

GRADUATION AWARDS

Monterey Peninsula Council of the Navy League LCDR Tom Winant Highest Academic Achievement Award – Maj Liam O’Lone, USMC

This award is presented to a graduating United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration student who has maintained an outstanding academic record as exhibited by academic achievement, thesis research, motivation, and community involvement.

Rear Admiral Merrill W. Ruck Leadership Award – MAJ Domonique Hittner, USA

Rear Admiral Merrill Ruck, USN (Retired), is a surface warfare officer, whose thirty-four-year career spanned distinguished sea duty and shore tours. Following retirement, he served several years for the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and then as Executive Director of the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation. The award is to honor the example of patriotism, integrity, dedication, and exceptional leadership qualities of RADM Ruck. The RADM Ruck Award will acknowledge student officers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities. This recognition is intended to support the school’s mission of promoting combat readiness.

The Louis D. Liskin Award for Excellence in Regional Security Studies – LT Matthew Albert, USN

This award is presented to a graduating U.S. military or civilian student in the Department of National Security Affairs for an outstanding thesis in Regional Security Studies based on quality of the thesis, and outstanding service to the Armed Forces or the Department of Defense.

Marine Corps Association Superior Service Award for Outstanding U.S. Marine Student – Capt Gabriel A. Benjamin, USMC

This award is presented to an outstanding student based on quality point rating, thesis, curricular, and extracurricular activities.

Air Force Association Award for Outstanding U.S. Air Force Student – Capt Joshua d’Entremont, USAF

This award is based on outstanding service and is sponsored by the Monterey Chapter of the California Air Force Association.

Outstanding United States Air Force Graduate Award, Department of National Security Affairs – Capt Joshua d’Entremont, USAF

This award is presented to an officer for overall scholarly achievement.

Naval Postgraduate School Superior Service Award – LCDR Amanda Day, USN

This award is based on superior contributions to the student body, professional community, and local Monterey area.

Association of the United States Army, General Joseph W. Stilwell Chapter, Award for Outstanding Army Student – LTC Patrick Rood, USA

This award is presented to an Army student who has maintained an outstanding academic record as exhibited by academic achievement, thesis research, motivation, and community involvement.

Naval Postgraduate School Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for International Students – LT Rizky Windu Karsa, Indonesian Navy

This award is presented to a student who has exhibited outstanding academic achievement, conducted notable thesis research, maintained motivation and a serious interest in the community, and who has interacted well with other students in the interest of international alliance.

International Student Award for Excellence in Regional or Security Studies – LT Rizky Windu Karsa, Indonesian Navy

This award is presented to an international military officer or civilian student for academic performance evaluated in terms of overall scholarly achievement.

The Surface Navy Association’s Award for Excellence in Surface Warfare Research – LT Violeta A. Lopez, USN

This award is presented to a graduating student whose thesis topic and quality of supporting research demonstrate the greatest potential for contribution to the Surface Navy.

First Command Military Leadership Award – LT Shawn Kavanagh, USN

Presented to an active-duty military faculty or staff member at the Naval Postgraduate School, who, in the opinion of the next two graduating classes, contributed the most to the professional and military success of the graduates during their assignment at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory Award for Excellence in Applied Physics - LCDR Gilbert C. Espinosa, USN and LCDR Cory Poudrier, USN

This award is presented for outstanding research in applied physics that has the potential to positively impact future Navy and Marine Corps systems and operational capability.

Military Operations Research Society Stephen A. Tisdale Graduate Research Award – LT Spencer Kitten, USN

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in graduate research directed toward improving military force utilization. The primary award criterion is research which leads to demonstration of or potential for increased operating effectiveness of currently available or near-term assets.

Chief of Naval Operations Undersea Warfare Award – LT Spencer Kitten, USN

This award is sponsored by the National Security Industrial Association and presented in recognition of distinguished academic achievement to the Undersea Warfare curriculum graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance and exhibited those qualities indicative of an outstanding military officer.

Chief of Naval Operations Award for Excellence in Operations Research - LT Miquel Mirano, USN

Award is presented to a Navy or Marine Corps graduate based on academic achievement, experience tour performance, thesis work, and demonstration of those qualities, indicative of an outstanding military officer.

Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper Computer Science Award – Capt Nathaniel Haynes, USMC

This award is presented in recognition of excellence in Computer Science to the graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, thesis quality, and leadership ability.

Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper Information Technology Management Award – Capt Morgan White, USMC

This award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, thesis quality, and leadership ability.

Department of Defense Management Faculty Outstanding International Student Award – Lieutenant Joao Franklin Silva B. P. Alves, Brazilian Navy

This award is presented to an outstanding international graduate based on academic achievement, thesis research, motivation, and community involvement.

Meyer Award for Outstanding Student in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) - Mr. Kevin Huy Le, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, China Lake; LT Frank Conenna, Jr., USN; and Mr. Daniel V. Camp, Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, Aviation and Missile Center

This award is presented to an outstanding Department of Defense graduate of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who has demonstrated superior academic performance.

Meyer Award for Teaching Excellence in Systems Engineering (Distance Learning) – Lt Col Mark Sykes, USAF; Rama D Gehris, Professor of Practice; and Associate Professor Kristin Giammarco

This award is presented to an outstanding faculty member of each Distance Learning Systems Engineering degree program who is recognized by the students for teaching excellence and/or exceptional contributions to the students' overall learning experience.

Curtis H. “Butch” Straub Achievement Award – Special Agent Shaun Kuzia, Homeland Security Investigations; Arizona

This award is presented to a graduating Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) student with an exemplarily academic and citizenship record while in the CHDS Master's Degree program. The award winner will be a student who has excellent grades, who has written an outstanding thesis, and who has helped the most in providing leadership and energy for the CHDS MA program.

FACULTY AWARDS

Richard W. Hamming Teaching Award – Professor Douglas Van Bossuyt, Systems Engineering Department

The Richard W. Hamming teaching award is presented to a faculty member whose contribution to student learning is demonstrated both in and out of the classroom through excellence in instruction and thesis advising.