



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Apr 22- May 22, 2023

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RESEARCH:

[NPS, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Team Up for Department of the Navy’s Latest Climate Tabletop Exercise](#)

(Navy.mil 28 Apr 23) ... James Norket

(NPS.edu 28 Apr 23) ... James Norket

(Monterey Herald 28 Apr 23) ... Molly Gibbs

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted the second Department of the Navy (DON) Climate Tabletop Exercise (DON Climate Action II) in partnership with the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, April 27-28.

[What Should Governments Consider When Getting Involved with Blockchain?](#)

(Security Boulevard 25 Apr 23)

Last September, Principal Security Engineer Dr. Evan Sultanik was on a panel hosted by the **Naval Postgraduate School’s** Distributed Consensus: Blockchain & Beyond (DC:BB) movement, where faculty and students there are seeking opportunities to learn and share knowledge, research, funding, and events focused on distributed consensus technologies.

[Innovation Capstone Gives NPS Students a Pathway to Transition New Ideas to the Fleet](#)

(Navy.mil 9 May 23) ... Rosemary Mena-Werth

(DVIDS 9 May 23) ... Rosemary Mena-Werth

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is currently piloting a new innovation capstone opportunity for NPS’ warrior-scholar students to work with U.S. Navy sponsors on developing and transitioning their innovative ideas within the space of a year. Through practical experiential learning with an intentional focus on technology transition and adoption, NPS students will gain the ability to lead through uncertainty, as well as the knowledge and requisite skills to apply relevant technologies to solve operational problems.

[What the Eyes Can Tell Us About Brain Health](#)

(Psychology Today 12 May 23) ... Quinn Kennedy

Thanks to Shakespeare, most people are familiar with the eyes being attributed as “the windows to your soul.” It turns out that your eyes are also windows into some of your cognitive processes and your brain health...Research that my colleagues and I conducted at the Stanford VA Aviation Safety Lab and the **Naval Postgraduate School** indicates that our eye movements can tell us a lot about underlying cognitive strategies, especially for tasks like driving or flying a plane. We were able to distinguish novice and expert pilots simply based on their visual scan patterns while they “flew” in a flight simulator. Experts look where they need to look at exactly the moment when they need to make a decision. Visual scan patterns of novices are messy, indicating that they often don’t know what visual cues to use to help make decisions. We also were able to determine the strategies pilots used in confirming their current location and what features of the runway pilots relied on to decide whether or not to land a plane under foggy conditions.



EVENTS:

[NPS Acquisition Research Symposium Marks 20th Annual Event With Return to Monterey](#)

(Navy.mil 15 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs
(NPS.edu 15 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs

For the first time in four years, acquisition professionals from the government, academic and private sectors gathered in Monterey as the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted its 20th annual Acquisition Research Symposium, May 10-11. This year's event marked a return to in-person sessions after three years of virtual gatherings, offering nearly 800 registered attendees the chance to engage with senior officials from the DOD and Department of the Navy.

[Training a New Generation of Acquisition Professionals](#)

(Federal News Network 12 May 23) ... Alexandra Lohr

As the Pentagon moves to create novel ways of customizing acquisition to make the process faster and more agile, a new crop of acquisition professionals is learning their job and choosing what they learn based on specialization. At the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), aspiring contracting officers focus on the basics, and then they pick and choose based on what area of expertise they need...As the Pentagon moves to create novel ways of customizing acquisition to make the process faster and more agile, a new crop of acquisition professionals is learning their job and choosing what they learn based on specialization. At the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), aspiring contracting officers focus on the basics, and then they pick and choose based on what area of expertise they need...“If you haven't gone and seen online, all the courses and things that they put in, a new generation of training for the workforce, it's very, very impressive,” LaPlante said at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Acquisition Research Symposium Wednesday.

[DoD Needs More Commercially Available Goods to Speed Acquisition](#)

(Federal News Network 17 May 23) ... Alexandra Lohr

With shortages from production down through the supply chain, the Pentagon's acquisition leadership wants to close the gap by purchasing more commercially available products. To make that work, contracting officers must overcome not just buying issues but budget and planning issues.

Military acquisition professionals speaking at the **Acquisition Research Symposium in Monterey**, California said Thursday they need better ways to get commercial products, particularly those involving advanced technology, into the hands of service members. Some initiatives are helping move Defense acquisition toward commercial products, but more needs to be done.

[The Next War Will be Won by Industrial Base Strategy, Not Policy, Executed by the Workforce](#)

(EIN 17 May 23) ... NPS Foundation

The military and the private sector face many of the same workforce challenges — new technologies that require skilled expertise while also changing the very nature of work, manufacturing jobs that seem unappealing to 21st century workers, and tight budgets that limit options...At the 20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium hosted by the Acquisition Research Program at **Naval Postgraduate School** on May 10 and 11, leaders from the military, academia, and industry convened to discuss ongoing and future efforts to move forward strategically and collaboratively.

[Extra Credit: Design Challenge Recognizes Students For Innovative Climate Change Solutions](#)

(NPS.edu 22 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs

A total of 75 students representing 20 science classes and robotics teams from Monterey County high schools competed in the second annual Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Rapid Innovation Design Challenge, offering real-world local solutions to a national security imperative and global problem – climate change.



CAMPUS:

[Café Del Monte Grand Opening Hails New Experience in Dining](#)

(NPS.edu 3 May 23) ... Javier Chagoya

Ribbon cutting day for the new Café Del Monte finally arrived May 1, with music in the air and a balloon festooned archway adorning the café entrance in the newly constructed quad next to the Dudley Knox Library. An audience of about a hundred NPS students, faculty, staff and well-wishers were present to witness the grand-opening ceremony, emceed by Morale Welfare and Recreation Quality of Life Director Kyley Rhodus.

[Naval Postgraduate School Offers Public Input for Proposed Innovation Center](#)

(KSBW 17 May 23) ... Estevan Lopez

The Navy is preparing an environmental assessment to evaluate environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction of the **Naval Postgraduate School** Innovation Center.

STUDENTS:

[NUWC Keyport hosts Technical Talk advocating Innovation Opportunities for Our US Navy](#)

(DVIDS 25 Apr 23)

On March 17, innovators at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport united to participate in a technical talk (TechTalk) advocating innovation opportunities for our U.S. Navy to improve readiness and reliability. The event was a success, with 50-plus in-person and virtual attendees gathering to gain valuable insights into the latest emerging technologies and provide a conduit for further innovation and collaboration, in order to tackle the NUWC vision to expand the Navy's undersea advantage... This TechTalk was a culmination of efforts completed by a cohort of students in collaboration with the **Naval Postgraduate School** as part of their "Advocating Emerging Technologies" course requirements. This course offered NUWC's technology professionals strategic skills for communicating specialized technical concepts and subject matter expertise. It aimed to transform subject matter expertise in a technical arena into communication that is immediately accessible to a non-technical audience.

FACULTY:

[Analysis: Calls for South Korean Nuclear Arsenal Unlikely to Fade Despite US Deal](#)

(Reuters 27 Apr 23) ... Josh Smith

The United States granted South Korea a larger role in planning for a potential nuclear war with North Korea, but that will probably not ease doubts over U.S. defence commitments that have fuelled calls for a South Korean nuclear arsenal, experts said..."South Korea joins a small club of countries who used the mere threat of acquiring atomic weapons to wrest concessions from the United States," Tristan Volpe of the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California said in a post on Twitter.

[4th Annual Information Awards Dinner Recognize Superior Performance in the Information Environment](#)

(Marines.mil 28 Apr 23) ... Gregory Carroll

The Marine Corps Association fourth annual Information Awards Dinner, administered by the Deputy Commandant for Information, recognized Marines, civilian and units from around the Corps for their superior performance, making an impact in the information environment, April. 20, 2023... During Gen. Berger's remarks he announced the establishment of the Lt. Col. Kevin M. Shea USMC Chair for Information at **Naval Postgraduate School**. The new formalized agreement between DC I and NPS is named after the former NPS graduate and Marine Corps communications officer killed Sept 14, 2004 while deployed with Regimental Combat Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The newly established chair will serve as the lead in research furthering DC I priorities in the information environment by aligning people, process and technology in support of larger Marine Corps initiatives.



[ADA University hosts “Shaping the Geopolitics of the Greater Eurasia: from Past to Present to Future” International Conference](#)

(Azer Tac 5 May 23)

The 4th international conference on “Shaping the Geopolitics of the Greater Eurasia: from Past to Present to Future” has been held at ADA University, Baku, bringing together up to 40 representatives from more than 30 countries. The conference was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev... The second session of the conference, moderated by Professor of the US **Naval Postgraduate School**, United States Brenda Shaffer, featured remarks by former US Ambassador to Azerbaijan, former co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Uzbekistan Sodyq Safoev, former Georgian Ambassador to the US and Canada Tedo Japaridze, former Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Bolat Nurgaliev and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the US Department of State David A. Merkel.

[How Improving Access to PCI Affects Heart Attack Outcomes](#)

(Cardiovascular Business 5 May 23) ... Michael Walter

Improving access to percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is directly associated with better outcomes for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients in a majority of U.S. markets, according to new data published in JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions.[1] The one exception to this rule is markets where PCI is already readily available.

“To date, no studies have evaluated the proliferation of PCI centers to determine how PCI center openings (and conversely, closures) have affected outcomes for patients with AMI, nor has the literature established whether there have been differential effects for patients in communities that already had high PCI capacity at baseline compared with those in average-capacity PCI markets,” wrote first author Yu-Chu Shen, PhD, a professor of economics with the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, and colleagues. “This research is necessary because the introduction of additional PCI services in high-capacity PCI markets could reduce per-hospital PCI volume, which has been associated with poorer outcomes.”

[‘Jeopardy! Masters’ Episode 2: Amy Schneider Drops to Fifth Overall](#)

(Dayton 9 May 23) ... Russell Florence

On Tuesday’s episode of “Jeopardy! Masters,” Dayton native Amy Schneider finished second during the first game but ranks fifth overall.

Schneider, a writer from Oakland, California, faced Sam Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** from Pacific Grove, California, and Mattea Roach, a writer and podcaster from Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

[SIAM Student Chapter Conference Showcases Math Students from Around Region and Coast](#)

(UC Merced 9 May 23) ... Jacqueline Alvarez and Jocelyn Ornelas

After a three-year hiatus, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Student Chapter from UC Merced held its fifth annual Central Valley regional conference on campus.

The UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter hosted the mid-April conference in the Dr. Vikram and Priya Lakireddy Grand Ballroom, where undergraduate and graduate students from universities in the Central Valley and the central coast gathered with faculty. Attending schools included UCs Davis and Santa Cruz, California State universities Fresno and Stanislaus and the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[What the U.S. Can Teach Ukraine About Misplaced Revenge](#)

(Time 15 May 23) ... Zachary Shore

Flag of Ukraine flutters on a flagpole above a residential district at sunset on May 5, 2023 in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Now Russian military focuses its assault on the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow had supported a separatist movement since 2014. In Kramatorsk, 50 kilometers from the front-line, Ukrainian soldiers can meet with their relatives and loved ones who arrive to the city by train.

Shore is professor of history at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Senior Fellow at UC Berkeley’s Institute of European Studies, and a National Security Visiting Fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution. He is the author of, *This Is Not Who We Are: America’s Struggle Between Vengeance and Virtue*. The views expressed are those of the author alone and do not represent those of the Naval Postgraduate School, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.



ALUMNI:

[Schenevus Students Enjoy Surprise Visit](#)

(All Otsego 21 Apr 23)

On Friday, April 21, Schenevus Central School students and staff waited eagerly outside as two Navy helicopters arrived and landed on the softball field... Remaining in Pensacola for flight training, Mravlja earned his Naval Aviator Wings in December 2005. In January of 2006, he reported to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 2 “Fleet Angels” for initial fleet training as a MH-60S pilot. He later earned his Master’s Degree in executive business management from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and has been deployed to Bahrain, Haiti, and Japan.

[American, South Korean Nuclear Teams Improve Interoperability on Korean Peninsula](#)

(U.S. Army 26 Apr 23) ... Walter Ham

Highly specialized nuclear teams from the United States and South Korea strengthened their interoperability during NDT-NCT Partnership VIII on the Korean Peninsula, March 20 – 24... An Afghanistan veteran from Granada Hills, California, Alcaide earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Cal State Northridge and a master’s degree in information operations from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He said his passion for math and science led him to become a U.S. Army Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction officer (FA 52).

[GM Board Of Directors Nominates Vice Admiral Jan Tighe](#)

(GM Authority 28 Apr 23) ... Trey Hawkins

General Motors recently announced that Vice Admiral Jan Tighe – a former U.S. Navy Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare and Director of Naval Intelligence – has been recommended by the GM Board of Directors to stand for election.

Set to take place at The General’s annual shareholder meeting on June 20th, 2023, Tighe has spent more than 34 years working with the U.S. Navy and National Security Agency as a cryptologist before retiring in 2018. Over the course of her career, Tighe served as Fleet Commander of the U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. 10th Fleet, U.S. Cyber Command deputy director of operations, and president of the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Rear Admiral in San Diego Set to Take Over as Chief of Naval Research](#)

(Times of San Diego 1 May 23)

(Patch 1 May 23)

A rear admiral assigned to Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, San Diego will move on to become chief of naval research, defense officials have announced... The native of New York City received his commission in 1992 upon graduating from the University of South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He also earned a Master of Science in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Software Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Hall of Fame Astronaut Michael López-Alegría Named Recipient of Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award](#)

(EIN 1 May 23)

Decorated astronaut Michael López-Alegría has been selected by the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day Planning Committee as the recipient of the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award. Members of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community will honor López-Alegría during the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day (WSD) on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Named for the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the Ronald Brown Award recognizes demonstrated leadership in promoting the important role of standardization in eliminating global barriers to trade... López-Alegría earned a B.S. in systems engineering at the United States Naval Academy and an M.S. in aeronautical engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Program for senior executives in national and international security.

[Sole Active-Duty Marine Brings Operational Planning Expertise to the JTF-SD](#)

(DVIDS 1 May 23) ... Bridget Bonnette

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Benjamin Tuck, special technical operations chief for the Joint Task Force-Space Defense, is the sole active-duty Marine in the organization who brings critical operations planning knowledge and strategy to the protect-and-defend mission... After earning a master’s degree in computer science with a focus in



cyber warfare and space systems from **Naval Postgraduate School**, and completing Naval War College where he studied operational art, Tuck was a perfect fit for the JTF-SD. In 2021, Tuck arrived here and began applying his unique skillsets directly to the space domain.

[NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman, Commander of the Artemis 2 Moon Mission](#)

(Space 4 May 23) ... Elizabeth Howell

Reid Wiseman is a NASA astronaut that will command the first human moon mission since 1972...Wiseman was born in Baltimore and graduated from Dulaney High School in 1993, according to his NASA biography(opens in new tab). He earned a bachelor of science degree in computer and systems engineering at New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1997 and has two post-graduate certifications: a master of science in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University, and a certificate of space systems from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[New Marine Chief Rojas Assumes Post](#)

(GMA 10 may 23)

Major General Arturo Rojas has assumed his post as the new commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), the naval infantry force said Wednesday...Major General Arturo Rojas has assumed his post as the new commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), the naval infantry force said Wednesday...Rojas earned a Master of Science in Defense Analysis from the US **Naval Postgraduate School** in California in 2004 and Master in Public Management Major in Department and Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines in 2011.

