



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – July 21-27, 2020

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LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD:

1. [NPS President Engages Campus Leaders in All-New Web Series ‘Listen, Learn, Lead’](#)

(*Navy.mil 21 July 20*) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

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(*NAS Patuxent River Tester 23 July 20*) ... Warren Duffie Jr.

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4. [Russian Cyberthreat Extends to Coronavirus Vaccine Research](#)

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5. [Azerbaijani Ambassador: Border Hostilities May Harm Israeli Oil Supplies](#)

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Violence along the Armenian and Azerbaijani border could harm energy supplies from that region, of which Israel is a recipient, warned Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the US... **Energy expert Brenda Shaffer, of the US Naval Postgraduate School faculty** and the senior adviser for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank said the border violence was not accidental and blamed Armenia for wanting to disrupt completion of the new gas pipeline.

6. [CSUN Prof: Political Ideology is Shaping Individual Responses to the Pandemic](#)

(*CSUN Today* 22 July 20) ... Carmen Ramos Chandler

Political ideology, in particular support of President Donald Trump, is shaping individual responses to calls for social distancing and wearing masks in an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19, and could impact the nation's recovery from the pandemic, according to a new study by California State University, Northridge psychology professor Abe Rutchick... The paper's authors, in addition to Rutchick, include Cal State San Marcos psychology professor Dustin Calvillo; Ryan Ross, who graduated from CSUN in May with a master's degree in clinical psychology; **Ryan Garcia, an assistant professor of political science at the Naval Postgraduate School**; and Thomas Smelter, a graduate student in psychological science at Cal State San Marcos.

ALUMNI:

7. [NUWC Division Newport Employee Wins Naval Postgraduate School Award for Acquisition Excellence](#)

(*Naval Sea Systems Command* 21 July 20)

Zach Augustine, an NPS alumnus and policy lead in the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport's Contracts Department, recently received the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Cmdr. Philip A. Murphy-Sweet Memorial Award for Acquisition Excellence.

8. [PEO Land Systems Engineer Receives Navy's Top Emergent Engineer Award](#)

(*DVIDS* 21 July 20) ... Ashley Colingo

Ali Olinger, an NPS alumna and systems engineer with the Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar program at PEO Land Systems, was one of two emergent engineers selected to receive this year's Dr. Delores M. Etter Award and was the only Marine Corps honoree.

9. [Wrightsville Beach Announces Hiring of New Chief of Police](#)

(*WECT News* 21 July 20) ... WECT Staff

David Squires, an NPS alumnus and 27-year veteran with the Virginia Beach Police Department, will retire from that agency and accept the top cop position in Wrightsville Beach, according to a news release from the town.

10. [Colonel Melissa A Zebley Proudly Announces the Promotion of Major Daniel K Meadows to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel](#)

(*Delaware.gov* 21 July 20) ... Melissa Jaffe

The Delaware State Police Superintendent, Colonel Melissa A. Zebley announces the promotion of Major Daniel K. Meadows, a Naval Postgraduate School alumnus, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on July 20, 2020.

11. ["Cocaine Logistics" for the Marine Corps](#)

(*Warontherocks.com* 22 July 20) ... Walker D. Mills, Dylan "Joose" Phillips-Levine, and **Collin Fox (Naval Postgraduate School alumnus)**

In a future conflict with China, how would the Marine Corps supply small units deep inside enemy controlled areas, hundreds or even thousands of miles from their logistics bases?

Right now, the service would have to send ships and aircraft to feed, fuel, and arm these scattered forces just to keep them alive and in the fight. However, sending manned logistics ships into this lethal environment ranges from risky to reckless, while cargo aircraft lack the carrying capacity required to keep marines fed and equipped for very long.



[12. USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Welcomes New Commander](#)

(Army.mil 22 July 20) ... Keith Pannell

Col. Vance J. Klosinski, a Naval Postgraduate School alumnus, assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in a ceremony here July 22. Klosinski accepted the garrison colors from Tommy Mize, the Installation Management Command-Europe director. Outgoing Commander Col. Jason T. Edwards relinquished the organizational flag to Mize before the ceremonial event.

[13. Submarine Caption Calls North Carolina Home](#)

(Greensboro News & Record 24 July 20) ... Harry Thetford

An engineer by skill and trade, William “Bill” Sellers likely flow-charted his Navy career as early as the third grade... Sandwiched between tours at sea, Sellers served in a shore-based unit in New Orleans and **obtained a master’s degree in physics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.**

[14. Center for Information Warfare Training Holds Change of Command](#)

(DVIDS 24 July 20) ... Glenn Sircy

Capt. Marc W. Ratkus relieved Capt. Nicholas “Nick” Andrews II, a Naval Postgraduate School alumnus, as commanding officer of the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) during a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida, July 24.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

August 25: [V-SGL with Dr. Kathryn Sullivan](#)



LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD:

NPS President Engages Campus Leaders in All-New Web Series ‘Listen, Learn, Lead’

(Navy.mil 21 July 20) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tom Tonthat

The Naval Postgraduate School’s (NPS) intellectual capital – its faculty, students and staff – make invaluable technological and leadership contributions across the campus, and throughout the Navy and nation. Who are these thoughtful, principled leaders that define NPS as an institution? Why do they choose NPS? And how are they advancing student education for the warfighter?

University president retired Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau sets out to answer these questions and more in the all-new “Listen, Learn, Lead” (LLL) video and podcast series, launched July 21, where she interviews these extraordinary campus leaders and innovators.

In conversations facilitated by Rondeau, the series directly explores the array of experiences and areas of expertise resident in leaders from across the campus, including detailed research initiatives, discussions of inclusion and diversity, and much more ... All representing the thought leadership that is unique to the university.

“NPS is where the science and technology of warfare join together, and where students get a unique learning experience due to some incredibly gifted leaders on our campus,” said Rondeau. “Their interdisciplinary mastery in their fields and their commitment to the educational and research mission, which equips our students to solve complex national security challenges, is truly what sets NPS apart. Listen, Learn and Lead engages these leaders to understand the people behind NPS’ value, and show how NPS’ technological and intellectual advantage merge.”

The series debuts with seven episodes, featuring frank conversation with different guests whose work and initiatives have a direct impact on the warfighter.

“NPS is such a goldmine,” said LLL guest Dr. Gail Thomas, an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Defense Management. “There are so many interdisciplinary ways that we bring to the table that can help the Navy, and ways that we can learn from each other. There is no end to the knowledge that I’m able to mine here ... taking the knowledge we have here and recombining it in ways to meet new emerging problems.”

A key component to the series is how Rondeau dives into the heart of the issues, directly allowing each guest to speak about experiences, thought processes and values, from which current and future leaders can gain.

“The world is becoming more complex,” said guest Glen Woodbury, Director of NPS’ Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), during his interview. “We want to build leaders who don’t just survive in this increasingly complex world but can thrive in it through decision making within the domains of humanity, technology and the environment. Being able to think about things before they happen. To take a step back and lead from a place that is different than how we led before.”

In episode three, Rondeau invited a group of students to candidly discuss their concerns and encourage similar conversations about race, and the importance of inclusion and diversity.

“I think the military has this opportunity to have these dialogues to show what right looks like for the rest of the nation,” said Marine Corps Maj. Matthew Bowman, as he and Rondeau discussed how the military can change racial bias within the services, as the country faces its own biases.

“We have the opportunity to sit down and have honest dialogue and have the personal fortitude and moral courage to listen and understand ... To think, “Maybe I’ve been wrong, maybe I haven’t been looking at this from the right perspective and have the chance to have some introspective, change if necessary,” he continued.

By listening and learning from the unique thought leadership on campus, audiences can both better understand the unique student-learning experience of NPS, and the role everyone has in shaping a listening and learning culture.

