



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Nov. 2-15, 2021

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SECNAV:

[Navy Secretary Outlines Priorities](#)

(Fed Week 4 Nov 21)

China, culture, climate change and Covid-19 remain the primary challenges the sea services face, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said in a strategic-guidance paper he presented to all hands late last month. Of those, he believes, China is cause for the most concern... Leveraging naval education as a “critical warfighting enabler.” The Navy’s War College, **Postgraduate School**, Academy and Community College would “provide world-class curricula, research opportunities, and partnerships, tailored and prioritized to meet our most pressing warfighting requirements.”

EDUCATION:

[NPS Center for Homeland Defense & Security Honored in 2021 ‘ASTORS’](#)

(American Security Today 1 Nov 21) ... Tammy Waitt

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(Harvard Law Today 2 Nov 21) ... Audrey Kunycky

Growing up in a family of police officers in Sayreville, New Jersey, Lieutenant Commander Shawn Brennan LL.M. ’22 never dreamed that he would find himself serving in the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps. He also never thought he would have the luxury to dedicate himself to his studies full-time. This year he is finally able to do so — at Harvard — courtesy of the **Naval Postgraduate School’s** civilian institutions program.

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The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) Monterey program for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) recognized 12 graduates from the Summer Quarter class of AY2021 for academic honors during a brief ceremony near the program offices, Oct. 26.



RESEARCH:

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A field of 200 participants from across the Navy stepped forward to be a force for innovation in the sea services through the NavalX Agility Summit Challenge, part of NavalX's annual Agility Summit.

[Naval Postgraduate School student takes home top prize in naval summit](#)

(Monterey Herald 11 Nov 21) ... Tess Kenny

Take a Roomba — the computerized vacuum cleaner programmed to sweep through a house — and imagine it on the side of a ship, automatically ridding the hull of unwanted plants, algae and microorganisms.

[Humans and Hardware: How Special Operations Can Pioneer Wearable Technology](#)

(War on the Rocks 5 Nov 21) ... Kevin Butler and Frank Foss

In 2009, the U.S. Special Operations Command announced that “Humans are more important than hardware.” But with wearables revolutionizing sports medicine and athletics, the distinction between humans and hardware is less relevant than ever. This means that investing in wearable technology for special operations forces is now the best way to put humans first... This revolution hasn't gone unnoticed by the Department of Defense, which is testing wearables across different military branches. The U.S. Air Force recently began using the Oura Ring, a technology worn on your finger, to more accurately determine pilots' flight readiness in the morning based on their overall sleep score. Previously, pilots' flight readiness was determined by hours in bed rather than the quality of sleep. However, Oura Rings offer the ability to both measure sleep quality and potentially improve sleep, making pilots fitter to fly. Additionally, the U.S. Navy regularly tests various wearable devices at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Human and Systems Integration laboratory to study and improve crew rest, while the U.S. Army tests wearables to study soldiers' resiliency in harsh winter conditions. As wearable technology continues to progress, so do the applications and opportunities to improve service members' sleep, fitness, and overall health.

[Op-Ed: The rise in school shooting threats is alarming — and a cry for help](#)

(Los Angeles Times 5 Nov 21) ... David Riedman and Jillian Peterson

Before a mass shooting, communication of intent to do harm is common, and about half of all mass shooters do so. The professionals who evaluate what is known as “leakage” try to separate the signal from the noise, the real threat from the hoax. They look for red flags such as mentions of a specific date and time, weapon, location and targets, and motive for the attack... James Densley is a professor of criminal justice at Metropolitan State University. David Riedman is the co-creator of the K-12 School Shooting Database at the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Jillian Peterson is a professor of criminology and criminal justice at Hamline University. Densley and Peterson are co-founders of the Violence Project and co-authors of “The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic.”

FACULTY:

[NPS Applied Mathematics Professor Receives International George Boole Prize](#)

(Navy.mil 4 Nov 21) ... Rebecca Hoag

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NPS tenured mathematics professor Dr. Pantelimon Stanica received this year's George Boole International Prize, awarded every year by an international team to one or two researchers who have made a large impact in the field of Boolean functions, which are critical in cryptography and secure communications.

[It's time to shift from the 'war on terror' to a war on climate change](#)

(The Guardian 7 Nov 21) ... Heidi Peltier

Large government bureaucracies are often slow to adapt to changing realities, such as the catastrophic threats we face in a warming world. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is no exception. New research from Brown University's Costs of War Project shows that the DHS has been overly focused on foreign and foreign-inspired terrorism, while violent attacks in the US have more often come from domestic sources. A combination of willful ignorance and institutional inertia caused the agency to miss the rise in white supremacy and domestic terrorism that led to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol.



The new data from Dr Erik Dahl, Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, show that just one of the 46 failed terror plots in the US from 2018 through 2020 was directed by a foreign organization. In contrast, 29 plots were planned or carried out by domestic groups. In 2019, DHS finally acknowledged the growing threat of targeted violence and domestic terrorism borne mainly of far-right ideology and white supremacy and issued its first strategy document identifying these threats.

[Academic Wants a U.S. 'War' Against 'Climate Change'](#)

(PJ Media 8 Nov 21) ... Robert Spencer

Old Joe Biden's handlers have made it abundantly clear, with an astonishing indifference to any need to provide actual corroborating evidence, that it thinks "white supremacist" terrorism is the biggest threat the country faces today. Even that nod to woke authoritarianism, however, isn't good enough for one Heidi Peltier, who is, according to the UK's Guardian, a "senior researcher at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University and director of programs for the Costs of War Project." Peltier showed the way to the future when she penned an opinion piece in the Guardian entitled "It's time to shift from the 'war on terror' to a war on climate change." Because in the Left's fantasy world, there is no jihad terror threat, and our resources are much better directed toward a hubristic initiative in economic and civilizational suicide... Yeah, or maybe the whole thing was trumped-up, so to speak, and never was any manifestation of "white supremacy" or "domestic terrorism" at all, but of course that is an unacceptable departure from the establishment narrative. It seems that "new data from Dr Erik Dahl, Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, show that just one of the 46 failed terror plots in the US from 2018 through 2020 was directed by a foreign organization. In contrast, 29 plots were planned or carried out by domestic groups. In 2019, DHS finally acknowledged the growing threat of targeted violence and domestic terrorism borne mainly of far-right ideology and white supremacy and issued its first strategy document identifying these threats."

[Rossi di Cardano in the final at the Awards in the USA for his work at NASA](#)

(D1 Softball News 13 Nov 21) ... Kim Lee

Every now and then I think back to when I was reading about the missions of the NASA in university books or in scientific articles and now, even after three and a half years, it doesn't seem real to me that I'm here. "It is a dream come true that of Federico Rossi, which, originally from Cardano al Campo, has lived in the United States for 10 years and has been working as a robotics technician at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA. Among the many reasons for pride yesterday, Friday 12 November, another was added: Rossi was ranked among the 3 finalists of the Young Investigator Awards 2021 Symposium, a competition for Italian researchers in the USA organized by the Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation... "Even just having reached the final and being able to compare myself with my colleagues, high-level specialists that I admire and respect, is a real honor". Rossi is not interested in winning the competition, "so much so that I honestly don't even know which prize is up for grabs", but simply being able to present the results of his research in front of Professor Marcello Romano, of the **Naval Postgraduate School**, together with the other two finalists : Francesco Monticone and Bartolomeo Stellato. Engineers who have different interests, but who share their Italian origins and American career.

[Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day](#)

(KSBW 11 Nov 21)

(California News Times 15 Nov 21)

On Veterans Day, the people in the Salinastic Philei line helped receive an order from Colonel Jordan, the owner / operator.

He is an Army veteran and a lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School.

["Jeopardy!" Announces New Tournament for Professors-Deadline](#)

(Illinois News Today 11 Nov 21)

(Penn Live 11 Nov 21)

(The Blast Today 11 Nov 21)

(KPVI 11 Nov 21)

(TV Line 11 Nov 21)

(Yahoo 11 Nov 21)

(Deadline 11 Nov 21)

(Patch 11 Nov 21)



(Menastar 11 Nov 21)

(MSN 11 Nov 21)

Jeopardy! We will hold the first professor tournament to be held next month Mayim Bialik Introducing instructors from 15 universities at a pace of answers and questions... Sam Buttrey, a professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

ALUMNI:

[Georgetown chooses two new assistant city managers, including police chief](#)

(*Stateman 1 Nov 21*) ... Claire Osborn

The Georgetown city manager has chosen two new assistant city managers, including the city's Police Chief Wayne Nero. Nero and Nick Woolery, an assistant city manager with the city of Baytown near Houston, will begin their positions on Dec. 6, according to a city news release... Nero has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College and a Master of Professional Studies degree in Homeland Security Leadership from the University of Connecticut, a program offered in partnership with the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Wilson Perumal & Company appoints Ernie Spence as principal](#)

(*Consulting U.S. 4 Nov 21*)

Wilson Perumal & Company (WP&C), a Dallas-based management consulting firm, has promoted Ernie Spence to principal... He holds an MS in aeronautical engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, an MS in national resource strategy from National Defense University, and a BS in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

[Brunswick names new Advanced Systems Group president](#)

(*Boating Industry 4 Nov 21*)

Brunswick Corporation has announced that Marty Bass has been named President of the Americas for its Advanced Systems Group. Bass will replace Tom Schuessler who will retire at the end of the year. Bass joined Brunswick's Mercury Marine division 15 years ago and has worked in several leadership roles, including Vice President of Global Category Management and, for the past five and a half years, President of Mercury Marine in EMEA... Prior to joining Brunswick, Bass served as an officer in the U.S. Navy working on design teams for submarine nuclear propulsion systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

[First Internet Bank Expands Arizona Commercial Banking Team](#)

(*Businesswire 5 Nov 21*)

Today, First Internet Bank announced the hiring of Vice President of Commercial Banking, Ryan Hasher. Mr. Hasher joins First Internet Bank's Arizona-based commercial banking team, reporting to Regional Vice President Neil Barna... Prior to joining First Internet Bank, Mr. Hasher served as the Vice President and Business Banking Relationship Manager at BBVA USA. He received a B.S in Economics from the University of Arizona and his Master of Business Administration and Management from The United States **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[US Navy selects first woman directly for F-35C after earning Wings of Gold in Meridian](#)

(*DVIDS 29 Oct 21*)

