



# NPS IN THE NEWS

## Weekly Media Report – May 18-24, 2021

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### DEPUTY CNO VISITS:

#### 1. [Deputy CNO for Operations and Strategy Explores NPS, Warfighter Solutions](#)

*(Navy.mil 19 May 21)* ... Mass Communication Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Tom Tonthat

*(NPS.edu 19 May 21)* ... Mass Communication Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Tom Tonthat

Vice Adm. Philip Sawyer, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5), and Flag Sponsor for the Navy Foreign Affairs Officer (FAO) community, visited the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Apr. 29, to observe the institution's interdisciplinary academics relevant to Navy operations and strategy that lead to effective and globally-aware officers for the fleet and joint force.

### RESEARCH:

#### 2. [NPS Students Tackle Key Challenges of the Mobile CubeSat Network](#)

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#### 3. [NPS Students Use Big Ideas Exchange to Advance Readiness and Mobility](#)

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#### 4. [NPS Student Uses Multidisciplinary Approach to Study Sea Level Rise at Navy Installation](#)

*(Navy.mil 21 May 21)* ... Rebecca Hoag

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For the large number of naval bases located on an ocean's coast, the prospect of sea level rise (SLR) poses a real potential threat, especially since a rising sea doesn't necessarily impact everywhere the same way. There are many variables to consider, such as the local coastal geology and geography, as well as tide fluctuations and meteorological events.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY:

### **5. NPS Hosts “Ask an Astronaut” Connecting Military Children with Space Veterans**

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In honor of Month of the Military Child, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted “Ask an Astronaut” giving the children of Monterey County service members an opportunity to pose questions to a panel of three former NASA astronauts, broadcast via live stream, Apr. 29.

## FACULTY:

### **6. G. Craig Vachon to Lead AI Redefined as CEO**

*(Valdosta Daily Times 18 May 21)*

AI Redefined (AIR), a human-AI collaboration technology start-up, has fulfilled its own corporate algorithm of sorts by adding G. Craig Vachon, a successful serial entrepreneur, investor, corporate advisor, and author, as CEO. This brings significant growth experience to the company as AIR enters a new phase of its development. Founder Dorian Kieken will transition to the role of President to focus on the vision and product aspects of the company. Kieken will also remain on the Board of Directors... The founder of Chowdahead Growth Fund, a seed investment firm, Vachon earned success leading P&L operations, new product development, corporate development, sales and business development, finance, and product marketing with start-ups and high-tech companies throughout the world. He has raised more than \$1.6B in private equity and venture capital investment with more than 30 companies in seven countries. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Yseop, the leader in natural language AI, and as a special advisor to the CEO of SupplyShift, a supply chain transparency platform used by Walmart and Amazon. In addition, Vachon is a Trustee at both Of/By/For All, and Seek Common Ground, while also assisting the **Naval Postgraduate School Foundation** with appropriation to new and existing innovation projects. Vachon also serves as Senior Partner, Head of US Operations for NextStage Asset Management, based in Paris.

### **7. 88% of Children Covered by Monthly Payments Starting in July [Video Interview]**

*(WTTW 19 May 21) ... Evan Garcia*

The Treasury Department said Monday that 39 million families are set to receive monthly child payments beginning on July 15... Video: We discuss the child tax credit expansion on “Chicago Tonight” with **David Henderson of the Naval Postgraduate School** in California, and Jeremy Rosen of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law.

### **8. How an exiled mafia boss became the center of Turkish politics**

*(Al-Monitor 19 May 21) ... Pinar Tremblay*

In the turbulent 1990s, corruption involving an intricate network of top government officials and underworld figures — labeled the “deep state” — became synonymous with Turkey’s name and image globally. But after the turn of the century, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, promising to curtail corruption, rose to power — first as prime minister, later as president... Much remains unknown about his actual business activity. Ryan Gingeras, a professor of national security affairs at **the Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, told Al-Monitor, “Peker has made the headlines for his activities in the last decade but we really do not know what he really does, what are his businesses or who he is for that matter.”

### **9. Exposing the Persian Empire with Brenda Shaffer [Audio Interview]**

*(SoundCloud 21 May 21)*

If the great sea empires (British, French, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish) nearly disappeared sixty years ago, many land empires live on, conveniently hiding under their contiguity: the Chinese, Ethiopian, Burmese, and Persian. Iran’s non-Persian communities form about half of the population. Who are they, what are their political aims, and what potential do they have?



## ALUMNI:

### **10. ROCKET ARTILLERY CAN KEEP RUSSIA OUT OF THE BALTICS**

*(War on the Rocks 20 May 21) ... Brennan Deveraux*

Although a significant conflict between NATO and Russia is unlikely, a war of limited aims remains a distinct and dangerous possibility — and in almost any scenario in this context, the conflict will center on the Baltic states. The RAND Corporation’s 2016 report on the Baltic scenario highlighted the region’s vulnerability, concluding that within 60 hours, Russia could seize enough terrain to “demonstrate NATO’s inability to protect its most vulnerable members and divide the alliance.” While this grave prediction that Russia could overrun the Baltics in under three days has created controversy and driven change within the alliance, it is no longer a valid conclusion, and rocket artillery is the reason why... Brennan Deveraux is a major in the U.S. Army and is currently attending the Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as an Art of War Scholar. He is an Army strategist and former field artillery officer specializing in rocket-artillery employment. He has completed combat deployments to Iraq and the Horn of Africa and has a master’s degree in strategic studies from **the Naval Postgraduate School**, Monterey, California.

### **11. Who is Michel Moore? LAPD Chief wants cop who shared ‘you take my breath away’ George Floyd meme fired**

*(Meaww 20 May 21) ... Srivats Lakshman*

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Michel Moore wants to fire the cop who shared a meme of George Floyd but faces an uphill task in doing so. On Tuesday, May 18, the chief announced that he had taken the "most aggressive act" he could take - send the cop's case to the Board of Rights panel... Moore's LinkedIn profile also lists a large number of other educational qualifications. In 2011, he completed an Executive Leader's Program from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a program at Harvard University. Aside from all this, Moore has also served as a Director for the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, former President of the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Association, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Police Memorial Association.

### **12. Blue Angels Announce 2022 Executive Officer**

*(DVIDS 21 May 21) ... U.S. Navy Lt. Chelsea Dietlin*

Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff named Cmdr. Jonathan Fay as the incoming executive officer of the 2022 Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels... Fay is a graduate of the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Monterey, California, earning a Master’s in Business Administration, in addition to advanced certificates in space systems and anti-submarine warfare.

### **13. Chesapeake Native Supports Navy Leader Development**

*(DVIDS 21 May 21) ... Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Nikita Custer*

A 2009 Deep Creek High School graduate and Chesapeake, Virginia native is currently serving as a class officer and course instructor at Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) in Rhode Island... Harinandan said that knowledge, learning new things and being open to broader perspectives is an imperative component to expanding her ability to help others. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Old Dominion University and earned her commission in the Navy through ROTC in 2013. She continued on to earn a master’s degree in National Security Affairs from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2020.