“This is about listening, learning and leading in America for the sake of our national strength,” said Rondeau. “My hope for this series is to help create new knowledge, provide a conduit for positive cultural change and to inspire intellectual discover so we field a better fleet and force.”



Listen, Learn, Lead is available online on the NPS website, through the institution's YouTube Channel, and via Podcast on iTunes, Spotify and others.

https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=113601

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EDUCATION:

Agility Summit Seeks Creative Solutions to Naval Challenges

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Two of the issues the NavalX Agility Cell, or NavalX, will tackle during its Agility Summit Sept. 21-25 include: Improving how emerging technologies are identified to meet urgent warfighter needs, and accelerating technology transition to the fleet; and identifying military and civilian personnel in the naval workforce and Naval Research and Development Establishment (NR&DE), who are taking unique and successful approaches to innovation.

The event will be hosted by NavalX and supported by multiple partners, including the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

“The purpose of the Agility Summit is to foster meaningful discussions and collaboration that will have a lasting impact on the Navy and Marine Corps,” said the Hon. James Geurts, assistant secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, who created NavalX. “It will give us a greater understanding of the tools and talent we have to identify performance gaps and opportunities for greater efficiency.”

NavalX enables collaboration; accelerates the pace of discovery, learning and experimentation; and fosters the naval workforce's capacity for innovation and agility. It gives Sailors, Marines and Department of the Navy civilians valuable tools for solving problems and translating ideas into actionable solutions.

This enables naval organizations like ONR to better serve warfighter needs by connecting individuals promoting innovative ideas with experts who can experiment with those ideas, invest in them or help turn them into something tangible for the Navy and Marine Corps.

The upcoming Agility Summit is designed to build partnerships in the DoN on matters of innovation, acquisition and transition—to share best practices and discuss problems facing the fleet. It will highlight innovation success stories and discuss future efforts through presentations and workshops.

The centerpiece of the Agility Summit will be an educational “agility challenge” involving 10 student teams invited from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Naval War College (NWC) and Marine Corps University (MCU). The teams will work to solve pressing naval problems.

“An event like the Agility Summit enables those in the NR&DE to benefit from the creativity and dynamic thinking of the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps leaders,” said Dr. Rich Carlin, ONR's director of technology-acceleration programs. “The students participating in the challenge will demonstrate the vision and ideas required to keep our nation ahead of its adversaries in the great power competition we currently face.”

NPS, NWC and MCU student teams can visit a designated website to learn about fleet issues and challenges, choose one to address and apply to compete at the Agility Summit. The closing date for student submissions and applications is July 31, and the final 10 teams will be chosen during the week of Aug. 7. Selected teams will receive funding to travel to the NavalX facility in Alexandria, Virginia.

For more information, email agility@navy.mil or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/agility-summit-2020-student-challenge-application-registration-113117134394>.

People can attend the summit both physically and virtually. In-person attendees will wear masks and practice social distancing.



During the Agility Summit, the student teams will receive detailed briefs about their respective naval problems, brainstorm solutions and pitch their ideas to a panel of judges to include Geurts and Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Lorin C. Selby.

The winning teams will receive 10 weeks of follow-on support and access to requirement holders, end users and subject matter experts at warfare centers and naval labs to develop their ideas. Afterward, the teams will present their prototypes or proofs of concept to Geurts, Selby and other naval stakeholders.

https://www.dcmilitary.com/tester/news/agility-summit-seeks-creative-solutions-to-naval-challenges/article_81b6a88b-8018-5f66-b923-8adec42da236.html

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Hall of Fame Naval Postgraduate School Grads Alexander, Tighe Talk Benefits and Challenges of 5G

(Navy.mil 24 July 20) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor Vencill

Respected DOD cyber warriors and leaders, retired Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander, the first Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, and retired Navy Vice Adm. Jan E. Tighe, the 66th Director of Naval Intelligence, discussed the breakthroughs and challenges that 5G will bring during Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) latest Virtual Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL), held online Tuesday, July 21.

Alexander and Tighe join other high-profile leaders in the SGL series, like retired Navy Adms. Mike Mullen and William H. McRaven who spoke on national security challenges and leadership, by sharing their wealth of knowledge and decades of experience in the cyber field with the students and faculty of NPS.

"With respect to 5G, it will increasingly shape the way that we live our lives and the way we design and execute our missions over the next 5 to 10 years," said Tighe. "For the students, be optimistic and curious about how to best leverage this technology and capability to our military advantage ... I expect 5G will enable faster and better decision making on the battlefield."

"You're the leaders for defending our nation at sea, on the ground, and in the air," Alexander added. "5G is going to be one of the capabilities that you have at your hand. Understanding how to employ that and how the adversary is going to employ it is key to being able to fight and win."

Alexander said the nation is not accustomed to this type of public-private sector partnership in defense and that the military is going to have to lead. He noted that students at NPS have the ability to study and research the capabilities of 5G and, in turn, inform senior leadership.

Most of the lecture's time was allotted to university students, who were able to ask their questions directly to the two leaders. Questions covered a variety of topics from how to break and jam 5G to how we ensure that the United States is a leader in technology.

"I think we need to ascertain how our peers will incorporate 5G capabilities into the fabric of their warfighting capabilities," stated Tighe. "As 5G rolls out, counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency missions could benefit from incorporating 5G capabilities, but I believe there is larger potential in being prepared for the high-end fight."

"We cannot trail in this area," added Alexander. "This is an all-of-nation approach and one of the areas I see is a grand economic competition for our country. 5G is going to be the fabric upon which our military fights."

Alexander again stressed the importance of public-private sector relationships to maintain the security and well-being of the country.

"The Department of Defense, as well as the State Department and others, have to help push our government to help our industry compete in the area," said Alexander.

"In this case, commercial is developing the road map and the military has the opportunity to see where that road map is going, before they've even delivered that product in the commercial sector,"



continued Tighe, echoing Alexander's thoughts on public-private sector partnerships. "We have the ability to see the standards and adapt those standards to our use."

During his closing remarks, Alexander reminded students of the opportunity they have before them at NPS, reminiscing on his own tenure as a student.

"My time at NPS really helped my career," claimed Alexander. "It gave me the opportunity to be curious and to help describe what our Army and intelligence community needed. It allowed me to be a leader in an area where I would not normally have been, and now you have that same opportunity."

NPS will continue its SGL series with speaker Dr. Kathryn Sullivan on Aug. 25 at 3:00p.m. PST. One of the first women to join the NASA astronaut corps in 1978, Sullivan was the first American woman to walk in space. More recently, her submersible dive to the Challenger Deep in June of 2020 made her the first person to both orbit the planet and reach the deepest point.

https://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=113637

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FACULTY:

Russian Cyberthreat Extends to Coronavirus Vaccine Research

(TheConversation.com 21 July 20) ... Dr. Dorothy Denning, **Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School**

A Russian cyberespionage group that hacked into election networks before the 2016 U.S. presidential election is now attempting to steal coronavirus vaccine information from researchers in the U.S., U.K. and Canada. The governments of those three countries issued a warning on July 16 saying that the group known as APT29 or "Cozy Bear" is targeting vaccine development efforts. The group, which is connected with the FSB, Russia's internal security service, had gotten inside the Democratic National Committee networks prior to the 2016 election.

This latest incident illustrates yet again how, beyond carrying all of our phone, text and internet communications, cyberspace is an active battleground, with cybercriminals, government agents and even military personnel probing weaknesses in corporate, national and even personal online defenses. Some of the most talented and dangerous cybercrooks and cyberwarriors come from Russia, which is a longtime meddler in other countries' affairs.

Over decades, Russian operators have stolen terabytes of data, taken control of millions of computers and raked in billions of dollars. They've shut down electricity in Ukraine and meddled in elections in the U.S. and elsewhere. They've engaged in disinformation and disclosed pilfered information such as the emails stolen from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, following successful spearphishing attacks.