(*Military Spot 29 Oct 21*)

The U.S. Navy selected its first woman to go directly from earning designation as a naval aviator to postgraduate flight training in the F-35C Lightning II... Thomas, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, is a 2018 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where she received a Bachelor of Science in political science. Thomas also received a master's degree in security studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

[Controlling the flow path: How to handle door control with limited staffin](#)

(*Fire Chief 9 Nov 21*) ... Sean Gray

Captain Sean Gray presents "Shut the front door: The ins and outs of controlling the flow path" at the IAFC's Symposium in the Sun on Nov. 11... Sean Gray is a fire captain with Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services in



metro Atlanta. Gray has been a member of multiple technical panels involving firefighter safety research and is an appointed member of UL's Fire Safety Research Institute advisory board. He is also an NFPA committee member for Fire Hose and Fire Service Training Facilities. Gray's work has been featured in multiple fire service publications, and he recently co-authored the book "The Evolving Fireground." He operates the website StopBelievingStartKnowing.com, and delivers evidence-based tactics training courses across the country. Gray has a bachelor's degree in fire safety engineering and is currently working on his master's degree at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[ADEQ Announces New Agency Deputy Director to Serve on the Executive Leadership Team](#)

(EIN Presswire 9 Nov 21)

ADEQ today announced Carlos Rascon has joined the Executive Leadership Team as the new Deputy Director of Operational Excellence... Rascon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Arizona, and a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

[Charleston Co. deputy administrator completes homeland security leaders program](#)

(Live 5 News 15 Nov 21) ... Patrick Phillips

The deputy county administrator from Charleston County has completed a 12-month homeland security leadership program.

Eric Watson completed the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security Thursday.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

November 11: Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)

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

November 25: Thanksgiving Day (Federal Holiday)

December 6-10: [Navy Senior Leader Seminar \(NSLS\)](#)



SECNAV:

Navy Secretary Outlines Priorities

(Fed Week 4 Nov 21)

China, culture, climate change and Covid-19 remain the primary challenges the sea services face, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said in a strategic-guidance paper he presented to all hands late last month. Of those, he believes, China is cause for the most concern.

“For the first time in at least a generation, we have a strategic competitor who possesses naval capabilities that rival our own, and who seeks to aggressively employ its forces to challenge U.S. principles, partnerships, and prosperity,” Del Toro wrote, adding that Russia and Iran also are using “gray-zone aggression and coercion” to disrupt international order.

To meet the threat posed by China, Del Toro promised that the Navy and Marine Corps would continue to develop operational concepts and capabilities that would both enhance deterrence and expand the ability to fight and prevail if necessary.

Del Toro’s outline contained these priorities:

- Expand forward presence.
- Enhance warfighting readiness.
- Innovate and modernize.
- Combat climate change.

He also addressed several personnel-related issues:

- Elimination of “harmful behaviors,” to include sexual assault and harassment.
- Leveraging naval education as a “critical warfighting enabler.” The Navy’s War College, **Postgraduate School**, Academy and Community College would “provide world-class curricula, research opportunities, and partnerships, tailored and prioritized to meet our most pressing warfighting requirements.”
- Cultivation of talent and teamwork.
- Taking care of “our people.”
- Building trust and collaboration among the sea services.
- Modernizing business systems to “enhance performance and affordability” – with a focus on data-driven decision making.
- Strengthening alliances and partnerships with the other services and strategic allies.

[Navy Secretary Outlines Priorities \(fedweek.com\)](https://www.fedweek.com)

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The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), located at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, is pleased to announce they have been selected as a Finalist in the 2021 ‘ASTORS’ Homeland Security Awards Program.

Since 2003, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security has conducted a wide range of programs focused on assisting current and emerging leaders in Homeland Defense and Security to develop the policies, strategies, programs, and organizational elements needed to defeat terrorism and prepare for and respond to natural disasters and public safety threats across the United States.

The programs are developed in partnership with and are sponsored by the National Preparedness Directorate, of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security.



“On behalf of the NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) faculty, students, alumni, and staff, we are truly honored to be a finalist for this award,” said CHDS Director, Glen Woodbury.

“American Security Today is a valuable resource for homeland security leaders and practitioners to stay current on emerging trends.”

“We look forward to the event!”

All Center for Homeland Defense and Security programs are focused on leadership development to transform how public safety officials view an increasingly complex world and homeland security mission.

Through CHDS graduate- and executive-level coursework, seminars, and research, homeland security leaders gain the analytic and critical thinking skills and substantive expertise they need to create innovative solutions that address the threats facing the nation and local communities.

The programs also prepare leaders to bridge gaps in intergovernmental, interagency and civil-military cooperation by bringing together a diverse range of participants to share perspectives and lay the foundation for long-term homeland security collaboration.

CHDS was established in 2002 by the U.S. government to build a national cadre of homeland security leaders with advanced skills in organizational collaboration and innovative policy and strategy development.

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) is a one-of-a-kind educational forum that brings together local, state, tribal, territorial, federal, and private sector leaders to learn, debate, and solve homeland security challenges while bridging gaps in interagency and intergovernmental cooperation.

In addition to its academic programs, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security provides homeland security professionals with research, digital library holdings, online courses, educational materials, networking, and resources to do their jobs and further their knowledge.

[NPS Center for Homeland Defense & Security Honored in 2021 'ASTORS' - American Security Today](#)

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‘What drew me to the Navy, was the ability to move all around the world.’

(Harvard Law Today 2 Nov 21) ... Audrey Kunycky

Growing up in a family of police officers in Sayreville, New Jersey, Lieutenant Commander Shawn Brennan LL.M. '22 never dreamed that he would find himself serving in the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps. He also never thought he would have the luxury to dedicate himself to his studies full-time. This year he is finally able to do so — at Harvard — courtesy of the **Naval Postgraduate School's** civilian institutions program.

The first in his family to attend college, Brennan had always expected to follow his uncles into law enforcement. Hoping to satisfy the requirements to join the New Jersey State Police, he enrolled in a criminal justice program at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. To fund his studies, he worked two jobs: as a security guard on the night shift at a hospital emergency room, and on weekends and for special events as a police officer in Sayreville. When he was unable to get a full-time state police job, he took an internship as a driver and aide to his local congressman, Frank Pallone, Jr.

The value JAGs provide to the Navy is to be able to think critically, communicate clearly, and help people make decisions.

Politics stuck. The internship turned into a full-time position and Brennan decided to take a break from school. He then moved to the New Jersey Governor's Office, where he spent three years managing the governor's day-to-day schedule, travel, and logistics and serving as a liaison with other government officials, business leaders, the press, and the public. When the governor left office, Brennan resumed his studies, earning a joint B.S. and M.A. in criminal justice, and then enrolling in the part-time evening program at Rutgers Law School, where he earned his J.D. in 2009. During the day, he again worked for Congressman Pallone, this time as the district director responsible for managing Pallone's three offices in New Jersey.



While he enjoyed this work, he decided he wanted to use his legal training to shift his focus from politics to policy while continuing to serve in government. At the time, the U.S. was engaged in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and Brennan was taking courses in the areas of national security law and Islamic jurisprudence. The Navy JAG program seemed like a good fit. “One of the great things about the Navy, and one of the things that drew me to the Navy, was the ability to move all around the world and do a number of different things while still maintaining the same general focus.”

Over his 12 years in the Navy, Brennan has done just that. His postings have taken him to San Diego, California; Afghanistan; Japan; Norfolk, Virginia; and, most recently, to the Pentagon. And his responsibilities have ranged from prosecution and defense work to advising senior Navy executives. On his first tour in San Diego, Brennan served as defense counsel for sailors and provided general legal assistance to sailors and their families. “It was a great way to learn about sailors and their jobs, what’s important to them, and what the impacts are on them of serving and having to move around,” he recalls. “Getting that perspective early on has helped me immensely throughout my Navy career.”

Next, he deployed with an Army unit to Logar Province, Afghanistan for nine months, relieving Anthony P. “Tony” Sham LL.M. ’20, who was also a Navy JAG officer. Working within an Army unit gave Brennan the opportunity to see how a different branch of the military operated. “My tour in Afghanistan was a great experience,” he recalls. “It was particularly interesting to work with a lot of our coalition partners, and most importantly, to work with local Afghans. I was partnered with an Afghan national security prosecutor; our job was to help facilitate insurgent prosecutions in the Afghan courts. These were the folks that would be detained and then prosecuted in local courts for violating Afghan law, as distinguished from those who would be detained and held by the coalition.” Part of the goal was to build a sustainable system in the Afghan courts for the longer-term. “We wanted to look at Afghan practices and how they could make them work in the best way possible.”

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From Afghanistan, Brennan moved to Japan, where he first served as a military prosecutor and then led a team of attorneys and paralegals who worked with over 100 afloat and on-shore commands throughout the Western Pacific, providing legal advice and training on military justice, foreign criminal jurisdiction, administrative actions, and ethics. It was during his tour in Japan that Brennan was recognized by a competitive selection board as the 2016 Junior Officer of the Year for the U.S. Navy JAG Corps.

Upon his return to the U.S., Brennan was assigned to the U.S. Fleet Forces Command and most recently to the Office of the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, where he provided legal advice to senior Navy executives on high-level legal issues, including Navy policy, standards of conduct, and legislative proposals.

During much of his time in the Navy, Brennan continued to study on a part-time basis. In 2018, he earned a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, an institution that provides advanced training to Navy officers. While it is common for operational command officers to study at the Naval War College, at the time it was not required of JAG officers. Brennan is glad he did so; in advising Navy leaders, he frequently draws on his experience studying with other types of officers. “The value JAGs provide to the Navy is to be able to think critically, communicate clearly, and help people make decisions. Doing and learning the same things that other officers do provides a helpful context as to how leaders are making those decisions.”

Being able to devote himself full-time to his studies at HLS has enabled Brennan to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities during his LL.M. year. He is continuing to study national security law and public international law, and he is also taking courses on China, including Professor William P. Alford’s Engaging China course, which is taught jointly with students at Renmin University in Beijing. He’d like to gain an understanding of how China’s legal system has developed and to understand “from their perspective how they are making decisions, why they make the decisions they do, and how they might view our decisions in light of their framework.”

Studying full-time has also put Brennan on even footing with his three school-aged children, who enjoy teasing him about being a student. While he and his family are enjoying their time in Cambridge,



Brennan's next posting is only a few months away, and he expects to receive his next set of orders soon. He hopes to have the chance to go to sea again; in particular, he would like to advise the command of one of the carrier strike groups that the Navy deploys all over the world.