## PUBLISHED BOOKS:

### **Carbon Nanotubes: Reinforced Metal Matrix Composites**

By: **Andy Nieto**, Aryind Agarwal, Debrupa Lahiri, Ankita Bisht, Srinivasa Rao Bakshi

This discovery of carbon nanotubes (CNT) three decades ago ushered in the technological era of nanotechnology. Among the most widely studied areas of CNT research is their use as structural reinforcements in composites. This book describes the development of CNT reinforced metal matrix composites (CNT-MMCs) over the last two decades. The field of CNT-MMCs is abundant in fundamental science, rich in engineering challenges and innovations and ripe for technological maturation and commercialization.



## **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:**

**May 24-28:** [Joint Interagency Field Experimentation \(JIFX 21-3\)](#)

**May 25-28:** [14<sup>th</sup> International Mine Technology Symposium \(NWSI Event\)](#)

**May 25:** [V-SGL with Rear Admiral Lorin C. Selby, U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Research: Re-Imaging the Future Force](#)

**May 31:** Memorial Day

**June 18:** [Spring Quarter Graduation Ceremony](#)



## EDUCATION:

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His visit included touring NPS' Oceanography Lab, Undersea Sensing Systems Lab, and Center for Autonomous Research (CAVR) where NPS faculty and students gave him a firsthand look into the variety of disciplines and educational opportunities that help develop military officers for global strategic competition.

For example, NPS student Lt. Cmdr. Shelly Moeller briefed Sawyer on her work testing the capabilities of an underwater camera in ultra-low-light environments.

"My research aims to improve future low-light underwater operations with existing surface light sources," said Moeller. "Vice Adm. Sawyer asked insightful questions and offered suggestions and recommendations stemming from real-life expertise, and I am excited to move forward with the knowledge provided."

At each tour stop, NPS presented Sawyer prime examples of its multi-disciplinary education delivering solutions in direct support of naval strategies. He also spoke to students in the FAO program like Lt. David Manley, who is working on a thesis about China's economic engagement in the Middle East, and the political implications of it.

"It was wonderful to be able to articulate on these bigger topics that we [NPS students] have been devoted to researching during this part of our professional careers," said Manley. "It's great to be appreciated by some of the upper echelons of the Navy."

Sawyer came away impressed by the educational value of NPS. Throughout the tour, Sawyer provided encouragement to the students noting that NPS students solve problems that make the Fleet better.

[Deputy CNO for Operations and Strategy Explores NPS, Warfighter Solutions > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[Deputy CNO for Operations and Strategy Explores NPS, Warfighter Solutions - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[Return to Index](#)

## RESEARCH:

### **NPS Students Tackle Key Challenges of the Mobile CubeSat Network**

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Four Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students, representing the Navy and Army, have each conducted thesis research to advance and address unique aspects of the Mobile CubeSat Command and Control (MC3) Network, a Department of Defense (DOD)-led ground station network providing common-use infrastructure for small satellite research.

Nearly 10 years old, the MC3 has become a multi-national network, and was conceived as a means to bring together organizations that have developed their own CubeSat programs with a single community-based approach that focuses on standard infrastructure that many across the government could utilize over time. NPS' Space Systems Academic Group was tapped to execute the construction, maintenance, and



operation of the network given its strengths in CubeSat-related activities and its focus on hands-on military education.

The network has eight active sites, with a ninth under construction, located at military, educational and commercial institutions. The network enables a low-cost, fast-paced development environment in which satellite and ground infrastructure technology can be matured without the burden of potentially impacting high-value missions that are critical to national security.

The growth of the network and its capabilities are commensurate with the challenges presented by its expansion. The four students are looking to inverse the challenges of growth into capabilities with their respective thesis projects, which focused on autonomy within the systems, to integration of hardware and software.

“The students contributed polished, reasonably-scoped capabilities that strengthen the network,” said Dr. Giovanni Minelli, NPS Space Systems Academic Group (SSAG) Faculty Research Associate. “Without our thesis students producing measurably useful deliverables, the small teams of faculty and staff researchers would not be able to give these new development efforts the attention they require given the work involved with keeping the network operational for our on-orbit users. The thesis work often leads to interesting follow-on work that can be picked up by a future student or can flow its way into other groups around the DoD.”

U.S. Army Maj. Timothy Marczewski integrated a series of environmental sensors capable of monitoring a ground station’s thermal, power, humidity, vibration, and even acoustic environments so that open source, near-real-time machine learning algorithms could be applied to determine a normal operating baseline. Any out-of-bounds readings would help forecast an imminent malfunction, thus allowing faster operator response and minimized downtime.

“It’s a way of monitoring these geographically-dispersed ground stations autonomously,” said Marczewski. “The goal here is predicting errors or faults that may cause a pass, referring to a satellite passing over where data communications between the ground station and that satellite does not happen, due to something that we did not identify before that pass happened.”

Using the sensors, Marczewski looked at data set clusters for time of day and temperature within the ground station satellite dome to get an idea of what ‘normal’ looks like and allows users to see if normal conditions are drifting and address any potential errors.

Staying in the realm of autonomy, another student’s thesis looked to develop software to autonomously characterize an antenna’s sensitivity to receive signals from space. The sun produces a substantial amount of radio signals in the band range used by the MC3 stations. The developed algorithms can record the intensity of these readings, and when comparing them to a sun-free baseline, can extract the instantaneous antenna sensitivity. By repeating this process daily, degradation or sudden anomalies can be identified autonomously. These measurements are currently conducted manually, only once or twice per year when personnel are on site performing maintenance.

As important as the ground stations are to the MC3 network, the equipment in orbit can also make or break the efficacy of the overall network. U.S. Navy Lt. Allyson Claybaugh used her thesis to verify end-to-end compatibility between an MC3 ground station and the NPS-developed CubeSat’s X-band Software-Defined Radio (SDR), a payload designed and constructed through previous thesis research. The testing pursued in her study aimed to find the required parameters, and associated software configurations, to achieve mission-ready interoperability between the payload SDR and commercial SDR receivers at the NPS MC3 ground station.

“X-band SDRs offer enticing features such as greater bandwidth, higher data rates, advanced modulation schemes and increased resiliency against environmental interference such as attenuation,” noted Claybaugh. “A proven CubeSat form factor is leading to increasingly ambitious payloads and mission requirements, resulting in more data products and the subsequent need for higher space-to-ground data transmission rates. Through the MC3 X-band initiative and CubeSat project, the SSAG is developing infrastructure that responds to this emerging need of the small satellite community.”

Instead of focusing on one aspect of the overall network, U.S. Navy Lt. Anastasia Novosyolovablatt is working to integrate hardware and software to simulate the entire communications path of an upcoming CubeSat mission. This communications path consists of ground software that operates the vehicle,



the spacecraft itself with its communications system, and a payload currently undergoing development in New Zealand. The testbed, called FlatSatNet, is able to connect to the payload in New Zealand from NPS to afford the mission's software developers the chance to develop software interfaces before the flight payload is sent to NPS for integration into the satellite.

"This helps reduce risk for the mission and sets the precedent that concurrent development can occur across oceans to maximize collaboration between allied government small satellite programs," stated Minelli. "The FlatSatNet concept allows us to test the entire mission's communications architecture, including components developed internationally, before we launch the satellite into orbit."

As spaceflight missions have a degree of uncertainty to them, Minelli also noted the SSAG scopes projects so that the students are not dependent on the outcome of an experiment or mission that is beyond their control. This way, they ensure that these types of results are the "cherry on top" of an otherwise strong theoretical or experimental topic.