Who are these operators, why are they so skilled, and what are they up to?

Back to the 1980s

The Russian cyberthreat dates back to at least 1986 when Cliff Stoll, then a system administrator at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, linked a 75-cent accounting error to intrusions into the lab's computers. The hacker was after military secrets, downloading documents with important keywords such as "nuclear." A lengthy investigation, described in Stoll's book "The Cuckoo's Egg," led to a German hacker who was selling the stolen data to what was then the Soviet Union.

By the late 1990s, Russian cyberespionage had grown to include the multi-year "Moonlight Maze" intrusions into U.S. military and other government computers, foretelling the massive espionage from Russia today.

The 1990s also saw the arrest of Vladimir Levin, a computer operator in St. Petersburg. Levin tried to steal more than US\$10 million by hacking Citibank accounts, foreshadowing Russia's prominence in



cybercrime. And Russian hackers defaced U.S. websites during the Kosovo conflict, portending Russia's extensive use of disruptive and damaging cyberattacks.

Conducting Advanced Attacks

In more recent years, Russia has been behind some of the most sophisticated cyberattacks on record. The 2015 cyberattack on three of Ukraine's regional power distribution companies knocked out power to almost a quarter-million people. Cybersecurity analysts from the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center and the SANS Institute reported that the multi-staged attacks were conducted by a "highly structured and resourced actor." Ukraine blamed the attacks on Russia.

The attackers used a variety of techniques and adapted to the targets they faced. They used spearphishing email messages to gain initial access to systems. They installed "BlackEnergy" malware to establish remote control over the infected devices. They harvested credentials to move through the networks. They developed custom malicious firmware to render system control devices inoperable. They hijacked the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to open circuit breakers in substations. They used "KillDisk" malware to erase the master boot record of affected systems. The attackers even went so far as to strike the control stations' battery backups and tie up the energy company's call center with thousands of calls.

The Russians returned in 2016 with more advanced tools to take down a major artery of Ukraine's power grid. Russia is believed to have also invaded energy companies in the U.S., including those operating nuclear power plants.

Top-notch Cyber Education

Russia has many skilled cyberoperators, and for good reason: Their educational system emphasizes information technology and computer science, more so than in the U.S.

Every year, Russian schools take a disproportionate number of the top spots in the International Collegiate Programming Contest. In the 2016 contest, St. Petersburg State University took the top spot for the fifth time in a row, and four other Russian schools also made the top 12. In 2017, St. Petersburg ITMO University won, with two other Russian schools also placing in the top 12. The top U.S. school ranked 13th.

As Russia prepared to form a cyberbranch within its military, Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu took note of Russian students' performance in the contest. "We have to work with these guys somehow, because we need them badly," he said in a public meeting with university administrators.

Who Are These Russian Cyberwarriors?

Russia employs cyberwarriors within its military and intelligence services. Indeed, the cyberespionage groups dubbed APT28 (aka Fancy Bear) and APT29 (aka Cozy Bear and The Dukes) are believed to correspond to Russia's military intelligence agency GRU and its state security organization FSB, respectively. Both groups have been implicated in hundreds of cyberoperations over the past decade, including U.S. election hacking.

Russia recruits cyberwarriors from its colleges, but also from the cybersecurity and cybercrime sectors. It is said to turn a blind eye to its criminal hackers as long as they avoid Russian targets and use their skills to aid the government. According to Dmitri Alperovitch, co-founder of the security firm CrowdStrike, when Moscow identifies a talented cybercriminal, any pending criminal case against the person is dropped and the hacker disappears into the Russian intelligence services. Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev, wanted by the FBI with a reward of \$3 million for cybercrimes, is also on the Obama administration's list of people sanctioned in response to interference in the U.S. election. Bogachev is said to work "under the supervision of a special unit of the FSB."

Allies Outside Official Channels

Besides its in-house capabilities, the Russian government has access to hackers and the Russian media. Analyst Sarah Geary at cybersecurity firm FireEye reported that the hackers "disseminate



propaganda on behalf of Moscow, develop cybertools for Russian intelligence agencies like the FSB and GRU, and hack into networks and databases in support of Russian security objectives.”

Many seemingly independent “patriotic hackers” operate on Russia’s behalf. Most notably, they attacked critical systems in Estonia in 2007 over the relocation of a Soviet-era memorial, Georgia in 2008 during the Russo-Georgian War and Ukraine in 2014 in connection with the conflict between the two countries.

At the very least, the Russian government condones, even encourages, these hackers. After some of the Estonian attacks were traced back to Russia, Moscow turned down Estonia’s request for help – even as a commissar in Russia’s pro-Kremlin youth movement Nashi admitted launching some of the attacks. And when Slavic Union hackers successfully attacked Israeli websites in 2006, Deputy Duma Director Nikolai Kuryanovich gave the group a certificate of appreciation. He noted that “a small force of hackers is stronger than the multi-thousand force of the current armed forces.”

While some patriotic hackers may indeed operate independently of Moscow, others seem to have strong ties. Cyber Berkut, one of the groups that conducted cyberattacks against Ukraine, including its central election site, is said to be a front for Russian state-sponsored cyberactivity. And Russia’s espionage group APT28 is said to have operated under the guise of the ISIS-associated CyberCaliphate while attacking the French station TV5 Monde and taking over the Twitter account of U.S. Central Command.

One of Many Cyberthreats

Although Russia poses a major cyberthreat, it is not the only country that threatens the U.S. in cyberspace. China, Iran and North Korea are also countries with strong cyberattack capabilities, and more countries will join the pool as they develop their people’s skills.

The good news is that actions to protect an organization’s cybersecurity (such as monitoring access to sensitive files) that work against Russia also work against other threat actors. The bad news is that many organizations do not take those steps. Further, hackers find new vulnerabilities in devices and exploit the weakest link of all – humans. Whether cyberdefenses will evolve to avert a major calamity, from Russia or anywhere else, remains to be seen.

<https://theconversation.com/russian-cyberthreat-extends-to-coronavirus-vaccine-research-143047>

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Azerbaijani Ambassador: Border Hostilities May Harm Israeli Oil Supplies

(The Jerusalem Post 21 July 20) ... Tovah Lazaroff

Violence along the Armenian and Azerbaijani border could harm energy supplies from that region, of which Israel is a recipient, warned Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to the US.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline “provides Israel with 40% of its oil,” Suleymanov told *The Jerusalem Post*, from Washington, where he, like many Azerbaijani officials are attempting to highlight the global importance of a conflict that has received fairly little international attention.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have long been in conflict over the mainly ethnic Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia is considered to be occupying Nagorno-Karabakh since 1991, in violation of four UN Security Council resolutions and against US State Department policy, which does not recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent country and “supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.”

But the latest flare-ups that began on July 12 are around the Tavush region in northern Armenia and Azerbaijan, some 300 km. from the contested enclave.

At least fifteen Azerbaijani and Armenian servicemen and one Azerbaijani civilian have died as a result of the violence.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have blamed each other for the skirmishes along an internationally recognized border that is very close to a central transit and energy route between Europe and the Caspian



Region. “The most important part is of course the oil and gas pipelines, which independently deliver oil and gas to the European and global markets,” Suleymanov said.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, the Baku-Supsa oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzrum gas pipeline are located not far from the territory. That region also hosts the last stretch of the Southern Gas Corridor, whose completion will reduce Europe’s dependence on Russian gas supplies. Russia and Armenia are allies.

Energy expert Brenda Shaffer, of the US Naval Postgraduate School faculty and the senior adviser for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank said the border violence was not accidental and blamed Armenia for wanting to disrupt completion of the new gas pipeline.

