



# NPS IN THE NEWS

## Weekly Media Report – Sept 13 - 19, 2022

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Decision advantage, one of six “Force Design Imperatives” in Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday’s NAVPLAN 2022, places a high priority on the naval forces’ ability to “out-sense, out-decide, and out-fight any adversary by accelerating our decision cycles with secure, survivable, and cyber-resilient networks.”

Two students at the **Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)**, U.S. Navy Lts. JaMerra Turner and Joanna Cruz, are exploring the application of emerging technologies in augmented reality and how Sailors can use them to advance the decision cycle. As the thesis for their master’s degrees at NPS, titled “Supporting Mission Planning with a Persistent Augmented Environment,” Cruz and Turner’s research provides insights into the feasibility and effectiveness of this novel form of data representation and user interaction, and its capability to support faster and improved situational awareness and decision-making in a complex operational technology environment.

### ALUMNI:

#### [Chris Costamagna Named New Sacramento Fire Chief](#)

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The city of Sacramento has a new fire chief after the city manager announced the appointment Monday...Costamagna graduated from Waldorf University with a bachelor’s degree in Fire Science Administration and Leadership and he studied Crisis Management at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Executive Education. He also attended the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey.

#### [Commander David A. Hooper United States Navy Biography](#)

*(DVIDS 16 Sept 22)* ... Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Garst

Commander David Hooper, a native of Woodbridge, VA, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2006, where he conferred a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and received a commission as a Surface Warfare Officer...He immediately joined the USS Whidbey Island (LSD-41) while on deployment after graduating and served as the Main Propulsion Division Officer; he earned his Surface Warfare designation in just 10 months. In November 2008, he was selected for transfer and re-designation into the Human Resources community. Shortly after re-designation, Commander Hooper reported to the **Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)** in March 2009 where he subsequently earned a Master of Science degree in Operations Research and authored a thesis focused on optimizing manpower.

#### [City of Edmonds Welcomes Two New Department Directors](#)

*(DVIDS 16 Sept 22)* ... Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Garst

After an extensive search to fill both positions, the City of Edmonds is welcoming two new department directors: Todd Tatum, director of community services and economic development, and Oscar Antillon, director of public works and utilities. Both men were appointed by Mayor Mike Nelson and confirmed by the Edmonds City



Council... In 1990, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving four years. He then returned to college using the GI Bill, graduating in 1998 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. In 2000, he returned to the Navy as a commissioned officer with the Naval Civil Engineer Corps, spending six years at seven Naval and Marine Corps installations leading planning, environmental, engineering, contracting, construction and maintenance programs. He also completed his graduate studies at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, receiving a master of science in IT.

## [Search To Commence For New Frisco Fire Chief Following Chief Mark Piland's Retirement](#)

*(Frisco Texas 14 Sept 22)*

(September 14, 2022) A search for the City of Frisco's next Fire Chief will begin promptly following the retirement of Chief Mark Piland. Today, Chief Piland submitted his retirement, sharing he's ready to pursue new career opportunities. The retirement follows Chief Piland's nine-plus years of service to the city after being hired in 2013. Wes Pierson, City Manager, accepted the retirement, adding he appreciates Chief Piland's commitment to the community. Chief Piland has been an asset during his time with the city and oversaw the tremendous growth of the Fire Department in the fastest-growing city in the U.S.

Chief Piland has a long history of notable service with the City of Frisco, as Fire Chief for Volusia County Fire Services in Volusia County Florida, and Shift Commander of Operations for the Virginia Beach Fire Department in Virginia Beach VA. Chief Piland has over 35 years in the Fire-Rescue service, with experience encompassing the areas of Fire Administration, Fire Prevention, Fire Operations, Emergency Management, and CERT, Training, Special Operations, Fire Accreditation, Fire Station and Training Facility Design, emergency response with local, state, and federal governments, and executive level management and budget. Chief Piland also has extensive experience in the areas of executive leadership and community disaster preparedness response and outreach programs. Chief Piland possesses a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Hospital Management and a minor in Epidemiology from Eastern Virginia Medical School, and a Bachelor of Psychology from Old Dominion University. Piland is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, The Executive Leader Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and The Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the Kennedy School at Harvard.