"I believe the hands-on, comprehensive, project-oriented education we are receiving in the Space Systems curriculum at NPS is one of the most top-notch space educations out there," added Claybaugh. "The support I've received from my thesis advisors, as well as instruction and interaction with experienced professors — it's truly special and will set me up for my next tour, as well as the future career in the space field."

[NPS Students Tackle Key Challenges of the Mobile CubeSat Network > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[NPS Students Tackle Key Challenges of the Mobile CubeSat Network - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[Return to Index](#)

## **NPS Students Use Big Ideas Exchange to Advance Readiness and Mobility**

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Focused on groundbreaking concepts, BIX is an NPS initiative to showcase student research, in a "TED Talk" style, addressing current and emerging national security challenges. This year, the event included immediate feedback from an in-person and virtual panel of 12 senior leaders and mentors from the DOD, academia and industry.

Student topics included the application of emerging technologies to areas such as intelligence, training, ship maintenance, mobility resilience and sustainability, as well as a transregional Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program.

According to BIX mentor and panelist retired Adm. Thomas Fargo, a former commander of the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Pacific Fleet, BIX offers the student researchers something very important at this point in their careers – the experience of making their case.

"I think it's a great experience for the students because there is nothing more important for them at this point in their career than being able to stand up and make their case and think on their feet in response to challenging questions," said Fargo.

"I think [BIX] is hugely valuable because you get a good feel for whether the students are working on the right kind of research problems and you gain a clear understanding that their efforts are directly connected to Fleet operations and maintenance," he continued. "It really helps show outside entities the value of the work being done at NPS, not only from the standpoint of the students doing research, but also how it connects to their future."

Coordinating the event in part was U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael 'Kelly' McCoy, NPS Strategy Chair. McCoy noted the students who presented at BIX epitomize what it looks like when you foster an environment that promotes technological leadership to achieve warfighting advantages.



“BIX brings forward new and potentially game-changing thinking developed by NPS students to address grand challenges in American national security,” said McCoy. “These fresh approaches can often become the lifeblood of future innovations in military and naval organization, doctrine and strategy. They reflect and augment larger changes emerging in the world from recent technological advances.”

By having all six students present in a hybrid environment, McCoy believes the energy of the in-person engagement with the added benefit of increasing the aperture of senior leaders and mentors tuning in virtually was advantageous for each presenter, allowing them to receive constructive feedback from the multi-disciplined panel, and help guide their ‘big idea’ to the next step.

“The bottom line of the event is to get ideas put into action,” noted McCoy. “For that to happen requires not only resourcing and a sponsor, but more importantly a champion. To bring these elements together requires the right combination of people, who otherwise might not have been in the same room together.”

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Michael Gannon’s research, titled “Commercial-Off-the-Shelf Technology to Replicate High-End Systems for Training,” gets directly to the point of how he looks to leverage existing technology to develop and readily field cost-effective training simulators that deliver stand-alone capabilities within institutional, garrison and deployed environments.

“I think the DOD is on the cusp of modernizing the educational and training system across the forces,” said Gannon. “The cost savings that my concept has allows for the immediate and maximum integration and utilization of the technology across the DOD.”

By leveraging existing technology and learning management systems, Gannon’s research found that computer-aided instruction can be integrated with training simulators for cents on the dollar compared to training on actual equipment. This radical new approach to training aide development has the potential to supplement the learning environments of schoolhouses across the DOD, he says, providing real-time data collection on learning modalities and students’ knowledge, skills and abilities while simultaneously reducing the logistical burden of training.

Moving from training to maintenance, U.S. Navy Lt. Bridger Smith’s big idea is to pair submariners, maintainers and software developers together to develop and ultimately deliver a software suite that addresses the readiness needs of today’s submariners and maintainers.

“In a data-driven 21st Century, the ability to rapidly deliver safe and secure software is the new standard,” said Smith. “Given the opportunity to work with the waterfronts, we can usher in a new era of maintenance planning and execution through software development. Our efforts would contribute to the Navy-wide effort of getting our ships and submarines out to sea on time and on budget.”

According to Smith, we are in the midst of a technological arms race and those who can operate at the speed of technological relevance and automation will be the victors. The submarine force will need to be able to rapidly assess data and incorporate new technologies to better maintain ships and keep them in fighting shape, he says, so a ‘development, security, and operations’ (DevSecOps) pipeline helps ensure the Navy stays on the leading edge of these technologies and give the warfighters everything they need.

Fargo, a submariner by trade, noted that Smith’s big idea, and Lt. Samuel Royster’s idea using autonomous systems for hull husbandry and inspection below the waterline, resonated with him as both address challenges Fargo had experienced over the past few decades.

“It’s pretty clear from every time I’ve spent time at NPS that the quality of education is superb,” said Fargo. “I think the fact that these officers are involved in this pivotal research is hugely beneficial to their future. They develop analytical skills that will be imperative moving forward to solve problems, whether they’re operational problems or more in the maintenance and logistics world, and because of that, that education benefits the Fleet and benefits the Navy.

“I believe it’s reached the best level of practical adoption that I’ve seen to date,” said Fargo.

[NPS Students Use Big Ideas Exchange to Advance Readiness and Mobility > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[NPS Students Use Big Ideas Exchange to Advance Readiness and Mobility - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[Return to Index](#)



## **NPS Student Uses Multidisciplinary Approach to Study Sea Level Rise at Navy Installation**

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For the large number of naval bases located on an ocean's coast, the prospect of sea level rise (SLR) poses a real potential threat, especially since a rising sea doesn't necessarily impact everywhere the same way. There are many variables to consider, such as the local coastal geology and geography, as well as tide fluctuations and meteorological events.

While the Naval Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) global SLR maps do well at projecting generally the fate of the coastline after a certain amount of warming, there is a need for more detail, both in space and time, to aid in planning adaptive measures.

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) student U.S. Navy Lt. Monica Killoran is focusing her thesis around predicting what high tide will look like for Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) under different SLR scenarios.

"We want to try to capture what could happen if it gets to a specific level," Killoran explains. "It's particularly interesting to try to mix the two things because connecting the dots is what helps us to understand how things are."

Killoran is earning her master's degree in meteorology and physical oceanography, and is also pursuing the NPS Space Systems Certificate. Guided by Oceanography Assistant Professor Mara Orescanin and Meteorology Assistant Professor Scott Powell, the combination of topics are suited well to measuring a topic like SLR where the land and sea meet.

In a way, she mixed four of her own interests with the project ... meteorology, oceanography, climate change, and the Navy. She was inspired by an NOAA presentation she watched at the 2020 ESRI Ocean, Weather, and Climate Geographic Information System (GIS) forum, where a graduate student presented work similar to her project.

Killoran is trying to create a code that can calculate SLR variability for a certain area once the user plugs in standardized SLR projection data from NOAA and NASA and local tide measurements. Both agencies get their data from altimeters, which are instruments that can measure the height of sea surface from space.

Killoran's research is funded in part by the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific, and there is a significant amount of pre-existing data available for her to use. Although still in the early phases of her work, Killoran hopes to develop a tool and methodology that other bases can easily duplicate.

"I think of the research like an hourglass," Orescanin says. "We're kind of in the information-gathering stage, trying to figure out how much of this has been done already in academia and industry, like how many cities and ports and harbors are planning for things like sea level rise and what steps they are pursuing to make those decisions."

