the site of the mass shooting at Oxford High School on Nov. 30, a middle schooler sits in prison for threatening a school shooting in 2019. For claiming the “trench coat mafia”—a reference to a debunked 1999 Columbine shooting conspiracy—and drawing up a detailed plan of attack, he was convicted of a 20-year felony.

Threats of school violence, credible or not, can result in serious consequences for the students making them. And this year, students are making them more and more. After the shooting at Oxford High School, scores of Michigan schools were closed because of threats, causing further despair and disruption to families still trying to process why a local child would ever kill their classmates.

Threats come in many forms, including direct communication, social-media posts, written plans and drawings, ominous messages scrawled on the bathroom wall, hearsay, and anonymous 911 calls. Some are real, some are unfunny jokes or hoaxes. There is no playbook for how to deal with them all except to say they must be taken seriously because school shooters nearly always tip their hand in advance.

With each threat investigation, school officials must weigh one student’s future against the health and safety of an entire school community. A wrong decision either way could change lives forever. Most school personnel do this without any formal training or standardized guidance. And the Oxford school shooting may set a precedent for criminally charging school staff for making the wrong decision.

Even the “experts” on threat assessment find this work difficult. We recently surveyed 229 senior law-enforcement officials and officers directly responsible for assessing threats and asked them to rate the severity of fictitious scenarios representative of common school shooting threats on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest). One example read: “A teacher at Oak Creek Elementary finds a student’s drawing of stick figures portraying a school shooting in a trash can.”

This situation is eerily similar to what happened at Oxford High School last month. There, a teacher found a note with a drawing of a gun and a bullet and the words, “The thoughts won’t stop help me” and “blood everywhere,” on it. In our fictitious scenario, however, 62 percent of the experts rated the threat as low, between 1-3 on the 10-point scale. Only 27 of the 229 scored it 8 or higher.

In another of our fictitious scenarios, a concerned student shares photographs of his classmates labeled with either a gun or heart emoji and posted on SnapChat to a school resource officer. Forty-five percent of the experts assessed this threat to be low (1-3). Only 15 of the 229 rated it 8 or higher. Early



reports suggest that threats on social media, specifically SnapChat, circulated before the Oxford shooting and were taken so seriously by some students that they decided to stay home on the day of the attack. Currently, even threat-assessment professionals are torn about how to weigh the severity of threats made on social media.

On Dec. 6, a 12-year-old girl in Florida was charged with a second-degree felony for posting a school shooting reference on Instagram. Three other Florida students have been charged with felony threats since the Oxford High shooting. Whether or not these students had the capacity to act on their threats, these charges carry lifetime consequences.

Currently, even threat-assessment professionals are torn about how to weigh the severity of threats made on social media.

At the same time, new research shows that real school shooting threats tend to be a cry for help and that they are a critical intervention point for students who are struggling to cope with suicidal and homicidal ideation. These are students who need mental-health care and tailored intervention, not criminal-justice entanglements that may make matters worse.

Reading threats right is high stakes, and the findings from our yet unpublished survey are not intended to point blame. Instead, they highlight the dire need for national guidelines, standardized assessment tools, and training for school officials, mental-health providers, and law-enforcement practitioners.

The circumstances of the Oxford shooting are the same that we discovered over and over again when studying the life histories of school mass shooters: a 15- or 16-year-old white male student of the school, often with a significant trauma history. They are in a noticeable crisis, so there is a marked change in their behavior often flagged by teachers. They are actively suicidal and they tell other people about their plans as a cry for help.

This means that schools need training in suicide prevention and crisis intervention. They need easily accessible school-based mental-health and strong community partners. We know it's critical to have multidisciplinary teams and systems in place so that evaluating a threat never falls on one person's shoulders. A crisis team with mental-health professionals, teachers, administrators, and law enforcement can look at the student, the threat, and any mitigating or aggravating circumstances to evaluate how serious it is and what form of intervention is necessary. As we saw with the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., exclusionary practices like suspension and expulsions that push troubled students away, rather than pulling them into supportive services, can make things worse by intensifying their crisis and deepening their grievance with the school.