## [Secmation Adds Former Chief of Naval Research to Advisory Board](#)

*(EIN 16 Sept 22)*

Secmation is excited and honored to announce the addition of retired Vice Admiral Mat Winter to Secmation's Advisory Board. Mat currently is the President of Winter Strategic Solutions, LLC and is a trusted Board Director/Advisor for several for-profit companies and non-profit organizations. Prior to starting his LLC business, he completed a distinguished 35+ year Navy career with his final two marquee leadership positions being the 24th Chief of Naval Research, where he led the Navy's Global Science and Technology Enterprise, and as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program Director, where he led a Global Enterprise with over \$30 billion annual budget and had significant responsibilities for both production and global sales of the world's most advanced 5th generation strike fighter. His formal technical and business education from the University of Notre Dame (BS ME), the **Naval Postgraduate School** (MS Computer Science) and the National Defense University (MS Natural Resource Strategy) underpins his extensive business and technology experiences at the highest levels of the public trust making him a perfect fit to help guide Secmation in achieving our near and long term profitability and strategic growth goals.

## [Retired U.S. Navy Captain H. Thomas Workman Named Director of BLM National Operations Center](#)

*(BLM 17 Sept 22)*

Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning announced today that H. Thomas Workman has been selected as the director of the National Operations Center in Lakewood, Colorado... Workman holds Master of Science degrees in national security strategy from the National Defense University and in operations research from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the United States Naval Academy.

## [Welcome Aboard, Capt. Plew! NavalX has a New Director](#)

*(Navy.mil 17 Sept 22)*



On Tuesday, Sept. 13, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) held a change-of-office ceremony for NavalX, a partner organization within the command... Plew has a bachelor's in history from Oregon State University, a master's in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a master of business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

## **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:**

**Sept 19–22:** [Warfare Innovation Continuum \(WIC\) Workshop 2022 Future Hybrid Force](#)

**Sept 22:** [Hall of Fame Induction](#) for the Honorable Robert O. Work

**Sept 23:** [Summer Quarter Graduation](#)

**Sept 26:** [National Defense Industrial Association Fall Undersea Warfare \(USW\) Conference](#)



## RESEARCH:

### Students Explore Use of Persistent Augmented Reality to Advance Decision Cycle

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Turner, now a graduate of the NPS Cyber Systems and Operations program with a master’s in computer science, was looking for a partner for her thesis. While combing through the research of other students, she found Cruz, a student in the computer science program through the Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulations (MOVES) Institute, who wanted to focus her research on augmented reality.

“Joanna had this brilliant idea of combining her expertise in virtual environments with my proficiency as an information professional officer,” said Turner. “Using my knowledge of communications networks, and her ability to create augmented realities, we could develop something that would drastically improve the decision-making capabilities of the senior decision makers in the field.”

A ‘persistent augmented environment’ is a concept the students’ thesis advisor Dr. Amela Sadagic has been working on for some time, and consists of two major components. ‘Persistent’ means that a diverse set of data are being collected and visualized in real-time, and the data sets are updated and corrected as quickly as possible, ensuring the most accurate information is available to operators who need it to support their decision making. An ‘augmented environment’ refers to superimposed, computer-generated visual elements over visual information that comes from the real-world environment. Cruz described it as “Pokémon Go on ships” or “tactical Pokémon Go.”

With their thesis, the two students wanted to use simulated data of communications systems and cyber network operations, reporting, and resource management decision-making to demonstrate their product. Using augmented reality displays allowed the operators to see each other and discern key non-verbal cues typically used in group discussions. At the same time, they could also see the elements of the simulated operational environment and interact with them.

When a carrier strike group goes on deployment, the ships’ lines of communications are of critical importance. Between several forms of radio frequencies, types of satellites and the litany of other ways ships need to talk to one another, there is bound to be confusion. One ship might have a certain system down, and the other vessels need to be aware of that failure and in a timely manner.

“Imagine every ship has a system where they could input data automatically in real time, and every ship in the strike group would know immediately [through an augmented reality interface],” said Cruz. “With our program, the communications officer on every ship could have a headset with that data constantly updating, and all they would have to do to determine which systems are down and which systems are functional would be to look at the ship they are trying to reach.”

Turner and Cruz designed and developed a straightforward 3D visualization prototype of how the augmented reality interface would look and then tested its usability with 27 Naval officers. They focused on users’ performance and comprehension of the prototype that depicted augmented reality-enhanced Naval cyber battlespace onboard multiple ships. An additional objective was to acquire a better



understanding of how that type of system could be used to assist in effective mission planning at the tactical level. And the results were very positive and encouraging, they said.

“[Users] found the interface easy to understand and operate, and the prototype was characterized as a valuable alternative to their current practices,” said Turner.

Although the research just focused on communications, Cruz and Turner suggest the concept could be expanded to cover several systems onboard Navy vessels. From damage control conditions to weapons systems, key personnel on every ship could simply put on a headset and be instantly updated on the rest of the strike group.