Killoran chose San Diego to be her first location because the base is closer to Monterey than other candidate installations, and the base has been collecting years worth of tide measurements. As she dives into her research question, Killoran says she is excited to be working on something that will both challenge her, and matches with her own interests.

"[Faculty] allow us to go for it if it's what we want to do," Killoran says. "Everybody has been so helpful, and I didn't know there was so much information and resources available."

Killoran already has other Naval installations in mind that would be good places to explore sea level rise in detail, including Norfolk, Pearl Harbor and Yokosuka.

"There is, in my opinion, probably a lot of room for students to run [with this topic] down the line," Powell says.

[NPS Student Uses Multidisciplinary Approach to Study Sea Level Rise at Navy Installation > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[NPS Student Uses Multidisciplinary Approach to Study Sea Level Rise at Navy Installation - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[Return to Index](#)



## LOCAL COMMUNITY:

### NPS Hosts “Ask an Astronaut” Connecting Military Children with Space Veterans

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In honor of Month of the Military Child, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted “Ask an Astronaut” giving the children of Monterey County service members an opportunity to pose questions to a panel of three former NASA astronauts, broadcast via live stream, Apr. 29.

NPS graduates U.S. Navy retired Capt. Stephen N. Frick, Daniel W. Bursch and NPS faculty member Dr. James H. Newman, all with a direct tie to NPS and the local Monterey community, formed the panel and fielded questions virtually from the pre-recorded videos and via the live-stream chat.

While the event was based out of Monterey, Calif., the virtual STEM-centric event reached as far as the East Coast with a question sent in from a classroom in North Carolina. Questions from the children ranged from what their favorite memory of space, to how do you eat and sleep in space, and to what it takes to become an astronaut.

“I always enjoy the questions about adapting to micro-gravity, like how we swallow without gravity,” said Newman, Chair of the Space Systems Academic Group. “Children are naturally curious about the world they live in so it’s important to let them know, at an early age, that STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] is something that is accessible to them and can help them discover more about the world.”

According to the event’s moderator, Navy Capt. Edward McCabe, NPS Air Warfare Chair, STEM education is critical for the future and we need many of our youth to pursue these fields.

“Our future depends upon our children building the skills necessary to create and invent, and STEM learning is the key,” said McCabe. “Getting them excited about STEM, and keeping them excited is critical for the nation, and events like this one hopefully do that.

“Seeing the event reach so many was very encouraging and indicative of the renewed excitement for the space program,” continued McCabe. “Maintaining a positive relationship with the local population is vital and events such as these that provide that sense of community and encourage the continuing education of the next generation reinforce and strengthen those local bonds.”

Dr. Cheryl McCloud, NPS’ School Liaison Officer, noted that the event offered the children a glimpse into something they can achieve, following the expression, “If you can see it, you can be it.”

“I appreciated the opportunity to include so many students, it confirms that the earlier students are exposed to STEM, the more likely they are to also spark a lifetime interest in science,” said McCloud. “When NPS hosts events, it makes us accessible to students who would not otherwise have that exposure or access and it offers the wider audience an opportunity to get a glimpse into what is possible.”

To that point, Newman also noted, “Involving the community helps showcase what NPS is all about – education and research,” said Newman. “Part of being a good neighbor involves communicating purpose and possibilities.”

During the event, Frick reminisced about his space missions, and would certainly be watching new generations of astronauts who will get the chance to explore space.

Events like Ask an Astronaut look to inspire children and show them the possibilities that are in front of them in and as well as show our appreciation for their sacrifices as the child of a service member.

“I need to thank those military kids watching today,” said McCabe. “Being a child of a service member is hard work. Your sacrifice is critical to enabling the service of your parent and the security of the nation. For that, we are grateful.”

At the event’s conclusion, NPS remembered the life of legendary astronaut U.S. Air Force retired Maj. Gen Michael Collins, who passed Apr. 28 at the age of 90.

“He looked down on all of us from the furthest point man had yet traveled and he now looks down on us from the heavens,” said McCabe. “Rest in peace knowing that we stand the watch, and the future is in good hands with the next generation inspired by your accomplishments.”



[Return to Index](#)

## FACULTY:

### G. Craig Vachon to Lead AI Redefined as CEO

*(Valdosta Daily Times 18 May 21)*

AI Redefined (AIR), a human-AI collaboration technology start-up, has fulfilled its own corporate algorithm of sorts by adding G. Craig Vachon, a successful serial entrepreneur, investor, corporate advisor, and author, as CEO. This brings significant growth experience to the company as AIR enters a new phase of its development. Founder Dorian Kieken will transition to the role of President to focus on the vision and product aspects of the company. Kieken will also remain on the Board of Directors.

G. Craig Vachon, a successful serial entrepreneur, investor, corporate advisor, and author, has joined AI Redefined as CEO. Vachon earned success leading P&L operations, new product development, corporate development, sales and business development, finance, and product marketing with start-ups and high-tech companies throughout the world. He has raised more than \$1.6B in private equity and venture capital investment with more than 30 companies in seven countries. (Photo: Business Wire)

The founder of Chowdahead Growth Fund, a seed investment firm, Vachon earned success leading P&L operations, new product development, corporate development, sales and business development, finance, and product marketing with start-ups and high-tech companies throughout the world. He has raised more than \$1.6B in private equity and venture capital investment with more than 30 companies in seven countries. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Yseop, the leader in natural language AI, and as a special advisor to the CEO of SupplyShift, a supply chain transparency platform used by Walmart and Amazon. In addition, Vachon is a Trustee at both Of/By/For All, and Seek Common Ground, while also assisting the **Naval Postgraduate School Foundation** with appropriation to new and existing innovation projects. Vachon also serves as Senior Partner, Head of US Operations for NextStage Asset Management, based in Paris.

“What drew me to AIR was the superlative team working on a human-centric approach of adding empathy, ethics, and nuance to AI's input, and likewise, translating AI's output into action and narrative that is compelling and accountable,” Vachon said. “If we do not teach AI to have nuance, and the human aspects we want it to have—beyond the veneer of today’s human-AI efforts—things could end poorly. AI needs to be trusted and collaborative. It’s this enormous vision to impact all AI, defined by co-founders Dorian Kieken and Fabrice Condominas, that convinced me to take on this exciting new role.”

AI Redefined was founded in 2017 to enable human-machine synergy in AI systems. Executives and engineers have used their expertise in machine learning, simulation and gaming to develop Cogment 1.0, its first widely available product, to be launched in the very near future.

“As the company entered a new phase of its development, it became clear that we needed someone with strong entrepreneurship and business acumen to help us navigate it. We found in Craig, a serial tech entrepreneur and investor, not only a great fit for what the company needs, but also someone whose values resonated with our own, a person of curiosity and integrity,” Kieken said. “In the end, what made Craig our top choice, was realizing how passionate and committed he was to securing the benefit of humankind via our human-AI collaboration technology. This synergy is critical as we manage our way through the AI’s industry’s expected exponential growth.”