[‘What drew me to the Navy, was the ability to move all around the world.’ - Harvard Law Today](#)

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WTI Scholars Program Sends First Cohort Back to the Fleet

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Last year, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) launched a pilot program to take fleet Warfare Tactics Instructors (WTIs) and give them the academic theory behind those tactics to improve their warfighting capabilities. All four of the students graduated from the WTI Scholar program this summer and are taking their newfound knowledge back to the Fleet.

WTIs, pronounced “witties,” are a sub-group of officers trained by the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) to conduct advanced tactical training, doctrinal development, assessments of shipboard at-sea training, and serve in critical operational billets in one of four specialized areas – anti-submarine and surface warfare, amphibious warfare, mine warfare, and integrated air and missile defense warfare.

The idea of the WTI Scholars Program began when leaders from SMWDC saw a return on investment from officers in the WTI program who already had an NPS master's degree or were earning their degrees through NPS' varied distance learning programs.

One key educational challenge facing WTIs is that many of them had to forgo the opportunity to obtain graduate education due to the WTI career path constraints precluding in-residence educational tours. NPS stepped in and shortened certain curricula, allowing WTIs to obtain an accelerated master's degree in order to get back to the fleet in a reasonable time to fill key billets. The price for this is the elimination of certain milestones that a full-length resident NPS curriculum typically provides, such as Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I certification and a subspecialty code, but the core master's degree requirements are still met in all nine “WTI Scholars” offerings.

“This is an excellent opportunity for us to further our education in a way that benefits both us and the Navy,” said Navy Lt. Matt Mitchelmore, a graduate from NPS' Graduate School of Defense Management. “We get to take certain topics that are related to our degree, but for the rest of the required credits, we got to take classes that interested us, like organizational behavior or leadership classes that will benefit the fleet in other unique ways.”

Navy Lt. Christopher Chavez, another student from the pilot program, said that the WTI Scholar Program was an excellent opportunity, and thinks that every Navy officer that is eligible and able to take this course should do just that.

“If I met anybody in the same situation as I was, I would tell them that it was a perfect opportunity,” said Chavez. “This program can give you the best of both worlds. You can get excellent, tangible knowledge, and then you can also get some time yourself to get a master's in-residence at NPS. I couldn't have asked for anything better.”

[WTI Scholars Program Sends First Cohort Back to the Fleet > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)
[WTI Scholars Program Sends First Cohort Back to the Fleet - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](#)

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Naval War College Monterey Recognizes Summer Quarter's Top Students

(NPS.edu 5 Nov 21)



The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) Monterey program for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) recognized 12 graduates from the Summer Quarter class of AY2021 for academic honors during a brief ceremony near the program offices, Oct. 26.

Graduates earning “with Highest Distinction” honors by completing the program in the top five percent of the class are Navy Lt. Nathan C. Redder, Marine Corps Capt. Jonathan D. Monti and Army Maj. John B. Waits.

Graduates earning “with Distinction” honors by completing the program in the top 15 percent of the class include Navy Cmdr. Philip D. Pretzinger; Navy Lt. Cmdrs. Brandon M. Beckler, and Michael J. Hicks; Navy Lts. Nicholas J. Hutton and David C. Nygren; Marine Corps Maj. Jonathan R. Thomas; and, Army Majs. Sean P. Donnelly, Jacob D. Groves and Morgan A. Martin.

Through the NPS-NWC partnership, a total of 6,137 officers have earned their Joint Professional Military Education Phase I certification since the program’s inception in September 1999.

[Naval War College Monterey Recognizes Summer Quarter s Top Students - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](https://www.nps.edu/Naval-War-College-Monterey-Recognizes-Summer-Quarter-s-Top-Students-Naval-Postgraduate-School)

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RESEARCH:

NPS Students Finish Strong, Take Top Honors, in NavalX Challenge

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A field of 200 participants from across the Navy stepped forward to be a force for innovation in the sea services through the NavalX Agility Summit Challenge, part of NavalX’s annual Agility Summit.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) and NavalX partnered with the Naval Junior Officer Counsel (NJOC) to design and execute the 2021 Agility Summit Challenge, a two-month long sprint to crowdsource innovative ideas from the deckplates in response to four key challenge areas directly supporting the Department of the Navy’s Unmanned Campaign Framework ... Operator Experience, Operator Training, Logistics Support, and Common Data Standards. Overall, the core purpose of this year’s challenge is to gather, present and refine ideas, methods and capabilities that will contribute to making unmanned systems a trusted and sustainable part of the Naval force.

As a hub of Naval research and innovation, with a community of naval officers/graduate students who understand fleet challenges and are actively researching innovative ways to solve them, it’s no wonder four of the six Agility Summit Challenge finalist teams were from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

The final round of the NavalX Challenge was held Sept. 14-17, in person in Virginia and virtually around the Fleet, with the final presentations broadcast live via NavalX’s YouTube channel. These final few days were the culmination of a lot of hard work ... Two months of idea sourcing leading up to the live summit event where top challengers from the first stage participated in several pitch-developing rehearsals.

The event culminated in a final pitch presentation that was judged by a distinguished panel of future force leaders, including Dr. Rich Carlin, Office of Naval Research, Director of Naval Accelerator (Code 36); Rear Adm. William Byrne, Director of Warfighting Development (OPNAV N7B/72); Brig. Gen. Benjamin Watson, Commander of USMC Warfighting Laboratory and Vice Chief of Naval Research (VCNR); and, Mr. Craig Sawyer, Deputy Lead for the Naval Unmanned Campaign and S&T Advisor (OPNAV N9IZ).

Competitors from NPS included a team of computer science students, Lts. Christopher Britt and Andre Leon; a team of international students from Greece including Capt. Nikolaos Vidalis, Capt. Antonis Varvasoudis, and Capt. Georgios Andrianopoulos; and a student/faculty team featuring Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Knapp and Dr. Aurelio Monarrez.



When the dust settled, it was the fourth NPS team, a solo student force of one from the university's mechanical engineering program, U.S. Navy Lt. Sam Royster, who took top honors in the Agility Summit Challenge competition. While pursuing his mechanical engineering degree, Royster's focus on robotic controls and total ship systems engineering led his research toward developing a 21st century solution to marine biofouling management. He's exploring innovative methods of cleaning algae and barnacles off ship hulls to make them more fuel efficient when underway, and reduce their maintenance burden during in-port periods.

It was this research that he pitched to the Logistics Support portion of the Agility Summit Challenge, which focused on using autonomy to ease the burden on supply chains.

"One of the most effective ways of easing that burden is to reduce the amount of supplies needed in the first place," explained Royster. "Experts have estimated that a 10-20 percent increase in ship fuel efficiency could be achieved if hull fouling levels were kept to a minimum, which would facilitate an extension of underway replenishment timelines, easing the burden the fuel supply chain."

Royster likened the challenge of marine biofouling to playing golf on a course that hasn't been mowed in months. The longer you put it off, the worse it gets and the harder it is to get the course into playing shape.

"The same paradigm exists in the realm of hull husbandry," he said. "If we changed the way we clean our ships so that it happens every week or two instead of once or twice a year, we could save fuel, reduce our environmental impact, and extend the useful life of our hull coatings by up to two years. This innovative hull husbandry CONOPS could be enabled by 'Roomba-like' autonomous underwater vehicles that remove marine biofouling when it is just a soft slime layer, and it could ultimately reduce the number of drydocks needed to support our growing and aging fleet, and free up our highly trained divers to perform more emergent repair and salvage work."

Royster credits his thesis advisor, Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Research Asst. Professor Jake Didoszak, for helping him refine his research ideas into a cohesive and impactful project. Didoszak is a retired Surface Warfare Officer currently serving as in Engineering Duty Officer in the Naval Reserves. He completed his master and Ph.D. degrees at NPS and currently manages the university's Total Ship Systems Engineering program.

As a result of his win and the subsequent research award of \$100,000 to further pursue the work, Royster and Didoszak are currently exploring partnerships with the Naval Research Enterprise on appropriate next steps.

"There are some exciting possibilities to move autonomous hull husbandry and proactive grooming closer to a fleet reality with this funding," Royster stated. "Professor Didoszak and I are looking at either conducting a proof of concept, temperature-based grooming frequency study that will build off of my thesis research, or working with a leader and existing ONR partner in the field of autonomous hull husbandry to further refine the vehicle and brush design to operate on unique U.S. Navy warship geometries and surfaces."

"From the characterization of material performance in hull coatings exposed to varied ocean biome, to the modeling of mechanics involved in cleaning uniquely shaped hull surfaces, the marine environment brings many interesting interdisciplinary challenges," added Didoszak. "This award provides further opportunities for NPS engineering students like Lt. Royster to team with leading researchers in further developing innovative concepts like his for the application of autonomy in tackling Navy relevant challenges such as those in ships husbandry."

As a campus that supports and fosters innovative thought in its students, it's no surprise that NPS had such a strong showing in the final round. Royster's idea to utilize unmanned systems to eliminate biofouling did not begin with the NavalX Challenge. Rather, it began last fall in the university's Innovation Leadership course taught by Dr. Peter Denning and retired Marine Corps Col. Todd Lyons. Royster also had the advantage of further refining this idea and his pitch by participating in NPS' annual Big Ideas Exchange (BIX) this past Spring. The BIX is an annual event showcasing select innovative ideas of merit developed by university students as they explore critical issues within the sea services.



Royster actively credits the course, the coaching, and the BIX with putting him into a position of competitiveness to eventually win the NavalX Challenge championship.

“The course and BIX are having a high impact because we can produce leaders like Sam [Royster] who are making a difference for the Navy,” said Denning. “Many other graduates of our program have gone on to be innovation leaders as well ... In other words, not only is Sam making a big impact, NPS’ education program in innovation leadership is having a big impact by developing leaders like Sam across the DOD.”

“Participating in the Big Ideas Exchange was essential in that it taught me how to give an effective pitch,” he said. “So when I heard about the opportunity to pitch my idea to a different audience at the Agility Summit and potentially win research money, I was all in.”

Royster said the best part about NPS is the freedom it provides students to pursue solutions to key challenges they see in the operational Fleet.