“It can be used by different warfare areas, and it can go towards different readiness conditions,” said Cruz. “We can input data regarding air warfare, surface warfare, submarine warfare, ballistic warfare, strike warfare, and the list goes on and on.”

Both students were very satisfied with their final thesis, and its potential to support a key initiative in NAVPLAN 2020. The interdisciplinary approach, capitalizing on each student’s unique area of expertise to advance a Navy-relevant topic of study, is a rare opportunity, except for students at NPS.

“The opportunity for two people in two different communities to combine efforts on a MOVES related thesis and to actually come up with a brand-new idea and start implementing it was a very rewarding and satisfying experience,” said Cruz. “The world is changing, technology is improving at an incredible rate, and NPS is doing all it can to stay at the very tip of innovation.”

[Students Explore Use of Persistent Augmented Reality to Advance Decision Cycle > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[Students Explore Use of Persistent Augmented Reality to Advance Decision Cycle - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](#)

[Students explore use of persistent augmented | EurekAlert!](#)

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## ALUMNI:

### Chris Costamagna Named New Sacramento Fire Chief

*(ABC 10 12 Sept 22)*

The city of Sacramento has a new fire chief after the city manager announced the appointment Monday.

According to a news release, Chris Costamagna is now the city’s 23rd fire chief. Costamagna, who most recently served as Deputy Fire Chief of Technical Services, is a 27-year veteran of the department.

He first joined the department on Sept. 11, 1995, and served several different positions prior to his appointment, including: Assistant Chief of Special Operations, Operations Shift Commander, Battalion Chief, In-Service Training Captain and Drill Instructor for the department’s Training Academy.

Costamagna graduated from Waldorf University with a bachelor’s degree in Fire Science Administration and Leadership and he studied Crisis Management at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Executive Education. He also attended the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey.

“I am incredibly proud and grateful for this opportunity to lead the Sacramento Fire Department and serve our residents in this important role,” Costamagna said. “SFD is made up of brave, courageous people who do everything they can to keep our communities safe and protected, and under my watch, we will continue to build upon this legacy of excellence.”

Covering 115 miles of service area, the Sacramento Fire Department operates 24 fire stations. In his new role, he will oversee the department’s 700+ employees.

[Chris Costamagna named new City of Sacramento fire chief | abc10.com](#)

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His career was extremely diverse, working across the globe in workforce development and in building partner nations' capacities in processes and infrastructure.

Upon retirement from the military, Tatum began work at Washington State Parks, where he was their business development manager, and later development division manager. In these roles, Tatum handled marketing, business attraction and retention and customer data, and led some of the agency's most strategic development projects.

Tatum has a bachelor of science degree in finance from Auburn University and a master's degree in business – supply chain management from the University of Kansas. He will be starting a master's degree program in infrastructure planning and management at the University of Washington later this month.

Passionate about travel, he is an avid skier and hiker and spent time in Alaska leading rock and ice climbing.

Tatum and his wife live in Seattle's Ravenna neighborhood and have four adult children.

"Todd's experience with a large state agency and some of the key elements of economic development activities were key factors that led me to appoint him to this important leadership position in our city," Nelson said.

**Oscar Antillon's** first day on the job will be Oct. 1.

A native of Chihuahua, Mexico, Antillon came to the U.S. in 1986. He worked in several jobs before finding his lifelong passion for public service.

In 1990, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving four years. He then returned to college using the GI Bill, graduating in 1998 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. In 2000, he returned to the Navy as a commissioned officer with the Naval Civil Engineer Corps, spending six years at seven Naval and Marine Corps installations leading planning, environmental, engineering, contracting, construction and maintenance programs. He also completed his graduate studies at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, receiving a master of science in IT.

After retirement from the Navy in 2015, Antillon served as public works director for the cities of Los Altos Hills and Soledad, California and Moab, Utah. He also worked with NASA, managing private construction activities on NASA-owned properties.

Antillon is a lifelong outdoors enthusiast who enjoys hiking, trail running, mountain biking, kayaking and skiing.

Oscar and his wife have three adult children. They will be moving to the Edmonds area from Carmel, California, where they have lived since 2010.

"I was immediately impressed by Oscar's vast experience in a variety of fields related to civil engineering and public works — exactly the qualifications we need for the Edmonds Public Works and Utilities Department," Nelson said. "Oscar will bring a fresh perspective and years of public service that I am confident will serve us well."