[West Orange Native and Astronaut Senator Mark Kelly Inducted into U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame](#)

(Tap Into 9 May 23)

On May 6, Veteran NASA astronaut and West Orange native Senator Mark Kelly was inducted into the 24th class of honorees in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, and fellow astronaut Major General Roy D. Bridgers, Jr., was inducted that day as well. They were honored for their outstanding accomplishments in furthering NASA's mission of exploration and discovery. 107 astronauts are now in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame...He earned his bachelor's degree in marine engineering and nautical science from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and later a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Steven Barriger Appointed Chief of Staff for B.R.A.K.E.S. National Teen Defensive Driving Program](#)

(PR Newswire 11 may 23)

The B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe) national teen defensive driving program today announces the appointment of Steven Barriger to the newly created position of Chief of Staff...Mr. Barriger joins B.R.A.K.E.S. after spending nearly 28 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, where held numerous officer-level positions. Most recently, he spent five years as the Director, Commander's Action Group for Marine Corps Forces in Europe and Africa. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School For National Security and Resource Strategy, as well as a Master of Science in Systems Technology from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[NSWC Philadelphia Division Highlights Contract Specialist during Asian American Pacific Islanders \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#)

(DVIDS 17 May 23) ... Gary Ell

Derek Diep, a proud first generation Chinese American, born and raised in Philadelphia's Chinatown, serves as a Contract Specialist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division (NSWCPD), supporting a variety of total life cycle "cradle-to-grave" contracts that directly support the Machinery Research, Logistics & Ship Integrity and Propulsion Department, as well as Power & Auxiliary Machinery Systems Department...Diep earned a Master's of Science in in Program Management (MSPM) from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2021. He also achieved the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level II Certification for Systems Planning, Research, Development & Engineering - Science and Technology.



[From Monterey to the Moon: Astronaut Victor Glover Discusses His Part in the Artemis II Mission](#)

(KAZU 19 May 23) ... Jonathan Linden

When NASA's Victor Glover heads to the moon, he will make history as the first Black astronaut to take part in a lunar mission. Glover is a Southern California native, and graduate of Monterey's **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[American Public University System Appoints U.S. Army Lieutenant General David Halverson \(Retired\) to Board of Trustees](#)

(Yahoo Finance! 22 May 23)

American Public University System (APUS) today announced that U.S. Army LTG (R) David D. Halverson has been appointed to its Board of Trustees. An experienced strategic leader, Halverson is Chairman and CEO of Cypress International, a consulting firm focused on defense and homeland security... Halverson holds a Master's Degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**. He earned his commission and a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and also graduated from the Kenan-Flagler Business School's Executive Development Program at the University of North Carolina.

[Babson No. 1 in Producing Highest Proportion of Business Leaders](#)

(Entrepreneurship 22 May 23)

Babson College produces the highest proportion of business leaders, earning the No. 1 ranking among U.S. colleges in a new analysis by Resume.io...As the No. 1 school, Babson leads a top 10 list that includes four military academies—**Naval Postgraduate School**, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy—as well as schools such as Stanford, MIT, and Princeton.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

May 25: Seapower Conversation: Reflections on Navy Strategy & Force Design

May 29: Memorial Day (Federal Holiday)

June 1: [Spring Graduation Awards Ceremony](#)

June 16: [Spring Graduation Ceremony](#)

June 19: Juneteenth (Federal Holiday)



RESEARCH:

NPS, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Team Up for Department of the Navy's Latest Climate Tabletop Exercise

(Navy.mil 28 Apr 23) ... James Norket

(NPS.edu 28 Apr 23) ... James Norket

(Monterey Herald 28 Apr 23) ... Molly Gibbs

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted the second Department of the Navy (DON) Climate Tabletop Exercise (DON Climate Action II) in partnership with the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, April 27-28.

The tabletop exercise convened participants from the Department of Defense, federal agencies, Congress, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to generate solutions in support of DON's comprehensive climate strategy, "Climate Action 2030," and broader sustainability goals. Under a recently realized academic partnership, NPS and the Doerr School will pursue identified solution sets in order to provide concrete actions and outcomes to advance the DON's climate priorities and sustainability initiatives.

"For the Department of the Navy, climate readiness is mission readiness: it makes us better warfighters," said Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment (EI&E) and the Navy's Chief Sustainment Officer. "Our installations – whether at home or abroad – are where warfighting begins, our power projection platforms. We exercised elements and generated actions that ensure that these platforms are survivable and that the coastal communities that we call home are just as resilient."

During the two-day event, participants concentrated on three focus areas – water security, energy security, and coastal resilience – and briefed their results to a group of senior leaders including Berger, NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau, and Dr. Arun Majumdar, dean of the Doerr School of Sustainability.

The six exercise teams – two for each focus area – worked to identify problem statements, challenges, and specific solutions. A common outcome among all team members was a deeper resolve, commitment to action and further collaboration.

Each team also spoke to the need to lowering barriers to establish and strengthen partnerships between DOD, industry, academia and civic leaders to leverage the combined talents and resources towards a shared goal of protecting our communities and people. The senior evaluation group committed to supporting these efforts and the applied research necessary to inform purposeful solution development with new incentives to stimulate investments.

Additionally, 90 days from the conclusion of the exercise, NPS will coordinate a plan of action and milestones across participant stakeholders on how to accomplish the following solutions identified during the exercise:

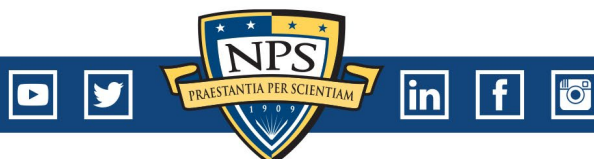
Establish a partnership agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Port of San Diego to add the sharing of data and testing to improve climate resilience using the Port's Blue Economy project.

Ensure installations have personnel identified to develop, manage, and advance their water policies with a focus on looking across the fenceline and viewing water as a shared resource.

Develop a master plan framework that directly connects climate risk with readiness and mission assurance.

"The direction we have received from the President and our nation's defense leadership is clear – climate action is a national security imperative," said Rondeau. "Our future Navy and Marine Corps warfighters must be prepared to address and account for the effects of climate change in their operational planning. Here at NPS, we are proud to work with the Doerr School of Sustainability to address these challenges and seek out climate solutions that will benefit not only the Department of the Navy, but our nation as a whole."

The collaborative effort involving DON leadership and two prominent California educational institutions is the latest example of the Navy's commitment to pursue climate-informed solutions.



In May 2022, the Navy released “Climate Action 2030,” building on a decades-long foundation of climate action, and setting the DON on a course to meet national and global targets to reduce the threat of climate change. In this strategy, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro identified climate change as “one of the most destabilizing forces of our time, exacerbating other national security concerns and posing serious readiness challenges.” He charged the DON with building a climate-ready force by increasing climate resilience and reducing the climate threat.

One month later, the Navy held its first Climate Tabletop Exercise in Washington, D.C., examining the impacts of climate change on Navy and Marine Corps missions, readiness, and warfighting capacity.

DON Climate Action II not only built upon the outcomes and lessons learned from the inaugural effort, it also capitalized on the Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) between NPS and the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, finalized in December 2022. Faculty from both institutions came together during the exercise to focus on coastal resilience and operational readiness in a world impacted by climate change.

“Building solutions to the challenges of climate change depends on turning knowledge and innovation into impactful solutions,” said Majumdar. “This tabletop exercise – along with the broader collaboration between Stanford University and the U.S. Navy – allows us to identify the connections and gaps in our knowledge. It then provides a forum for taking this wealth of insights, data, and information and laying the groundwork for solutions that make a difference.”

Berger is visiting NPS as part of a series of visits across the country from Earth Day to Arbor Day to demonstrate the work of the Department of the Navy and the EI&E portfolio to highlight the importance of Communities, Climate Action, and Critical Infrastructure.

The Naval Postgraduate School provides defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service. For additional information, visit NPS online at <http://www.nps.edu>.

[NPS, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Team Up for Department of the Navy’s Latest Climate Tabletop Exercise > United States Navy > News Stories](#)

[NPS, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Team Up for Department of the Navy's Latest Climate Tabletop Exercise - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[National leaders gather at NPS to problem-solve climate change issues – Monterey Herald](#)

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What Should Governments Consider When Getting Involved with Blockchain?

(Security Boulevard 25 Apr 23)

Last September, Principal Security Engineer Dr. Evan Sultanik was on a panel hosted by the **Naval Postgraduate School’s** Distributed Consensus: Blockchain & Beyond (DC:BB) movement, where faculty and students there are seeking opportunities to learn and share knowledge, research, funding, and events focused on distributed consensus technologies.

The panel of nine government, academia, and industry experts discussed how blockchains, digital assets, and other Web3 technologies intersect with national security challenges. Dr. Sultanik discussed how the U.S. could help push global adoption and take a broader strategic outlook toward blockchain and Web3 technologies.

He talked about the inherent limitations of blockchain technologies and the Web3 movement and also offered suggestions from a training perspective that could lead to a more robust ecosystem. We’ve summarized the most important parts of that discussion here.

What are the some important things to consider when using blockchain technologies for a project?

It’s fundamental to better understand the tradeoffs one must make when using a blockchain and its security implications. Everyone at this point is aware that using a blockchain has significant additional



overhead in terms of deployment and the cost of interacting with smart contracts. The cost gradually decreases with the transitions to the new forms of consensus and higher-level protocols, but there's still a significant difference.

You have to realize that all data stored on a public blockchain is publicly available. Anyone can look through the entire history of each account or contract and understand the implications of those actions. You need to do something additional to ensure its privacy if that's a requirement of your system.

The majority of participants in a public blockchain are untrusted. You are shifting trust from what would otherwise be a central authority to other entities that you may or may not have control over. You're not only trusting the developers of the smart contracts that your system is interacting with, but you're also inherently trusting the developers of the technology stack running that particular blockchain. You're trusting the node software, the mining hardware, the mining software, the mining pool protocol, and everything else down the line. A bug in any one piece of that stack can cause the whole thing to collapse.

Blockchains allow developers to prototype new ideas quickly. You don't have to worry about things like setting up infrastructure, and you don't have to worry much about DevOps because that's all handled by the blockchain itself. That allows you to significantly reduce the time between when an idea is created and when it is in the users' hands. But that cycle also comes with risk because a tight development cycle can lead to poorly tested or designed protocols or sloppy development, leading to bugs with significant consequences, like being a big target for attackers.

Another thing that makes DeFi, blockchain, and Web3 so appealing is that you can prototype quickly and instantly connect your application to the whole ecosystem. Since the blockchain acts as a huge shared database, contracts and assets created by competitors can be made to interact with each other in ways that would be disincentivized if implemented on a traditional centralized platform.

This composition does come at a price. It's difficult to reason about the system because you suddenly must understand all the different contracts that created these tokens. It's different code in each case. And your code suddenly interacts with the whole universe of code on the blockchain. So, you must be mindful of all these other externalities and third-party components your app might interact with.

We've seen this complexity play out recently with new types of financial instruments and technology that have become available, particularly on Ethereum, such as flash loans or maximum extractable value, which are really deep technical concepts. Still, millions of dollars have been lost because a bunch of different DeFi apps are composed in a single transaction in a way that none intended to be composed.

Computer scientist Leslie Lamport wrote in 1987, "A distributed system is one in which the failure of a computer you didn't even know existed can render your computer unusable." This is still true today and will always be true in blockchains.

Should the U.S. care about blockchain technologies, and if so, what's the best application for the government?

It's a matter of national security that the U.S. government gets involved with blockchains: Other than perhaps lost tax revenue, Uncle Sam doesn't really care if you lose your Bitcoin. But Uncle Sam should care if North Korea steals it. U.S. adversaries are already exploiting these technologies to circumvent sanctions and undermine our markets.

It's more productive to ask, "Can blockchain and Web3 technologies ever be made secure? If so, how?" The U.S. government needs to foster research and innovation to answer this question to stay relevant and remain a world leader in distributed ledger technology.

How should the U.S. handle the training regimen needed in the Web3 space?

There is a large need to change how we educate the incoming workforce because traditional software development expertise does not directly translate into Web3. I have friends who don't have a background in computer science, yet they learned one programming language, wrote a mobile app, and are now millionaires. They don't have any technical knowledge of what a phone is doing, how iOS or Android is running, or how the hardware works. They just needed to know that one programming language, and that was sufficient for them to build something very popular and effective.



That isn't true for Web3. Knowing the entire stack is helpful when creating smart contracts, because you need to understand the compiler that you're using. You need to understand the virtual machine that's running. You need to understand byzantine, fault-tolerant, and consensus protocols. You should understand zero-knowledge proofs or zk-SNARKs. You should understand all of these esoteric technologies, and very few experts know any of them, let alone all of them. You need to be an expert in them to avoid all the pitfalls and footguns.

We need policies incentivizing people to enter the workforce with these necessary skills. At Trail of Bits, we've developed a blockchain security apprenticeship because finding people with all the necessary skills is difficult in this competitive market. Some security people know how to analyze a C++ program or a mobile app, but they have no idea about blockchain. And then you have blockchain people who have no background in security. So we developed this in-house program.

For mobile app stores, there has always been a low barrier to entry for people looking to get involved in the app economy. With Web3, that doesn't seem to be the case, yet there is a lot of activity in this space. What more needs to be done to bring developers to a level where blockchain is mature from a security perspective, and what entities or organizations should lead that effort?

The barrier to entry is surprisingly low for Web3, too, which is part of the problem: Web3 development toolchains have been modeled after familiar toolchains from traditional app development. Developer friendliness has been prioritized at the expense of security. We need to modernize and improve the tooling to flip the balance of that prioritization.

Conclusion

It's not enough for governments to only express interest in securing blockchain technologies. Real, purposeful investments need to be made. Beyond the design of secure architectures, languages, compilers, and protocols, these investments should also include educating a robust workforce to meet tomorrow's Web3 demands.

If you're considering whether a blockchain might be the solution to a problem you're trying to solve, we recommend our operational risk assessment titled, "Do You Really Need a Blockchain?" This will give you a thorough look into the advantages and risks you may be taking.

Finally, if you would like to hear more from the other experts on the panel about blockchain technologies and national security, you can view the discussion in its entirety at: <https://nps.edu/web/nps-video-portal/-/blockchain-research-opportunities-for-nps-students-and-faculty>.

[What should governments consider when getting involved with blockchain? - Security Boulevard](#)

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Innovation Capstone Gives NPS Students a Pathway to Transition New Ideas to the Fleet

(Navy.mil 9 May 23) ... Rosemary Mena-Werth

(DVIDS 9 May 23) ... Rosemary Mena-Werth

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is currently piloting a new innovation capstone opportunity for NPS' warrior-scholar students to work with U.S. Navy sponsors on developing and transitioning their innovative ideas within the space of a year. Through practical experiential learning with an intentional focus on technology transition and adoption, NPS students will gain the ability to lead through uncertainty, as well as the knowledge and requisite skills to apply relevant technologies to solve operational problems.

Moving concepts from idea to impact is ultimately how innovation will be judged. The Innovation Capstone Project (ICP) is a new program that enables interdisciplinary student teams with varied technical research and acquisitions backgrounds to collaborate on a project to meet a capability requirement. Together, the teams prepare and move proposals to a point where they're pitching their capstone ideas to a panel of military, industry and acquisitions experts. Those with the most compelling



solutions and transition plans will be selected to move forward into the next phase of rapid prototyping and development with the acquisition community.

Raymond Jones, chair of the Department of Defense Management (DDM), is currently working with four pilot capstone teams. His pilot program is giving these teams the opportunity to move beyond a thesis to expose these students to the entire innovation cycle. Jones sees innovation as a skill set that is best learned through working on real-life projects in collaboration with command sponsors.

“The point of this capstone is to take all the great work being done around the NPS campus and put it into a pathway that moves it forward. Think of it like ‘Shark Tank’ for the Navy,” said Jones, referring to the popular TV show where contestants pitch their business ideas to investors. “We are developing our military students’ ability to lead innovation informed by their operational experience and transition their good ideas to solve real operational problems.”

Effective solutions must involve the fleet – and increasingly, partners in industry, where much of today’s technology innovation is occurring.

Last year the Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, directed the establishment of a Naval Innovation Center at NPS, “right in the heart of our nation’s leading technology corridor.” Said Del Toro: “This will serve as a premier military education facility tailored to innovation and experimentation, serving as a technology resource for Navy and Marine Corps warfighting development commands, as well as a go-to partner of the defense industrial base, the technology sector, and academia.”

NPS is one of 24 naval centers of innovation – and the only one that has a defense research university mission and is a designated defense laboratory. Dr. Kevin Smith, NPS Vice Provost for Research, leads the Office of Research and Innovation, where he is working with Jones to integrate the ICP into the Navy’s broader research and development community.

“NPS has long offered deep faculty expertise in defense academic research, often co-developed with our students, which fuels the education and innovation at NPS,” said Smith. “What’s needed is the bridge that connects the NPS ecosystem of students, faculty and industry partners directly to the naval acquisition community’s decision-makers to speed transition. This new Innovation Capstone Project will enable that to happen.”