“My experience at NPS has been great,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed the autonomy to pick my classes and focus on things that not only interest me but also make real improvements in the Navy ... Coming here and being able to focus on my education for the last two years has been an awesome opportunity.”

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Naval Postgraduate School student takes home top prize in naval summit

(Monterey Herald 11 Nov 21) ... Tess Kenny

Take a Roomba — the computerized vacuum cleaner programmed to sweep through a house — and imagine it on the side of a ship, automatically ridding the hull of unwanted plants, algae and microorganisms.

Seemingly simple and deceptively innovative, this is the idea that has placed Naval Postgraduate School mechanical engineering student Lt. Sam Royster at the forefront of military ingenuity.

Earlier this year, the proposed technology earned Royster the top spot at the 2021 Agility Summit, an event featuring 200 students chosen from across the country to present their solutions to issues the Navy and Marine Corps are currently facing.

After pitching his idea to a panel of future naval force leaders, Royster’s research was awarded \$100,000, surpassing five other finalist teams — three of which also originated from NPS.

“(We’re) solving problems in the Navy and asking the question of why, why can’t this be better?” said Royster. “That’s a valuable thing for fixing the acquisition issues and systematic problems in the Navy, moving us into the 21st century.”

The Agility Summit is the culmination of a larger campaign designed and executed by the Office of Naval Research, the Naval Junior Officer Counsel and an organization known as NavalX. Together, they created the Agility Summit challenge, a two-month-long venture that called on all active-duty Marines and sailors to solve one of four challenge areas the organizations outlined as vital to naval operations.

This year, the campaign — the third installment since its inception in 2019 — asked participants to take a closer look at the Navy’s use of unmanned systems, or vehicles and technology that do not carry a human operator but are controlled remotely.

Royster’s work explores how autonomy can ease the burden on supply chains. He proposes the development of an unmanned robot that can attach to a ship’s hull to clean algae and barnacles, allowing ships to be faster and more fuel-efficient when underway, as well as less of a burden to maintain during in-port periods, he explained.

“If we have a Roomba in our house, why can’t we have one for cleaning that stuff off the side of the ship all the time?” said Royster. “It was a relatively easy solution, and the question that’s been the focus



of my research journey of the last year is just figuring out all of the hurdles that stand in the way of us having a Roomba for our ship hulls.”

Royster’s project is a product of personal experience.

Before transferring to NPS in 2020, Royster worked as a submariner. For three years, that position placed Royster in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to serve on the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Charlotte — a role that quickly opened his eyes to just how labor-intensive cleaning ship hulls by hand can be.

“Coming from Hawaii, you quickly grow a grass skirt on the side of the submarine because it’s super hot there, so stuff like algae likes to grow really fast. ... It was a frustrating problem my captain had to deal with, and as a junior officer, I experienced the operational pains of having to clean your hull all the time,” said Royster.

Years later, those pains became the root of Royster’s thesis at NPS. And while the topic wasn’t something the school originally offered as an option for Royster to research, he remembered his frustrations in Hawaii and knew he wanted to change how marine biofouling, or the accumulation of unwanted biological material, was managed.

“Everything NPS was offering took more lead time, but I wanted to do something that I felt could make a real impact in the next couple of years,” he said.

So Royster started to refine the concept, long before the NavalX Challenge was on his radar, exploring the idea last fall in an NPS course known as Innovation Leadership. Through the class, a lesson in developing and communicating ingenuity, Royster was able to present a professional pitch to senior NPS leadership in May at the school’s annual Big Ideas Exchange. That meant that by the time the NavalX Summit came around, Royster was already a step ahead in the competition.

“I really credit the Big Idea Exchange and NPS with the fact that I ended up winning because other presenters didn’t necessarily have that opportunity to go through the coaching process that I did,” he explained.

Though Royster plans to graduate in March, his current focus falls on the next steps for his project and how best to spend the \$100,000 summit award. With lingering questions of affordability and design to flesh out, Royster said the fastest he could see something operational available in the field would be 24-36 months from now.

Regardless of the timeline, however, Royster is still letting it sink in that what started as just research for his thesis could really leave a lasting impact on naval operations.

“It went from one person with no funding to multiple people with hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said Royster. “That gives power to students like me to know that they can have an idea, chase it down and actually make change in their space.

“They can come to NPS, and if they don’t like what they are being presented with, still have the opportunity to choose their own path. It takes a lot of work, but you can set your own course.”

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Humans and Hardware: How Special Operations Can Pioneer Wearable Technology

(War on the Rocks 5 Nov 21) ... Kevin Butler and Frank Foss

In 2009, the U.S. Special Operations Command announced that “Humans are more important than hardware.” But with wearables revolutionizing sports medicine and athletics, the distinction between humans and hardware is less relevant than ever. This means that investing in wearable technology for special operations forces is now the best way to put humans first.

What might this look like? With a small population of elite warfighters in high-stress environments, Special Operations Command can lead the force in determining which wearable devices are worth the investment. The Preservation of the Force and Family program, which is already in place to improve the holistic health of special operations forces, can spearhead efforts to distribute, monitor, test, and best utilize wearables for the entire military.



A Wearable Revolution

In the last two decades, sports medicine and sports science have advanced dramatically. Athletes are now bigger, faster, and stronger due, in part, to advancements in technologies that allow them to train smarter. A critical facet of this revolution is wearable technology that offers athletes immediate and continuous feedback on an increasing number of health and performance metrics. The wearable trend started with simple Global Positioning System-enabled devices measuring steps taken in a day and heart-rate monitors allowing users to train in specific heart-rate zones. However, wearable technology is now quickly outpacing older, more expensive, and more invasive technologies. New Apple Watches, for example, allow users to bypass hospital visits by serving as both an electrocardiogram to monitor heart health and a pulse oximeter to measure blood oxygen levels in 10 seconds. Wearables' rapid development is providing valuable new tools for physical therapists and healthcare professionals and eliciting optimism about the future of individualized self-care.

This revolution hasn't gone unnoticed by the Department of Defense, which is testing wearables across different military branches. The U.S. Air Force recently began using the Oura Ring, a technology worn on your finger, to more accurately determine pilots' flight readiness in the morning based on their overall sleep score. Previously, pilots' flight readiness was determined by hours in bed rather than the quality of sleep. However, Oura Rings offer the ability to both measure sleep quality and potentially improve sleep, making pilots fitter to fly. Additionally, the U.S. Navy regularly tests various wearable devices at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Human and Systems Integration laboratory to study and improve crew rest, while the U.S. Army tests wearables to study soldiers' resiliency in harsh winter conditions. As wearable technology continues to progress, so do the applications and opportunities to improve service members' sleep, fitness, and overall health.

Wearables' Potential in Special Operations

In 2012, Special Operations Command adopted the Preservation of the Force and Family strategy. The goal was to optimize and sustain mission readiness, longevity, and performance, thereby maximizing the estimated \$1.5 million investment that the military makes in each member of special operations. The strategy seeks to provide precise preventative interventions and emphasizes holistic health across five domains: physical, cognitive, psychological, social and family, and spiritual.

Wearable technology is already improving individual physical fitness and should be a critical component in enhancing operator health across every all of these domains. Wearables currently track a host of physical and biological metrics and use algorithms to generate useful approximations of additional metrics, including sleep quality, readiness, and stress. Many wearable interfaces offer coaching to "nudge" users towards healthier behaviors. Leading wearables, including the Oura Ring, Apple Watch, and Whoop Strap, offer nuanced sleep and activity coaching based on users' unique metrics and trends. Put simply, wearables can tell you when you are overworked and need a break.

In an organization like Special Operations Command, which demands long hours under highly stressful conditions, having a tool that provides an objective measurement of readiness is uniquely valuable. Operators are specially selected and trained for resilience to adverse physical and mental conditions. Constant adaptation to a changing environment, however, comes at a cost. But this advantageous adaptation can produce allostatic load, leading to chronic physical maladies including pain, fatigue, and compromised immunity. Reduction of allostatic load first requires identification of increased stress. Enter wearables. Wearables can provide feedback on a host of biological metrics correlated with stress, including heart-rate variability, resting heart rate, and sleep quality. This makes it possible to identify chronic physiological stress, implement nuanced interventions, and prevent the difficulties associated with allostatic overload.

Wearables can also bring benefits in the cognitive and psychological domains. The Oura Ring encourages users to monitor body signals through practices such as guided mindfulness and breathing protocols. As shown by ongoing studies at Texas A&M, mindfulness meditations and associated breathing exercises can reduce stress and improve mental health. This can be particularly useful to special operations forces in reducing combat mental illness. Paired with blast gauge data or baseline cognitive



tests such as the Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics, wearables may also allow the early identification and treatment of traumatic brain injury.

Mitigating Concerns

In a profession where chronic stress is so abundant that it produced the term “operator syndrome,” why are wearable technologies not already commonplace? For one thing, there isn’t a one-size-fits-all wearable. While one wearable specializes in sleep, for example, it may not be as effective at measuring physical activity. Concerns over operational security also dampen wearable enthusiasm in the Defence Department. And for good reasons — in 2018, the fitness and location tracking application Strava infamously illuminated the location of multiple overseas military bases. Similarly, privacy risks regarding collected data can cause hesitation in an increasingly connected and data-driven world. Data security and patient confidentiality are paramount concerns with aggregated health information collected from wearables, and have legal implications under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. While data is routinely stripped of identifiers, including names and addresses, it can become re-identifiable when correlated with other datasets.

Special Operations Command has an important role to play in helping to address these security and privacy concerns. Letting the Preservation of the Force and Family program lead the development of wearables can help by removing military commanders from the loop, preventing mandatory use and giving participants the power of consent. Personnel associated with this program are also trained and certified to handle protected health information, reducing the risk of a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act violation and relieving military commanders of such a burden. Assigning random user identifications can help to avoid the disclosure of personal data. Preservation of the Force and Family personnel can further prevent the re-identification of anonymous users by isolating the wearables’ data, thereby preventing their merging with larger military data sets.

While there are simple ways to mitigate the known concerns over wearables, there will always be risks, especially with the early adoption of technology. These risks should be explored, preferably in a small and competent population, to best identify and understand wearables’ capabilities and limitations. Implementation and open dialogue will enable the force to exploit wearables’ significant potential to improve holistic health.

Wearables Are Coming!