After 9/11, our country recognized that local police departments were ill-equipped to detect and stop terrorists, so we invested billions into training and equipment, a Joint Terrorism Taskforce in every city, and the entire federal Department of Homeland Security. In the years since 9/11, school shootings have claimed more lives than terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, yet we have left schools on an island without the resources needed to address these persistent threats. Our investments have largely been in physical security and active-shooter drills, which our research shows do little to prevent school shootings, only react to them after the fact.

Rather than criminally charge school officials, we must recognize how underresourced schools and communities are to both assess and respond to threats and provide the training, guidance, and resources necessary to keep students safe.

At a time when a global pandemic has exacerbated many risk factors for violence, schools need all the help they can get to hear students' cries for help and take the right actions before the next, sadly predictable, tragedy occurs.

On Friday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. ET, the Violence Project will host a free event on strategies for schools to respond to shooting threats.

[Assessing Shooting Threats Is a Matter of Life or Death. Why Aren't Experts Better at It? \(Opinion\) \(edweek.org\)](#)

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Xerox Inks Multi-Year Software Deal with Oracle to Launch New Businesses Faster

(3D Printing Industry 20 Dec 21) ... Hayley Everett

Global digital document and printing firm Xerox has partnered with cloud computing and software company Oracle to allow new businesses born inside Xerox to launch and monetize their services more quickly.

By choosing Oracle's integrated set of Oracle Cloud software offerings, new Xerox businesses can sell online, create orders, process invoices, track performance and carry out financial planning within weeks, as opposed to several months. For Xerox's 3D printing business, the team was able to stand up the IT infrastructure needed in just six weeks to "transact right out of the gate", and can now use this as a template to future ventures.

"We're able to operate in a very nimble way, where we can spin up a new business in just a few weeks, all without switching to a different platform," said Naresh Shanker, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Xerox. "That's the beauty of the Oracle Cloud solution."

Xerox's increasing interest in 3D

Having historically traded in 2D rather than 3D printing, Xerox announced its intentions to develop a roadmap to "participate" in 3D printing back in 2018. Shortly after, the firm acquired liquid metal jet 3D printer manufacturer Vader Systems and made its Formnext debut in 2019 with a substantial presence at the show.

In the two years since, Xerox has continued its expansion into 3D printing, having lined up and eventually scrapped a speculative \$27 billion bid for multinational printing firm HP, and incorporated Vader System's technologies into its first printer, the ElemX. The ElemX is currently being tested at the US **Naval Postgraduate School** as part of a research partnership exploring the potential for 3D printing to transform how the military supplies its deployed forces.

Most recently, Xerox continued its foray into the additive manufacturing space through leading a recent \$3.5 million seed funding round for 3D printing software developer CASTOR. Through its investment, Xerox is potentially eyeing the professional market, with the companies' ongoing relationship offering a glimpse of where Xerox's expansion could be heading next.

The "Oracle-in-a-box" approach

Prior to its partnership with Oracle, it reportedly took Xerox up to three months to implement the IT systems required to support a new business venture. To speed up this process, the firm began reviewing cloud-based systems that would allow new businesses born inside Xerox to launch and commercialize their services more quickly.

The company settled on Oracle's integrated cloud approach, which is designed to give businesses all they need to get up and running. The "Oracle-in-a-box" cloud infrastructure offering includes an online storefront in Oracle Commerce, finance and accounting in Oracle NetSuite, budgeting and financial planning in Oracle Fusion Cloud Enterprise Performance Management (EPM), and integration capabilities via Oracle Integration.

These offerings are all included within the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), which also gives Xerox access to the firm's Oracle Autonomous Database, an enterprise digital warehouse that enables new businesses to manage their data with no admin and run advanced analytics. Additionally, Xerox will be able to leverage Oracle's OCI High Performance Computing when researching new businesses.

"We wanted to keep these solutions all in the family, so to speak. This avoids the headaches of too many vendors and platforms," said Sreedhar Vaidyanathan, Vice President of Digital Transformation at Xerox. "Oracle's solutions make it simple for our new businesses to roll up to the mother ship and vice versa. It's easy to track performance."

Leveraging Oracle's software, Xerox was able to stand up the IT infrastructure for its 3D printing business in as little as six weeks. By automating processes such as procure-to-pay and quote-to-cash, the 3D printing team "gained the ability to transact right out of the gate," said Vaidyanathan.