The ICP is the final phase of the innovation operating concept at NPS that notionally begins with the annual year-long campaign of analysis called the Warfare Innovation Continuum (WIC), centered on a single overarching naval warfighting theme. This year’s theme was the Future Hybrid Force.

From the WIC, students and faculty research ideas are often further developed, some through Naval Innovation Exchange teams that will involve industry partners to create minimum viable products and can also be tested in operationally relevant environments.

Too often, said Jones, defense capabilities are designed and engineered in a lab without consideration of real-world application or the complex defense acquisition and management processes needed to develop and deliver technical solutions to the warfighter. Jones sees the ICP’s integrated approach as a catalyst for accelerating innovation.

“We’re creating a framework that allows all of these ideas – regardless of the department or curriculum initiating them – to be supported by teams that can move them forward quickly,” Jones continued.

Integrating acquisition expertise throughout the development process creates more realistically-deliverable outcomes, and expedites the speed at which innovations can be deployed. Connecting technical and acquisition expertise is key to bridging the infamous “valley of death” – a term that acknowledges the lengthy timelines from shifting prototypes into funded programs of record that can move into production.

Key to success is the step-by-step capstone approach, where real requirements are matched with ideas emerging from the WIC as well as direct fleet input through the Naval Warfare Studies Institute at NPS. Over the first three months of the ICP, the students go through courses focused on innovation and then prepare a proposal for the first checkpoint.

The capstone proposal extends beyond normal student thesis requirements in that it must include an acquisition strategy. Their proposal is put in front of a mixed panel that can include faculty who determine if it meets departmental standards; naval officers who will decide if the proposal meets



operational needs; and Program Executive Officers (PEOs) from the acquisition community, who in this process are the Navy's "Shark Tank venture capitalists." In this case, they are determining not just payoff, but the potential to meet warfighting needs aligned to critical enabling capabilities identified in the CNO's Navigation Plan (NAVPLAN).

To support the development of these acquisition strategies, many students at NPS in DDM take advantage of the Acquisition Research Program (ARP), now in its 20th year of connecting researchers at NPS to defense procurement officials and the larger acquisition innovation ecosystem. ARP provides a core competency in acquisition for ICP teams to leverage, making students' projects better informed to meet acquisition gateways as they collaborate with industry.

Jones looks to small companies that don't always have the resources or experience to take part in large DOD projects and see the value in working directly with NPS student teams facilitated through Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs). NPS has nearly 40 industry CRADAs addressing relevant research and technology needs.

The second and last checkpoint is the final ICP review board. The inaugural board will take place this November, when Jones will invite the Secretary of the Navy and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RD&A) to join a panel of NPS faculty and industry partners. They will be evaluating capstone projects focused on autonomous system networking.

As the DDM Innovation Capstone progresses past its pilot phase, Jones plans to host these final reviews twice a year, in May and November. This will create a cycle of opportunities for NPS to produce minimum viable products that can transition into Navy Program Offices at an increasing rate.

"A lot of people look at this and ask, 'Where do you do the innovation?'" said Jones. "This whole process that moves ideas forward is innovation. It is a pathway that converges different departments, industry, and those PEOs that can fund a product and move it past the so-called valley of death.

"With this Innovation Capstone, we can teach students about innovation, connect departments across campus, support industries who want to work with the DOD, and ultimately provide the Navy with a real product to support their efforts," he added.

NPS education, research and innovation develops warfighters and warfighting solutions. Graduates return to operational forces with the knowledge and skills to excel in their primary warfighting duties, and as innovation leaders ensuring intellectual and technological advantage.

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[DVIDS - News - Innovation Capstone Gives NPS Students a Pathway to Transition New Ideas to the Fleet \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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What the Eyes Can Tell Us About Brain Health

(Psychology Today 12 May 23) ... Quinn Kennedy

Thanks to Shakespeare, most people are familiar with the eyes being attributed as "the windows to your soul." It turns out that your eyes are also windows into some of your cognitive processes and your brain health.

Where you look tells scientists how you think

Research that my colleagues and I conducted at the Stanford VA Aviation Safety Lab and the **Naval Postgraduate School** indicates that our eye movements can tell us a lot about underlying cognitive strategies, especially for tasks like driving or flying a plane. We were able to distinguish novice and expert pilots simply based on their visual scan patterns while they "flew" in a flight simulator. Experts look where they need to look at exactly the moment when they need to make a decision. Visual scan patterns of novices are messy, indicating that they often don't know what visual cues to use to help make decisions. We also were able to determine the strategies pilots used in confirming their current location



and what features of the runway pilots relied on to decide whether or not to land a plane under foggy conditions.

In these studies, eye movements were measured while participants performed complex, real-world tasks. However, even basic eye movements, such as following a dot across a screen, can inform us of the current status of our brain health. Dorion Liston, a vision scientist and the CEO of neuroFit, explains that “the ability to process and perceive visual motion can be read out in your eye movements. On the one hand, the brain circuits that process motion are subject to disruption due to neuropathological conditions, such as traumatic brain injury or mild cognitive impairment. On the more positive side, eye movements also can inform when brain circuits are working well. Similar to a muscle, the brain circuitry can strengthen over time.”

Vision loss is linked to cognitive impairment

Unfortunately, visual impairment increases the risk for cognitive decline and dementia for older adults. One study concluded that poor vision may have led to up to 100,000 cases of dementia in the United States. Varshini Varadaraj, a research associate at John Hopkins Disability Health Research Center, and her colleagues recently conducted a seven-year longitudinal study that found “worse vision (measured in three different ways) was associated with more rapid cognitive decline. Specifically, worse visual acuity and depth perception impairment were associated with greater declines in language and memory, whereas worse contrast sensitivity was associated with declines in language, memory, attention, and visuospatial ability. These findings suggest that patterns of cognitive decline in older adults may differ by the type of vision loss they may experience, with impaired contrast sensitivity being associated with a wider range of cognitive decrement.”

Why is vision loss associated with cognitive impairment?

According to Varadaraj, there are several possible reasons why visual impairment is associated with cognitive decline. “The ‘common cause pathway’ or having a shared pathology underlying both vision and cognitive impairments,” such as nerve or vascular disease, is a possibility. Alternatively, the “sensory loss consequence pathway,” where vision loss may be associated with cognitive decline through conditions known to affect cognition, such as depression, social isolation, decreased engagement in cognitively stimulating activities, and increased cognitive load due to the greater dedication of cognitive resources to visual processing, may be another. “In truth, a combination of these mechanisms likely contributes to the greater cognitive decline noted in older adults with vision loss.”

Common sense tips that help your eyes and your brain

Happily, several of the recommendations from the National Eye Institute designed for eye health also help out your brain:

- See your ophthalmologist regularly. Correcting poor vision with glasses or getting cataract surgery reduces the risk for cognitive impairment. Regular eye visits also can help prevent diabetic eye disease through early detection. A recent study concluded that one of the easiest ways to reduce your risk of dementia is by correcting poor vision.
- Eat a healthy diet. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends regularly consuming green leafy vegetables, fish, and fruit to provide the nutrients that your eyes need. By including these foods in your diet, you are also protecting your brain. For example, the MIND diet is aligned with the American Academy of Ophthalmology dietary recommendations and has been shown to slow down the rate of cognitive decline and reduce your risk for dementia.
- Exercise. Cardiovascular exercise can help manage chronic health conditions, such as diabetes. Diabetes can damage the vessels in the retina, leading to visual impairment and, in some cases, even blindness. Diabetes also increases the risk of dementia. Early detection of diabetes and management of blood glucose can help reduce your risk for both vision

problems and cognitive impairment. Even if you don't have diabetes, studies have found that regular exercise can help maintain good cognitive function over time.

Telma Barseghian, O.D. of Blink Optometry, agrees. "As part of a healthy lifestyle which includes diet and exercise, annual comprehensive eye examinations are also very important. In fact, the eyes are one of the few organs which can be examined non-invasively and yet they provide a deep understanding of a patient's overall health. For example, many systemic conditions can manifest in the eyes even before patients are aware they have them. These include hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, and even some types of cancer."

Our eyes tell us much more than just where we are looking. They provide valuable insights into our thoughts and underlying brain health. As Barseghian puts it, "Our eyes are part of our body, so when we improve our overall health, our eyes reap the benefits as well." The next time you visit your eye doctor or go for a brisk walk, give yourself a pat on the back for doing something that's good for your eyes and for your brain.

[What the Eyes Can Tell Us About Brain Health | Psychology Today](#)

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EVENTS:

NPS Acquisition Research Symposium Marks 20th Annual Event With Return to Monterey

(Navy.mil 15 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs

(NPS.edu 15 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs

For the first time in four years, acquisition professionals from the government, academic and private sectors gathered in Monterey as the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) hosted its 20th annual Acquisition Research Symposium, May 10-11. This year's event marked a return to in-person sessions after three years of virtual gatherings, offering nearly 800 registered attendees the chance to engage with senior officials from the DOD and Department of the Navy.

Co-hosted by NPS' Acquisition Research Program (ARP) and the Naval Warfare Studies Institute (NWSI), the symposium provided an invaluable opportunity for NPS faculty and students, as well as other attendees from academia and industry, to experience a wide range of perspectives from leaders in the defense acquisition domain.

"I've come to this event as a researching practitioner, writing papers and giving presentations to both improve the business of acquisition, but also to stretch the things that I want to investigate and see different," said Nickolas Guertin, the Department of Defense's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) and one of the event's keynote speakers. "This time I came because I wanted to give back to a venue that has been of great value to me."

Guertin, who has attended and presented at the Acquisition Research Symposium for more than a decade, was joined this year by a number of DOD and DON senior leaders, including U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Francis Morley, Principal Military Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (RD&A), and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Bassett, director of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA).

Remote participation was also offered as an option for attendees and speakers, including William LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, who delivered the symposium's kickoff address. During his remarks, LaPlante brought up a major theme of the symposium – the continued importance of research and analytics to inform decision-making and fuel innovation in the defense acquisitions process.

"What are the production rates? Are the production rates truly going up? How are we fixing the supply chain? Data-driven analytics on all those things is sorely needed," said LaPlante. For him and



others, this data is important to help DOD better understand and optimize its relationship with industry partners that provide many of the United States' warfighting capabilities.

Speaking from his perspective in the testing and evaluation realm, Guertin echoed LaPlante's sentiments, encouraging members of the acquisition community to use their skills and the tools at their disposal to tackle the big issues – not just those facing the T&E world, but in other research and development areas within DOD.

“We want to be a part of it – that changing dynamic landscape. We want to be customers of acquisition research,” said Guertin. “And we must engage these changing practices from the position of informed research – which you can help us with – that can show our progress.”

As with previous events, this year's Acquisition Research Symposium featured presentations of research papers and briefings, with a focus on recently completed and ongoing projects sponsored by the DOD and DON and conducted by researchers at a variety of institutions.

Panel topics included the use of emerging technologies such as additive manufacturing (AM), artificial intelligence (AI), and digital engineering in the acquisition process; strategies for acquisition in the space domain; the current state of investment in the United States' defense industrial base; and the future of acquisition for the U.S. Navy and Army.

NPS students also had an opportunity to present and discuss their research with attendees during a student poster show on May 10. Senior defense acquisition officials and other researchers, many of whom served as panelists or keynote speakers during the two days of the symposium, offered their comments and critiques on the students' research projects and priorities.

“When you hear these research projects, please ask questions, challenge assumptions, challenge the work and the analysis,” said retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau, president of NPS, during her opening remarks. “If we're not doing that, this is the opportunity to do it.”

NPS established the Acquisition Research Program in 2003 to deliver research that informs and improves acquisition policy and practice for the warfighter. A year later, the Acquisition Research Symposium made its debut, expanding on the ARP's mission by providing an open forum for the presentation of scholarly research on acquisition.

Ever since, the symposium has helped to foster dialogue among scholars, policymakers and acquisition practitioners on important procurement and logistics issues. ARP uses these connections to enhance research from graduate students in NPS' Department of Defense Management, providing research topics and other resources that help students deliver professional final research projects with operational relevance.

Morley explained how NPS students benefit from the opportunity to present their research at the symposium.

“I would put it in one word – perspective,” said Morley. “So the best definition I think I've ever read on strategic thinking, strategic leadership, is having perspective of being able to see a problem from multiple different angles and truly understanding it. And that is the only hope of coming up with a mostly right answer and direction to go.

“So this type of forum, this type of event provides them with perspective, learning from current practitioners, learning from thought leaders, learning from multiple different organizations, military, civilian, other countries. And interacting gives extreme perspective which will benefit them as they go forward and solve the problems that we leave them.”

The Naval Postgraduate School provides defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service. For additional information, visit NPS online at <http://www.nps.edu>.

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Training a New Generation of Acquisition Professionals

(Federal News Network 12 May 23) ... Alexandra Lohr

As the Pentagon moves to create novel ways of customizing acquisition to make the process faster and more agile, a new crop of acquisition professionals is learning their job and choosing what they learn based on specialization. At the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), aspiring contracting officers focus on the basics, and then they pick and choose based on what area of expertise they need.

Dr. Bill LaPlante, the undersecretary of Defense for acquisition and sustainment, called the changes at DAU transformational.

“If you haven’t gone and seen online, all the courses and things that they put in, a new generation of training for the workforce, it’s very, very impressive,” LaPlante said at the **Naval Postgraduate School Acquisition Research Symposium** Wednesday.

“We have to build the next generation of acquisition professionals. And we have to keep them. We have to continue to make this a great field of work and expertise,” LaPlante said.

DAU President James Woolsey described the evolution at DAU as necessary adaptations to a workforce that changes generationally. He said the expectations are different from when he started working at the school nine years ago. Unlike previous generations, today’s workforce expects their careers to go different directions over time.

“The way we’re tailoring, training and giving people a chance to drive their learning as their careers go, I think this helps. People aren’t going to be as patient as maybe they were before about signing up for a class months ahead of time or remembering what they learned 10 years ago. They want the knowledge now,” Woolsey said in an interview with Federal News Network at the symposium.

One of the biggest differences in the way DAU now teaches its students is the ability to deliver education in different forms. The days of everyone sitting in class together are long gone. Now students have the option of classroom, hybrid or remote learning experiences.

“We do webinars now to get a lot of information out to people. We’ve had 70,000 people attend webinars this year. Being able to reach a lot of people quickly is what we have to be able to do in the modern world in so many ways, but especially at DAU,” Woolsey said.

The webinars proved to be a powerful tool in allowing people to specialize. Woolsey used the example of teaching middle tier acquisition (MTA). It’s a pathway used to rapidly develop prototypes within an acquisition program and get them into production. While not everyone taking courses at DAU wants to learn about MTA, those who do can learn online. Woolsey said the school’s website ran 210,000 MTA sessions so far this fiscal year.

Small business acquisition used to be taught in the classroom as part of the core curriculum. Now, it is part of the optional course work that students can take at any point in their careers.

“Instead of just certification, we have a credential in small business. There are packages of learning that help you learn about small business at the time that you need to learn it,” Woolsey said. “The needs of small business change over time, so we have supplementary material; we have webinars on small business; we have a lot of different ways to help you evolve as the understanding of the needs of small business evolves.”

In addition to a new variety of courses, Woolsey started an acquisition workforce innovation team to find ways for contracting officers to drive change. It’s part of an effort to develop and retain talent in the acquisition workforce.

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DoD Needs More Commercially Available Goods to Speed Acquisition

(Federal News Network 17 May 23) ... Alexandra Lohr

With shortages from production down through the supply chain, the Pentagon's acquisition leadership wants to close the gap by purchasing more commercially available products. To make that work, contracting officers must overcome not just buying issues but budget and planning issues.

Military acquisition professionals speaking at the **Acquisition Research Symposium in Monterey**, California said Thursday they need better ways to get commercial products, particularly those involving advanced technology, into the hands of service members. Some initiatives are helping move Defense acquisition toward commercial products, but more needs to be done.

"What you're seeing now are organizations springing up in order to try to fill that gap. Whether that's AFWERX in the Air Force, or the unmanned task force that the Navy has played with, or the Office of Strategic Capital now trying to make some effort with money seeding," said Navy Vice Adm. Francis Morley, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

While those initiatives expanded DoD's ability to buy commercially produced products, the department needs new ways to ensure future expansion, officials said, including more long-term planning both for the actual purchases and for the budget to buy them.