“It doesn’t happen by chance” that violence broke out “on the eve of the completion of the Southern Gas Corridor, which will bring the first new gas volumes into Europe in decades,” Shaffer said.

Unlike the conflict over the “Nagorno-Karabakh” region, this violence “took place at the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, very close to the a narrow but critical transit highway for energy and transportation that is the only outlet between the Caspian Region and Europe that doesn’t transit Russia or Iran, Shaffer said.

In addition, one of “the most important air corridors in the world,” through which runs “most of the air traffic between Europe and Asia” is above this same corridor, she said. “Despite COVID-19, the Southern Gas Corridor is supposed to open in October” which will create a large strategic shift regarding Azerbaijan’s relations with Europe, Shaffer said.

It has already changed the “dynamics of the Turkish gas market” such that Turkey is importing less gas from Russia and Iran, she added. In light of the impact on the gas supplies, Shaffer said, it’s unlikely that Azerbaijan caused the violence, because doing so would undermine its strategic corridor at a critical juncture.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Azerbaijan and Armenia on Monday to exercise maximum restraint.

“The secretary-general is following with deep concern the current tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He calls for maximum restraint, as a full conflict between these two countries would be disastrous,” UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/azerbaijani-ambassador-border-hostilities-may-harm-israeli-oil-supplies-635851>

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CSUN Prof: Political Ideology is Shaping Individual Responses to the Pandemic

(CSUN Today 22 July 20) ... Carmen Ramos Chandler

Political ideology, in particular support of President Donald Trump, is shaping individual responses to calls for social distancing and wearing masks in an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19, and could impact the nation’s recovery from the pandemic, according to a new study by California State University, Northridge psychology professor Abe Rutchick.

The study, “Political Ideology Predicts Perceptions of the Threat to COVID-19 (and Susceptibility to Fake News About it),” was published today in the journal *Social Psychology and Personality Science*.

“The study underscores just how deeply polarized we are as a country at the moment, and how much our decisions — including decisions that could impact our health and the health of family members, friends and neighbors — are based on what our ‘trusted’ sources are telling us, and the extraordinary power Trump and a partisan media have to influence those views,” Rutchick said. “I was sort of surprised that it didn’t attenuate over the course of a few weeks. People are too entrenched.

“We have become astonishingly tribal, and it’s not just on the right,” Rutchick continued. “There is a strong tribalization instinct on both sides of the aisle. But the political polarization has gotten to the point that it is jeopardizing lives and the health of the American public. In uncertain times — when the economy is bad, when unemployment is high, when there’s social turmoil, when there’s environmental



turmoil, when there's personal turmoil, when there's conflict — we tend to gravitate toward things that provide stability, structure and clarity. It's nice to know how you're supposed to think. Everything is very complicated at the moment, and Trump is telling some people what they want to hear.”

The paper's authors, in addition to Rutchick, include Cal State San Marcos psychology professor Dustin Calvillo; Ryan Ross, who graduated from CSUN in May with a master's degree in clinical psychology; **Ryan Garcia, an assistant professor of political science at the Naval Postgraduate School**; and Thomas Smelter, a graduate student in psychological science at Cal State San Marcos.

Rutchick and his colleagues launched their study in early March, inspired by a White House briefing about the outbreak of a new coronavirus in the United States. They examined data collected in March from nearly 1,000 individuals to understand how political ideology and partisanship impacted individual responses to the safety measures public health officials were asking Americans to take to slow the spread of COVID-19.

“Studies have shown that ideological conservatives are generally more sensitive to threats than liberals, viewing the world as a more dangerous place,” Rutchick said. “However, Republican leadership initially downplayed the threat of COVID-19, and some even attributed its prominence in the media to political motivation. The resulting framing of the COVID-19 threat by Republican leadership, and in particular President Trump, was the opposite of what is typically associated with ideological conservatism.”

Trump, members of his administration, Republican leadership and several high-profile conservative media representatives questioned the severity of the threat posed by COVID-19 to the American public and what was an appropriate response — from the virus' ability to spread, to the precautions urged by public health officials, including social distancing, wearing masks, the closure of businesses and admonitions to stay home.

“Once the threat became politicized, the polarization induced by the current political environment shaped the way COVID-19 is perceived,” Rutchick said.

He and his colleagues found that those conservatives who are staunch supporters of President Trump were less knowledgeable about the virus, less able to discern real from fake news and, in turn, saw COVID-19 as less of a threat.

Rutchick noted that conservative Trump supporters were more likely to consume media that mirrored the president's views — which in this case raised doubts about the severity of the pandemic and the right ways to mitigate its spread — and had a harder time telling the difference between real and fake news about COVID-19's threat to their health, as well as the health of the community.

Rutchick said the study suggests that partisan leaders and the media who echo their views “have the power to change the way people think and act.”

“Conservatives tend to think about things at an individual level, and liberals tend to think in terms of the group or systems,” he noted. “Conservatives think in terms of ‘I have the freedom to do this,’ while liberals tend to say ‘we should sacrifice for others.’

“Maybe it's time we changed the message when it comes to COVID-19,” he said. “Instead of saying you should wear a mask and social distance to protect the community at large, maybe we should be saying you need to do this to protect you and your loved ones.”

<https://csunshinetoday.csun.edu/media-releases/csun-prof-political-ideology-is-shaping-individual-responses-to-the-pandemic/>

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ALUMNI:

NUWC Division Newport Employee Wins Naval Postgraduate School Award for Acquisition Excellence

(Naval Sea Systems Command 21 July 20)

Zach Augustine, policy lead in the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport's Contracts Department, recently received the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Cmdr. Philip A. Murphy-Sweet Memorial Award for Acquisition Excellence.

Augustine, a resident of Bristol, Rhode Island **graduated in June from NPS's Graduate School of Defense Management with a master's degree in contract management.** He graduated with distinction and in the top 10% of his class with a 4.0 GPA. This award represents Augustine's academic excellence and continually growing expertise and leadership within the Contracts Department.

The award is named in remembrance of Cmdr. Philip A. Murphy-Sweet, a naval supply officer assigned to the Joint Contracting Command, who, in 2007, was killed in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Murphy-Sweet Memorial Award is presented to a graduating U.S. Navy, Marine Corps or Department of the Navy civilian student with proven outstanding academic excellence through academic achievement, thesis research and leadership potential. It's awarded to a single student in each graduating class.

In 2016, Augustine joined Division Newport as a contract negotiator and in 2019 was promoted to policy lead. Prior to joining Division Newport, he earned his Juris Doctor from the Roger Williams University School of Law in 2011 and performed legal work for both private and public entities, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He also served as a U.S. congressional intern on multiple occasions.

Augustine was recognized for his accomplishments during a virtual NPS awards ceremony held in early June.

<https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Media/News/SavedNewsModule/Article/2280962/nuwc-division-newport-employee-wins-naval-postgraduate-school-award-for-acquisi/>

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PEO Land Systems Engineer Receives Navy's Top Emergent Engineer Award

(DVIDS 21 July 20) ... Ashley Colingo

In June, the Department of Navy recognized a Program Executive Officer Land Systems engineer with the Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists and Engineers of the Year award for 2020.

Ali Olinger, a systems engineer with the Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar program at PEO Land Systems, was one of two emergent engineers selected to receive this year's Etter Award, and was the only Marine Corps honoree.

The annual award, named after former Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Dr. Delores M. Etter, was established in 2006 to recognize excellence among the DON's highest-performing scientists and engineers who have made significant contributions in their fields. This year's ceremony will be held virtually on July 24.

Olinger's leadership nominated her due to her significant positive impact to the G/ATOR program. She was instrumental in helping demonstrate readiness for the early deployment and Full-Rate Production of the major defense acquisition program in 2018.