In any technological revolution, there will be resistance to adopting new technology, especially in large organizations like Special Operations Command. Nevertheless, wearable technology has taken the world by storm. Large corporations have adopted wearables into healthcare policies, and wearable tech is an \$81.5 billion industry. With a smaller population that is often presented with high chronic stress, Special Operations Command has the opportunity to lead the U.S. military in the use of wearable technology. By leveraging the recent revolution in wearables, programs such as Preservation of the Force and Family can bring humans and hardware together in the safest and smartest way possible.

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Op-Ed: The rise in school shooting threats is alarming — and a cry for help

(Los Angeles Times 5 Nov 21) ... David Riedman and Jillian Peterson

Before a mass shooting, communication of intent to do harm is common, and about half of all mass shooters do so. The professionals who evaluate what is known as “leakage” try to separate the signal from the noise, the real threat from the hoax. They look for red flags such as mentions of a specific date and time, weapon, location and targets, and motive for the attack.



The threat against Central High was taken seriously. But there was a highly confusing and complicating factor. Different versions of the threat were being made at about the same time against more than 30 schools in more than a dozen states — including California, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. It seemed unlikely that multiple, simultaneous attacks were about to take place.

School leaders found themselves asking: Is it better to overreact than not react at all? This is the impossible situation they are facing with increasing regularity. Closing schools for a hoax unnecessarily spreads fear and curtails valuable instructional time. Not closing risks the deadly consequences of ignoring the warning signs of danger, which law enforcement has done all too frequently in the past. Out of an abundance of caution, some schools did close. Many ramped up police patrols. Parents also chose to keep their children home.

Weighing how to respond to threats is getting harder because threats of violence are rising at the same time schools are dealing with an unprecedented number of shootings — 205 so far this year.

In September, a record 151 school shooting threats were made, up from a three-year average of 29 for the month. This means a staggering 63% of all shooting threats made at the start of the school year since 2018 were made this year. Half of those threats came via social media and 28% were made by someone who had access to a gun.

These statistics come from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's K-12 School Shooting Database, conducted in partnership with the Violence Project mass shooting research center. Since 2018, reported shooting threats to U.S. schools have been tallied — 41 occurred in September 2018 and 35 the following September. In September 2020, when many schools were closed or socially distanced, 11 threats were reported.

This September, a police response was common — 45% of all threats resulted in an arrest. However, only about half of those arrests were for threats deemed credible, meaning that they showed a capability to attack by having access to a firearm, a detailed plan or through other means. The rest were hoaxes, like the ones sent to schools last week.

National and state guidelines exist for many aspects of public education, but there's no standardized playbook for dealing with online threats. Because all schooling and policing is local, communities are left to figure it out for themselves, in many cases without the tools or critical infrastructure necessary to do so effectively. Relatively few local police departments can trace an anonymous message to its source and fewer still offer viable alternatives to arrest.

In research published Thursday in the journal *JAMA Network Open*, James and Jillian examine the motivation behind threats of violence among 170 mass shooters in a variety of public settings, including schools, since 1966. Threats of a shooting were most commonly associated with previous counseling and suicidality. In other words, they were a cry for help as opposed to seeking fame or attention.

The alarming rise in school shooting threats is a bellwether for the current state of the mental health of young people. The kids are not all right. And if threatening violence is increasingly their last-ditch effort to get us to notice, then a criminal justice response won't address their problems. In fact, it may exacerbate any emotional crisis, thoughts of suicide or underlying grievance with a school, resulting in future violence.

We can't punish our way out of this. Our research shows that all shooting threats should be taken seriously as a possible signal of extreme personal distress.

Responding to school threats with criminal charges encourages silence when we need people to open up so we can prevent shootings. This year, 30% of the threats made were anonymous. The rest came from students and were typically first spotted by other students. For young people to report concerns about their peers with confidence — for students to say something if they see something — they need to be able to trust that adults will actually do something and that they won't make matters worse.

Faced with an unprecedented volume of threats, schools need resources to do more than simply train students to run, hide and fight for survival, while law enforcement and community partners need tools to effectively assess social media threats and respond appropriately. Threats of violence are a critical moment for interceding in the lives of students who need help. By funding school-based mental health services and systems for crisis response, we can prevent next September from becoming another record year for school shooting threats.



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

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FACULTY:

NPS Applied Mathematics Professor Receives International George Boole Prize

(Navy.mil 4 Nov 21) ... Rebecca Hoag

(NPS.edu 4 Nov 21) ... Rebecca Hoag

NPS tenured mathematics professor Dr. Pantelimon Stanica received this year’s George Boole International Prize, awarded every year by an international team to one or two researchers who have made a large impact in the field of Boolean functions, which are critical in cryptography and secure communications.

The basis of the digital world resides in Boolean functions, illustrated by random-seeming combinations of zeros and ones. It’s derived from pure math called Boolean logic developed in the mid-1800s by George Boole. He never would have imagined the originally theoretical principle would become so vital in mainstream society.

Now Boolean functions are used by digital computer processors and cryptography, and are known as cryptographic Boolean functions.

“Boolean functions themselves are essential for securing reliable communication,” explains Dr. Pantelimon Stanica, tenured math professor at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). “Every single symmetric encryption method out there has some potion – some step in the algorithm – that employs Boolean functions to be able to counter attacks that can be implemented on a system.”

Stanica received this year’s George Boole International Prize, awarded every year by an international team to one or two researchers who have made a large impact in the field of Boolean functions. He was nominated by many researchers around the world for his work in enhancing cryptographic Boolean functions.

“Some people claim I actually coined the term, but I probably have not,” Stanica laughs.

He might not have been the first to call it cryptographic Boolean, but he is one of the biggest names in this line of work. He co-wrote two editions of the award-winning “Cryptographic Boolean Functions and Applications” with his colleague Thomas W. Cusick from the University of Buffalo. Their book is the first to cover cryptographic Boolean functions in the English language.

Cryptographic Boolean functions are essential components in secure communication algorithms. Secure communications is one of the top three areas of focus for the NPS Department of Applied Mathematics because it’s so important to the Navy, ashore and afloat.

“The Navy is more reliant than any of the other military services on secure communications because of the need for command and control and the distributed nature of the force. When we send ships forward, we have to communicate with them, and we do that via satellite comms and other means, so we rely heavily on secure and reliable communications,” explains Dr. Thor Martinsen, a permanent military professor also in the applied math department.

Martinsen says Stanica leads the secure communications research effort in the department. Stanica has dedicated his life to contemplating mathematics with a particular interest in cryptography and number theory. He’s published over 185 scientific papers with people around the world, and has taught many masters and Ph.D. students along the way. Martinsen was previously one of his doctoral students.



“Pante’s life is mathematical research. That’s what he does. That’s what he thinks about from the moment he wakes up until he goes to bed.” Martinsen says. “As a Ph.D. student, it’s good to have a role model like that ... Somebody that’s prolific in publishing and thinking about mathematics.”

Stanica has worked with researchers everywhere from Germany to South Africa to Mexico. He said last time he took a trip to India, one of his most visited locations, he found a whiteboard in his hotel room and was welcomed by postdocs coming in to work with him from nine in the morning until 11 at night. But that’s how Stanica likes it. He’s always working, and he’s very glad that his wife is very supportive and encouraging of his work.

“My wife joined in at 5:00 a.m. to see the [Boole] award ceremony and my lecture after,” Stanica smiles.

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It’s time to shift from the ‘war on terror’ to a war on climate change

(The Gaurdian 7 Nov 21) ... Heidi Peltier

Large government bureaucracies are often slow to adapt to changing realities, such as the catastrophic threats we face in a warming world. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is no exception. New research from Brown University’s Costs of War Project shows that the DHS has been overly focused on foreign and foreign-inspired terrorism, while violent attacks in the US have more often come from domestic sources. A combination of willful ignorance and institutional inertia caused the agency to miss the rise in white supremacy and domestic terrorism that led to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol.

The new data from Dr Erik Dahl, Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, show that just one of the 46 failed terror plots in the US from 2018 through 2020 was directed by a foreign organization. In contrast, 29 plots were planned or carried out by domestic groups. In 2019, DHS finally acknowledged the growing threat of targeted violence and domestic terrorism borne mainly of far-right ideology and white supremacy and issued its first strategy document identifying these threats.

While we know now that the threat of violent attacks from domestic sources outnumber those from foreign sources, a bigger source of insecurity still is that of climate change. On October 21, the DHS released its first-ever “Strategic Framework for Addressing Climate Change,” acknowledging the importance of climate as a source of disruption and threat to security. As the COP26 UN climate meetings start this week, it’s time for a recognition that climate change is in fact a more expensive, more deadly, and more real threat to lives and to the US economy than the threat of what we call terrorism.

The “War on Terror” – a phrase born in the George W Bush administration – needs to be retired both as an action and a concept. The word “terrorism” instills a sense of fear and gives carte blanche for the US government to intervene around the globe. As a response to the 9/11 attacks, the US military has waged wars that have directly caused nearly 1 million deaths and indirectly caused many times that. The footprint of DHS itself has grown globally, as it is now the third largest US civilian agency overseas. Dahl’s data show that foreign interventions by the US keep the fear of Americans focused abroad, without any statistical evidence that groups in other countries pose a significant source of threat to American safety.

The concept of “counterterrorism” has led the US into over 85 countries, including in the Middle East and Africa, with the US spending trillions of dollars fighting unwinnable wars. The US Department of Homeland Security has spent over \$1tn since its creation in 2003, and the Department of Defense has



spent trillions more fighting wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere – wars that have made the globe no safer.

Instead of wasting trillions of dollars and millions of lives fighting a war on terror, the US should be mobilizing to combat climate change. Federal spending should be channeled toward clean energy projects, other decarbonization efforts, and adaptation for a changing climate. The increase in extreme weather events has already cost the US hundreds of billions of dollars in weather-related damages and the frequency and severity of these types of events will only increase unless swift and sweeping actions are taken. Climate-related disasters have killed more Americans from flooding and wildfires than the 2,996 people who died in the 9/11 attacks. Wildfires have resulted in over 3,200 deaths in the U.S. since 2000, according to recent research in *The Lancet*. Hurricane Katrina alone killed over 1,800 people in 2005. The Atlas of Mortality from the World Meteorological Organization finds that the US accounts for 38% of global economic losses from caused by weather, climate, and water hazards.

It's time for the US to shift toward the biggest threat to our security, and to direct federal resources accordingly. Let's retire the "War on Terror" and fight the battles that will more significantly save lives and livelihoods.