"There's no waiting to generate invoices and start collecting revenue, and we're able to scale as much as needed," he said. "We can replicate this process for any new venture. We don't have to implement a different platform every time we launch. We can look under the hood to see how each business is doing. What do their financials look like? Are they in compliance? We have clear lines of sight."



“BECAUSE WE ARE AN INNOVATIVE COMPANY, SPEED TO MARKET IS VERY IMPORTANT. ORACLE CLOUD INNOVATIONS LET US HIT THE GROUND RUNNING, WITHOUT A LOT OF CUSTOMIZATION.”

Xerox’s recently launched software business CareAR is already powered by Oracle’s integrated toolset, which enables field technicians to work remotely to help customers solve problems faster and skip costly on-site visits.

“[Oracle] has come up with a lot of creative ideas to keep things moving forward,” Vaidyanathan added. “They’ve been instrumental in our journey. If someone has a greenlighted idea, they can come to us today and tomorrow we’ll give them the basic toolset. With Oracle, there’s a complete package that any new business can run with.”

Oracle is also powering the HR, customer experience, financial services, and supply chain management of other 3D printing companies with its technology, with 3D printer OEM Carbon having integrated the Oracle Cloud back in 2017. Oracle also has ongoing partnerships with the likes of geometric deep learning specialist [Physna](#), among other players.

[Xerox inks multi-year software deal with Oracle to launch new businesses faster - 3D Printing Industry](#)

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FACULTY:

CHDS Instructor Brown Wins Outstanding Professor Award

(Homeland Security Today 20 Dec 21)

Center for Homeland Defense and Security senior lecturer and thesis advisor Dr. Shannon Brown has been named the winner of the Lieutenant Commander David L. Williams Outstanding Professor Award.

The award is presented to the faculty member of the **Naval Postgraduate School’s** (NPS) Graduate School of International and Defense Studies (IDS) who has demonstrated the greatest dedication to the learning and intellectual growth of students, in-residence and abroad, and through that dedication had the greatest impact on the individual students and the course as a whole.

IDS was formerly known as the School of International Graduate Studies, which established the award.

Brown, who joined CHDS in 2017, teaches several courses in the Center’s Master’s program, and contributes to the Internet and Society course and the Special Topics: Government course.

Before joining CHDS, Brown served as a Professor of National Security Studies at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy from 2004-17, holding leadership appointments including department chair, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and the Dean of Faculty.

He has also held teaching positions at the Virginia Polytechnic and State University and the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, and has worked as a consultant supporting government offices and strategic planning organizations including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Treasury, and U.S. Air Force.

Brown holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where his studies focused on the history of technology and modern world history, and earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

The award was first presented in March 2004 and is granted each quarter.

It honors the memory and service of Lt. Cmdr Williams (USN), an NPS alumnus killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

[CHDS Instructor Brown Wins Outstanding Professor Award - HS Today](#)

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ALUMNI:

California Surfer Becomes Combat Helicopter Pilot

(RedStoneRocket 15 Dec 21) ... Skip Vaughn

He was a Southern California surfer with an “American Graffiti” lifestyle. He’d go to different beaches and surf the waves during the weekdays and cruise Hollywood Boulevard at night. He worked as an LA truck driver to pay for his fast car.

“I don’t think I even knew there was a war going on in Vietnam,” Tom Houser, now a Huntsville business leader, said laughing.

Everything changed when he opened his mail Oct. 5, 1965.

“I thought my draft notice was a joke,” Houser said. “It looked like somebody had faked a number.”

It was for real, of course. Houser had just turned 20 and was living at home with his parents in Huntington Park. He had attended Los Angeles State – now called California State University at Los Angeles – for one year until surfing and golfing caught up with him. He had a sister who was six years older. His father worked 47 years for Santa Fe Railroad; and the family lived in a railroad car one summer when Houser was 7.

Today Houser is a retired lieutenant colonel and serves as the chief operating officer of Whitespace Family of Companies. He did two tours in Vietnam as an Army helicopter pilot.

So, what changed his life? “The Army did,” he said. “This will probably shock you. When I got into the Army, I almost immediately became very gung-ho.”