[G. Craig Vachon to Lead AI Redefined as CEO | Business | valdostadailytimes.com](#)

[Return to Index](#)



## **88% of Children Covered by Monthly Payments Starting in July [Video Interview]**

(WTTW 19 May 21) ... Evan Garcia

Video: We discuss the child tax credit expansion on “Chicago Tonight” with David Henderson of the Naval Postgraduate School in California, and Jeremy Rosen of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law. (Produced by Evan Garcia)

The Treasury Department said Monday that 39 million families are set to receive monthly child payments beginning on July 15.

The payments are part of President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, which expanded the child tax credit for one year and made it possible to pre-pay the benefits on a monthly basis. Nearly 88% of children are set to receive the benefits without their parents needing to take any additional action.

“This tax cut sends a clear and powerful message to American workers, working families with children: Help is here,” Biden said in remarks at the White House.

Qualified families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under 6 and up to \$250 per month for children between the ages of 6 and 17. The child tax credit was previously capped at \$2,000 and only paid out to families with income tax obligations after they filed with the IRS.

But for this year, couples earning \$150,000 or less can receive the full payments on the 15th of each month, in most cases by direct deposit. The benefits total \$3,600 annually for children under 6 and \$3,000 for those who are older. The IRS will determine eligibility based on the 2019 and 2020 tax years, but people will also be able to update their status through an online portal. The administration is also setting up another online portal for non-filers who might be eligible for the child tax credit.

The president has proposed an extension of the increased child tax credit through 2025 as part of his \$1.8 trillion families plan. Outside analysts estimate that the payments could essentially halve child poverty. The expanded credits could cost roughly \$100 billion a year.

[88% of Children Covered by Monthly Payments Starting in July | Chicago News | WTTW](#)

[Return to Index](#)

## **How an exiled mafia boss became the center of Turkish politics**

(Al-Monitor 19 May 21) ... Pinar Tremblay

In the turbulent 1990s, corruption involving an intricate network of top government officials and underworld figures — labeled the “deep state” — became synonymous with Turkey’s name and image globally. But after the turn of the century, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, promising to curtail corruption, rose to power — first as prime minister, later as president.

In the last couple of years, mafia figures — many with ultranationalist backgrounds — have made a gradual return to public view on various platforms. One is Alaattin Cakici, who was released from prison last year as part of a parole eligibility bill that aimed to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus in penitentiaries. Shortly after his release, Cakici issued a public letter threatening Turkey’s main opposition leader.

The most recent is Sedat Peker, who gained national fame in 2016 when he threatened to “bathe in the blood” of so-called peace academics — those who had signed the Academics for Peace Initiative — declaring them terrorists. After a criminal case was brought against him in the matter, Peker was acquitted. He even went on to receive business awards from various institutions, including “most charitable businessman” from Milliyet Daily in 2017.

Much remains unknown about his actual business activity. Ryan Gingeras, a professor of national security affairs at **the Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, told Al-Monitor, “Peker has made the headlines for his activities in the last decade but we really do not know what he really does, what are his businesses or who he is for that matter.”

Since May 1, Turkey has been rocked by the exiled mafia boss’s YouTube videos, in which he described alleged incidents involving crime, corruption and state secrets. Peker, 49, has been at the



intersection of media, politics and Islamist networks for over a decade now. Peker has posted five videos, each about an hour long. His popularity has skyrocketed at an increasing rate with each release. The fourth video surpassed 5 million views in five days. Peker has promised more videos as comments under his posts reveal a well-engaged audience asking detailed questions about several issues.

Peker is not just any businessman, as he has been organizing political rallies in various cities since 2015. He features in photos and videos with celebrities, as well as political figures, including Erdogan, and was a regular face at high society events in Turkey this century.

Peker, who has been convicted twice on organized crime charges, left Turkey in 2019. He said he had not fled but rather was just trying to complete his college degree. After traveling to several countries in the Balkans, he is now reportedly in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, recording videos asking government elites why he has been discarded. The common theme in Peker's videos are claims that top Justice and Development Party (AKP) officials betrayed him. He alleges that Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu tipped him off that an investigation report was being prepared on him before he left the country. Peker also claims he had left Turkey expecting to be "invited back."

In his videos, Peker has made several allegations against AKP elites, including Soylu and other lawmakers. While many of these allegations have been long suspected, Peker's on-the-record accusations have rekindled the public's interest. The allegations involve possible murder, rape, drug smuggling and abuse of political power — just to name a few. These allegations involve former senior bureaucrats such as Mehmet Agar and his son Tolga Agar, who is an AKP lawmaker, as well as Soylu and his advisers. Peker alleged that the younger Agar was involved in the rape and death of a young female journalist whose demise was originally reported as a suicide. Other allegations involve the lavish spending habits of Soylu's advisers.

In addition, Peker has repeatedly mentioned he had security details assigned by the government, even during his trips abroad. He has shown official documents from Istanbul Provincial Protection Detail Committee to back his claims. Opposition lawmakers added to these allegations this week, saying the Interior Ministry had given Peker jammers so his phone conversations could not be picked up by security and intelligence officers.

Opposition leaders publicly questioned whether prosecutors will be opening an investigation into these allegations. Although Peker has not revealed any relationships with opposition figures, Soylu had commented on Peker's videos and claimed Peker was getting support from opposition leaders. Another AKP lawmaker suggested that Soylu must be protected and that opening an investigation on the basis of a corrupt man's words would expand his sphere of influence.

It is intriguing that Peker's YouTube channel has not been banned in Turkey and that top AKP figures, including presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, have acknowledged the videos while condemning opposition figures for taking Peker seriously. On March 18, Soylu finally asked prosecutors to investigate Peker's claims. Baris Terkoglu, a prominent journalist who has been investigating organized crime networks of Turkey for decades, interpreted this call as the "de facto resignation of Soylu."

Whether Peker's allegations are worthy of an investigation or all bogus, there is one fact that cannot be denied: His videos are watched by millions. Even the items Peker has on his desk in the background — from books to photos and small knickknacks — generate a wide array of interpretations and commentary.

Why did Peker and his ilk grasp the attention of the public? How did an unsavory criminal become so fascinating and visible to Turkish audiences?

Part of the answer can be found in the contemporary popular culture. The country's neo-Ottoman dreams were primed by long-lasting television series such as "Valley of the Wolves," which had been influenced by real organized crime figures. Peker acknowledges in his videos that some of the characters on these series were based on him. The target audiences for such series are ultranationalist and Islamist men in Turkey. And they take these fictional characters to heart — with some even organizing a funeral for one of the characters in "Valley of the Wolves." Now Peker's YouTube videos reflect how difficult it has become to separate real criminals from fictional ones.

One more explanation is embedded in the identity of Peker, a flashy figure who has spoken up against police disrespect toward his young daughter and his wife, who remain in Turkey. While people watch the



videos they observe someone trying to portray himself almost as a patriotic Robin Hood, whose various services to his country have all been discarded ungratefully. Yet this comes at the same time he is boasting of mob activities and “breaking bones” of a lawmaker for insulting Erdogan.

Many viewers do not know the full extent of Peker’s mob activities or what they entail. As Gingeras highlighted, Peker has been more of a celebrity figure and his alleged illicit dealings do not directly impinge on the public. When he speaks, with books such as Mario Puzo's mafia novels "The Godfather" and "Omerta" on his desk, he is trying to promote an image of standing up to unfair treatment to protect his own family.

However, unlike other mafia figures, Peker is not ignorant of the state and may not not be engaged in a real battle against it as he claims he has served the state and yearns to get back to providing his services to it. He tenaciously utilizes images and words of ultranationalists, Islamists and even some well-known leftists to capture a large audience.