Heidi Peltier is a senior researcher at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University and director of programs for the Costs of War Project

[It's time to shift from the 'war on terror' to a war on climate change | Heidi Peltier | The Guardian](#)

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Academic Wants a U.S. 'War' Against 'Climate Change'

(PJ Media 8 Nov 21) ... Robert Spencer

Old Joe Biden's handlers have made it abundantly clear, with an astonishing indifference to any need to provide actual corroborating evidence, that it thinks "white supremacist" terrorism is the biggest threat the country faces today. Even that nod to woke authoritarianism, however, isn't good enough for one Heidi Peltier, who is, according to the UK's *Guardian*, a "senior researcher at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University and director of programs for the Costs of War Project." Peltier showed the way to the future when she penned an opinion piece in the *Guardian* entitled "It's time to shift from the 'war on terror' to a war on climate change." Because in the Left's fantasy world, there is no jihad terror threat, and our resources are much better directed toward a hubristic initiative in economic and civilizational suicide.

"Large government bureaucracies," Peltier informs us, "are often slow to adapt to changing realities, such as the catastrophic threats we face in a warming world. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is no exception." How the Department of Homeland Security can be repurposed to control the weather, Peltier unfortunately did not explain.

"New research from Brown University's Costs of War Project," she went on to explain, "shows that the DHS has been overly focused on foreign and foreign-inspired terrorism, while violent attacks in the US have more often come from domestic sources. A combination of willful ignorance and institutional inertia caused the agency to miss the rise in white supremacy and domestic terrorism that led to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol."

Yeah, or maybe the whole thing was trumped-up, so to speak, and never was any manifestation of "white supremacy" or "domestic terrorism" at all, but of course that is an unacceptable departure from the establishment narrative. It seems that "new data from Dr Erik Dahl, Associate Professor of National Security Affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, show that just one of the 46 failed terror plots in the US from 2018 through 2020 was directed by a foreign organization. In contrast, 29 plots were planned or carried out by domestic groups. In 2019, DHS finally acknowledged the growing threat of targeted violence and domestic terrorism borne mainly of far-right ideology and white supremacy and issued its first strategy document identifying these threats."



The foreign/domestic distinction is misleading. On October 18, an American convert to Islam in Chicago, Thomas Osadzinski, was convicted of providing support to ISIS. Another American convert to Islam, Damon Joseph, a 24-year-old resident of Holland, Ohio, was sentenced on September 20 to twenty years in prison for a plot to attack a synagogue in Toledo. Yet another American convert to Islam, Noelle Velentzas, got a 16-year prison sentence last June for jihad bombing plots in New York City. There are many others like them, but neither Heidi Peltier nor the feds have such people in mind when they speak of “domestic terrorism.” They don’t mean domestic jihad terrorism; they mean parents protesting at school board meetings, people who support Trump, and the like.

Nonetheless, Peltier plows on, positing that the threat of climate change is even worse than her domestic terror bogeyman: “While we know now that the threat of violent attacks from domestic sources outnumber those from foreign sources, a bigger source of insecurity still is that of climate change.” You’ll be happy to know that the Department of Homeland Security is on the job, using your taxpayer dollars to fix this little problem: “On October 21, the DHS released its first-ever ‘Strategic Framework for Addressing Climate Change,’ acknowledging the importance of climate as a source of disruption and threat to security. As the COP26 UN climate meetings start this week, it’s time for a recognition that climate change is in fact a more expensive, more deadly, and more real threat to lives and to the US economy than the threat of what we call terrorism.”

What’s more, the “War on Terror” just doesn’t fit the contemporary Leftist worldview: “The ‘War on Terror’ – a phrase born in the George W Bush administration – needs to be retired both as an action and a concept,” opines Peltier. “The word ‘terrorism’ instills a sense of fear and gives carte blanche for the US government to intervene around the globe.”

Heavens to betsy, the word “terrorism” makes people afraid? And what about the victims of terrorism? No word on that from the illustrious Brown University researcher. “Instead of wasting trillions of dollars and millions of lives fighting a war on terror,” she says, “the US should be mobilizing to combat climate change.” Why? Because “climate-related disasters have killed more Americans from flooding and wildfires than the 2,996 people who died in the 9/11 attacks.”

For all of Peltier’s skills as a researcher, however, she doesn’t appear to be aware that the Obama administration ended the war on terror in 2012. What’s more, the waste she decries in the war on terror is largely derived from the fact that it was wrongly conceived from the beginning, and wrongly executed all the way through.

In any case, she wants an end to Wilsonian messianic interventionism, and that would indeed be a good thing. But she wants the resources of the U.S. government to be devoted instead to fighting “climate change,” apparently unaware of the fact that such a fight will be just as empty and fruitless as the “war on terror,” if not even more so. It is, to say the least, unproven that human activity has caused climate change, and even more unproven that human activity can fix the climate. What’s more, the activities proposed are all being undertaken by the U.S. and Western Europe, while China ignores the problem and benefits economically from the West’s self-abnegation.

She says: “Climate-related disasters have killed more Americans from flooding and wildfires than the 2,996 people who died in the 9/11 attacks.” That may be, but again, there is no proof that this was the result of something human beings did. There have been floods and wildfires throughout history. Nor is it certain that ending the use of the internal combustion engine and the surrender of the West to Chinese economic hegemony will solve the problem.

But with “analyses” of this quality coming out of America’s universities today, it’s no wonder that Antifa has no problem filling its ranks.

[Brown University Researcher Wants US to Fight the Weather – PJ Media](#)

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Rossi di Cardano in the final at the Awards in the USA for his work at NASA

(D1 Softball News 13 Nov 21) ... Kim Lee



Every now and then I think back to when I was reading about the missions of the NASA in university books or in scientific articles and now, even after three and a half years, it doesn't seem real to me that I'm here. " It is a dream come true that of Federico Rossi, which, originally from Cardano al Campo, has lived in the United States for 10 years and has been working as a robotics technician at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA. Among the many reasons for pride yesterday, Friday 12 November, another was added: Rossi was ranked among the 3 finalists of the Young Investigator Awards 2021 Symposium, a competition for Italian researchers in the USA organized by the Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation.

Italians who shine in the USA

"Even just having reached the final and being able to compare myself with my colleagues, high-level specialists that I admire and respect, is a real honor". Rossi is not interested in winning the competition, "so much so that I honestly don't even know which prize is up for grabs", but simply being able to present the results of his research in front of Professor Marcello Romano, of the **Naval Postgraduate School**, together with the other two finalists : Francesco Monticone and Bartolomeo Stellato. Engineers who have different interests, but who share their Italian origins and American career.

The man who "whispered" to robots

My intervention consists in presenting the results of a project from which I have been working for some time on autonomy for team systems robot Explains the Cardanese, trying to adapt engineering notions to everyday language. "Well, me I try to teach more robots how to work together". A theme that may seem complex, and it undoubtedly is, but whose applications can be seen, or will be seen in everyday life. From autonomous vehicles in our cities, up to NASA, «where I deal with this topic for space exploration activities to which I have been working since April 2018 ».

A dream that becomes reality

Date one of the greatest adventures in the life of Federico Rossi. "I joined the Jpl almost 3 and a half years ago as a post doc and now I am part of the staff and I must say that I'm still in seventh heaven: it really is a dream come true. I often find myself thinking that many of the most important discoveries about our solar system, and beyond, have been made right here at NASA, so it is an honor to be part of the team ». This is why for Rossi the victory of the prize, which will be announced on December 9th, is not the goal of this experience. «The true meaning of the Franco Strazzabosco Award in the field of engineering is that of connecting scholars, because let's remember that science only progresses thanks to collaboration ».

In short, a dream that becomes reality for the young Cardanese, who despite the years spent in California, does not forget his roots. "Every time I go back to Italy and land in Malpensa, I get excited to see the areas where I grew up, Ticino: I miss my country ». This is why Rossi does not feel like advising those who follow an ambition similar to his to necessarily move to the United States. «The Italian and European system is certainly more democratic and accessible than the American one, but I think the California is the right place to deal with robotics. The extra gear that US universities have is thereto the ability to attract people from all over the world and indeed in our team there are specialists from many different countries. This is what makes the difference in research, "concludes Rossi, who does not rule out the possibility of returning to Italy one day. "Of course I live with my wife, who is also Italian, so we have to think for two."

[Rossi di Cardano in the final at the Awards in the USA for his work at NASA - D1SoftballNews.com](https://www.d1softballnews.com/rossi-di-cardano-in-the-final-at-the-awards-in-the-usa-for-his-work-at-nasa/)

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Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day
(KSBW 11 Nov 21)



(California News Times 15 Nov 21)

On Veterans Day, the people in the Salinastic Philei line helped receive an order from Colonel Jordan, the owner / operator.

He is an Army veteran and a lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School.

His 30-year military career includes leadership and operational roles leading up to commanding companies, battalions and brigades.

While waiting for a meal, Chroman handed out food and talked to the customer.

Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day, Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day

[Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day \(ksbw.com\)](#)

[Veteran and owner of Salinas' Chick-fil-A hands out food on Veterans Day - California News Times](#)

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“Jeopardy!” Announces New Tournament for Professors-Deadline

(Illinois News Today 11 Nov 21)

(Penn Live 11 Nov 21)

(The Blast Today 11 Nov 21)

(KPVI 11 Nov 21)

(TV Line 11 Nov 21)

(Yahoo 11 Nov 21)

(Deadline 11 Nov 21)

(Patch 11 Nov 21)

(Menastar 11 Nov 21)

(MSN 11 Nov 21)

Jeopardy! We will hold the first professor tournament to be held next month Mayim Bialik introducing instructors from 15 universities at a pace of answers and questions.

It will be broadcast continuously on weekday nights from December 6th (Monday), and the champion professor will be decided on December 17th (Friday).

See the list of competitors below.

“It was an incredible thrill to see so many talented professors from all kinds of schools and backgrounds. Jeopardy! “Stage,” Biarik said in a statement. “There was kinship and academic friendship between the groups, and there was a healthy competitiveness. That energy made this first professor tournament incredibly special.”

Fifteen professors will compete for the \$ 100,000 Grand Prize and the next Tournament of Champions spot.