DoD's Defense Innovation Unit recognized the need to fill the production gap in January when it identified six areas where the department should be buying more commercial technology. Those areas include artificial intelligence/machine learning, autonomy, cyber, energy, human systems and space.

"The majority of the driving technologies that we need to advance our operational capabilities and solve our operational problems are being led in the commercial sphere and not the government labs anymore. That requires a different approach, a different ability to bring that capability in," Morley said.

Building a plan for commercial purchases into the program objective memorandum (POM) allows contracting officers flexibility to buy commercially available items as the need arises. The POM shows requests for the next five years in DoD's programming phase of the budget process.

Army Lt. Gen. David Bassett, the director of the Defense Contract Management Agency, said planning the POM with emerging technology in mind proves challenging for all the services. The Army's solution included putting commercial technology in the POM as it planned its capability set models. The capability sets combine commercial solutions with Defense-specific innovation.

"It amounts to a wedge for commercial technology. We wouldn't decide what we were going to get until we had finalized the design of that capability set. It allowed for on-ramps for some commercial radios and other things without knowing two years earlier exactly what it was going to be," said Bassett, who previously served as the Army's program executive officer for command, control and communications-tactical (PEO-C3T).

If Congress allowed for more flexible spending in the POM, Bassett said it would make it easier to plan for commercial purchases. However, contracting officers need to find ways to verify they are paying a fair price.

"I do see some companies try to use commerciality, particularly on something that they know I have to buy from them, as a way of expanding margins rather than speeding the award of contracts," Bassett said. "We're happy to pay commercial prices for genuine commercial items. But we want to be confident that the level of modifications and the cost of those things still represents good value to the government."

The problem, Bassett said, is industry and the Pentagon don't always agree on what defines a commercial product, and then what constitutes fair prices. He said restrictions on the government's ability to ask for pricing information made the process opaque. In order to get Congress to agree to flexible spending for commercial items, contracting officers have to justify pricing.

"I think that's a fallacy that's out there. If it's similar to something that's being sold commercially, it can be commercial, but we still have to get fair and reasonable pricing. That does involve sharing a certain amount of non-certified cost and pricing data with the government so we can be confident that we're paying a fair and reasonable price," Bassett said in an interview with Federal News Network.

He said training the acquisition workforce to better understand commercial production models and how pricing works would help both sides work together.

[DoD needs more commercially available goods to speed acquisition | Federal News Network](#)



The Next War Will be Won by Industrial Base Strategy, Not Policy, Executed by the Workforce

(EIN 17 May 23) ... NPS Foundation

The military and the private sector face many of the same workforce challenges — new technologies that require skilled expertise while also changing the very nature of work, manufacturing jobs that seem unappealing to 21st century workers, and tight budgets that limit options.

Much has been said about recent failures to meet recruitment and retention goals for members of the armed services. But another group of defense workers play an equally vital role to ensuring the United States has the tools needed to win the next war: those who build, buy, and maintain the goods and services used by warfighters.

A recent gathering of the country's experts in defense acquisition highlighted the challenges facing this workforce, including shipbuilders, factory workers, contracting officers, logisticians, maintainers, and of course the commercial companies who produce the weapons, munitions, and tools required to keep the country safe.

At the 20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium hosted by the Acquisition Research Program at **Naval Postgraduate School** on May 10 and 11, leaders from the military, academia, and industry convened to discuss ongoing and future efforts to move forward strategically and collaboratively.

Keynote speaker Bill LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shared updates on many of the initiatives coming out of his office. He noted, for instance, that his team is putting together a new industrial base strategy that accounts for lessons learned over the past few years, including those from the joint production acceleration cell, or JPAC.

“We're filling it with industrial base experts on production, including staffing it from the services, that are literally going through system by system, and understanding the what ifs,” LaPlante said. If the secretary of defense wants to know what it would take to double the production for one of those systems in a month, “they're going to come back and give us the answers and the cost for it. And then we're going to go back and work it with Congress.”

LaPlante also noted this is not industrial base policy, but execution of an industrial strategy.

“Those are related, but they're not the same thing, and that's why we had to take this JPAC. Because it's not only just for policy, it's actually executing and doing the acceleration what ifs.”

LaPlante has plans to extend this strategic approach to U.S. partners and allies. “My goal is to get something like that started also for NATO, so that we together, with all our subject matter experts, can build the industrial base for NATO,” he said. Since early 2022, LaPlante has been regularly connecting with leaders from the 40+ countries providing support to Ukraine in his role as Chair of the National Armaments Directors.

Other speakers at the symposium talked about ongoing industrial base efforts to support surge capacity, both domestically and internationally.

Matthew Zimmerman is acting deputy of the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition, the Department of Defense's single manager for conventional ammunition. To meet increased needs for artillery, his office has taken a three-pronged approach: expand the organic industrial base, expand commercial capacity, and leverage foreign supply base with NATO members and other partners.

Army munition plants producing 155mm artillery rounds are part of the organic industrial base owned by the government. Recent supplemental funding from Congress is helping to increase capacity of these plants from 14,000 to over 85,000 projectiles a month, but these efforts have long lead times from factors including metal manufacturing processes.

Workforce is another limiting factor for surge capacity, which requires adding second and third shifts in factories that are often in less populated areas of the country. “Maintaining the skill sets for one shift is

what we strive to do, what we plan out with our requirements,” said Zimmerman. “And then surge would be adding that second shift and that third shift.”

Surge capacity depends on skilled workers not just in production but also in the acquisition processes that get required capabilities on contract to be produced and delivered.

Marianne Lyons, the Navy’s Director for Acquisition Talent Management, shared that the Navy’s strategic plan for the acquisition workforce includes several efforts such as industry exchanges to help acquisition professionals better understand the industry partners they contract with.

“This training that we provide both the civilian and the military, they will go to understand, looking at from the perspective of industry, what is important to them?” Lyons said. “Looking at their financial statements: Do they care about cash flow? Do they care about operating margin? So when you do engage with your industry partners, you can have that conversation, focusing on preparing for negotiations or curating your incentives.”

Lyons spoke as part of a plenary panel that featured all the directors of acquisition talent management across the DOD, chaired by James Woolsey, President of Defense Acquisition University. These leaders discussed other recent initiatives like the Back-to-Basics approach to providing training to acquisition professionals on a just-in-time model, making it more likely these workers will understand and use acquisition tools suitable for unique kinds of purchases, such as software development or rapidly needed capabilities.

As a result of the Back-to-Basics initiative, and in an effort to synchronize graduate education and training, NPS President retired Vice Admiral Ann Rondeau and DAU President Woolsey signed a Memorandum of Agreement last year that integrates DAU training courses into NPS graduate-level education courses and curricula. NPS students can now add short DAU training sessions to complement their degree coursework and larger research projects.

Rondeau gave attendees her perspective on the valuable work done by acquisition practitioners and researchers at the symposium and at NPS. “In my view, relevance always moves ahead of capability,” she said. “How do you anticipate that, plan for that, acquire that, and not make a mistake?”

She closed with a charge: “I ask you to ask questions and engage, and be sure that when we leave here, there is an answer to delivering warfighting capability at the speed of relevance.”

[The next war will be won by industrial base strategy, not policy, executed by the workforce - EIN Presswire \(einnews.com\)](#)

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Extra Credit: Design Challenge Recognizes Students For Innovative Climate Change Solutions

(NPS.edu 22 May 23) ... NPS Public Affairs

A total of 75 students representing 20 science classes and robotics teams from Monterey County high schools competed in the second annual Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Rapid Innovation Design Challenge, offering real-world local solutions to a national security imperative and global problem – climate change.

At an award ceremony on May 19, students and teachers from Salinas, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Greenfield were honored by NPS for their climate change solutions. The teams competed for a chance to win prizes up to \$2,000 sponsored by the NPS Foundation (NPSF).

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) joined NPS senior leaders and other Design Challenge collaborators in recognizing winning student-faculty teams from Alisal High School in Salinas, Monterey High School and Pacific Grove High School.

“Tackling the big challenges we face, like climate change, will require a new generation of young people harnessing the power of emerging technology to find solutions,” said Panetta. “Through the Naval Postgraduate School’s Rapid Innovation Design Challenge, our community is creating space for our high school students to think big, deepen their problem-solving skills, and consider how they can make an



impact, locally and globally. I was proud to recognize the work and talents of these Monterey County students and faculty and I look forward to seeing their continued growth as leaders in California's 19th Congressional District."

Panetta, NPS Vice Provost for Academic Leadership Dr. Jomana Amara, NPS Chief of Staff Capt. Philip Old, NPSF President Rich Patterson and Edua Dickerson, Vice President of ESG and Finance Strategy at ServiceNow, presented student team members with letters of recognition for their efforts.

"Providing STEM opportunities to high school students that challenge critical thinking not only enriches curricula, but also shows these students the diversity of career opportunities in STEM fields, including those possible in the Navy and Marine Corps," said NPS associate professor Dr. Mara Orescanin, who helped establish the Rapid Innovation Design Challenge in 2022.

The challenge, which ran from Feb. 1 to April 30, focused on how workflow process automation can address local community climate change challenges. Participants were encouraged to create low-code or no-code custom applications for their challenge solutions using software provided by NPS' industry collaborators.

The competition's top honor, the "Global Solution Grand Championship," and the \$2,000 grand prize went to a team from Alisal High for its thorough efforts to investigate and understand the issues behind climate change as it relates to soil nutrient levels – and generate a solution to help mitigate those issues.

Teacher Lorand Incze's team developed a prototype application, the "Soil Nutrient Tracking App," utilizing Software as a Service (SaaS) technology that allows users to upload measured nutrient levels into a database, where this data can be flagged for unsuitable growing conditions and tracked over time. This solution has the potential to notice local trends in nutrients that can be affected by climate change factors including extreme flooding and/or drought.

"Programs like this are very enriching activities for the students. It helps with the student's self-confidence and further develops their skills," said Incze. "We are extremely thankful for the opportunity to work on real-world problems, and we hope to compete in this challenge for many years to come."

Two of the three runner-up categories, each with a \$500 prize, were won by teams representing Pacific Grove High. One team captured the "Climate Change Warrior" challenge with an app design called "Say NO to Palm Oil." The proposed mobile app not only raises awareness of certain food products that can be harmful to the environment, but also offers alternative, more environmentally friendly food options.

The second winning team from Pacific Grove took home "Best Digital Design" honors for their development and documentation of an app called "E-Commute." The proposed app would encourage sustainable transportation by analyzing users' commuting patterns and informing them of their current carbon dioxide emissions, helping them to accordingly reduce their carbon footprint.

The final runner-up category, "Persuasive Problem Solver," was won by Monterey High's "Robodores" team for their video presentation pitching the "RideNow" app, another proposed transportation app which would help connect potential rideshare commuters in order to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Other environmental challenges addressed by students included sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, drought, habitat and species loss and ocean acidification. Applications that the student teams designed showed a range of technological capabilities including data analytics and reporting, social networking, notifications, climate monitoring or any number of creative methods to address the challenges associated with climate change.

"Climate security is a priority for the Department of the Navy and our nation," said the president of NPS, retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau. "Addressing this and other challenges will require ingenuity and inspiration, not just from our current Sailors and Marines, but also from the next generation of scientists and engineers. Opportunities like the Rapid Innovation Design Challenge are vital in encouraging our nation's youth to pursue careers in science, technology and engineering so that we can solve these issues and others to come."

The 2023 Rapid Innovation Design Challenge was developed in collaboration with the NPS Foundation, Aecern and their Scoutlier program, and industry and technology experts from ServiceNow, ICF and Carahsoft.



“ServiceNow is a proud collaborator of the Naval Postgraduate School’s 2023 Rapid Innovation Design Challenge. This program sits firmly within our values, aligning closely to our mission to uplift young innovators and our commitment to environmental stewardship. We are honored to have contributed our technology to help enable these worthy goals,” said Dickerson.

NPS’ Rapid Innovation Design Challenge program includes scaffolded curricula that match critical skills for higher education and a modern workforce to school standards. Each challenge integrates critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving and written communication skills as teams explore applications of science, technology, engineering and math to create meaningful solutions with global impact.

This year, student teams were paired with NPS student mentors and had access to software developers and industry experts to facilitate a deeper understanding of solution creation. Both high school students and NPS students had the opportunity to earn professional certifications in no-code application development.

Led by Orescanin and faculty associate D’Marie Bartolf, the Rapid Innovation Design Challenge aligns with NPS’ commitment to increase educational equity in STEM and to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, technologists and more. The program is designed to build excitement about STEM, mitigate barriers to experiential learning opportunities for all students, introduce students to emerging technologies, and strengthen community capacity to offer impactful education opportunities.

“The Design Challenge at NPS establishes a direct connection to local schools using NPS faculty and students as technical experts and mentors, curriculum experts that can translate high level technical information into high school appropriate material, and industry collaborators who can further mentor students in career opportunities,” Orescanin said. “It is essential that we inspire our future generations to pursue hard problems and mentor them as they discover what is possible.”

Planning has already started for the 2024 Rapid Innovation Design Challenge, which will launch in the fall of 2023. The NPS Design Challenge team, in collaboration with the NPS Foundation, is working toward expanding the program across a wider region, offering a variety of challenges for participants to choose from, and including more industry collaborators to support the learning environment. More information is available at <https://nps.edu/design-challenge>.

The Naval Postgraduate School provides defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service. For additional information, visit NPS online at <https://nps.edu>.

The collaboration conducted under the auspices of the Rapid Innovation Design Challenge does not constitute endorsement of non-federal organizations or their products and services by the Naval Postgraduate School, the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense.

[Extra Credit: Design Challenge Recognizes Students For Innovative Climate Change Solutions - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](https://nps.edu/design-challenge)

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CAMPUS:

Café Del Monte Grand Opening Hails New Experience in Dining

(NPS.edu 3 May 23) ... Javier Chagoya

Ribbon cutting day for the new Café Del Monte finally arrived May 1, with music in the air and a balloon festooned archway adorning the café entrance in the newly constructed quad next to the Dudley Knox Library. An audience of about a hundred NPS students, faculty, staff and well-wishers were present to witness the grand-opening ceremony, emcee’d by Morale Welfare and Recreation Quality of Life Director Kyley Rhodus.



“Education is the key connector for this work,” said Carlos Del Toro, the secretary of the Navy. “Our educational institutions hold great promise and opportunity.”

[Naval Postgraduate School offers public input for proposed Innovation Center \(ksbw.com\)](#)

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STUDENTS:

NUWC Keyport hosts Technical Talk advocating Innovation Opportunities for Our US Navy

(DVIDS 25 Apr 23)

On March 17, innovators at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport united to participate in a technical talk (TechTalk) advocating innovation opportunities for our U.S. Navy to improve readiness and reliability. The event was a success, with 50-plus in-person and virtual attendees gathering to gain valuable insights into the latest emerging technologies and provide a conduit for further innovation and collaboration, in order to tackle the NUWC vision to expand the Navy’s undersea advantage.

“I could feel the audience’s excitement for these technologies during every presentation; it opened doors for enabling change and innovation in a positive light,” noted Abigail Magee, a NUWC Keyport Industrial Engineer and participant in the TechTalk.

During the TechTalk, attendees learned about various technologies with the potential to transform the way the Navy operates, such as:

- Robotics to improve maintenance operations.
- Data solutions including machine learning and artificial intelligence for sustainment of undersea weapons.
- Augmented reality/virtual reality solutions for system design and training.
- Internal podcasts as a way to improve employee communications.
- Data-driven cultural transformations underway (including studies, education and rotations).

This TechTalk was a culmination of efforts completed by a cohort of students in collaboration with the **Naval Postgraduate School** as part of their “Advocating Emerging Technologies” course requirements. This course offered NUWC’s technology professionals strategic skills for communicating specialized technical concepts and subject matter expertise. It aimed to transform subject matter expertise in a technical arena into communication that is immediately accessible to a non-technical audience.

Professor Britta Hale, Ph.D., Director of the Applied Cryptographic Engineering Lab and the Implementing Technological Change Program for the **Naval Postgraduate School**, further illuminated that “[i]t has been impressive to watch these subject experts transform into area leaders in driving technology change and adoption in their ideas throughout the ‘Advocating Emerging Technologies’ program. Their technical presentations during TechTalk each signaled a paradigm shift in the respective topic areas.”