"We nominated Ali because she's one of our brightest and most motivated engineers," said Barbara Gault, deputy program manager for G/ATOR at PEO Land Systems. "She always wants to keep learning. She's the type of person who masters one subject and then asks to learn something new. She's held multiple different engineering positions in our office [because of that]."



Leveraging her data analytics expertise, Olinger led a data analysis working group while collaborating with Marine Corps stakeholders, warfare centers, federally funded research and development centers, and support contractor engineers to test, analyze and report the system's ability to meet Marine Corps requirements.

"She was working with this cross-functional [Integrated Product Team] and doing a phenomenal job," said Yolanda Ward, chief engineer for the G/ATOR program. "When we were doing developmental testing, she helped us collect and analyze all the data, and reported the results to stakeholders, working with subject matter experts who were far senior to her, which was very impressive."

Olinger joined Marine Corps Systems Command in 2013 after interning with the Combat Support Systems program office through the Defense Department's Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation Scholarship for Service program, which offers full scholarships and guaranteed civilian employment within the DOD to undergraduate students majoring in STEM fields.

"I came to the G/ATOR program for an internal rotation in August 2015 and loved it so much that I've been working there ever since," explained Olinger. "Working on G/ATOR has given me the opportunity to have some focus areas and see a lot more of the acquisition lifecycle for an ACAT 1 program."

When she's not working on G/ATOR, Olinger spends her free time furthering her education—**she recently earned her Master's degree in Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School** and a certificate in data analytics from Cornell University.

She is currently the chairwoman for the command's Marine Corps Females in Technology group. Olinger credits her leadership, coworkers and mentors—past and present—for her personal and professional growth, and works to ensure future female engineers at the command also have a solid network of support.

"I think her nomination and selection is spot on and representative of the kind of person, both personally and professionally, that she is," said David Karcher, director of Systems Engineering at MCSC, and one of Olinger's mentors. "She is focused on providing the best support to the Marine Corps by being thoughtful, inquisitive and always striving for better. She represents our future."

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/374285/peo-land-systems-engineer-receives-navys-top-emergent-engineer-award>

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Wrightsville Beach Announces Hiring of New Chief of Police

(WECT Newst21 July 20) ... WECT Staff

The town of Wrightsville Beach on Tuesday announced the hiring of its next chief of police.

David Squires, a 27-year veteran with the Virginia Beach Police Department, will retire from that agency and accept the top cop position in Wrightsville Beach, according to a news release from the town.

His first day on the job will be Aug. 17.

Squires served in many capacities at the Virginia Beach Police Department and most recently as captain since 2012. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from William and Mary and **a master's degree in security studies from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.**

"I could not be more excited to join the Wrightsville Beach Police Department as your chief of police," Squires said in the statement. "Wrightsville Beach is a beautiful and thriving community. I take my responsibility to its safety and the quality of life for its citizens very seriously"

Squires replaces former chief of police Dan House who left earlier this year to take over chief of police for North Carolina State University.

Retired Wilmington police chief Ralph Evangelous was named interim chief while the town searched for a permanent replacement.

<https://www.wect.com/2020/07/21/wrightsville-beach-announces-hiring-new-chief-police/>



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Colonel Melissa A Zebley Proudly Announces the Promotion of Major Daniel K Meadows to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel

(Delaware.gov 21 July 20) ... Melissa Jaffe

The Delaware State Police Superintendent, Colonel Melissa A. Zebley announces the promotion of Major Daniel K. Meadows to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on July 20, 2020.

Major Daniel Meadows has been in law enforcement in Delaware since 1994 and has been with the Delaware State Police since September, 1997. Upon completion of his academy training, Major Meadows has held numerous positions within DSP. He was first a member of the Patrol Division and then assumed various roles within the Detective ranks. These assignments included the Governor's Task Force, the United States Attorney's Operation Disarm Firearms Task Force, and the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

Major Meadows has held supervisory roles in Patrol, the Governor's Task Force, and the Criminal Investigations Unit. He has also held Command positions at the State Bureau of Identification and the Criminal Intelligence Section prior to assuming his current assignment.

In 2016, Meadows was promoted to the rank of Major and assigned as the Special Operations Officer in Dover, DE. In his role as Major, he was responsible for the daily operation of a number of diverse units. These included the Homicide Unit, the State Crime Lab, the Forensic Firearms Services Unit, the Aviation Section, the State Bureau of Identification, the Executive Protection Unit, and the Division of Gaming Enforcement. He also had oversight for the Intelligence Section which is comprised of the following units: the Delaware Information and Analysis Center which is the State designated fusion center for Delaware. In addition, this section includes the Maritime Unit, the High Technology Crimes Unit, the Electronic Surveillance Unit, and the Internet Crimes against Children Unit. Furthermore, Special Operations includes several part-time teams such as the Special Operations Response Team, SCUBA, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Tactical Control Unit, and the Conflict Management Team.

Major Meadows earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1994 from Wilmington University in Delaware. He also graduated from Wilmington University in 2008 with a Master's Degree in Management with a focus in Human Resources. Major Meadows previously served on the Executive Board for the National Fusion Center Association. **He is a graduate of the Fusion Center Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense.** Major Meadows also attended the 266th Session of the (FBI) National Academy in 2016.

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2020/07/21/colonel-melissa-a-zebley-proudly-announces-the-promotion-of-major-daniel-k-meadows-to-the-rank-of-lieutenant-colonel/>

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“Cocaine Logistics” for the Marine Corps

(Warontherocks.com 22 July 20) ... Walker D. Mills, Dylan “Joose” Phillips-Levine, and Collin Fox (Naval Postgraduate School alumnus)

In a future conflict with China, how would the Marine Corps supply small units deep inside enemy controlled areas, hundreds or even thousands of miles from their logistics bases?

Right now, the service would have to send ships and aircraft to feed, fuel, and arm these scattered forces just to keep them alive and in the fight. However, sending manned logistics ships into this lethal environment ranges from risky to reckless, while cargo aircraft lack the carrying capacity required to keep marines fed and equipped for very long.

The Marine Corps' new operating concept, expeditionary advanced base operations, is bold but logistically difficult. It seeks to “further distribute lethality by providing land-based options for increasing the number of sensors and shooters beyond the upper limit imposed by the quantity of seagoing platforms



available.” Simply put, islands make for unsinkable aircraft carriers and each one is a potential base for attack aircraft, missiles, and sensors. Keep these advanced bases supplied and they are a lethal thorn in the enemy’s side. Without a means to sneak supplies through a maritime no man’s land, however, the marines there would be divided instead of distributed and vulnerable to defeat like the one suffered by the Imperial Japanese Army on Guadalcanal in World War II.

To fulfill Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger’s gambit to redesign the service around expeditionary advanced base operations and pivot to the high-end fight in the western Pacific Ocean, the service needs covert logistics.

To address this logistical conundrum, the United States should mimic drug traffickers. These undeniably resourceful adversaries have developed a vessel ideally suited to routinely smuggle tons of critical supplies (i.e., cocaine) thousands of miles past the most technologically advanced and well-resourced nation on Earth to their distributors in North America. Their long-range transits even extend to Europe. Manned, semi-submersible, low-profile vessels, also known as narco-submarines, have profitably solved covert logistics across the maritime tyranny of distance. These air-breathing vessels evade detection by staying almost entirely underwater, trading speed for semi-submerged invisibility.

If semi-submersible, low-profile vessels can work for delivering cocaine, they can work for delivering warfighting materiel. The Department of the Navy should develop and procure a new family of inexpensive, unmanned logistics vessels patterned after these illicit semi-submersibles. While these platforms would not solve all of the service’s challenges, they could prove to be an affordable and effective platform to support expeditionary logistics, even in the most fiercely contested areas.