During his 22 years in uniform, he spent eight and half in schools. He earned a bachelor’s with a dual major in economics and business management from the University of Tampa in 1975. He earned a master’s in electronic warfare systems engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 1983.

“The Army was really good to me,” Houser, who retired Oct. 31, 1987, said.

He had basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and advanced individual training for infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He completed officer candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia, and stayed there in 1967 as a tactical officer training others to become infantry officers. One dreary three-day field training exercise fueled his decision to become a helicopter pilot. He went to flight school in March 1968 at Fort Wolters, Texas, and finished at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia, in January 1969.

The 22-year-old captain deployed for his first Vietnam tour in February 1969. He was assigned to C Company, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, at Phouc Vinh, the division’s base camp about 60 miles north of Saigon. The Huey helicopter pilot flew every other day. He spent the first half of his tour, which lasted until February 1970, as a platoon leader and the second half as the company’s operations officer. He flew mostly combat assaults but also logistics resupply missions and sometimes medical evacuations. In combat assaults, normally six Hueys would be accompanied by four Cobra gunships.

He made an emergency landing in October 1969 near An Loc when his Huey was struck by enemy bullets. Fortunately, he landed in a safe area and the crew escaped injury and was quickly rescued.

His second tour went from July 1972 until the ceasefire in February 1973. The captain was assigned to the 358th Aviation Detachment, part of the 525th Military Intelligence Group. For much of his tour, he was the commanding officer with his headquarters in the Saigon area. He flew both fixed wing – a U-21 Beechcraft King Air – and a Huey. “A lot of it was just hauling people from the 525th MI Group all over the country,” Houser said. “We also went to places we weren’t supposed to be because of international law (including Cambodia).”

After two tours, Houser had 673 combat hours. He received two Bronze Stars, and the Air Medal with a V for valor and 27 oak leaf clusters.

“I think the most appropriate description is it was hours and hours of boredom interspersed with moments of sheer terror,” he said.



Houser has worked in industry in Huntsville for 34 years. Since January 2017 he has served as the chief operating officer for Whitespace Family of Companies which have both defense and commercial business.

He and his wife of 40 years, Jean, both widowed as young adults, reside in southeast Huntsville. Their combined family includes four children – three sons and one daughter – and three grandchildren.

Houser, 76, enjoys doing computers and electronics, boating and water sports, and reading history and biographies. He serves on the board for various local companies, and he is a trustee for Samford University. He belongs to the North Alabama chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

He shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

"I think that the nation has awakened to the fact that they didn't treat Vietnam veterans correctly," Houser said. "And so I think that it's remarkable the number of people that see me wear my VHPA cap and thank me."

Editor's note: This is the 350th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

[California surfer becomes combat helicopter pilot | News | theredstonerocket.com](#)

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Graduation of CELP 2020 Cohort

(DVIDS 13 Dec 21) ... Lt. Bobby Dixon

U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC) graduated five civilian and two naval officers from the CNMOC Executive Leadership Program (CELP), Nov. 19, 2021.

CNMOC established CELP in 2012 with the purpose of building a foundation for personnel leadership development and preparing participants for potential placement in key leadership positions. The CELP 2020 cohort is the seventh to graduate from the program. The program boasts 62 personnel completing it to date.

"I am so proud and excited for this outstanding group of Naval Oceanography leaders!" said Dr. William Burnett, Technical Director, CNMOC. "During COVID-19, they were challenged individually, and as a group demonstrated toughness, resilience and perseverance. I am confident that these future senior leaders will ensure a successful future for Naval Oceanography."

This year's graduating cohort:

- Mr. Jeffrey Jackson from Fleet Weather Center – San Diego (FWC-SD) and Naval Air Station Fallon (NAS Fallon)
- Ms. Sydne Workman from Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO)
- Dr. Scott Dahm from U.S. Naval Observatory – Flagstaff Station (USNO-FS)
- Ms. Heather Carnocki from Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO)
- Mr. David Brazier from Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO)
- LCDR Casey Burgener from Fleet Survey Team (FST) and **Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)**
- CDR Kathryn Coyle from Information Forces (IFOR) and Submarine Force Atlantic (SUBLANT)

In 2019, the graduates began their two year mission to better themselves and the Naval Oceanography community. The program included remote assignments, shadowing, leadership interviews and attendance at high-level meetings. It also included a week-long orientation at CNMOC onboard Stennis Space Center, MS, and week-long east coast and west coast trip to tour all Naval Oceanography assets in the U.S.