One more factor is that Peker fascinates the Turkish public as he lashes out at the most prominent men who appear to be impervious to threat. Peker’s image in the public eye has been as a member of the ruling elite. So now his words as an insider carry a high value as transparency of government activities has diminished significantly.

The AKP elites he targets feel obliged to engage him; this is to Peker's benefit. His words make the political elites who were allegedly in direct contact with him for years squirm. Where free speech is outlawed, only the outlaws can speak freely. Intriguingly, not only has access to his videos not been blocked, but so far no one has been taken into custody for speaking about them. In an odd way, Peker’s videos have given a very tense public in Turkey an outlet to blow off steam.

Peker’s well-prepared and meticulously edited speeches are seen as genuine and informative. A senior bureaucrat from the security establishment speaking on the condition of anonymity said, “Peker does not need to reveal all that he knows, all he needs to do is to signal what he knows. When mafia leaders become visible in public eye, it is time for crucial reshuffling among the top cadres. Erdogan will turn the tables to his own benefit with Peker’s words. I see that Peker is still serving the state.”

[How an exiled mafia boss became the center of Turkish politics - Al-Monitor: The Pulse of the Middle East](#)

[Return to Index](#)

## **Exposing the Persian Empire with Brenda Shaffer [Audio Interview]**

*(SoundCloud 21 May 21)*

If the great sea empires (British, French, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish) nearly disappeared sixty years ago, many land empires live on, conveniently hiding under their contiguity: the Chinese, Ethiopian, Burmese, and Persian. Iran’s non-Persian communities form about half of the population. Who are they, what are their political aims, and what potential do they have?

<https://soundcloud.com/romanmef/exposing-the-persian-empire-with-brenda-shaffer>

[Return to Index](#)

## **ALUMNI:**

### **ROCKET ARTILLERY CAN KEEP RUSSIA OUT OF THE BALTICS**

*(War on the Rocks 20 May 21) ... Brennan Deveraux*

Although a significant conflict between NATO and Russia is unlikely, a war of limited aims remains a distinct and dangerous possibility — and in almost any scenario in this context, the conflict will center on the Baltic states. The RAND Corporation’s 2016 report on the Baltic scenario highlighted the region’s vulnerability, concluding that within 60 hours, Russia could seize enough terrain to “demonstrate NATO’s inability to protect its most vulnerable members and divide the alliance.” While this grave



prediction that Russia could overrun the Baltics in under three days has created controversy and driven change within the alliance, it is no longer a valid conclusion, and rocket artillery is the reason why.

Notably, RAND's Baltic assessment sparked ample dialogue regarding the forward-basing and rotational deployments of maneuver forces. Missing from the conversation, however, has been the rise of rocket artillery in Europe: specifically, the U.S. Army's 2018 activation of an artillery brigade in Germany, coupled with Romania and Poland's recent acquisition of U.S.-made High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. These additions undoubtedly change the battlefield calculus between Russia and NATO. In turn, incorporating these rocket-artillery units into Baltic contingency plans increases military mobility in the region, improves the alliance's ability to reinforce the Baltics via air to prevent a Russian fait accompli, and strengthens NATO's deterrence posture.

### **The Strategic Situation**

In response to a potential Russian invasion of the Baltics, NATO created the Enhanced Forward Presence at the 2016 Warsaw Summit, positioning combat power along the eastern border to deter a conventional attack. Following the structure of RAND's recommendations, though reducing the recommended size, this rotational force positions multi-national mechanized units in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. However, these four battlegroups — roughly 1,100 to 1,400 troops each — are a dramatically smaller force than the seven brigades that RAND concluded were necessary. NATO implemented the program in 2017, and according to the Warsaw Summit official communique, they designed it to demonstrate the “[a]llies’ solidarity, determination, and ability to act by triggering an immediate [a]llied response to any aggression.” The battlegroups combined have over 5,000 troops total, creating a large reinforcement contingent just outside the Russian border. Although NATO has increased military support to its Baltic allies, the size and composition of the Enhanced Forward Presence make it primarily a tripwire meant to deter. If deterrence fails, the rotational units will have to prevent Russia from achieving operational objectives long enough to allow the Alliance time to coordinate a full-scale defense. Therefore, if a conflict erupts with Russia, NATO's ability to rapidly reinforce the Baltics and bring firepower to bear will be vital.

### **Airpower Limitations**

In the event of a conflict, NATO would likely allocate few, if any, strike aircraft to supporting reinforcement operations against a Russian incursion — there would simply be too many other things for member air forces to do simultaneously. RAND's authors noted that in their simulations, “NATO's air forces had multiple jobs to do, including suppressing Russia's arsenal of modern surface-to-air defenses and defending against possible air attacks on NATO forces and rear areas.” Significantly, they concluded that the combination of these requirements “limited NATO air's ability to affect the outcome of the war on the ground.”

Additionally, any aircraft supporting the Baltic scenario — whether through strike operations or transporting reinforcements — would face a dangerous situation traversing within the range of Russian air defense systems. Russia's forward deployment of its S-400 anti-aircraft systems into Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg creates an anti-access/area denial bubble that limits the alliance's ability to leverage its aircraft for such an operation. NATO has to address this air-defense threat in some way or expect heavy losses.

### **The Rise of Rockets in Europe**

Long-range artillery is a viable tool for defeating or neutralizing anti-access equipment, an operational argument the U.S. Army is currently relying on to modernize its missile systems. Significantly, when RAND published its bleak findings in 2016, the wargame operated with the then-correct data that there were “no fires brigades in Europe able to augment the modest number of guns at the brigade and battalion level” and that NATO had “no independent fires units at all.” However, in 2018 the United States reconstituted its 41st Field Artillery Brigade in Germany, and as of 2020, it has 32 rocket-artillery launchers. Additionally, two European NATO members — Romania and Poland — recently purchased U.S.-made rocket-artillery platforms, with the first systems expected to arrive in 2022. In 2017, Romania contracted for 54 launchers, and Romanian Defense Minister Adrian



Tutuianu stated that the “acquisitions are in the interest of safeguarding the security needs of Romania, but also to respect the government’s commitments in relation to NATO’s structures.” More recently, in February of 2019, Poland signed a deal to purchase 20 launchers, adding 74 launchers to Europe between the two countries, bringing the total number of launchers over 100 — all except 16 of which are lightweight and airmobile. This amount of firepower is comparable to three separate field artillery brigades. Although the European acquisitions are primarily motivated by national defense needs, the addition strengthens the alliance as a whole. Consequently, Russia may no longer enjoy the “overwhelming advantage in tactical and operational fires” that RAND found it had in 2016.

### **The Russian Response to Rockets**

In September 2020, for the first time since Russia’s 2014 incursion into Ukraine, the United States positioned multiple-launch rocket systems along NATO’s eastern flank for a live-fire exercise in Estonia. Significantly, from a Russian perspective, precision-rocket artillery systems create a defensive problem that is more comparable to that posed by fighter aircraft than ground forces. Each rocket or missile can strike into Russian territory with minimal warning. Each guided rocket is equipped with a 200-pound warhead and can travel over 70 kilometers, and the precision Army Tactical Missile is tipped with a 500-pound warhead that can travel up to 300 kilometers. While the 2020 exercise was officially designed to test the unit’s readiness and build interoperability within NATO, it also conveyed some strategic messages, as the live fire took place within 70 miles of the Russian border. Recognizing the strategic implications of these weapon systems, a spokesperson for the Russian Federation called the activity “provocative and extremely dangerous for regional stability.” He went on to ask rhetorically, “Who is actually fueling tensions in Europe?”