NUWC's successful technical talk on emerging technologies for the Navy showcased the importance of effective communication when advocating for new technologies in a technical field and demonstrated the potential of emerging technologies to transform the way the Navy operates.

[DVIDS - News - NUWC Keyport hosts Technical Talk advocating innovation opportunities for our US Navy \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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FACULTY:

Analysis: Calls for South Korean Nuclear Arsenal Unlikely to Fade Despite US Deal

(Reuters 27 Apr 23) ... Josh Smith

The United States granted South Korea a larger role in planning for a potential nuclear war with North Korea, but that will probably not ease doubts over U.S. defence commitments that have fuelled calls for a South Korean nuclear arsenal, experts said.

Under a new "Washington Declaration" announced Wednesday, the United States will give Seoul detailed insights into, and a voice in, U.S. planning to deter and respond to a nuclear incident in the region. Seoul renewed a pledge not to pursue a nuclear bomb of its own.

The document is in many ways a response to growing doubts in South Korea that the United States would risk its own cities - in range of North Korea's latest ballistic missiles - to defend its ally, as well as a sense that the South is a growing global power that should be among the nuclear-armed states.

Some in South Korea's government also worry that if there is a new administration in the United States, Washington might provide less defence support.

As a candidate, President Yoon Suk Yeol called for the return of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons to South Korea, and in January he suggested that there may come a time when the country needs to develop its own arsenal.

He has since walked back those comments, and one former senior U.S. official told Reuters that the Yoon administration's nuclear talk was most likely an effort to secure the type of planning and coordination role outlined in Wednesday's declaration.

"South Korea joins a small club of countries who used the mere threat of acquiring atomic weapons to wrest concessions from the United States," Tristan Volpe of the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California said in a post on Twitter.

"The concern I have is that leaders often find it difficult to put the nuclear genie back in the bottle," he added. "Domestic politics could distort the incentives South Korean leaders face when it comes to limiting their nuclear options over the long run."

Yoon is far from alone among senior South Korean officials in raising the idea, and polls show a majority of the public would support having nuclear weapons. In an interview with Reuters in March, Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said South Korea should build such weapons to bolster its defences against North Korea, even at the risk of international repercussions.

[Analysis: Calls for South Korean nuclear arsenal unlikely to fade despite US deal | Reuters](#)

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4th Annual Information Awards Dinner Recognize Superior Performance in the Information Environment

(Marines.mil 28 Apr 23) ... Gregory Carroll

The Marine Corps Association fourth annual Information Awards Dinner, administered by the Deputy Commandant for Information, recognized Marines, civilian and units from around the Corps for their superior performance, making an impact in the information environment, April. 20, 2023.

The annual Information Awards Dinner recognized 15 individual awards and 4 unit awards chosen from information communities including Intelligence, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, Cyber, Psychological Operations, Space, Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, Communication Strategy and Operations and civil affairs.

DC I convened a board of senior field grade officers, senior enlisted Marines, and civilian Marines to review nominations and select award winners. The period of service eligible for award consideration was Jan. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022.

"I couldn't be more proud of those here tonight and the impact they have had on our Corps," stated Lt. Gen. Matthew Glavy, Deputy Commandant for Information. "I extend my sincere congratulations to



our awardees and their families who displayed the utmost professionalism and loyalty to our Marine Corps.”

A full list of Information Award recipients with associated awardee biographies can be found at the following link: <https://mca-marines.org/2023-information-awards-recipients>

Solicitation for nominations was requested via MARADMIN 542/22, Oct. 18, 2022 and an official selection announcement was published via MARADMIN 103/23 on Feb. 27, 2023.

The guest of honor for the event was Gen. David H. Berger, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps. During his remarks he acknowledged the awardees as well as the dynamic aspects of the Marine Corps seventh warfighting function, information.

“Information in my opinion is changing faster than any other of the warfighting functions and I think it is driving the changes in the character of war people talk about. I think it is actually not weapon systems doing that but Information and the past year in Europe I think is a great case study in that.” stated Berger.

Gen. Berger also emphasized the importance of Marines being fully capable of keeping pace with the changing character of war.

“Marines have a clear view of what Information Advantage is, they know how to leverage the power of information to give them a warfighting advantage. They know how to employ it. Marines, you are our warfighting advantage. The future is in your hands and everything is possible so tonight we hand out awards, tomorrow-warfighting.” Gen. David H. Berger, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Marine Corps defines information advantage as an exploitable condition resulting from one actor’s ability to generate, preserve, deny, and project information more effectively than another.

Of the 19 awards received during the Information Awards Dinner, one is named the Lt. Col. Kevin M. Shea Memorial Unit of the Year Award. Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 was the receiving unit.

During Gen. Berger’s remarks he announced the establishment of the Lt. Col. Kevin M. Shea USMC Chair for Information at **Naval Postgraduate School**. The new formalized agreement between DC I and **NPS** is named after the former **NPS** graduate and Marine Corps communications officer killed Sept 14, 2004 while deployed with Regimental Combat Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The newly established chair will serve as the lead in research furthering DC I priorities in the information environment by aligning people, process and technology in support of larger Marine Corps initiatives.

The Marine Corps published Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 8, Information on June 29, 2022 serving as the capstone service doctrine describing the purpose and mechanics of the information warfighting function. MCDP 8 can be found at the following link:

<https://www.marines.mil/News/Publications/MCPDL/Electronic-Library-Display/Article/3077947/mcdp-8/>

Marine Corps Warfighting Publication 8-10 Information in Marine Corps Operations is the next step in elevating Information as a warfighting function slated for release summer of 2023.

The MCA Information Awards Dinner conducted on April. 20, 2023 is the fourth time the annual event has been held, recognizing individuals across the communities unified in the warfighting function of Information. Gen. Robert Neller, 37th Commandant of the Marine Corps, first recognized information as the seventh warfighting function Jan. 17, 2019.

[4th Annual Information Awards Dinner Recognize Superior Performance in the Information Environment > United States Marine Corps Flagship > News Display \(marines.mil\)](#)

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ADA University hosts “Shaping the Geopolitics of the Greater Eurasia: from Past to Present to Future” International Conference

(Azer Tac 5 May 23)

The 4th international conference on “Shaping the Geopolitics of the Greater Eurasia: from Past to Present to Future” has been held at ADA University, Baku, bringing together up to 40 representatives from more than 30 countries. The conference was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev.

The first session of the conference was moderated by ADA Vice-Rector Fariz Ismayilzade. He emphasized the importance of the conference in terms of discussing future trends in the region.

Addressing the event, Rector of ADA University, Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev said that this is the 4th edition of the conference hosted at ADA University. Pashayev noted that this event is of great importance in terms of politics, science and international relations, adding that ADA University is recognized as an important venue for discussion of issues on the regional and global agenda.

Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev highlighted exceptional services of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev to the restoration of the Azerbaijani statehood. “Azerbaijan was in the middle of crisis when Heydar Aliyev saved Azerbaijan from the threat of deep economic and political crisis, and put it to a path of sustainable development,” Pashayev underlined.

Speaking at the event Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Head of the Department of Economic Issues and Innovative Development Policy of the Presidential Administration Shahmar Movsumov emphasized the importance of “The Contract of the Century”, Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan (BTC) project as well as major offshore projects initiated by Azerbaijan.

“Nearly 300 billion US dollars have been invested in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has turned from a renewable energy distributing country into a transit country,” the presidential aide noted.

Azerbaijan’s Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rashad Nabiyev spoke about the numerous international projects initiated and realized by Azerbaijan, particularly in the field of transport and transit.

The second session of the conference, moderated by Professor of the US **Naval Postgraduate School**, United States Brenda Shaffer, featured remarks by former US Ambassador to Azerbaijan, former co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza, First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Uzbekistan Sodyq Safoev, former Georgian Ambassador to the US and Canada Tedo Japaridze, former Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Bolat Nurgaliev and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the US Department of State David A. Merkel.

In their remarks, the speakers hailed Heydar Aliyev’s political wisdom, noting that his tireless efforts to pull the young Azerbaijani state out of chaos and put the country on a path towards development are always highly appreciated.

[ADA University hosts “Shaping the Geopolitics of the Greater Eurasia: from Past to Present to Future” international conference - AZERTAC \(azertag.az\)](#)

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How Improving Access to PCI Affects Heart Attack Outcomes

(Cardiovascular Business 5 May 23) ... Michael Walter

Improving access to percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is directly associated with better outcomes for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients in a majority of U.S. markets, according to new data published in JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions.[1] The one exception to this rule is markets where PCI is already readily available.

“To date, no studies have evaluated the proliferation of PCI centers to determine how PCI center openings (and conversely, closures) have affected outcomes for patients with AMI, nor has the literature established whether there have been differential effects for patients in communities that already had high PCI capacity at baseline compared with those in average-capacity PCI markets,” wrote first author Yu-



Chu Shen, PhD, a professor of economics with the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, and colleagues. “This research is necessary because the introduction of additional PCI services in high-capacity PCI markets could reduce per-hospital PCI volume, which has been associated with poorer outcomes.”

Shen et al. examined Medicare data to track AMI patients, American Hospital Association and Healthcare Cost Report Information System data to track hospital characteristics and U.S. Census Bureau data to determine the demographics of ZIP codes throughout the United States.

The team’s analysis focused on data from more than 2.7 million patients treated from 2006 to 2017. While roughly one in four patients lived in a high-capacity market—saturated markets, in other words—all other patients were categorized as living in an average-capacity market. The study’s key variable was the opening or closure of a PCI-capable facility within a 15-minute drive from the center of any given ZIP code.

“We chose a threshold of 15 minutes driving time to the opened or closed facility based on thresholds reported in other studies and prior literature showing that the majority of hospital visits are within 15 minutes of a patient’s residence,” the authors wrote. “This decision was further supported by clinical data showing that, after 90 minutes, every 15-minute delay in receipt of care for ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients is associated with a significant increase in the risk of death.”

Overall, the opening of new facilities where AMI patients could seek cardiovascular care was associated with “significant benefits” in average-capacity markets. These benefits include a reduced chance of being admitted to a high-volume facility where it may be hard to be seen in an acceptable timeframe, an increased likelihood of same-day and in-hospital revascularization and—perhaps most importantly—a 2.5% decrease in AMI mortality.

These statistics suggest that care improves for a majority of patients when new PCI centers are opened in the surrounding area. On a similar note, closing a PCI-capable hospital is associated with an increased chance of being admitted to a high-volume center and a decreased likelihood of being treated with same-day PCI.

In high-capacity markets, the team noted, opening or closing a new facility was not linked to any significant changes.

“Our findings have implications for the quality of AMI care, providing support for the idea that harmful consequences may result from the preferential adoption of PCI in markets where such services are already saturated,” the authors wrote. “AMI has well-defined treatment guidelines, and we would not expect the opening of a PCI center to increase or decrease the need for PCI among AMI patients in a community. The relatively fixed community-level PCI demand implies that opening a PCI center in a high-capacity market results in lower per-facility volumes, as confirmed in our findings.”

Also, they added, further research on how the opening of PCI-capable facilities can impact patient care is “crucial.”

[How improving access to PCI affects heart attack outcomes \(cardiovascularbusiness.com\)](https://www.cardiovascularbusiness.com)

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‘Jeopardy! Masters’ Episode 2: Amy Schneider Drops to Fifth Overall

(Dayton 9 May 23) ... Russell Florence

On Tuesday’s episode of “Jeopardy! Masters,” Dayton native Amy Schneider finished second during the first game but ranks fifth overall.

Schneider, a writer from Oakland, California, faced Sam Buttrey, an associate professor of operations research at the **Naval Postgraduate School** from Pacific Grove, California, and Mattea Roach, a writer and podcaster from Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Hosted by Ken Jennings and structured in the style of a Champions League, “Jeopardy! Masters” features six super champs: Matt Amodio, Buttrey, Andrew He, James Holzhauer, Roach and Schneider. Buttrey and He memorably competed against Schneider in the 2022 Tournament of Champions.



“Jeopardy! Masters” consists of 10 one-hour episodes featuring two games among different combinations of the six contestants. After each game, match points are awarded: 3 for finishing first, 1 for finishing second and 0 for finishing third. Only the top three with the highest match point total will advance to the final, resulting in a champion who will win a grand prize of \$500,000.

In the Jeopardy! round, Schneider found the Daily Double in the category Play: The Game, wagered a true Daily Double, correctly answered and raised her score to 4,800. At the end of the round, she led with 6,000 points followed by Buttrey with 4,000 and Roach with 2,800.

However, situations shifted dramatically in Double Jeopardy! when Buttrey and Roach found the Daily Doubles, wagered true Daily Doubles and correctly answered. At the end of the round, Buttrey took the lead with 17,600 points followed by Roach with 16,400 and Schneider with 11,200.

The Final Jeopardy! clue in the category of 21st Century Authors:

“Once a journalist himself, he began his first novel with his hero being fined 150,000 kronor for aggravated libel.”

Schneider, wagering 6,500, correctly answered Stieg Larsson (“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”), bringing her total to 17,700 points. Roach, wagering 6,001, also answered Larsson, finishing with 22,401. Buttrey incorrectly answered Johansson Stiegler, sinking his score to 2,399. The first game of Tuesday’s match ended with Roach at 3 points followed by Schneider with 1 and Buttrey with 0.

Explore [Amy Schneider takes fourth overall in ‘Jeopardy! Masters’ premiere](#)

During the interview segment, Schneider said she’s currently working on her memoir.

“(It’s) about my life and about sort of curiosity of learning,” she said. “It’s a lot of fun. I’m excited to tell more of my story than I can tell in these 15 second chunks on ‘Jeopardy!’”

The leaderboard at the end of the second episode: First: He (4); Second: Holzhauer (3); Third: Roach (3); Fourth: Amodio (3); Fifth: Schneider (2); and Sixth: Buttrey (1). The ranking takes into account the number of correct responses.

“Jeopardy! Masters” returns Wednesday at 8 p.m. on ABC. The show will also stream on Hulu.

[‘Jeopardy! Masters’ Episode 2: Amy Schneider drops to fifth overall \(dayton.com\)](#)

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SIAM Student Chapter Conference Showcases Math Students from Around Region and Coast

(UC Merced 9 May 23) ... Jacqueline Alvarez and Jocelyn Ornelas

After a three-year hiatus, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Student Chapter from UC Merced held its fifth annual Central Valley regional conference on campus.

The UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter hosted the mid-April conference in the Dr. Vikram and Priya Lakireddy Grand Ballroom, where undergraduate and graduate students from universities in the Central Valley and the central coast gathered with faculty. Attending schools included UCs Davis and Santa Cruz, California State universities Fresno and Stanislaus and the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Each chapter was introduced before attendees were treated to the student poster session, which featured research presentations from undergraduate and graduate students. The presentations spanned a variety of topics from detecting genomic variants and gas dynamics to topological data analysis.

The poster session also included presentations from the participants of the Applied Mathematics Challenge (AMC), a team coding challenge that takes place over the week of spring break at UC Merced. This year’s challenge problem centered around path search methods and judged the students’ understanding and explanation of their methods and results.

“I participated this year because I enjoyed the challenge last year and was excited to apply the knowledge I have gained,” UC Merced undergraduate student Ryan Milstrey said.

After the poster session, the following prizes were awarded:

Best Graduate Presentation: Matteo Polimeno, UC Merced, for his poster, “Thermodynamically Consistent Formulation of Stochastic Chemistry for Modeling Reactive Gas Dynamics at Small Scales”



Best Graduate Presentation: Austin Van Dellen, Naval Postgraduate School, for his poster, “Computation of Adversarial Manipulations Under Physical Access”

Best Undergraduate Presentation: Emma Andrade, Fresno State, for her poster, “K-Means Clustering and Recommendation System Approach to Detect Genomic Variant Interactions”

Best Undergraduate Presentation: Conor Olive, UC Merced, for his poster, “Box Model Simulation of Turbidity Currents”

Honorable Mention for Best Undergraduate Presentation: Iliana Alvarez, CSU Stanislaus, for her poster, “Early Classification of Transients using RAPID”

Applied Math Challenge Team Winners: Tejas Bhartiya, Yulin Lin and Ryan Milstrey

Three students were also presented with the SIAM Certificate of Recognition for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments on behalf of their respective student chapters:

Fresno State SIAM Student Chapter President Haille Williams

UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter Secretary Jocelyn Ornelas Muñoz

UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter President Jacqueline Alvarez

“I feel very grateful for conferences like this one because I was a student at a small university (CSU Bakersfield) and events such as this encouraged me to set ambitious goals for myself,” **Naval Postgraduate School** Operations Research Professor Robert Bassett said. “Students had the opportunity to present research projects they’ve conducted to an enthusiastic audience. Because these presentations are more collegial than what you might find at a larger conference, it is certainly a great way for students to get practice presenting their work in a welcoming environment.”