A Yawning Amphibious Gap

Amphibious lift and over-the-beach logistics pose a critical gap for the Marine Corps that could be filled in part by semi-submersible, low-profile vessels. The Navy’s fleet of L-class shipping carries everything needed to establish and sustain marines ashore, including medium-range surface connectors to bring them over the beach. But these ships have to get vulnerably close to their target for a rapid offload. With growing concern that these large, slow, and overt amphibious vessels wouldn’t survive in a conflict with China, and no indication that the Navy would expand this chronically understrength fleet, the Marine Corps sacrificed the longstanding requirement to find better solutions.

One solution is a light amphibious warship that combines the long range of a large amphibious ship with the cost and beach offload capability of a surface connector, with a payload somewhere in the middle. But even these proposed hybrid vessels would be insufficient to enable littoral operations in a hotly contested environment. They would remain too few, too visible, and therefore too vulnerable. Although a move in the right direction, they still lack the crucial “affordable and plentiful” quality called for in the Marine Corps *Commandant’s Planning Guidance*.

The Cocaine Connection

However, “affordable and plentiful” perfectly describes the vessels plying one of the most lucrative and resilient logistics networks in history. Drug traffickers have turned these vessels into nearly invisible transporters, hauling a large fraction of the 1,000 to 3,000 tons of Andean cocaine to the United States, which remains the world’s biggest importer of the substance. Drug traffickers constantly adapt and innovate, finding new ways to move their illicit cargo undetected and searching for greater profits while staying one step ahead of the law. The Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that 80 percent of cocaine moves via maritime routes, with 30 percent of those maritime flows traveling on low-profile vessels and semi-submersibles. According to estimates, nearly a quarter of cocaine bound for the U.S. market, which is worth some \$6 billion annually at retail, travels via low-profile vessels or semi-submersibles.

Drug traffickers have evolved low-profile vessels to be incredibly difficult to detect without specialized equipment. A surface vessel has about a 5 percent chance of detecting a low-profile vessel at sea without an embarked helicopter or support from shore-based aviation. Consequently, very few interdictions come from stumbling across a low-profile vessel on patrol. Only 10 to 15 percent of low-



profile vessels are intercepted at all, meaning that known trafficking activity represents just the tip of the iceberg. The fact that the use of low-profile vessels is at an “all-time high” reflects their remarkable effectiveness in covertly moving cargo. Typical low-profile vessels cost about \$1 million each, whereas fully submersible snorkel subs cost \$2 million to \$3 million. Either way, it’s a rounding error when each ton of its payload sells for \$28 million wholesale and more than \$150 million at retail.

Low-Profile Vessels for Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations

Low-profile vessels are clearly effective in delivering critical cargoes undetected across thousands of square miles of ocean. The Navy and Marine Corps should pursue semi-submersible, low-profile vessels as a low-cost and expendable platform for pushing critical equipment and supplies, like munitions and fuel, to remote expeditionary advanced bases. Semi-submersible, low-profile vessels would meet Gen. Berger’s call for “smaller and less expensive” intra-theater connectors that are more “risk-worthy,” which is a term of art for expendable and bordering on simply disposable. Defense analysts have called for the Navy and Marine Corps to “develop smaller, lower-cost ships that are better suited to the type of dispersed operational posture implied by [the concept of littoral operations in a contested environment]” — a role that low-profile vessels could fill. However, designs for these vessels have yet to materialize. Special forces and intelligence agencies have long used covert maritime platforms for similar delivery missions, but their small payloads, short range, high price tags, and general inability to beach make them unsuitable for covert logistics in support of expeditionary advanced base operations.

Low-profile vessels that are purpose-built for delivering logistics materiel would be a cheap and expendable logistics platform for the Navy and Marine Corps, and easy to mass-produce. These low-profile vessels could be standardized in their propulsion and guidance with other proposed variants, but constructed modularly to allow for different forward cargo sections, which would vary in size and configuration. Smaller and more covert vessels, most resembling current drug trafficking low-profile vessels, could carry a few tons of essential supplies to the smallest units on the most advanced and vulnerable outposts. Vessels with larger forward cargo sections would be able to deliver palletized cargo, small vehicles, trailers, or bulk fuel to resupply larger bases that would otherwise endanger manned resupply vessels.

Navy or Marine Corps low-profile vessels could potentially deploy thousands of miles from their targets, either pier-side or from L-class shipping and maritime prepositioning ships. With only a small snorkel and sensor mast showing above the waterline, they would have a negligible probability of detection and make for a nearly impossible anti-ship cruise missile target in the unlikely event that one passed nearby. They would navigate autonomously from point A to point B, with the rudimentary instructions of “try not to hit anything.” This sort of autonomy has already been demonstrated in crude terms by drug traffickers in Europe and developed with far greater elegance by the U.S. Navy. By way of comparison, the open ocean presents a far less demanding navigational environment than what the average Tesla negotiates every day.

On arrival to the objective area, the autonomous vessels would beach for unloading and then depart on the next high tide. Because the low-cost design makes recovery and reuse an option, not a necessity, they could either return to a collection point or simply self-scuttle in the ocean. The vessels could also sink themselves to avoid capture if intercepted at any point along the voyage.

Deploying Low-Profile Vessels in the Western Pacific

Beyond payload, the Pacific Ocean’s tyranny of distance dictates another vital parameter: range. A minimum 2,000-nautical mile operational radius would allow covert delivery from Darwin, Australia or Guam to nearly anywhere in the geostrategic first island chain. This capability would dramatically reduce the need for legacy amphibious shipping or logistics vessels to operate forward resupplying marines. For still greater flexibility, low-profile vessels could deploy from the cranes of naval auxiliaries, the floodable decks of expeditionary transfer docks and amphibious shipping, or even the strengthened ramps of modified roll-on/roll-off truck carriers. Such a deployment would not only complicate enemy targeting of



fixed supply hubs, but would also decrease required fuel payload, increase available cargo payload, and increase the voyage frequency for each vessel.

For naval operations in the western Pacific, unmanned logistics vessels would probably need large ballast tanks to achieve both low, submarine-like freeboard in transit and reduced draft for beaching. Producing these vessels in factories and commercial shipyards instead of jungle craft shops would allow for the construction of higher-quality vessels with better features for lower costs. The navigation, communication, and propulsion components would be kept mostly common between variants to reduce cost. On the other hand, producing a steel, aluminum, or composite hull is relatively cheap. Like traditional low-profile vessels, these ones would also vary in size, payload, and range. But the first generation of vessels would closely match the form and function of the largest drug smuggling predecessors. This model would allow for spiral development from a well-proven base design into more complex later models.

The Navy and Marine Corps should design low-profile vessels for over-the-beach logistics with wheeled vehicles as one of the later variants. They would need a bow ramp for rapid offload, while also requiring a wave-piercing bow section forward of the ramp to maintain the minimal wake and fuel-efficient shape of traditional low-profile vessels. This wave-piercing visor bow would fold up for loading and unloading like those of some commercial ferries, illustrated by another landing craft concept. This sort of bow would allow small vehicles like the Marine Corps' Polaris MRZR to drive trailers full of cargo across the beach and onto forward bases. It should go without saying that such a larger and more complex vessel would cost much more than the \$1 million to \$2 million for a traditional low-profile vessel. Even so, they would cost far less and survive far better than the latest proposal for a roughly \$100 million manned amphibious vessel.

A small fleet of low-profile vessels could sustain expeditionary bases and Marine forces operating within range of adversary weapons and capabilities — from the smallest Marine reconnaissance units to multi-company formations. Low-profile vessel cargo sections could be staged at forward locations like Guam and Darwin as well as Yokosuka, Japan. When needed, these cargo sections would be married to propulsion and guidance modules, loaded, and launched. Marines flying in on MV-22 vertical-lift aircraft, perhaps part of a “warbot company,” would time their landing to the beaching of the semi-submersibles.