[City of Edmonds welcomes two new department directors - My Edmonds News](#)

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## **Search To Commence For New Frisco Fire Chief Following Chief Mark Piland's Retirement**

*(Frisco Texas 14 Sept 22)*

(September 14, 2022) A search for the City of Frisco's next Fire Chief will begin promptly following the retirement of Chief Mark Piland. Today, Chief Piland submitted his retirement, sharing he's ready to pursue new career opportunities. The retirement follows Chief Piland's nine-plus years of service to the city after being hired in 2013. Wes Pierson, City Manager, accepted the retirement, adding he appreciates Chief Piland's commitment to the community. Chief Piland has been an asset during his time with the city and oversaw the tremendous growth of the Fire Department in the fastest-growing city in the U.S.



Chief Piland has a long history of notable service with the City of Frisco, as Fire Chief for Volusia County Fire Services in Volusia County Florida, and Shift Commander of Operations for the Virginia Beach Fire Department in Virginia Beach VA. Chief Piland has over 35 years in the Fire-Rescue service, with experience encompassing the areas of Fire Administration, Fire Prevention, Fire Operations, Emergency Management, and CERT, Training, Special Operations, Fire Accreditation, Fire Station and Training Facility Design, emergency response with local, state, and federal governments, and executive level management and budget. Chief Piland also has extensive experience in the areas of executive leadership and community disaster preparedness response and outreach programs. Chief Piland possesses a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Hospital Management and a minor in Epidemiology from Eastern Virginia Medical School, and a Bachelor of Psychology from Old Dominion University. Piland is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, The Executive Leader Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and The Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the Kennedy School at Harvard.

"We want to thank Chief Piland for his more than nine years of service to our residents, businesses, and visitors," said Wes Pierson, City Manager. "During Chief Piland's tenure, the men and women of the Frisco Fire Department remained dedicated to delivering a high level of service and committed to helping keep people and property safe. We wish Chief Piland and his family success as he moves into the next phase of his career."

Chief Piland stated "I'd like to thank the City of Frisco for the opportunity to serve the community over the past nine-plus years. I am grateful for the ability to oversee such exponential growth and work with a dedicated group of firefighters and administration. I'm looking forward to this next chapter and wish the city well as it continues to strive for excellence for the community."

Assistant Chief Lee Glover will serve as Interim Fire Chief. Chief Glover has been with the department for more than thirty years and has served as Assistant Chief since 2009.

"Public safety is a top priority for me and our City Council," said Pierson. "I intend to be deliberate in the search for Frisco's next Fire Chief to make sure we find the right person to lead our department to the next level of service, building upon the city's reputation for excellence."

[News Flash • Frisco, TX • CivicEngage \(friscotexas.gov\)](#)

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## Secmation Adds Former Chief of Naval Research to Advisory Board

*(EIN 16 Sept 22)*

Secmation is excited and honored to announce the addition of retired Vice Admiral Mat Winter to Secmation's Advisory Board. Mat currently is the President of Winter Strategic Solutions, LLC and is a trusted Board Director/Advisor for several for-profit companies and non-profit organizations. Prior to starting his LLC business, he completed a distinguished 35+ year Navy career with his final two marquee leadership positions being the 24th Chief of Naval Research, where he led the Navy's Global Science and Technology Enterprise, and as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program Director, where he led a Global Enterprise with over \$30 billion annual budget and had significant responsibilities for both production and global sales of the world's most advanced 5th generation strike fighter. His formal technical and business education from the University of Notre Dame (BS ME), the **Naval Postgraduate School** (MS Computer Science) and the National Defense University (MS Natural Resource Strategy) underpins his extensive business and technology experiences at the highest levels of the public trust making him a perfect fit to help guide Secmation in achieving our near and long term profitability and strategic growth goals.

"Having Admiral Winter join Secmation's Advisory Board is an incredibly impactful and important step helping to ensure Secmation is continuously aligning itself to our customer's cybersecurity needs with Secmation's technology investment strategies, key partnerships, collaborations, and product development," said Secmation CEO Dr. Hal Aldridge. He continued, "Mat's vast and impressive Navy





career, coupled with multiple senior leadership roles and technology development experiences, make his addition to our Advisory Board immediately impactful on our growth strategies."

Secmation is a rapidly growing business headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, with extensive experience in cybersecurity, advanced encryption, security product development, and embedded security for unmanned systems. Secmation brings together 'SECurity' and 'autoMATION' to develop advanced technology solutions for the defense and commercial sectors. Visit Secmation's website to learn more or send a note to [info@secmation.com](mailto:info@secmation.com).

Admiral Winter joins Secmation's other Advisory Board member, Mr. Bill Irby, who joined the board earlier this year.

Welcome aboard, sir!

[Secmation adds former Chief of Naval Research to Advisory Board - EIN Presswire \(einnews.com\)](#)

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## **Retired U.S. Navy Captain H. Thomas Workman Named Director of BLM National Operations Center**

*(BLM 17 Sept 22)*

Bureau of Land Management Director Tracy Stone-Manning announced today that H. Thomas Workman has been selected as the director of the National Operations Center in Lakewood, Colorado.