The list of competitors and their schools is as follows:

- JP Allen, a business professor at the University of San Francisco in San Francisco, California.
- Hester Blum, an English professor at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania.
- Sam Buttrey, a professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.
- Marticanipe, a professor of primary science at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.
- Lisa Dresdner, Associate Professor of Writing at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York
- Ramon Gera is a professor of English, literature and Latin studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Gautam Hans, an associate clinical professor at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee.
- John Harkless, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Howard University, Washington, DC



- Ed Hashima, a professor of history at American River College in Sacramento, California.
- Gary Hollis, professor of chemistry at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia.
- Alisa Hove, Professor of Botany at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina
- Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders, Assistant Professor of American and African-American History at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, Colorado.
- Katie Reed, Associate Professor of Musicology, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, California.
- Deborah Steinberger, a professor of French literature at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.
- Julia Williams, an English professor at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana.

["Jeopardy!" Announces New Tournament for Professors-Deadline - Illinois News Today](#)
[‘Jeopardy!’ announces new Professors Tournament that includes a Penn State educator -](#)

[pennlive.com](#)

[Mayim Bialik Takes ‘Jeopardy!’ Podium Back From Ken Jennings For Upcoming Tournament - The Blast](#)

[‘Jeopardy!’ Announces Its First-Ever Professors Tournament With Host Mayim Bialik | Interests | kpvi.com](#)

[‘Jeopardy!’ Announces First Professors Tournament, Beginning Dec. 6 | TVLine](#)

[Jeopardy! Professors Tournament to Air in December; Mayim Bialik to Host \(yahoo.com\)](#)

[‘Jeopardy!’ Announces New Tournament For Professors Only – Deadline](#)

[Hofstra Professor To Compete In Jeopardy! Tournament | Garden City, NY Patch](#)

[‘Jeopardy!’ Announces Its First-Ever Professors Tournament With Host Mayim Bialik |](#)

[Entertainment | menastar.com](#)

[Hofstra Professor To Compete In Jeopardy! Tournament \(msn.com\)](#)

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ALUMNI:

Georgetown chooses two new assistant city managers, including police chief

(Stateman 1 Nov 21) ... Claire Osborn

The Georgetown city manager has chosen two new assistant city managers, including the city's Police Chief Wayne Nero. Nero and Nick Woolery, an assistant city manager with the city of Baytown near Houston, will begin their positions on Dec. 6, according to a city news release.

City Manager David Morgan appointed Nero and Woolery as assistant city managers after a nationwide search, the release said.

Assistant Police Chief Cory Tchida is serving as interim police chief until the position is filled.

Nero has served as interim assistant city manager since June 14.

“It has been an honor to serve Georgetown as the chief of police for the last decade,” Nero said in the release. “The future of our Police Department is bright and in very capable hands. Georgetown is a special community, and I am excited to continue serving my community in a new role.”

Nero has served as Georgetown’s chief of police for the past 11 years.

"During that time, Nero and his executive team rebranded and successfully established an organizational culture that is vision-inspired, mission-driven, people-focused and performance-based," the release said.

Nero has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College and a Master of Professional Studies degree in Homeland Security Leadership from the University of Connecticut, a program offered in partnership with the **Naval Postgraduate School**.



He will oversee several city departments, including police, fire, information technology, community services and human resources, according to the release.

Woolery has served as assistant city manager for the Baytown since 2019.

"Woolery developed and oversaw the implementation of a \$636 million comprehensive capital improvement program, launched a significant public engagement program, and implemented a process improvement and people empowerment program leading to more than \$1 million in savings," according to the release.

He also has experience executing agreements for residential, commercial, industrial, and hotel/convention projects.

Woolery has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Washburn University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas.

"I couldn't be more excited to join an already talented team and help positively impact the city's future," Woolery said in the release. "My family and I are looking forward to calling Georgetown home and being a part of such a special community."

Woolery will oversee the city's planning, inspections, systems engineering, public works, special districts, and communications departments, according to the release.

[Georgetown picks 2 new assistant city managers, including police chief \(statesman.com\)](#)

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Wilson Perumal & Company appoints Ernie Spence as principal

(Consulting U.S. 4 Nov 21)

Wilson Perumal & Company (WP&C), a Dallas-based management consulting firm, has promoted Ernie Spence to principal.

Spence, who has worked at WP&C for the past five years, will join the firm's leadership team and oversee multiple project teams that solve critical issues for C-suite clients.

Spence has experience advising corporates, private equity, and government entities on operational and strategic challenges. During his time at WP&C, Spence co-designed the firm's proprietary leadership development program, supervisor behavior model, and human capital strategy framework.

Some of his recent project work includes helping a US military organization reduce operating costs by over \$85 million and leading a private equity due diligence team in the acquisition of a \$100-million fabricator.

"Ernie is a tremendous asset," said Andrei Perumal, co-founder and managing partner of WP&C. "He is a great talent and has a huge bandwidth. In the Principal role, Ernie will be able to have even greater impact, across a greater number of clients, and a larger role in team and firm development."

Prior to entering the consulting arena, Spence spent nearly two decades in the US Navy. He latterly served as commanding officer of VFA-122, the Navy's largest F/A-18 squadron, where he oversaw 1,300 service members and helped reduce operations and maintenance costs by 36% in one year. Before serving as commanding officer and executive officer of several US Navy fighter jet squadrons, Spence was an F/A-18 pilot and test pilot.

He holds an MS in aeronautical engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, an MS in national resource strategy from National Defense University, and a BS in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

"I am grateful for the many opportunities I have to serve our clients," said Spence. "It is truly a privilege to lead our incredibly talented consultants."

WP&C helps clients across industries tackle challenges in strategy and operations. The firm's offerings span business transformation, growth strategy, technology strategy, operating model redesign, culture measurement and change, product portfolio optimization, and cybersecurity.

WP&C has more than 40 employees, according to LinkedIn.

[Wilson Perumal & Company appoints Ernie Spence as principal \(consulting.us\)](#)



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Brunswick names new Advanced Systems Group president

(Boating Industry 4 Nov 21)

Brunswick Corporation has announced that Marty Bass has been named President of the Americas for its Advanced Systems Group. Bass will replace Tom Schuessler who will retire at the end of the year. Bass joined Brunswick's Mercury Marine division 15 years ago and has worked in several leadership roles, including Vice President of Global Category Management and, for the past five and a half years, President of Mercury Marine in EMEA.

"Throughout his career, Marty has demonstrated the ability to deliver exceptional business results while building and leading high performing teams and I am excited for him to lead our Americas division," said Brett Dibkey, Advanced Systems Group president. "Additionally, I want to thank Tom for his outstanding leadership during his Brunswick career. Marty and Tom will work closely together through the remainder of the year to ensure a seamless transition."

"I am thrilled to be joining the ASG team as we execute on Brunswick's ACES strategy, aligning our industry leading brands in key product segments," said Bass. "Our products and brands are very well-suited to lead the migration from analog to digital experiences and while there is already a fantastic foundation in place, with the addition of Navico, SemahTronix, and RELiON, along with our award-winning brands already in our portfolio, we have just begun to unlock the opportunities that will continue to enhance the consumer experience."

Prior to joining Brunswick, Bass served as an officer in the U.S. Navy working on design teams for submarine nuclear propulsion systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

"I have said many times that we will see more change in our industry over the next five years than we have in the last 50, and Marty's experience with connectivity, machine learning, and relationships with many of our key OEM's will be a critical asset as ASG continues its efforts to innovate the future of the many industries we serve," said Dibkey.

Bass will move from Europe to the U.S. and begin his new role immediately. Mercury recently announced that Will Sangster will replace Bass as President of Mercury Marine in EMEA.

[Brunswick names new Advanced Systems Group president | Boating Industry](#)

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First Internet Bank Expands Arizona Commercial Banking Team

(Businesswire 5 Nov 21)

Today, First Internet Bank announced the hiring of Vice President of Commercial Banking, Ryan Hasher. Mr. Hasher joins First Internet Bank's Arizona-based commercial banking team, reporting to Regional Vice President Neil Barna.

"First Internet Bank's commitment to partnering with business owners and providing increased access to capital and essential banking services is vital. I look forward to partnering with them for their success."

"Ryan is an invaluable addition to our team," said Mr. Barna. "His experience and expertise will provide flexible financing solutions for our clients in the Phoenix area in order to help them achieve their business goals."

"I am excited for the opportunity to join this talented and growing team," said Mr. Hasher. "First Internet Bank's commitment to partnering with business owners and providing increased access to capital and essential banking services is vital. I look forward to partnering with them for their success."



Prior to joining First Internet Bank, Mr. Hasher served as the Vice President and Business Banking Relationship Manager at BBVA USA. He received a B.S in Economics from the University of Arizona and his Master of Business Administration and Management from The United States **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[First Internet Bank Expands Arizona Commercial Banking Team | Business Wire](#)

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US Navy selects first woman directly for F-35C after earning Wings of Gold in Meridian

(DVIDS 29 Oct 21)

(Military Spot 29 Oct 21)

(Aerotech News 8 Nov 21)

The U.S. Navy selected its first woman to go directly from earning designation as a naval aviator to postgraduate flight training in the F-35C Lightning II.

Lt. j.g. Suzelle Thomas, assigned to the “Eagles” of Training Squadron (VT) 7, received her Wings of Gold alongside seven fellow naval aviators and one Italian Navy aviator during a ceremony at the chapel onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian, Oct. 29.

Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) Rear Admiral Robert D. Westendorff, who oversees all undergraduate flight training for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, said the ceremony was the culmination of a year of advanced training and a lifetime of study and preparation.

“Getting through primary flight training and being selected for the advanced strike training pipeline is not an easy task,” Westendorff said. “It requires a lot of hard work and dedication and the men and women here today have proven they have what it takes. I’m so proud of each of you and know you will continue to meet the challenges ahead.”

Thomas was named to the Commodore’s List during primary flight training, during which she flew the T-6B Texan II turboprop aircraft. She was also named VT-7 Student of the Quarter for spring 2021. She carrier qualified in the T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft onboard aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77).

“I feel blessed and it was an honor to finish with my fellow aviators,” Thomas said. “We studied together, flew together and did everything together. I felt supported by everyone at VT-7. The instructors are very helpful and the squadron works as a team.”

Thomas’s drive to succeed and help others achieve didn’t go unnoticed by leadership at her squadron.