Program lead Ms. Jennifer Hailes, Deputy Technical Director at CNMOC, said "As the program lead, my work was to ensure the cohort stayed on task with the full support of CNMOC. The real work was



done by the cohort who worked tirelessly on completing each milestone in their CELP journey on top of doing their day job and taking care of their families.”

The cohort presented their capstone project on 5 November 2021 to RDML Piret and to the Naval Oceanography Senior Civilian Leadership Board.

The goal of their capstone project was to “instill and sustain a culture of mentorship within Naval Oceanography”, with the desired outcome to provide mentorship opportunities, improve job satisfaction, increase networking and positively influence personal retention, recruitment and advancement. To attain this goal, the cohort developed a set of mentorship tools, a Seminar Series on mentorship, and proposed a sustainment plan for the tools.

“This program has taught me more about myself as a leader and as a person more than I could have ever hoped.” said Ms. Sydne Workman from the NAVO. “With that in mind, one of the things I would like to offer to the new cohort that I realized about half way through is while this program helps you detect your weaknesses and work toward improving them, it also helps you recognize your strengths.”

Requirements of the program have each member individually select a mentor to provide guidance through the completion of the program, job shadow multiple Department of Defense leaders, interview five federal leaders, complete a year-long leadership development training program, read and virtually report on two leadership books to Naval Oceanography leadership. Additionally civilians must complete a 30 to 60 day leadership developmental assignment (depending on their grade level).

On mentorship, during their visit to U.S. Naval Information Forces (NAVIFOR), they learned that there are opportunities to mentor and be mentored everywhere. The cohort learned that it is up to them to seek out and/or recognize those opportunities and capitalize on them. Often times the mentor learns just as much from the protégé as the protégé does from the mentor.

“It is now important for our cohort to “pay it forward.” Even though we have completed the program and graduated, we need to be available to mentor future cohorts on our experiences.” said Mr. Jeff Jackson, administrative officer, NAS Fallon. “We are also now uniquely qualified to mentor coworkers and subordinates on the leadership lessons we have learned throughout our time in CELP.”

Their graduation from CELP does not complete their participation in the program as one of their requirements is to continue to serve as mentors incoming CELP cohorts. Currently, there are two active CELP cohorts: The 2021 cohort includes ten Naval Oceanography civilians and two U.S. Navy officers, and the 2022 cohort includes five civilians and two U.S. Navy officers.

“Resiliency was a theme throughout our CELP journey; mostly due to all of the COVID impacts.” said Cmdr. Kate Coyle, SUBLANT Force Oceanographer. “Having different COAs and back-up/alternate plans for even simple tasks like holding Microsoft Teams meetings was essential for us, especially with how geographically diverse our cohort was.”

Interesting facts about the 2020 Cohort:

- The cohort had a 85% promotion rate during their time in CELP
- Most geographically diverse cohort in its almost 10 year history
- First cohort to have active duty military participates
- First cohort to open up their leadership book reviews virtually for all Naval Oceanography leadership to participate and discuss
- Completed 10 senior level engagements via MS

For each incoming cohort, the new cohort are required to attend the graduation of the cohort that began two years prior. This is done so that the new cohorts can hear firsthand from the graduates in hopes of gaining advice and direction. Thus the 2022 CELP cohort completed their first week of orientation by attending the 2020 CELP graduation.

[DVIDS - News - Graduation of CELP 2020 Cohort \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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Norwich University Names Danielle Pelczarski as Chief of Staff

(Norwich 13 Dec 21)

Vermont Business Magazine Norwich University President Mark Anarumo announced that Danielle Pelczarski, deputy commandant of the California State University Maritime Academy in Vallejo, California, has been named senior vice president and chief of staff, effective March 2022.

Pelczarski replaces Dave Whaley, who assisted in creating the position over 18 months ago while serving simultaneously as secretary to the Board of Trustees and senior philanthropic advisor to the development office, full time positions he will retain upon Pelczarski's arrival.