### **The Way Forward**

Rocket-artillery systems are vital to the Baltic defense plan because their mobility allows the alliance to deploy a long-range precision capability across the theater and prosecute vital targets such as Russia’s area-denial equipment, through a process known as a rapid infiltration. This mission revolves around a C-130 or larger aircraft — preferably one capable of landing on an austere runway — transporting the artillery launchers that subsequently execute long-range precision missions within 10 to 15 minutes of the aircraft landing. After completing the fire missions, the crew can subsequently drive the launchers to follow-on operations or load back on the aircraft to reposition out of the potentially hostile territory. This unique raid provides the alliance a mobile asset capable of neutralizing Russian air defense systems and facilitating NATO freedom of movement. This mission supports one of the RAND report’s essential findings for NATO success: ground fires should “play an integral role in the suppression campaign against Russia’s advanced surface-to-air defenses ... and land power must be leveraged to enable firepower.”

This method of employment has been a staple of the U.S. Army since the creation of the lightweight rocket-artillery model in the early 2000s, often supporting special operations missions. The United States demonstrated this capability to NATO in the November 2020 training exercise Rapid Falcon, when two launchers rapidly deployed via air from Germany to Romania to provide precision fires near the Black Sea. Col. Marc LaRoche, the deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, explained that the exercise demonstrated the system’s ability “to get on an aircraft, take off and land anywhere in the world mixed in with our multinational partners or joint forces and provide fires.” He went on to note that “it creates an unpredictable advantage to move an army (rocket) system forward quickly.” Some of the new Romanian and Polish launchers can train to conduct a similar mission at the alliance level to capitalize on this capability and assist the Baltic region’s rapid reinforcement. However, to truly leverage this capability as an alliance asset, the United States, Poland, and Romania should all identify a rocket-artillery platoon to incorporate into the already established NATO response force on a rotational basis.

### **Integrating U.S. Rocket-Artillery Systems into NATO**

Additionally, these new systems should be integrated into alliance-level exercises to simulate the suppression or destruction of air defense assets. When able, NATO should execute this operation across



multiple countries. This will best simulate the complicated airspace situation that would apply in a war with Russia, and illuminate the challenges of multi-national fires integration. This precedent may have already begun with the 2021 Defender Europe Exercise when the 41st Field Artillery Brigade was called on to provide rocket-artillery fire in Estonia on May 5, 2021, as the forcible-entry prerequisite. As part of Fires Shock, the unit fired 24 rockets to simulate the destruction of enemy air defense systems in the area, allowing a brigade from the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division to reinforce Estonia rapidly. The planning, coordination, and execution of this mission require NATO member countries to connect diverse operating systems from the sensors that detect enemy assets to the shooters designed to destroy them. In discussing this point, Brig. Gen. Chris Norrie, head of the U.S. Army's 7th Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany, explained that these exercises help NATO "best understand how to position sensors and then to test the entire sensor-shooter linkage." To date, the integration of these rocket-artillery systems has been exclusively the U.S. Army's role, and outside of special operations support, has been done deliberately through rail movements versus rapid air infiltrations. Moving forward, when Romania and Poland field their launchers, it would make sense for the new launchers to supplement the U.S. systems in the exercises and gain proficiency conducting rapid infiltration missions.

With the dissolution of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the establishment of long-range precision fires as the U.S. Army's number one development priority, rocket-artillery capabilities are likely to grow exponentially over the next five years. In this context, while the value of large mechanized forces is not in question, it is time to recognize that rocket artillery should be at the forefront of NATO's military strategy. These rocket-artillery systems can serve as a tool to enable alliance aircraft, offset the lack of air support in a conflict, and help NATO strike targets in places that it would be difficult or dangerous to strike via air. Therefore, the successful integration of Romanian and Polish High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems is vital to NATO's future. Particularly, if made part of the Baltic contingency plan, rocket artillery will facilitate rapid reinforcement across the European theater and strengthen the alliance. Overall, rocket artillery is a combat multiplier in Europe. If successfully integrated, European-owned rocket-artillery launchers provide NATO a unique tool that changes the battlefield calculus and strengthens the Alliance's strategic deterrence posture.

Brennan Deveraux is a major in the U.S. Army and is currently attending the Army Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as an Art of War Scholar. He is an Army strategist and former field artillery officer specializing in rocket-artillery employment. He has completed combat deployments to Iraq and the Horn of Africa and has a master's degree in strategic studies from **the Naval Postgraduate School**, Monterey, California.

[Rocket Artillery Can Keep Russia Out of the Baltics - War on the Rocks](#)

[Return to Index](#)

## **Who is Michel Moore? LAPD Chief wants cop who shared 'you take my breath away' George Floyd meme fired**

*(Meaww 20 May 21) ...* Srivats Lakshman

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Michel Moore wants to fire the cop who shared a meme of George Floyd but faces an uphill task in doing so. On Tuesday, May 18, the chief announced that he had taken the "most aggressive act" he could take - send the cop's case to the Board of Rights panel.

The cop, who hasn't been publicly identified found himself/herself in the middle of a massive controversy after sharing a meme of George Floyd, that said, "You take my breath away." The meme was shared earlier this year, sparking an internal investigation at the LAPD. At the time, Moore said that the culprits "will find my wrath". Now, he seems determined to take the strictest possible action he can.

The chief does not have the power to fire cops in the LAPD, that power rests with the Board of Rights panel. That panel will hear the case, before deciding on the officer's fate. Moore believes the punishment



is apt, and hopes the decision "will send a clear message" that the department does not tolerate such behavior because of "how corrosive it is to the public trust" in law enforcement, according to the Los Angeles Times.

A decorated veteran officer, Moore's actions are a radical shift from his previous comments on George Floyd, which led to citizens asking for his resignation. Here's everything we know about the controversial officer.

Who is Michel Moore?

A California native, Moore was born in Porterville, before moving all around the country with his parents and four siblings. He graduated high school in Conway, Arkansas, before attending Antelope Valley College. In 1981, he joined the LAPD after graduating with an Associate of Arts degree and quickly rose through the department's ranks. As he worked his way up the department, Moore also attended university. In 1993, he graduated from the University of Redlands with a BS in Business Administration and Management. In 1999, he graduated with an MBA from the same university.

A year prior to his MBA graduation, Moore was promoted to the rank of Captain. According to his official biography, he was in command during the arrest of notorious LAPD officer Rafael Perez, and during the 2000 Democratic National Convention in the city. In 2002, he was promoted to Commander and to Deputy Chief in 2004. He spent time in charge of LAPD's counter-terrorism, Special Operations, Administrative Services, and a wide variety of other departments. Eventually, in 2018, he was sworn in as the Chief of Police, by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Moore's LinkedIn profile also lists a large number of other educational qualifications. In 2011, he completed an Executive Leader's Program from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a program at Harvard University. Aside from all this, Moore has also served as a Director for the Los Angeles Police Federal Credit Union, former President of the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Association, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Police Memorial Association.