Lior Horesh, a principal research scientist and senior manager of the Mathematics and Theoretical Computer Science group at IBM’s T.J. Watson Research Center, served as this year’s keynote speaker.

His talk, “Should we Derive or Let the Data Drive? Symbiotizing Data-Driven Learning and Knowledge-Based Reasoning to Accelerate Symbolic Discovery,” focused on attempts to bridge the divide between statistical artificial intelligence and symbolic artificial intelligence.

“I was honored to be a keynote speaker at the Fifth Central Valley Regional SIAM Student Chapter Conference. The student poster session was an excellent opportunity to interact informally with truly brilliant students, learn about their research work and ambitions. I was blown away by the level of creativity, insights, research maturity and technical depth the students demonstrated. Hopefully, my talk inspired students to pursue their passions and explore new frontiers in mathematics,” he said.

The final event of the day included Math Magic: Problem of the Month and Math Lotería. The Problem of the Month is an ongoing monthly math challenge led by faculty.

The Math Magic event included audience participation in a math dance, which got people moving and laughing, followed by Math Lotería (Mexican bingo). UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter officers designed the Lotería-inspired cards, featuring images of famous mathematicians, formulas, shapes, Greek letters and other math symbols.

“Overall, the conference was well organized with an engaging poster session and plenary speaker,” Fresno State Professor and SIAM Chapter Faculty Advisor Mario Bañuelos, a UC Merced alum, said. “The program was diverse in engaging activities and having each SIAM chapter share a few words at the beginning of the event was a fantastic opportunity to learn about what the surrounding universities were doing.”

The conference was the final event for Professor Noemi Petra, who is stepping down after eight years as the UC Merced group’s faculty advisor. Professor Erica Rutter will take on the role of faculty advisor in Fall 2023 as Petra will lead the creation of the Northern and Central California (NorCenCal) SIAM Section.

“It was a great privilege to mentor the UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter throughout these past years. Their dedication to promote applied and computational mathematics to undergraduate and graduate students has no limits. Every year, they push the bar higher and go above and beyond to connect the student community on our campus and in the California Central Valley region,” Petra said. “I am very proud of what the UC Merced SIAM Student Chapter has accomplished this year and in the past.”

[SIAM Student Chapter Conference Showcases Math Students from Around Region and Coast | Newsroom \(ucmerced.edu\)](#)



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What the U.S. Can Teach Ukraine About Misplaced Revenge

(Time 15 May 23) ... Zachary Shore

Flag of Ukraine flutters on a flagpole above a residential district at sunset on May 5, 2023 in Kramatorsk, Ukraine. Now Russian military focuses its assault on the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow had supported a separatist movement since 2014. In Kramatorsk, 50 kilometers from the front-line, Ukrainian soldiers can meet with their relatives and loved ones who arrive to the city by train.

Shore is professor of history at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, Senior Fellow at UC Berkeley's Institute of European Studies, and a National Security Visiting Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution. He is the author of, *This Is Not Who We Are: America's Struggle Between Vengeance and Virtue*. The views expressed are those of the author alone and do not represent those of the Naval Postgraduate School, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

Close to 3 million Ukrainians have fled – not from Russia, but to it. Since Putin's war began, more Ukrainians have escaped to Russia than to any other country by a large margin. Having fled the war zone, many of these Russian-speaking Ukrainian citizens might not feel safe in Ukraine while anti-Russian animus runs high. This is, of course, what Russian propaganda would have them believe. Many may not even like Putin, but they may fear their neighbors might turn against them, and for good reason.

We have learned of Russian soldiers raping Ukrainian women. We have seen images of missile attacks on homes, hospitals, and schoolyards. We have witnessed the deliberate destruction of infrastructure, leaving innocent Ukrainians shivering in winter. We have many reports of Russia's abduction of Ukrainian children, for what purposes we do not yet fully know. Understandably, when the war eventually ends, the cries for revenge against Russia will be fierce, but they will also be foolish. If we are not careful, they will end up harming the very innocent civilians whose support will be most needed in a post-Putin world.

Americans should understand this dilemma. The U.S. has a long history of turning against minorities during wartime, and Ukraine can learn valuable lessons from America about the dangers of misplaced revenge. During World War I, it was hazardous to have a German accent or a German-sounding name. As the historian Adam Hochschild has uncovered in his magnificent new book, *American Midnight*, anti-German hatred went far beyond changing the name of Sauerkraut to liberty cabbage. Americans attacked those of obvious German stock, destroying their shops, assaulting them in the streets, and banning both the teaching of German in schools and the speaking of German in public. But the scale of organized, government-sponsored vengeance rose with the Second World War.

Even the most compassionate leaders can be swept up in the tides of vengeance. Eleanor Roosevelt, a paragon of humane government, found herself speaking in favor of the internment of Japanese Americans. In 1942, she delivered a national radio address explaining that some "friendly aliens" would have to suffer for the good of the national interest. Privately she recoiled at the forcing of 120,000 people, most of them citizens, out of their homes and into concentration camps, but she could not publicly oppose her husband's policy. When it came to two of America's harshest actions in the war, however, she fully supported them. She endorsed the dropping of both atomic bombs, and she backed the punitive occupation plan for Germany. She, too, was not immune to anti-German sentiments. Her attitude toward Germany might have been more forgiving if she had not been close friends with the man behind the plan to make average Germans suffer.

By the summer of 1944, FDR's Treasury Secretary, Henry Morgenthau Jr., was hatching a scheme to punish all Germans for the Nazis' crimes. The Morgenthau Plan, as it came to be known, aimed to rip up all heavy industry and return Germany to an agrarian state. Without manufacturing, they could not produce the weapons of war. Because the Germans had launched two world wars, the thinking went, it was time to ensure that they never bothered anyone again. The problem was that without heavy industry,



large-scale food production would be impossible. Morgenthau's plan would lead to mass starvation, and everyone in the administration knew it.

Some in government assumed that it was Morgenthau's Jewishness that was driving his zeal for revenge. The real reason had to do with his direct knowledge of German atrocities. In addition to his taxing duties running the Treasury Department, Morgenthau also headed the secret Rescue Board, an operation he helped to establish with FDR's approval. It was a junior colleague in Morgenthau's own department who first uncovered the fact that the State Department was suppressing information about the mass slaughter of Europe's Jews. The Rescue Board was created in response. Using government funds to bribe ship captains and other officials in Nazi-occupied Europe, the Rescue Board managed to smuggle some 200,000 Jews to safety. Through his work with the Board, Morgenthau was receiving constant reports of Nazi barbarity, at a time when few Americans knew about the Holocaust.

Thanks to pushback from within FDR's administration, Morgenthau's plan was softened, but not enough. Official U.S. policy forbade Americans from helping Germany to rebuild its economy. Without that aid, malnutrition, starvation, disease, and mass death marked the first few years of occupation. Tragically, not only did most key officials oppose the vengeful treatment of average Germans, most Americans did, too. Despite the anger over German atrocities, the sight of starving children shown in newsreels weakened demand for revenge. Polls revealed that some 60% of Americans supported food aid to Germany. Former President Herbert Hoover led the charge to feed the hungry. Throughout the worst of the food crisis in 1946 and 1947, he traveled across America giving speeches about the need to eat less to free up surplus grain for shipment overseas. He understood that some still demanded vengeance against their former foes, but Hoover insisted that America had to rise above retaliation. We cannot behave as the Nazis had done, he declared. "We do not want our flag flying over a nation of Buchenwalds," And at those words, his audience responded with ovations.

Looking back, most Americans came to view their wartime vengeful actions as mistakes. Within just three years, the Marshall Plan undid the cruel occupation policy that Morgenthau had helped establish. Support for the use of nuclear weapons on Japan has steadily fallen since the war. And more than four decades after Japanese internment, President Reagan signed legislation to compensate the surviving victims, calling it a chance to right a grave wrong. Plenty of people recognized the wrong as it was being committed. Too few stood up to stop it. This is the greatest danger of misplaced revenge. It erodes a nation's conscience as it forces the innocent to suffer.

A just peace would restore to Ukraine all of its lost territory from Russia. Putin and his henchmen must pay for their war of aggression, and those soldiers who committed war crimes must be brought to justice. But the Russian people should not be crippled in a postwar arrangement. Ethnic Russians who return home to Ukraine must be protected from retaliation. There should be reparations, but not so onerous that the Russian economy cannot recover. In a post-Putin world, Russia must be reintegrated into the global economy, and the Russian people must be made stakeholders in a peaceful international order. If we do not find ways of avoiding misplaced revenge, one day a new Putin-like figure, or a worse one, will emerge.

[What the U.S. Can Teach Ukraine About Misplaced Revenge | Time](#)

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ALUMNI:

Schenevus Students Enjoy Surprise Visit

(All Otsego 21 Apr 23)

On Friday, April 21, Schenevus Central School students and staff waited eagerly outside as two Navy helicopters arrived and landed on the softball field.

Matthew Mravlja, commanding officer of the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-26 "Chargers" and a former SCS student, flew in from Virginia with two Navy helicopters. Cmdr. Mravlja is responsible for



15 MH-60S helicopters and 434 personnel. He brought with him a crew of 13, including logistical staff, pilots, rescue swimmers, and mechanics.

Cmdr. Mravlja and several of his crew members presented in the Draper Room to students in grades 6-12. The theme of the talk was, “No matter who you are, you can succeed with hard work, determination and good decisions.”

Meanwhile, students in grades pre-K through 5 listened to a presentation on roles and responsibilities by crew members and toured the helicopters.

At the close of his talk in the Draper Room, Cmdr. Mravlja led the students in grades 6-12 outside for their own tour of the helicopters and further interaction with crew members.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime event for our students,” said SCS Superintendent Jeffrey Bennett. “Our students asked great questions, were excited to tour the helicopters and were beyond thrilled to be part of this event.

“The students were equally amazed in watching the helicopters land and take off from the field,” Bennett said.

Superintendent Bennett thanked SCS Social Worker Justin Thalheimer for his work organizing the event, the Booster Club for providing Schenevus gift bags for the crew, and the local fire department and State Police for their attendance.

Cmdr. Mravlja is a native of Westford. According to the U.S. Navy Website, he enlisted in 1992. In 1999, he was selected for the Seaman to Admiral Commissioning program and earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of North Florida, after which he was commissioned in August of 2003 through the Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida.

Remaining in Pensacola for flight training, Mravlja earned his Naval Aviator Wings in December 2005. In January of 2006, he reported to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 2 “Fleet Angels” for initial fleet training as a MH-60S pilot. He later earned his Master’s Degree in executive business management from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and has been deployed to Bahrain, Haiti, and Japan.

Cmdr. Mravlja’s awards and recognitions include 2009 HSC-26 Officer of the Year, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Navy Commendation Medals, and six Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, among other unit awards and ribbons. He has accrued more than 2,500 flight hours with over 2,200 hours in the MH-60S.

[Schenevus Students Enjoy Surprise Visit | AllOTSEGO.com](#)

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American, South Korean Nuclear Teams Improve Interoperability on Korean Peninsula

(U.S. Army 26 Apr 23) ... Walter Ham

Highly specialized nuclear teams from the United States and South Korea strengthened their interoperability during NDT-NCT Partnership VIII on the Korean Peninsula, March 20 – 24.

U.S. Army Nuclear Disablement Teams (NDT) trained with their Republic of Korea (ROK) counterparts from the ROK Nuclear Characterization Teams (NCT) during the defensive-oriented exercise.

Maj. Ariel A. Alcaide, the deputy team leader for Nuclear Disablement Team 3, said the teams have forged an important partnership that contributes to security on the Korean Peninsula and stability in Northeast Asia.

“The NDT-NCT partnership is unique to the NDTs,” said Alcaide, a former military intelligence officer who also served as a nuclear logistics planner aboard the U.S. Strategic Command’s Airborne Command Post. “Due to our similar mission set, the NDT-NCT partnership is the only relationship the NDT has with an allied nation military force.”

Alcaide said the NCTs and NDTs serve as the premier nuclear infrastructure characterization assets for their respective nations.



While there are many similarities, the U.S. and South Korean nuclear teams have different unit compositions and missions. The South Korean teams include Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) personnel from the ROK Army, ROK Navy and ROK Air Force who are part of the joint ROK CBRN Defense Command while the U.S. Army Nuclear Disablement Team has the unique on order mission of disablement.

An Afghanistan veteran from Granada Hills, California, Alcaide earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Cal State Northridge and a master's degree in information operations from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He said his passion for math and science led him to become a U.S. Army Nuclear and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction officer (FA 52).

Following his tour at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland-based Nuclear Disablement Team 3, Alcaide will report to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he will earn his PhD in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

As frontline warriors who directly contribute to the nation's strategic deterrence, U.S. Army Nuclear Disablement Teams exploit and disable nuclear and radiological Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) infrastructure and components to deny near-term capability to adversaries and they facilitate follow-on WMD elimination operations.

Nuclear Disablement Team members also serve with U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) Response Teams in the interagency National Technical Nuclear Forensics Ground Collection Task Force on a rotational basis.

Part of the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, the U.S. Army's Nuclear Disablement Teams — the NDT 1 "Manhattan," NDT 2 "Iron Maiden" and NDT 3 "Vandals" — are all stationed on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

From 19 bases in 16 states, American Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from 20th CBRNE Command take on the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and allied operations.

In addition to the three Nuclear Disablement Teams, the one-of-a-kind 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the U.S. Army's active-duty Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) specialists, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity and five Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams.

Alcaide said NDT-NCT Partnership VIII gave them the opportunity to train together on the Korean Peninsula.

"The NDTs and NCTs were able to plan and execute missions together and work hand-in-hand in areas that allow us to communicate effectively between each other and our Soldiers downrange," said Alcaide. "This is a giant leap from the previous partnership events. In addition, both teams formed special bonds and friendship that each team member will cherish for the rest of their lives."

Alcaide said the exercise made both teams stronger and contributed to the readiness of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, which will mark its 70th anniversary this year.

"As an ally and partner over several decades now, it is important we continue to strengthen our relationship with the ROK NCTs and improve our ability to operate together in the same mission space," said Alcaide. "This goes with our motto of Katchi Kapshida or We Go Together!"

[American, South Korean nuclear teams improve interoperability on Korean Peninsula | Article | The United States Army](#)

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GM Board Of Directors Nominates Vice Admiral Jan Tighe

(GM Authority 28 Apr 23) ... Trey Hawkins

General Motors recently announced that Vice Admiral Jan Tighe – a former U.S. Navy Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare and Director of Naval Intelligence – has been recommended by the GM Board of Directors to stand for election.



Set to take place at The General's annual shareholder meeting on June 20th, 2023, Tighe has spent more than 34 years working with the U.S. Navy and National Security Agency as a cryptologist before retiring in 2018. Over the course of her career, Tighe served as Fleet Commander of the U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. 10th Fleet, U.S. Cyber Command deputy director of operations, and president of the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

"GM's future will be driven by a software-first approach that enables a faster cycle of innovation, an elevated experience for our customers and a more efficient enterprise," GM Chair and CEO Mary Barra was quoted as saying. "Vice Admiral Tighe's vast expertise in cybersecurity and information systems will be invaluable as GM scales EVs, AVs, and software-defined vehicles to deliver our vision of a world with zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion."

Tighe also serves on the boards of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., Huntsman Corporation, IronNet Inc., and The Progressive Corporation.

"I couldn't be more excited to join GM's Board during this momentous time," Tighe was quoted as saying. "GM's transformation – enabled by EVs, AVs and software-defined vehicles – is historic, as is the pace at which the company is executing its future."