The marines would then be able to offload the vessels by carrying sea bags and fuel cans from hatches of small low-profile vessels or by towing trailers with missiles, bombs, and fuel bladders from bow doors of the larger variants. The vessels would return to sea on the next high tide, ready for the next load of cargo — leaving the marines with far more supplies and sustainment than they could have carried with them on their insertion. In this way, lighter aircraft could fly farther and carry more marines. Using the semi-submersibles would also free up valuable transport aircraft for other missions and allow aircraft to operate further from enemy threats. Low-profile vessels could be used in other scenarios, too, such as breaking a blockade, covertly transiting a contested chokepoint, or delivering critical supplies to a besieged force.

Looking Ahead

Low-profile vessels are not a panacea. They are slow and cannot match the thousands of tons carried by overt logistics craft, even in swarms. But they can be integrated into a larger logistics system and provide a key capability — covert logistics in contested waters — at the scale necessary to support the small units and expeditionary advanced bases central to the Marine Corps' newest warfighting concept. The military does not currently have a platform capable of providing covert logistics outside of the special operations community. Low-profile vessels inspired by those employed by drug traffickers would be small- to medium-haul, long-range, covert connectors. Low-cost, low-profile vessels can be mass-produced, pre-staged in the Indo-Pacific region, and employed as “attributable” connectors from ships or bases. Operating autonomously and without sailors aboard, these low-profile vessels would be the very epitome of the Marine Corps commandant's “low signature, affordable, and risk-worthy platforms.”

The Marine Corps needs redundant, affordable, and survivable connectors to sustain forces ashore, especially in a conflict with China. These platforms should come in many forms, including semi-



submersible low-profile vessels for sustaining the most exposed forward bases. Difficult to detect and track, long-range and capable, low-profile vessels are a proven component in one of the most resilient maritime logistics networks in history — the network bringing cocaine from the Andean highlands to American cities. As the Navy and Marine Corps continue to pursue innovative and outside-the-box thinking, they should develop “cocaine logistics” into a model for expeditionary advanced base logistics. <https://warontherocks.com/2020/07/cocaine-logistics-for-the-marine-corps/>

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USAG Rheinland-Pfalz Welcomes New Commander

(Army.mil 22 July 20) ... Keith Pannell

The Army’s garrison serving as the United States’ premier strategic readiness platform in Europe has a new commander overseeing its diverse area of responsibility.

Col. Vance J. Klosinski assumed command of U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in a ceremony here July 22. Klosinski accepted the garrison colors from Tommy Mize, the Installation Management Command-Europe director. Outgoing Commander Col. Jason T. Edwards relinquished the organizational flag to Mize before the ceremonial event.

He takes over an organization that supports a military and civilian workforce of approximately 16,000 people and a total population of about 40,000 Army Soldiers, civilians, and family members. The garrison’s footprint stretches across 31 sites from Baumholder to Mannheim and from Gruenstadt to Germersheim in Germany. Also, the garrison recently took responsibility for sites in Bulgaria and Romania.

Mize praised Edwards’s all-hands focus to ensure the sustainment, safety, and security of the Rheinland-Pfalz community. Mize said the colonel’s work via aggressive and relentless force-protection efforts and his strategic, long-term infrastructure improvement effort across the organization made the difference.

“To simply say Jay Edwards successfully commanded this garrison would be a gross understatement,” Mize said. “It takes a remarkably capable, mature, and talented leader to successfully command this complex garrison. Fortunately, that’s exactly what we’ve had the past two years.”

Edwards, in turn, gave credit to those who served under his command.

“Even as a human resources officer, I will never look at customer service the same,” Edwards said. “I see the daily commitment of the workforce. A senior mentor asked me what the biggest surprise of this command was and, without hesitation, I said the people – our workforce.”

While lauding his garrison team, Edwards – who is moving on to a job in the Pentagon – also recognized the continued support of Host-Nation allies. They include ministry officials, local officials, “blue light first responders,” and the Bundeswehr. He thanked them all for their selfless service.

“I will miss our host nation partners. The state, county, union, and city mayors have been incredible. I wish our host nation partners could be here in person, but I want them to know how very grateful I am to have spent the last two years (working) with (them),” he said.

Klosinski arrives here from an assignment with the United States Special Operations Command Interagency Partnership Program in the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C. A native of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Klosinski began his diverse military career as an infantry platoon leader with the 10th Mountain Division. Upon completing his infantry assignments, Klosinski changed career paths, graduating from the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Klosinski holds a bachelor’s degree in political science/public administration from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and **a master’s degree in defense analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.** He recently graduated from the National War College in Washington, D.C., with a master of science in national security strategy.

“In the short time I’ve been here, I’ve learned three things: One, Col. Jay Edwards has been an exceptional garrison commander. Two: This garrison is filled with dedicated Army professionals who are



experts in their respective fields. And finally, I have learned that I have a lot more to learn about the garrison business.”

“I come here ready to lead, and I promise to do so with open ears and an open mind.”

https://www.army.mil/article/237467/usag_rheinland_pfalz_welcomes_new_commander

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Submarine Caption Calls North Carolina Home

(Greensboro News & Record 24 July 20) ... Harry Thetford

An engineer by skill and trade, William “Bill” Sellers likely flow-charted his Navy career as early as the third grade.

“I read a book about Navy football and that cinched it,” he said. Friendly persuasion may have come from his Navy father, who flew combat missions from an aircraft carrier during World War II’s Battle of the Coral Sea.

Beyond friendly persuasion, Sellers’ father approved his son’s enlistment in the U.S. Navy Reserve at age 17. A year later, young Sellers received a Secretary of the Navy appointment to the Naval Academy.

During summers of his academy years, Midshipman Sellers was exposed to Navy aviation at Pensacola, Fla.; the Marine Corps at Little Creek, Va.; and submarines at Charleston, S.C.

He recapped those experiences recently. “Pensacola was very special for me. My father went through flight school at Pensacola after being selected as an enlisted man. It was at Pensacola where he met a beautiful young WAVE who ran a Link Trainer Flight Simulator. They were married in 1945, I came along in 1946, the first of three children.”

Things could have worked out quite differently at Pensacola — the Sellers children were told later by their mother that a Marine aviator she Link-trained asked her out for a date, but she turned him down. His name was Ted Williams.

“Connections to Pensacola and aviation could not overcome my impressions of the submarine service while in Charleston,” he said. “I was sold on subs!”

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover developed the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine and is recognized as the father of naval nuclear propulsion. He was also the gate-keeper through whom Bill Sellers had to pass to serve in nuclear submarines.

“The interview with ADM Rickover came in 1967 during my senior year at the academy. His approval was typically unique — ‘Get out of here,’” as Sellers recalled. Uniqueness only partially describes Rickover. His 63 years of active duty service is the longest of any U.S. military personnel.

Whereas Navy aviators are awarded an insignia of gold wings, Navy submarine officers are awarded gold dolphin pins. Enlisted submariners earn silver dolphin pins.

Dolphin pins come with a cost. Space does not permit the list of schools across the country that Sellers attended on his journey. However, a short list of curricula will make the point: physics (calculus-based and nuclear), dynamics (fluid and thermo), chemistry, radiation, metallurgy and reactor principles.

If that sounds challenging, it should. Navy nuclear training is widely acknowledged as the U.S. military’s most academically demanding program.

In 1970, Sellers received his first submarine assignment — division officer aboard the USS Greenling. Assignments aboard the USS Sam Rayburn and USS Pollack came next.

Sellers tells of reporting aboard the USS Greenling for the second time — 10 years after he first served on the ship. “I was really surprised to be assigned to the Greenling again — this time as executive officer.”