“We are extremely proud of Lt. j.g. Suzelle Thomas and her performance while she was here at VT-7,” Eagles Commanding Officer Cmdr. Dylan Porter said. “She displayed the maturity and above-average aptitude in the aircraft to be selected for the F-35C platform. She stood out not only with her performance during her training here, but also as a leader amongst her peers. Lt. j.g. Thomas will be a great asset to the fleet and I’m excited to see all that she accomplishes in the future.”

Thomas will report to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 in Lemoore, California. VFA-125 is the fleet replacement squadron for the F-35C Lightning II. The F-35C is a powerful combination of fourth- and fifth-generation fighter aircraft with advanced electronic attack, and command and control capability.

“I have realized I will never fly with another person again since the F-35 is a one seater,” Thomas said. “I am looking forward to controlling the flight in a very advanced and tactical way.”

Thomas, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, is a 2018 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where she received a Bachelor of Science in political science. Thomas also received a master’s degree in security studies from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

Thomas’ parents pinned on her naval aviator Wings of Gold – wings passed down from her mentor, Capt. Beth Regoli.

“I’m so proud of Suzelle, she has done so many great things,” Regoli said. “I have watched her develop and now earn her Wings of Gold. When she worked for me she was an outstanding midshipman.”

Regoli gave her wings to Thomas when she worked for her at the Naval Academy.



“Sometimes you never really realize the impact of the little things, when I heard she was going to use them today and that she thinks of me as her mentor I was so happy,” said Regoli, who will leave the Naval Academy soon to become the commanding officer of NAS Key West, Florida. “I can’t wait to see all the fantastic things Suzelle is going to accomplish in her future.”

There are currently three women in the Navy who transitioned from other aircraft to the F-35C. In addition, Marine 1st Lt. Catherine Stark became the first woman in the Marine Corps to directly select F-35C after earning her Wings of Gold at Training Air Wing 1 in August 2019.

CNATRA, located in Corpus Christi, Texas, trains the world’s finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a Naval Force that is where it matters, when it matters.

[DVIDS - News - US Navy selects first woman directly for F-35C after earning Wings of Gold in Meridian \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

[Navy Selects First Woman for F-35C Flight Training - MilitarySpot.com](#)

[U.S. Navy selects first woman directly for F-35C - Aerotech News & Review](#)

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Controlling the flow path: How to handle door control with limited staffing

(Fire Chief 9 Nov 21) ... Sean Gray

Captain Sean Gray presents “Shut the front door: The ins and outs of controlling the flow path” at the IAFC’s Symposium in the Sun on Nov. 11.

By this point, no one can debate the impact of door control. In fact, we’ve been preaching door control during fire prevention talks for many years, and truck companies have been practicing door control during vent-enter-isolate-search (VEIS) for many years. It just took more time for us to apply this step to our bigger-picture tactical mindset, beyond simply trying to keep fire in its compartment.

Door control, for many, is the piece that has been missing in their operational playbook. For some departments, door control is easy to add to the operation, as they have the staffing to position a firefighter at the door. But there are many fire departments that do not have the necessary staffing, making it harder to apply this step on the fireground.

So, how do we accomplish door control on the fireground with varying staffing levels? The easy answer is to have someone close the door behind the advancing company and maintain that position until the water is flowing. Then secure the door open and move to another assigned task. But how do we accomplish this if we do not have a firefighter whom we can assign to this position?

For some departments, door control is easy to add to the operation, as they have the staffing to position a firefighter at the door. But there are many fire departments that do not have the necessary staffing, making it harder to apply this step on the fireground. (Photos/Chris Baines/Cobb County)

DOOR CONTROL OPTIONS

Some have suggested a proactive rapid intervention team (RIT) can position one of its members here. While this would work, I am also hesitant to employ this method. I believe in proactive RIT; however, if there is a smoke condition, the door control firefighter needs to be on air, and it is not advisable to have a RIT member using up their air during proactive assignments.

Others have suggested to just close the door and not place a firefighter at the door. This suggestion is troublesome. If interior companies need to rapidly withdraw, there could be trouble when they reach the door. In the case of residential fires, the entry door will be inward-swinging, meaning the companies that are rapidly exiting could end up piled up behind the door. This is the exact reason why fire codes require commercial doors to be outward-swinging with panic bars. The other factor to consider is that the door will not be controlled. It will simply be closed onto the advancing hoseline. This can interfere with the stretch, therefore defeating the goal to get water on the fire.



Fire service manufacturers have worked to address this issue. Their answer, adopted from the European fire service, is to use door curtains (or block aids as they are referred to in Germany). Door curtains may not be the answer either, but they are something to consider.

PUTTING A DOOR CURTAIN TO THE TEST

I recently had the opportunity to teach a flow path management class where we incorporated a door curtain. In groups of two, the instructors took students into the burn building. Upon entry, the door was opened and the flow path was immediately visible. The students crawled down the hallway to the door of the burn room. Here we discussed the neutral plane and bi-directional flow.

At this point, a second crew placed a curtain at the entry door. The students were able to see a decrease in the flow path, and after a brief period, we witnessed a slight decrease in temperature. The temperature was not monitored with any remote equipment. The instructors utilized thermal imaging cameras to monitor the temperature. The students quickly visualized a decrease in the velocity and movement of the smoke and products of combustion.

The students were then brought into a room of the hallway where we discussed searching in the flow path. We focused on door control during search, walking the walls and numbering the walls to incorporate a search plan.

When the search was complete, firefighters moved back to the hallway where they immediately noticed a change in conditions. We saw decreased visibility from the blocking of smoke. The smoke did not have an outlet, so there was no flow path. The crew then crawled down the hallway and exited through the curtain.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXPERIMENT

The students had the opportunity to observe how a flow path can be affected by door control. We also discussed some fire behavior observations, such as neutral plane and bi-directional flow and uni-directional flow path. This highlighted the need to close doors when searching ahead or above of a hoseline until water is flowing.

The students and instructors were also able to see what happens to the interior environment when a curtain is put in place to control the flow path. These were valuable lessons as we all look forward to adapting our ever-changing firegrounds.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR DOOR CURTAINS?

I believe there is a positive future in the American fire service for a door curtain. Consider interior doors in the attack stairwell of a high-rise fire. Consider smoke control in nursing homes, hospitals and multifamily dwellings – each an opportunity to use a door curtain to stop smoke spread into remote areas.

Curtains also have a place on the fireground for minimally staffed departments that may not have the ability to position a firefighter at the door. However, a door curtain should not be used in the place of a door control firefighter! Door control is more than just closing off the inlet. It is one of the most important jobs on the fireground, and we need to be sure that our most experienced firefighters are controlling the flow path whenever possible, whether it's with a door or a curtain.

FIND WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT

This is a revolutionary time in the fire service and an exciting to be part of it. It is our job to learn from the scientific research, then bring the science to the streets, adapt our tactics if and when necessary, and share our experiences with each other so we can all benefit from the knowledge.

Not every tactic will be appropriate for every fire or every fire department. You need to take all the relevant factors into consideration, evaluate your situation, resources, staffing, building, etc., and adapt as appropriate. That is when you can select a plan that incorporates the science, plus your training and experiences, into a tactical model that is the best for your citizens and the members of your department.

Sean Gray is a fire captain with Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services in metro Atlanta. Gray has been a member of multiple technical panels involving firefighter safety research and is an appointed member of UL's Fire Safety Research Institute advisory board. He is also an NFPA committee member



for Fire Hose and Fire Service Training Facilities. Gray's work has been featured in multiple fire service publications, and he recently co-authored the book "The Evolving Fireground." He operates the website StopBelievingStartKnowing.com, and delivers evidence-based tactics training courses across the country. Gray has a bachelor's degree in fire safety engineering and is currently working on his master's degree at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Flow path control: How firefighters should handle door control \(firechief.com\)](#)

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ADEQ Announces New Agency Deputy Director to Serve on the Executive Leadership Team

(EIN Presswire 9 Nov 21)

ADEQ today announced Carlos Rascon has joined the Executive Leadership Team as the new Deputy Director of Operational Excellence.

Rascon will oversee the Office of Environmental Excellence, the Business Intelligence Team, the Information Technology Office and Business and Finance. In this role, Rascon will champion ADEQ's continuing evolution to collect, curate, analyze and utilize data to catalyze and drive increased positive mission outcomes with quality, velocity and integrity.

"Carlos Rascon brings a wealth of knowledge to the position from his over 27 years of military, public and private sector experience," said ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera, P.E. "He is a proven leader in the areas of information technology integration, finance, data science and operational excellence."

A retired U.S. Marine Corps Major and decorated F-18 fighter pilot veteran, Rascon served tours of duty in Iraq and Kosovo. He also served as the Executive Officer at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Headquarters Squadron where he managed over 300 employees. Since 2013, Mr. Rascon has led a data science consulting business managing remote teams all across the country to serve public and private sector clients like the State of Arizona, including its Government Transformation Office.

"Over the last several years ADEQ has laid the groundwork for our next level transformation to data science excellence," Cabrera added. "We've achieved some notable successes by leveraging technology and data analytics. With Mr. Rascon's expertise, we are deepening our ability to convert data on increasingly complex environmental issues into information and insight that leads to the most effective decisions."

"I am eager for the opportunity to play a key role in ADEQ's next level transformation to data science excellence and look forward to leveraging operations research and technology to help ADEQ tackle Arizona's most pressing environmental issues," Rascon said.

Rascon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Arizona, and a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

[PRESS RELEASE | ADEQ Announces New Agency Deputy Director to Serve on the Executive Leadership Team - EIN Presswire \(einnews.com\)](#)

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Charleston Co. deputy administrator completes homeland security leaders program

(Live 5 News 15 Nov 21) ... Patrick Phillips

The deputy county administrator from Charleston County has completed a 12-month homeland security leadership program.

Eric Watson completed the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security Thursday.



In his Charleston County role, Watson led and developed the county's first public safety directorate and manages oversight over Charleston County Emergency Medical Services, Charleston County Emergency Management, Search and Rescue, Charleston County Consolidated 911 Dispatch Center, Awendaw-McClellanville Rural Fire District, and Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

He also serves as a public safety liaison between Charleston County government and local, state, federal law enforcement, and rural fire agencies.

During the year-long program, Watson collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges.

Participants in the program include professionals in emergency management, education, law enforcement, fire service, homeland security, public health, the private sector, and city and county governments.

Eric is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Management. Currently, he is working on his Master's Degree in Executive Management and Criminal Justice Leadership at Walden University.

Before his current role, Watson served as chief deputy for the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

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