"I am ecstatic to welcome Danielle Pelczarski to the Norwich family," Anarumo said. "She has mastered a broad range of skills as a Naval officer, in higher education, and in the private sector as a marketing executive. I look forward to working with her to elevate our great university to our next level of excellence."

Pelczarski brings 30 years of military experience as a Navy Expeditionary Supply Corps officer from the U.S. Navy Reserve. As a former U.S. Navy Reserve captain, her experience encompasses supply chain management, base operating support, expeditionary logistics, fuels management, disbursement, and inventory control. Most recently, in the private sector, she was the co-founder and chief operating officer for LOCALMOTV Inc., an e-commerce startup connecting locally minded shoppers with local independent merchants.

Pelczarski's experiences include leadership in small, medium, and large companies, collaborating to drive process improvement and key performance indicators; interpret trends; assess financial impact; lead process mapping and improvement; manage sizable budgets; and champion high-functioning professional teams domestically and internationally.

She also has three decades of corporate executive-level experience in brand management and corporate communications, leveraging brands including British Petroleum, Pepsi, Frito Lay, Gatorade, Delta Air Lines, Nike, Speedo, Coors, Apple, Microsoft and FedEx.

Pelczarski's education encompasses several degrees from the Joint Forces Staff College, **Naval Postgraduate School**, Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business, Miami University of Ohio, and Hiram College.

In service to her nation, Pelczarski deployed overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Aqea Al Qaeda East Africa. Her military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6), U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3), and the U.S. Navy Expeditionary Supply Corps Officer Warfare and Ashore Command pins.

In accepting this appointment, Pelczarski stated, "I want to thank President Anarumo, the Board of Trustees, Senior Leadership and all who have put your trust in me to bring me into the Norwich University fold. Indeed, I am thoroughly honored and excited to start my new mission in March, 2022. I feel like my entire career – civilian, military, and most recently academic – has been a journey that has led me directly to Norwich University. I am humbled to be given the opportunity to be a part of the innovative and committed team that honors Norwich's deep history while preparing its outstanding students to be leaders of the future."

[Norwich University names Danielle Pelczarski as chief of staff | Vermont Business Magazine \(vermontbiz.com\)](#)

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Chad Houck Withdraws Candidacy for Idaho Secretary of State

(The Idaho Statesman 17 Dec 21) ... Ian Max Stevenson

Chad Houck, who had been a member of the competitive Republican race to lead the Idaho Secretary of State's Office, is withdrawing his candidacy, according to a news release. Houck, the current chief deputy in the office — the top position below Secretary of State Lawrence Denney — was considered to



be fairly well-positioned in the race. Denney's wife, Donna Denney, served as Houck's campaign treasurer, according to previous Idaho Statesman reporting. In the release, Houck said he was withdrawing primarily for family reasons.

"I have two children at key times in their lives, finishing high school and headed to college in the next 18 months," he said in the release. "I'm not willing to miss what time I have left by being on the campaign trail."

Houck, who recently received a master's degree in Homeland Security Studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, said he still will pursue cybersecurity work outside of government.

"Under the leadership of Secretary Denney, we secured the funding from state and federal sources to dramatically improve our cybersecurity posture ... but there are still things that need to be done, tools to be developed, that I can't do from inside the Statehouse," he said. Other Republicans still vying for the position include Ada County Clerk Phil McGrane and state Sen. Mary Souza, of Coeur d'Alene. State Rep. Dorothy Moon, of Stanley, announced in November that she was running. They will compete in May's primary. McGrane and Moon have both received tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, according to campaign finance data from the secretary of state's website. Souza has raised nearly \$20,000 in large contributions, according to the website. The Secretary of State's Office requires prompt reporting of contributions that equal or exceed \$1,000. Smaller contributions must also be reported, but will not be visible to the public until January. According to data on the website, Houck's campaign has not received any large contributions other than a \$5,000 loan Houck filed on his own behalf. In a phone interview with the Statesman, he said he had received commitments from donors but had asked them not to give money to his campaign until he made up his mind. "I didn't want to take any dollars from someone until I was absolutely certain that I was going to continue," he said. "So the only money in my campaign was my own at this point, by intent."

[Chad Houck withdraws from Idaho secretary of state race | Idaho Statesman](#)

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