As the director of the National Operations Center, Workman will oversee approximately 300 employees and contractors that provide operational and technical mission support to BLM staff and collaborators in the areas of financial management, human resources, geospatial services and land and natural resources management.

"As we continue to rebuild the BLM, having leadership posts filled is critical. That is why I am pleased to announce the appointment of H. Thomas Workman as the director of the National Operations Center," Stone-Manning said. "As a leader, his principal job will be to foster an operating environment where others can do great things, and his background and leadership experience will ensure the National Operation Center's continued success."

Workman, who begins his new position in mid-October, has worked in both the public and private sectors and has decades of experience in leading people, leading change, driving results, building coalitions and overall organization success.

During 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy, he commanded three warships and a Destroyer Squadron at sea. He also developed, resourced and implemented critical policy, personnel and budget objectives across the U.S. Navy's Surface Force ashore.

Workman holds Master of Science degrees in national security strategy from the National Defense University and in operations research from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the United States Naval Academy.

[Retired U.S. Navy Captain H. Thomas Workman Named Director of BLM National Operations Center | Bureau of Land Management](#)

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## **Welcome Aboard, Capt. Plew! NavalX has a New Director**

*(Navy.mil 17 Sept 22)*

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) held a change-of-office ceremony for NavalX, a partner organization within the command.

The ceremony welcomed new NavalX Director Capt. Casey Plew, who took the reins from Capt. Benjamin Van Buskirk. Vice Adm. Frank Morley, principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of



the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RDA), and Rear Adm. Lorin Selby, chief of naval research, attended the event.

“NavalX is a valuable component of ONR that inspires and empowers the naval workforce to rapidly deliver high-impact capabilities across the Department of Defense [DoD], by connecting them with stakeholders across the acquisition ecosystem and by leveraging the innovation pipeline,” said Selby.

“These stakeholders include the Naval Research and Development Establishment, the Department of the Navy [DoN] and partners in industry and academia.

“It is my pleasure to welcome Capt. Plew and to say thank you and well done to Capt. Van Buskirk,” he continued. “Capt. Van Buskirk has done an outstanding job in expanding the capabilities and growing the influence of NavalX, which has proven itself as a disruptive force for good within ONR and the DoN as a whole.”

NavalX serves the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps as an innovation and agility cell, supporting and connecting initiatives across the DoD. The organization enables collaboration; accelerates the pace of discovery, learning and experimentation; and fosters the naval workforce’s capacity for innovation and agility. It gives Sailors, Marines and DoN civilians valuable tools, training and resources for solving problems and translating ideas into actionable solutions.

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

One of NavalX’s most important methods for doing this is its Tech Bridge network, which spans 18 national and international locations. The network is designed to bridge the gap between the DoN and emerging entities like startups, small businesses, academia, nonprofits and private capital that aren’t traditionally part of the military development and acquisition process.

“Capt. Van Buskirk has done an outstanding job of taking NavalX from a start-up environment to an established organization with codified processes and procedures for innovation,” said Plew. “I look forward to building on the valuable work he’s done by using those processes to bolster innovation partnerships, find game-changing ideas and technologies, get them into requirements for acquisition, and ultimately deliver them as capabilities to warfighters.”

Prior to assuming the role of director, Plew was at NavalX supporting the transition and combining of the ASN RDA agility cell efforts with the ONR technology-acceleration cell efforts. Before that, he served as commanding officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, in Virginia.

Plew has a bachelor’s in history from Oregon State University, a master’s in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a master of business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

He succeeds Van Buskirk, a naval aviator with extensive experience in technology innovation.

During his tenure as NavalX director, Van Buskirk oversaw impressive growth, including expanding the Tech Bridge network to 18 locations. Most recently, the London Tech Bridge celebrated its grand opening in June.

Van Buskirk also led the transition of NavalX from a small, independent organization reporting to ASN RDA to an entity under ONR’s command structure. Though still small and reporting to ASN RDA, Van Buskirk said being a part of ONR gives NavalX a budget, the ability to hire people, and access to ONR’s legal and contracting departments.

“Capt. Plew is the ideal person to scale up NavalX and grow its capabilities within the acquisition world,” said Van Buskirk. “He has two decades of experience as an acquisition professional, has been a resource sponsor, has overseen large budgets and has served as commanding officer of a warfare center. He brings a valuable perspective that will help NavalX reach the next level.”

[Welcome Aboard, Capt. Plew! NavalX has a New Director > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

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