### **Controversy around George Floyd**

While Moore's tenure has been largely uncontroversial, he did gain notoriety in mid-2020 for equating Black Lives Matter protesters with criminals. In June, Moore was addressing BLM protesters when he said, "we didn't have protests last night, we had criminal acts, we didn't have people mourning the death of this man, George Floyd, we had people capitalizing it. His death is on their hands as much as it is those officers."

Those comments generated massive rebuke both online and offline. The next day, he was repeatedly asked to resign at a virtual meeting but had the backing of Mayor Garcetti. That led Moore to issue a statement where he said, "I misspoke when I said his blood is on their hands, but certainly their actions do not serve the enormity of his loss and cannot be in his memory." He also issued a series of tweets apologizing for his choice in words.

Moore survived the calls to resign and has since worked hard to reinstate the faith of the Los Angeles community. His strong stand against the officer who sent the meme is a sample of that. Under California law, the officer will not be named unless he/she chooses to appeal the Board of Rights panel verdict in a state court. So we may never really know who shared the troubling meme, but Moore's call for action has found some solidarity, with noted lawyer Ben Crump.

Crump, who represented Floyd's family in court praised Moore's decision and said, "If a person has that kind of mentality, they are not the type of people who we want with a gun and a badge, who are supposed to be protecting and serving all citizens equally."

[Who is Michel Moore? LAPD Chief wants cop who shared 'you take my breath away' George Floyd meme fired | MEAWW](#)

[Return to Index](#)



## **Blue Angels Announce 2022 Executive Officer**

*(DVIDS 21 May 21)* ... U.S. Navy Lt. Chelsea Dietlin

Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff named Cmdr. Jonathan Fay as the incoming executive officer of the 2022 Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Fay attended the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in economics and received his commission, May 2000.

“It is an incredible honor to join Cmdr. Kesselring in guiding this extraordinary organization through its 76th season,” Fay said. “The seriousness of this job is not one to be taken lightly. I am humbled by the legacy I will follow and excited to learn from this highly skilled group of Sailors and Marines.”

Fay was designated a naval flight officer in January 2002, and reported to the “Shamrocks” of Sea Control Squadron (VS) 41, at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, San Diego, for initial training in the S-3B Viking. He reported to NAS Jacksonville, Florida, in October 2002, where he completed an eastern Mediterranean Sea deployment aboard aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Throughout his career, Fay completed multiple combat tours in support of both OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In September 2005, Fay reported to the “Warbucks” of Training Squadron (VT) 4 as an instructor. During this tour he was selected for transition to the P-3C Orion due to the retirement of the S-3B Viking. In November 2017, Fay was selected as a Navy Legislative Fellow in Washington D.C., and served in the personal office of a member of congress. During this tour on Capitol Hill he supported the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, assisting in the passage of the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 defense appropriations legislation.

Fay is a graduate of the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Monterey, California, earning a Master’s in Business Administration, in addition to advanced certificates in space systems and anti-submarine warfare.

Fay will join Blue Angels Commanding Officer Cmdr. Brian Kesselring and Blue Angels Command Master Chief Eric McDermott to assume his role for the 2022 show season following the Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show at NAS Pensacola, scheduled Nov. 6.

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the teamwork and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps through flight demonstrations and community outreach while inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 496 million fans. The Blue Angels are scheduled to perform 54 flight demonstrations at 27 locations across the United States and Canada in 2021. For more information about the Blue Angels, including the air show schedule, visit [www.blueangels.navy.mil](http://www.blueangels.navy.mil).

[DVIDS - News - Blue Angels Announce 2022 Executive Officer \(dvidshub.net\)](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/21-may-2021/blue-angels-announce-2022-executive-officer)

[Return to Index](#)

## **Chesapeake Native Supports Navy Leader Development**

*(DVIDS 21 May 21)* ... Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Nikita Custer

A 2009 Deep Creek High School graduate and Chesapeake, Virginia native is currently serving as a class officer and course instructor at Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) in Rhode Island.

Lt. Cheyenne Harinandan is part of a dedicated team that transforms civilians and fleet Sailors into future naval officers.

Harinandan has served at OTCN since July 2020. In addition to her role as a class officer, she instructs both a cyber warfare and watch officer course. Over the past ten months, she has overseen the professional and personal development of more than 300 officer candidates.

“Our team puts a lot of focus on mentorship training,” said Harinandan. “I give examples of real challenges I’ve encountered in the fleet and what I did to overcome them. We give them a good basis of ethics and morals and how that is the groundwork for strong leadership.”



Harinandan said another foundational principle of leadership is acquiring tools to keep mental health in a positive condition. To help the officer candidates explore ways to de-stress, she leads an extracurricular yoga practice and meditation group on base once a week.

“Practicing yoga and meditating forces me to spend time working on myself both physically and mentally,” said Harinandan. “It helps guide me towards inner peace which is especially important since the Navy is a demanding profession that requires the sharpest minds and strongest bodies.”

Harinandan is the daughter of retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jadeo Harinandan. He was born in Guyana, South America, but his family’s heritage traces back to India.

She emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions made from her fellow Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) service members in the past while making her own now.

“If we don’t know our past, we aren’t able to shape our futures. It recognizes the contributions that were made by the service members before us,” she said. “The contribution that I want to pass on, and that that helps me stay healthy, is the practice of meditation and yoga. It is an individual practice that takes time to build and strengthen. But it can be done practically anywhere, anytime, no matter where you are in the world.”

Harinandan says she believes yoga is a great example of how interconnected the world is.

“An ancient Indian practice has been adopted by the modern western world. It’s as common as a daily cup of coffee for millions of people. I feel a sense of pride knowing that a practice created by my distant ancestors has had such a positive impact on so many people, all from different cultures and walks of life,” said Harinandan. “By celebrating the accomplishments of people that are in my life today, I am keeping the spirit of interconnectedness and inclusion alive.”

Harinandan said her mother, Kathryn Harinandan, has also made an impact on the people and world around her. She is a registered nurse assigned to the behavioral health unit at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia and has been influential to her decision to incorporate wellness practices in her daily routine.

“My mother has seen firsthand the importance of mental health within the military,” said Harinandan. “The ability of a person to implement mindfulness tools can immensely impact their quality of life, both personally and professionally. At the end of the day, you cannot complete the mission of the Navy without ensuring your mental health is taken care of. Everything is connected - it is so valuable to have tools that can help just as much at home as out to sea.”

Harinandan has served much time at sea and has been stationed in a variety of places throughout her career. Her first assignment was to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Barry (DDG 52). She traveled with the ship as it shifted homeports from Norfolk, Virginia to Yokosuka, Japan in 2016.

“I don’t just have a special connection with the USS Barry because it was my first ship, said Harinandan. “My maternal grandfather, David Shears Sr., was a Newport News shipyard worker for 44 years and actually did construction on the ship. My grandparents on both sides took the jobs that no one else wanted, all to help give their families a better life. My family made sacrifices to put me at an advantage, and I want to perpetuate that cycle of growth.”

Harinandan said that knowledge, learning new things and being open to broader perspectives is an imperative component to expanding her ability to help others. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Old Dominion University and earned her commission in the Navy through ROTC in 2013. She continued on to earn a master’s degree in National Security Affairs from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2020.

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