This development comes on the heels of the retirement of Carol Stephenson, who will not be standing for reelection. Assuming that each nominee is elected at the shareholder meeting, the GM Board of Directors will have 13 directors with experience in manufacturing, digital commerce, retail, higher education, investment management, international affairs, defense, transportation, and information technology and cybersecurity.

[GM Board Of Directors Nominates Vice Admiral Jan Tighe \(gmauthority.com\)](#)

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Rear Admiral in San Diego Set to Take Over as Chief of Naval Research

(Times of San Diego 1 May 23)

(Patch 1 May 23)

A rear admiral assigned to Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, San Diego will move on to become chief of naval research, defense officials have announced.

Rear Adm. Kurt J. Rothenhaus will be assigned to Arlington, Va. for his new post.

Rothenhaus currently serves as program executive officer, Command, Control, Computers, Communications and Intelligence, for the warfare systems command, known as NAVWAR.

By clicking subscribe, you agree to share your email address with Times of San Diego to receive our free newsletter and breaking news alerts. We won't use your email for any other purpose, and you can opt out at any time via an unsubscribe link.

The native of New York City received his commission in 1992 upon graduating from the University of South Carolina where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He also earned a Master of Science in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Software Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

His operational assignments include serving as the combat systems/C5I officer on the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and chief engineer on the USS O'Brien (DD 975). He completed an Individual Augmentee tour in Baghdad, Iraq.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint and Navy and various unit and service awards.

Rothenhaus' new assignment was among nine announced Friday by the Carlos Del Toro, secretary of the Navy, and the chief of naval operations.

[Rear Admiral in San Diego Set to Take Over as Chief of Naval Research - Times of San Diego](#)

[Rear Admiral In San Diego Set To Take Over As Chief Of Naval Research | San Diego, CA Patch](#)

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Hall of Fame Astronaut Michael López-Alegría Named Recipient of Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award

(EIN 1 May 23)

Decorated astronaut Michael López-Alegría has been selected by the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day Planning Committee as the recipient of the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award. Members of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community will honor López-Alegría during the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day (WSD) on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Named for the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the Ronald Brown Award recognizes demonstrated leadership in promoting the important role of standardization in eliminating global barriers to trade.

López-Alegría—who hosted the first ever standards meeting from the International Space Station—has more than 40 years of aviation and space experience.

When he's not on an interstellar mission, López-Alegría is involved in both operational and business development efforts within Axiom Space, where he is chief astronaut. His extensive expertise supports the work of ASTM's Committee F47 on ∞Commercial Spaceflight, which he helped to launch in 2016 and currently chairs. Through his personal engagement in standardization efforts, he has recruited respected technical experts to develop standards, led promotional efforts for F47 at industry events, and engaged in strategic outreach to critical federal government stakeholders. A trailblazer in space and on the ground, López-Alegría helps guide the F47 members and committee through the development of standards and works to expand the committee's innovative footprint.

His record-breaking space career includes roles in the U.S. Navy and NASA, serving as naval aviator, engineering test pilot and program manager, NASA astronaut, and International Space Station Commander. He holds NASA records for most extravehicular activities (EVAs) or "spacewalks" (10) and cumulative EVA time (67 hours, 40 minutes). In 2021, he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. In 2022, he returned to low-Earth orbit for the fifth time as Commander of Axiom Mission 1, which marked history's first all-private crew to the International Space Station.

López-Alegría has also served on several advisory boards and committees of public and private organizations, including the Human Exploration and Operations Committee of the NASA Advisory Council and the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC) to the Federal Aviation Administration. He is the past president of the Association of Space Explorers, and former president of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, where he was a spokesman, thought leader, and advocate with the U.S. Congress and pertinent Executive Agencies for favorable public policy on behalf of the commercial spaceflight industry.

López-Alegría earned a B.S. in systems engineering at the United States Naval Academy and an M.S. in aeronautical engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Program for senior executives in national and international security.

[Hall of Fame Astronaut Michael López-Alegría Named Recipient of Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award - EIN Presswire \(einnews.com\)](#)

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Sole Active-Duty Marine Brings Operational Planning Expertise to the JTF-SD

(DVIDS 1 May 23) ... Bridget Bonnette

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Benjamin Tuck, special technical operations chief for the Joint Task Force-Space Defense, is the sole active-duty Marine in the organization who brings critical operations planning knowledge and strategy to the protect-and-defend mission.

In a post-9/11 world, Tuck initially thought he wanted to Fly Navy, taking inspiration from his grandfather, who served as a U.S. Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate. "I used to think I wanted to fly. My grandpa served in the Navy, and he pointed me towards the Naval Academy," said Tuck. In 2003, Tuck began his journey as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy.



The Naval Academy prepares Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically to serve as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Tuck, after seeing the focus and purpose of the Marines at the Naval Academy, knew that he wanted to be one of them.

“So, when we talk about Marines, they're not born, they're made,” said Tuck. “The big plank in my time at the Naval Academy was the example set by Marine officers there and that's what I wanted to be.” Taking inspiration from Marine Corps officers, Tuck chose the Marine path and on May 25, 2007, graduated from the USNA and earned the title, Marine.

Subsequently, Tuck gained a wide array of experiences ranging from his time at Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, providing humanitarian aid to the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan, to his time alongside Republic of Korea Marine Corps forces conducting counter-battery fire in North Korea, to his time in the Indo-Pacific, providing disaster management support in Vietnam.

“Our job as Marines is to stop bad guys and to help people in trouble. We are America’s force in readiness, the 9-1-1 force,” said Tuck. “An old boss of mine would sometimes quote, ‘Our job is to get there firstest with the mostest!’”

As a communications officer by trade, Tuck is responsible for operating, defending, and preserving information networks to enable command and control for the Marine Air Ground Task Force in all domains, and to support and conduct MAGTF operations in the information environment.

“First and foremost, we train ourselves to be MAGTF officers. As a Marine Corps, our fighting formations all have a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element and logistics combat element,” said Tuck. “All of those components together bring that fighting force so we're ready at a moment’s notice with the ability to project combat power and sustain ourselves.”

After earning a master’s degree in computer science with a focus in cyber warfare and space systems from **Naval Postgraduate School**, and completing Naval War College where he studied operational art, Tuck was a perfect fit for the JTF-SD. In 2021, Tuck arrived here and began applying his unique skillsets directly to the space domain.

“Maj. Tuck brings a unique perspective and can-do attitude to the JTF,” said U.S. Space Force Brig. Gen. Dennis Bythewood, JTF-SD commander. “His MARFORPAC and operational and exercise planning experience has been instrumental in taking our operational planning to the next level. He may be the only Marine in our formation, but he packs the punch of ten.”

Tuck views his role as a non-space entity in the unit as a critical one that helps shape joint force planning.

“I view space differently. I'm not a space guy; I'm a Marine here at JTF-SD, but I'm first and foremost a MAGTF officer. The goodness of being here at JTF-SD is to bring the MAGTF focus, sometimes we call it 'MAGTF-ery,' into our joint planning and specifically how space can enable fires and maneuver.”

Tuck now brings his operational planning perspective into the JTF-SD as the STO chief, helping shape planning efforts to ensure the plans truly enable the force flow for the supported command.

“At the Joint Task Force, where a lot of our focus and mission is in more of the classified domain, I can help shape operational plans to look at how does the U.S. Space Command fight support the joint force,” said Tuck. “So, a lot of what we look at is how can I, in my role as a STO chief, help build plans to enable the joint fight.”

Tuck continuously incorporates his Marine Corps perspective in all he does at the JTF, to be the force that is most ready when the nation is least ready.

“Marines are called to get the job done regardless, so we must be ready even if space is not there. Here at the Joint Task Force, our mission is protecting and defending the on-orbit assets,” said Tuck. “So, you've got satellites for communications, you've got satellites for intelligence, you've got anything you can think of on-orbit. How do you make sure you protect and defend those capabilities? Because space is no longer benign and there are other nations that have capabilities that can put our assets at risk.”

Tuck was recently selected to the rank of lieutenant colonel and will return to the fleet in the summer of 2024, but emphasized the significance of the JTF-SD’s mission.

“The protect-and-defend mission is absolutely critical,” said Tuck. “What we bring to the joint force and what our focus is on to ensure access to critical space capabilities to enable the joint force, such as maneuver, fires, intel, command and control, force protection is absolutely critical.”



The JTF-SD's mission is, in unified action with mission partners, to deter aggression, defend capabilities and defeat adversaries throughout the continuum of conflict to maintain space superiority in the USSPACECOM area of responsibility.

[DVIDS - News - Sole active-duty Marine brings operational planning expertise to the JTF-SD \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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NASA Astronaut Reid Wiseman, Commander of the Artemis 2 Moon Mission

(Space 4 May 23) ... Elizabeth Howell

Reid Wiseman is a NASA astronaut that will command the first human moon mission since 1972.

Wiseman will lead a crew of four astronauts aboard Artemis 2, which is scheduled to perform a 10-day mission in November 2024. Joining Wiseman on the round-the-moon mission will be NASA astronauts Victor Glover and Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

Artemis 2 will be Wiseman's second mission. He has 165 days of space experience on Expedition 41, which flew to the International Space Station between May and November of 2014. His command of Artemis 2 will be the first moon mission since the Apollo program concluded lunar excursions in December 1972.

Wiseman was born in Baltimore and graduated from Dulaney High School in 1993, according to his NASA biography([opens in new tab](#)). He earned a bachelor of science degree in computer and systems engineering at New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1997 and has two post-graduate certifications: a master of science in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University, and a certificate of space systems from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**.

According to Wiseman, he was thinking about space from a young age but went with aviation first. "When the Challenger disaster happened, that really had a big impact on my 11-year-old mind," he said in an interview with NASA([opens in new tab](#)), referring to a space shuttle disaster that killed seven astronauts.

"It got me thinking about NASA, thinking about space exploration," Wiseman added. "I made my parents take me down to KSC [NASA's Kennedy Space Center] to look around."

Following Wiseman's 1997 graduation, he was commissioned as a reserve officer and reported to Pensacola, Fla. for flight training. He became a naval aviator in 1999 and flew the T-14 Tomcat for Fighter Squadron 101 in Virginia. Later on, he deployed twice to the Middle East with Fighter Squadron Oceana for Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

After attending the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and graduating in June 2004, Wiseman became a test pilot and project officer at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, working in programs such as the F-35 Lightning II, F-18 weapons separation, Ship Suitability and the T-45 Goshawk. Subsequent assignments included Carrier Air Wing Seventeen as the Strike Operations Officer (which included a deployment in South America) and Strike Fighter Squadron 103 in Virginia flying the FA-18F Super Hornet.

EARLY ASTRONAUT CAREER

Wiseman was at sea when he was told he would be a member of the 2009 NASA astronaut class. He started training at the NASA Johnson Space Center in August 2009 and finished his astronaut candidate training in May 2011, which made him eligible for mission assignments.

He, fortunately, was assigned to a spaceflight almost right away, going on Expeditions 40 and 41 that flew from May 29 to Nov. 9, 2014. The mission took place with what Wiseman says in his biography are "two of his best friends", Maxim Suraev of Roscosmos and Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency.

The crew finished what was then a record amount of science experiments, and Wiseman himself executed two spacewalks. The first was alongside Gerst, which stowed a failed coolant pump and



provided backup power for a mobile transporter responsible for moving the ISS Canadarm2 robotic arm. His second spacewalk, with NASA astronaut Butch Wilmore, replaced a failed power regulator.

In a 2015 recorded talk with Google employees(opens in new tab), Wiseman (who was perhaps joking at the time) told attendees that he also set a record for the most weight gain in space. "It was all due to chocolate pudding cake," he said to the laughing crowd. "I had to buy a whole new set of pants."

NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, now commander of the Artemis 2 moon mission, speaks with amateur radio operators during the International Space Station's Expedition 40 on June 28, 2014. (Image credit: NASA)(opens in new tab)

10 YEARS BETWEEN SPACEFLIGHTS

Spacecraft for the ISS typically carry three or four people each compared to the previous program, the space shuttle, which sent up about seven astronauts at a time. Fewer people thus fly to space than previously, which often results in long gaps between spaceflights. Wiseman thus will wait about 10 years between spaceflights before flying again on Artemis 2.

Astronauts always have ground duties to work on, however, including serving as capsule commander in Mission Control, performing training activities, supporting other missions, or keeping up proficiencies in skills like flying or spacewalking.

In Wiseman's case, he also served as commander of the underwater NEEMO (NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations) 21 mission in 2017 and also became deputy chief of the astronaut office in 2017. In 2020 he was promoted to chief astronaut, a position he held for two years. (Chief astronauts by job definition do not fly to space as they are responsible for crew assignments.)

The Artemis II crew, from left: pilot Victor Glover, commander Reid Wiseman and mission specialists Jeremy Hansen and Christina Koch. Together, they will become the first people to fly to the moon in more than 50 years. (Image credit: NASA/Robert Markowitz)(opens in new tab)

Wiseman was named commander of the Artemis 2 mission on April 3, 2023, in a large ceremony in Houston involving nearly the entire NASA astronaut corps. Two days later, Wiseman and the Artemis 2 crew made an appearance(opens in new tab) on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Colbert asked Wiseman why return to the moon, to which Wiseman replied: "We want to see humans on Mars." He also pointed to the influence of the ISS, saying that the long-duration experience there will help with creating permanent settlements on the moon and Mars alike.

[NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, commander of Artemis 2 moon mission | Space](#)

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New Marine Chief Rojas Assumes Post

(GMA 10 may 23)

(PNA 10 may 23)

(Manila Times 10 may 23)

Major General Arturo Rojas has assumed his post as the new commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), the naval infantry force said Wednesday.

The change-of-command ceremony was held at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City on Monday.

Rojas replaced Lieutenant General Charlton Sean Gaerlan, who was recently appointed as the new deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Rojas, a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Bigkis Lahi" Class of 1990, was the commander of the AFP's Special Operations Command before his new appointment.

He also served as the brigade commander of 2nd Marine Brigade in Tawi-Tawi and the deputy commander of Western Mindanao Command and later became the unit's acting commander.

Rojas spent his early military career with MBLT-3, MBLT-9, and 61st Marine Force Reconnaissance Company, where he focused on special operations.

He also has served as a security officer in the Department of National Defense for three years.



Rojas earned a Master of Science in Defense Analysis from the US **Naval Postgraduate School** in California in 2004 and Master in Public Management Major in Department and Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines in 2011.

[New Marine chief Rojas assumes post | GMA News Online \(gmanetwork.com\)](#)

[Rojas is new PH Marine Corps commandant | Philippine News Agency \(pna.gov.ph\)](#)

[Rojas is new Marine commandant | The Manila Times](#)

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West Orange Native and Astronaut Senator Mark Kelly Inducted into U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame

(Tap Into 9 May 23)

On May 6, Veteran NASA astronaut and West Orange native Senator Mark Kelly was inducted into the 24th class of honorees in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, and fellow astronaut Major General Roy D. Bridgers, Jr., was inducted that day as well. They were honored for their outstanding accomplishments in furthering NASA's mission of exploration and discovery. 107 astronauts are now in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Curt Brown, Board Chairman of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation; Howard Schwartz, VP of Guest Engagement and Operations Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex; Bill Nelson NASA administrator and Kelvin Manning, deputy director, NASA's Kennedy Space Center attended, as well as over 25 other veteran astronauts, many of whom are also members of the hall of fame.

"To have played a small part in the world's greatest space program was a privilege, and to have been selected for this recognition is a true honor," said Senator Kelly. "I can't help but to reflect on the journey here, from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, to flying in the Navy in Operation Desert Storm, to becoming a test pilot and eventually getting that call that I'd been selected as an astronaut. I'm so grateful to have been born in a country where the son of two police officers, who watched the Apollo missions from his living room floor, can go on to achieve his dreams of flying to space in service of their country."

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According to his biography, Kelly's distinguished career in space and science includes being a Captain in the U.S. Navy, a U.S. Navy combat pilot, a NASA astronaut and his current position as U.S. Senator for Arizona.

He earned his bachelor's degree in marine engineering and nautical science from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and later a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**.