Sandwiched between tours at sea, Sellers served in a shore-based unit in New Orleans and obtained a master’s degree in physics from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

In 1986, Sellers became commanding officer of the USS Andrew Jackson. “The Andrew Jackson and the Sam Rayburn were two-crew ships.” He saw my hand go up and realized a pause was in order.



It wasn't as complicated as I thought. Two-crew submarines have two crews. Each crew has approximately 13 officers and 130 enlisted men. Navy colors are blue and gold. Submarine crews are Blue and Gold. When the Blue crew goes out on patrol, the Gold crew stays on shore — and vice-versa.

When asked about a favorite memory, "A chief petty officer asked to have his re-enlistment ceremonies during a port visit in Morocco — and he wanted to re-enlist on a camel! Ship's captains do not disappoint their CPOs! The chief, the executive officer and I each had our own rented camel for the ceremony."

Both Sellers and the Andrew Jackson made their last patrol in 1987. He retired in 1988; the ship was inactivated in 1988. He completed six SSBN (submarine ballistic missile nuclear) deterrent patrols, and spent eight years on SSN (submarine nuclear) submarines during his Navy career.

After three sea tours as a bachelor, Sellers married Virginia Jeffreys. The two New Jersey natives met on a blind date. They settled in the Triad in 1988. Bill Sellers was a project manager for AT&T until he retired again in 2011.

The Sellers are active members of Westover Church, where he has served as elder and moderator.

https://greensboro.com/life/community_news/submarine-captain-calls-north-carolina-home/article_c1a6b661-a78b-5d61-9c80-0f47ed3d0e98.html

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Center for Information Warfare Training Holds Change of Command

(DVIDS 24 July 20) ... Glenn Sircy

Capt. Marc W. Ratkus relieved Capt. Nicholas "Nick" Andrews II as commanding officer of the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) during a change of command ceremony onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida, July 24.

The ceremony, a time-honored tradition of transferring total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another, marked the end of a successful tour for Andrews, who led the CIWT domain in being recognized as Naval Education and Training Command's best learning center for two consecutive years. Although Andrews is wrapping-up a very successful 27-year military career, he rescheduled his retirement ceremony to Nov. 6, 2020, due to COVID-19 safety measures.

Andrews, a native of Durham, North Carolina, assumed command of CIWT, May 24, 2018.

"To the Center for Information Warfare Training family, it has been the highest honor of my Navy career to serve as your commanding officer," shared Andrews. "It has been magnificent to watch you perform like the championship team you are over the past two plus years. I have learned far more than I have taught, and I am proud to have been part of such a phenomenal organization...especially as my final tour in uniform. Thank you all for everything you do, every day, in support of our great nation."

Andrews graduated Boston University in 1992, and **earned master's degrees from the Naval War College and the Naval Postgraduate School**. Additionally, he's also a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College.

Andrews' operational assignments include Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, where he served as a patrol plane commander; the commissioning crew of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as the anti-submarine warfare officer and a tactical action officer; flag communications officer for Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12 where he served as U.S. Naval Forces Central Command's Task Force 50 battle watch captain; information technology deputy and knowledge manager for CSG 9; and information warfare commander for USS Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group. Additionally, he deployed as an individual augmentee to Baghdad, Iraq, where he served as Iraqi information and communications technology infrastructure branch officer and knowledge and information management branch officer for the directorate of communication and information systems at Multi-National Forces Iraq.

Ashore, he served as administrative officer for Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2; deputy of command, control, communications, computers and intelligence plans (C4I) at U.S. Pacific Fleet; policy



and compliance division head for Navy Cyber Forces; and executive officer for the Naval Satellite Operations Center.

The presiding officer, Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin, commander of Naval Education and Training Command, participated in the ceremony via teleconference.

Andrews was lauded for his inspiring leadership and superior performance, highlighting 27 years of dedicated and honorable service.

Some of Andrews' overall accomplishments while CIWT's commanding officer include, "He demonstrated exceptional leadership of the Navy's primary information warfare training command responsible for ten enlisted ratings, three officer communities, and 130+ courses; delivering more than 37,800 graduates trained to fight and win across all aspects of the information warfare domain. Simultaneously, he broke new ground by ushering in the era of Ready Relevant Learning and Block Learning for two enlisted information warfare ratings while also earning reaffirmation of accreditation for the entire domain from the Council on Occupational Education. Andrews also procured \$15 million to establish the Navy's first Cyber Mission Force schoolhouse, ensuring the Navy was the only joint curriculum lead to execute cyber training in accordance with U.S. Cyber Command mandated timelines and resulting in 794 graduates. Andrews continued pursuit of technological advancements by transitioning to a cloud-based virtual training environment for Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services, increasing annual training capacity by 300%; and developing the capability to improve quality and throughput of electronic warfare systems technicians and operators in response to fleet requirements."

During his remarks, Andrews welcomed and congratulated Ratkus for receiving orders to the best command in the Navy. Andrews also thanked all his family, friends and shipmates for their unwavering support and dedication throughout his 27-year career.

"To all my shipmates, past and present, thank you," said Andrews. "No one navigates a successful Navy career alone, and I have been blessed throughout mine with some of the best leaders, mentors, friends and colleagues to have ever worn the uniform. I would not be here today without you. To my family, most especially my wife Jana, no words I can say will ever capture the depth of the sacrifices you have made to support me over the course of my career. Just know that I love you, and I am home now."

Ratkus, a native of High Point, North Carolina, comes to CIWT from his last assignment as director of operations for the National Security Agency / Central Security Service Georgia.

In 1983, a then very young Seaman Recruit Ratkus first reported to Corry Station for "A" school, and 37 years later, he returns to take the helm of CIWT to lead this exceptional organization in delivering trained and ready joint service information warriors in support of tactical, operational, strategic requirements.

"I am immensely proud to join this extraordinary team," said Ratkus. "CIWT has a long-standing reputation for delivering game-changing intelligence and effects, and I have witnessed first-hand how information warfare impacts decision makers from the foxhole to the White House."

Selection and assignment to serve as CIWT's newest commanding officer is also a homecoming for the Ratkus family as they have served in Pensacola several times over the years, and his wife, Brenda, along with her family are from the greater Pensacola area.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Hawaii Pacific University, a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University, a master's-level military sciences certificate from the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College and a master's-level technical certificate in computer science from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Ratkus enlisted in the Navy in 1983 and served 14 years in the cryptologic technician (maintenance) rating, attaining the rank of chief petty officer. In 1997, he commissioned as a chief warrant officer, and in 2000, was selected for promotion to Lt. j.g. through the limited duty officer program. In 2002, he laterally transferred to the restricted line community as a cryptologic warfare officer.

His operational assignments include USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70); USS Virginia (CGN 38); USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71); USS Gettysburg (CG 64); Carrier Strike Group 8; and a deployment to Afghanistan.



His shore assignments include Naval Technical Training Center, Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida; Naval Security Group Det. Crane, Indiana; Naval Security Group Activity Kunia, Hawaii; Naval Security Group Activity Sugar Grove, West Virginia; U.S. Naval Forces Europe/U.S. 6th Fleet; U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet; Navy Personnel Command; Center for Information Warfare Training; and Tactical Training Group Atlantic.

Additionally, he commanded Navy Information Operations Command Colorado.

“Today is all about saying thank you,” added Ratkus. “Thank you to the information warfare leadership for their trust and confidence; thank you to all my shipmates, past and present; and thank you to my beautiful wife, Brenda, and my family for your love, devotion, and unwavering support over the years that made this assignment possible.”

With four schoolhouse commands, a detachment, and training sites throughout the United States and Japan, CIWT trains over 20,000 students every year, delivering trained information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services. CIWT also offers more than 200 courses for cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialists, information systems technicians, electronics technicians, and officers in the information warfare community.

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