According to his US Senate biography, Kelly was a Navy pilot who made multiple deployments aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway and flew 39 combat missions in Operation Desert Storm. He has logged more than 5,000 flight hours in more than 50 different aircraft and has over 375 carrier landings. Kelly retired from the Navy with the rank of Captain.

In 1996, he and his identical twin brother Scott were selected as astronauts and were in the same NASA class. Kelly's first of four trips into space were as pilot of STS-108 in December 2001, during which he helped deliver equipment, supplies and additional crew members to the International Space Station (ISS), as pilot of STS-121 aboard Discovery, the second "Return to Flight" mission following the loss of Columbia in February 2003. STS-124 also aboard Discovery, in May 2008 was Kelly's first mission as commander. Kelly and his crew delivered the pressurized module for the Japanese Lab to the ISS.

He retired from NASA in 2011 after commanding space shuttle Endeavour on its final flight, STS-134, which delivered the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the International Space Station. Kelly has spent more than 50 days in space and traveled over 20 million miles.



Kelly serves as chair of the Airland Subcommittee and on Senate Armed Services as a Senator for Arizona. The subcommittee oversees the Army and Air Force planning, operations and programs. He also sits on the Environment and Public Works and the Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator Kelly has received two Defense Superior Service Medals, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and multiple Air Medals. He and his wife, former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, live in Tucson. Kelly has two daughters, Claire, a graduate of Arizona State University, and Claudia who lives in Tucson, is a student at the University of Arizona and is also the mother of Kelly's two-year-old granddaughter, Sage.

[West Orange Native and Astronaut Senator Mark Kelly Inducted into U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® | West Orange, NJ News TAPinto](#)

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Steven Barriger Appointed Chief of Staff for B.R.A.K.E.S. National Teen Defensive Driving Program

(PR Newswire 11 may 23)

The B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe) national teen defensive driving program today announces the appointment of Steven Barriger to the newly created position of Chief of Staff.

Mr. Barriger will assist the organization's executive director in providing leadership and oversight for day-to-day functions and staff. He will focus on developing and implementing strategies to meet the organizational goals while advancing the B.R.A.K.E.S. mission of saving lives and making roadways safer.

Mr. Barriger joins B.R.A.K.E.S. after spending nearly 28 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, where held numerous officer-level positions. Most recently, he spent five years as the Director, Commander's Action Group for Marine Corps Forces in Europe and Africa. He holds a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School For National Security and Resource Strategy, as well as a Master of Science in Systems Technology from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Mr. Barriger's transition to B.R.A.K.E.S. was facilitated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship program, which provides transitioning service members with professional training and hands-on experience in the civilian workforce.

"Steve brings extensive leadership experience to this new position, which will play an integral role in continued growth of our national teen defensive driving program," said B.R.A.K.E.S. Founder Doug Herbert. "We look forward to his contributions and welcome him to our team."

Through their participation in the pro-active defensive driving program, B.R.A.K.E.S. graduates are 64 percent less likely to get in a crash within their first three years of driving, according to an independent study conducted by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

About B.R.A.K.E.S.

Doug Herbert's B.R.A.K.E.S. (Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe) is a GuideStar Platinum-rated 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to prevent injuries and save lives by training and educating teenage drivers and their parents about the importance of safe and responsible driving. B.R.A.K.E.S. was founded in 2008 after Top Fuel drag racer Doug Herbert lost his two young sons, Jon and James, in a tragic car crash. Today, more than 110,000 teens and parents from 50 different states and five countries have participated in the B.R.A.K.E.S. intensive training course.

[Steven Barriger Appointed Chief of Staff for B.R.A.K.E.S. National Teen Defensive Driving Program \(yahoo.com\)](#)

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NSWC Philadelphia Division Highlights Contract Specialist during Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Heritage Month

(DVIDS 17 May 23) ... Gary Ell

Derek Diep, a proud first generation Chinese American, born and raised in Philadelphia's Chinatown, serves as a Contract Specialist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division (NSWCPD), supporting a variety of total life cycle "cradle-to-grave" contracts that directly support the Machinery Research, Logistics & Ship Integrity and Propulsion Department, as well as Power & Auxiliary Machinery Systems Department.

Having joined NSWCPD in 2016, Diep is an expert in contract negotiation in both cost and fixed-price contracts revolving around the acquisition of supplies and services to support research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) that meet requirements in engineering technologies of advanced systems for new acquisition and in-service engineering programs.

Diep earned a Master's of Science in in Program Management (MSPM) from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2021. He also achieved the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level II Certification for Systems Planning, Research, Development & Engineering - Science and Technology.

Diep is a proactive advocate for the advancement of AAPI employees at NSWCPD, while continuously promoting diversity and inclusion in the federal government workforce. He became a member of the Naval Asian Society Employee Resource Group (NASERG) in 2017 and was nominated to Chairperson in 2022. He leads a core team who develop and execute events, workshops and interest meetings, to promote, represent, and engage AAPI voices within the federal government.

"My goal for NASERG is to focus on the core values of community, collaboration and the inherit investment of developing such community," Diep said.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a key role in American history, and when it comes to multiculturalism, Diep said, "When I think about multiculturalism, I see a prime example of American exceptionalism. We live in a complex, interconnected world shaped by globalization and technology. Humans have existed for over 300,000 years, but it has only been in the last 50 to 60 years that we've been able to learn from one another and share information across the globe."

"I believe multiculturalism has a bigger impact in our everyday lives than we take for granted. It is a true differentiator that allows for innovation to take place. We must figure out how our diverse backgrounds and traditional learnings from previous generations can help apply solutions to modern problems," Diep added. "When it comes to diversity, social equity, and inclusion, we have to understand that there is no blueprint for success. Human nature is inherently guided through self-interests and vanity. When we are able to open up ourselves to other people and new ideas, that's when we can grow as a society and leave behind a better place."

In 1992, Congress established May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to coincide with two key milestones: the arrival of the Nation's first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and Chinese workers' pivotal role in building the transcontinental railroad (completed May 10, 1869). The move expanded what had been Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week since 1978. In 2021, a presidential proclamation expanded this to include Native Hawaiians.

AAPI Heritage Month uses the word "heritage" instead of "history." When asked if this affects the celebration of this month, Diep said, "This is an interesting point that I had not previously given much consideration. I don't believe that not labelling the Asian American's experience as history is intrinsically problematic, in fact, I believe the opposite may be true. History implies a negative connotation, that the past has to be remembered to not repeat the mistakes of our forefathers, whereas heritage is more so praised as a memento, something of value, passed down from a predecessor.

Diep said, "We can celebrate both history and heritage, but history, usually comes a cautionary tale, whereas heritage celebrates the best aspects of individual cultures, past and present. That is not to say that AAPI month should be viewed with rose-tinted glasses or that Asian Americans do not have their own fair share of negative experiences growing up in this country. Asian Americans, like other minority groups, also experience similar prejudice and discrimination."



“As we’ve seen throughout the past couple of years, Stop Asian Hate has grown out of the neo-civil rights movement and will only continue to grow as the AAPI community continues to raise voices to issues previously invisible to the masses,” Diep continued. “I believe one day we will view it this period as a watershed moment for social equality. In the same way that we approach other history months, with both reflection and celebration, we can honor our AAPI Heritage month the same way, understanding that our history, standing on the shoulders of the civil rights giants before us, is still being written as we aim for a common goal of equality for all. You can measure the act but you cannot measure the impact, and if you cannot measure the impact, then you cannot improve it.”

When asked if he could spend 15 minutes to chat with any AAPI historical figure (alive or dead), he said, “If I had a chance to talk with any AAPI historical figure, it would be King Kamehameha I of Hawaii, whose history is not so different from that of the founding fathers of our Nation. He was the first King to unify the islands under a single monarchy to strengthen the nation, which had been previously divided among warring factions. He was a leader of unity who achieved this through diplomacy, military conquest, and strategic alliances, and is remembered as a unifying and visionary leader who left a lasting legacy in Hawaiian history.”

When it comes to motivation for success and singling out mentors, Diep said, “Looking back in my career, I cannot really give one specific person all the credit. I consider all my peers as mentors in one way or another, not just on the job, but with life decisions, personal growth, and even some of my hobbies.”

“I think no matter what age, background or profession you come from, every individual has a unique story to tell and a perspective to share that can enrich our lives. I am a by-product of the collective wisdom and guidance of many great people before me, and I am grateful for the lessons and experiences that have helped shape me into who I am today,” he said.

When asked about what advice he would give to the next generation of Asian American and Pacific Islanders, Diep said, “Embrace your cultural heritage including traditions, language, and history. A strong sense of identity and belonging can foster a deeper understanding and respect for other cultures. Be an advocate and build community.”

NSWCPD employs approximately 2,800 civilian engineers, scientists, technicians, and support personnel. The NSWCPD team does the research and development, test and evaluation, acquisition support, and in-service and logistics engineering for the non-nuclear machinery, ship machinery systems, and related equipment and material for Navy surface ships and submarines. NSWCPD is also the lead organization providing cybersecurity for all ship systems.

[DVIDS - News - NSWC Philadelphia Division Highlights Contract Specialist during Asian American Pacific Islanders \(AAPI\) Heritage Month \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net/news/190523/190523-001)

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From Monterey to the Moon: Astronaut Victor Glover Discusses His Part in the Artemis II Mission

(KAZU 19 May 23) ... Jonathan Linden

NASA Astronaut Victor Glover will be making his second flight to space as the pilot of the Artemis II mission. Glover previously served as pilot on NASA’s SpaceX Crew-1.

Astronaut Victor Glover on his ties to Monterey, and his role as pilot for NASA’s Artemis II mission — the first NASA lunar mission since 1972.

When NASA’s Victor Glover heads to the moon, he will make history as the first Black astronaut to take part in a lunar mission. Glover is a Southern California native, and graduate of Monterey’s **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Joining Glover on NASA’s Artemis II mission is a diverse crew, including Christina Koch, the first woman to take part in a lunar mission, and Canadian Jeremy Hansen — the first non-American Artemis II



will be the first crewed mission to the moon in over 50 years. The 10-day trip is planned to launch in November of next year.

Glover will be the mission pilot and navigate NASA's Orion spacecraft in a lunar fly-by, traveling around the moon, and back to Earth.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Victor Glover (VG): You know, it's interesting because people generally ask...am I excited? But I'm a test pilot and a military officer who's been in combat. I know what this means, the seriousness, the training over the next two years, all the public outreach that's going to be required because we're stewards of public resources. So really the feeling that I had was a little bit of shock... I have to be honest. But also I just felt like, wow, this is big. And I don't know what that feeling is, though, you know, profundity. It just seemed really big.

From left to right: CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen and NASA astronauts Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman, and Christina Hammock Koch. The four astronauts will be part of the Artemis II mission, the first crewed lunar mission since 1972.

Jonathan Linden (JL): Can you talk about what will be happening for you between now and when this lunar mission is planned to launch in November of 2024?

(VG): Between now and launch, we will be training. We have to learn all the spacecraft systems, the ground systems for emergency egress, the booster, the rocket, the space launch system. And we'll learn, obviously, the Orion spacecraft systems, because that's where we'll be living for the entire mission. And so how to fly it, the life support systems, how to exercise and eat and sleep. But also and equally important, we will engage with the teams that make the hardware and software and all the operations teams that will be flying and supporting our mission. That's important because we've been working on some aspects of this for about 20 years and this is the first crew to fly on this hardware. So it's important for them to know, hey, we're counting on you to do your best job so that we can get back safely, which enables the next leg of this relay race to get back to the lunar surface and eventually on to Mars.

(JL): You earned your master's degree in systems engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** here in Monterey. What is systems engineering and has that influenced where you are at in your career right now?

(VG): Absolutely. I chose to go to Monterey because the program there is so tailored for our modern military officer. I was very busy. I was actually deployed in combat, Operation Iraqi Freedom, when I started graduate school. I originally started with the space systems certificate. And then I eventually got into the master's degree program. So I would say that program was 100% relevant to my work as a naval aviator and test pilot and 100% relevant to what I do here at NASA every day because we are constantly evolving and improving and sustaining systems that the government purchases. So the work that I've been fortunate to do with (SpaceX Crew-1), flying one of the early missions on SpaceX and then flying this first crewed mission of Orion is definitely relevant.

Artemis II will be the first flight with crew aboard NASA's Orion spacecraft. During the Artemis II mission, the crew will confirm that all of the spacecraft's systems operate as designed. The mission will pave the way to land the first woman and next man on the Moon on Artemis III.

(JL): And so for this Artemis II mission, you'll be serving as the pilot. What will you be doing during the flight specifically when you're launching?

(VG): So the pilot is primarily responsible for the vehicle and vehicle systems, the Orion spacecraft. There is also going to be a very unique opportunity over about a three-hour period where we will fly the vehicle manually by hand. We will test out the ability to control the spacecraft for docking, for example. So we will actually separate from our upper stage and then turn around and pretend to dock to that upper stage and make sure that the vehicle can be controlled precisely enough to dock to a lunar lander or Gateway space station. Then once we're on the way to the moon, most of the work is done by the spacecraft and the ground. But we want to make sure that the emphasis isn't just on these four people that are selected to fly Artemis II to the moon and back. This is a much bigger project. Artemis II is this grand campaign that's going to get us back to the moon sustainably and responsibly and eventually help us to learn to develop the technology, the hardware and the software that are eventually going to get us on that journey to Mars. That is something that we hope everyone can get behind.



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American Public University System Appoints U.S. Army Lieutenant General David Halverson (Retired) to Board of Trustees

(Yahoo Finance! 22 May 23)

American Public University System (APUS) today announced that U.S. Army LTG (R) David D. Halverson has been appointed to its Board of Trustees. An experienced strategic leader, Halverson is Chairman and CEO of Cypress International, a consulting firm focused on defense and homeland security.

"Lieutenant General Halverson's extensive experience as both a CEO and flag officer will help us continue to advance our vision to deliver accessible and affordable higher education to learners of all backgrounds," said Frank Ball, APUS Board of Trustee Chairman. "He understands the significant role that APUS plays in transforming students' lives with workforce-relevant online education."

Halverson replaces Dr. Lucie Lapovsky, who has served on the Board for almost 20 years.

Since January 2017, Halverson has been serving as CEO of Alexandria, Va.-based consulting firm Cypress International. One of his most significant assignments during his 37-year military career was him serving as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), which oversees 32 Army schools that educate and train 750,000 students each year. Halverson's last active-duty assignment was the U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, where he transformed the business approach to global installation management and programmed the \$19 billion annual energy, general services, force protection, construction and quality of life programs for over 154 Army installations.

"I am honored to join APUS as the University plays a crucial role in helping to enable service-minded students to become tomorrow's leaders," said Halverson. "I'm excited to help students achieve their educational goals."

A Minnesota native, Halverson served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his staff positions focused on program development, testing, concept and requirement development, strategic planning, cost-benefit and risk analysis. His assignments included the Senior Military Analyst in the Joint Wargaming and Policy Division of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, and Army budget development.

Halverson serves on numerous boards including the Armed Services YMCA; the West Point Society of DC; the MITRE Army Board of Advisors; and the Army West Point Athletic Association.

Halverson holds a Master's Degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis from the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**. He earned his commission and a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and also graduated from the Kenan-Flagler Business School's Executive Development Program at the University of North Carolina.

[American Public University System Appoints U.S. Army Lieutenant General David Halverson \(Retired\) to Board of Trustees \(yahoo.com\)](#)

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Babson No. 1 in Producing Highest Proportion of Business Leaders

(Entrepreneurship 22 May 23)

Babson College produces the highest proportion of business leaders, earning the No. 1 ranking among U.S. colleges in a new analysis by Resume.io.

According to the analysis of colleges' LinkedIn pages and alumni profiles with CEO or similar job titles, Babson produces 160.5 business leaders per 1,000 graduates.



As the No. 1 school, Babson leads a top 10 list that includes four military academies—**Naval Postgraduate School**, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy—as well as schools such as Stanford, MIT, and Princeton.

According to its site, Resume.io “compiled lists of universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada and recorded the number of graduates listed on the pages of universities on LinkedIn. Then we searched for alums of each university with CEO or similar in their job titles and checked the number of alums for each category. Finally, we ranked universities by the number of business leaders per 1,000 alums. Only universities with more than 25k alums on LinkedIn were considered.”

[Babson No. 1 in Producing Highest Proportion of Business Leaders](#)

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