



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – June 22 - July 5, 2023

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SECNAV:

[SECNAV Outlines Naval Education Strategy, Prepares DON to Meet Evolving Warfighting Challenges](#)

(DVIDS 23 June 23)

(Navy.mil 23 June 23)

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The new sensor platforms—developed in collaboration with the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a local aerospace electrical engineering company—incorporate advanced low-power electronics that can measure key oceanic factors, such as salinity, temperature, and position. The data is then transmitted to researchers using satellite communication for real-time global monitoring.

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What Happens to Putin Now?

(New York Times 30 June 23) ... Thomas L. Friedman

The events playing out in Russia feel like the trailer for the next James Bond movie: Vladimir Putin's ex-chef/ex-cyberhacker/recentmercenary army leader, Yevgeny V. Prigozhin, goes rogue... And as has happened in history, the Russian Army has been learning from its mistakes, John Arquilla, a longtime professor of strategy at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** in California and the author of "Bitskrieg: The New Challenge of Cyber Warfare," explained to me, "The Russians suffer, but they always learn."

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Get your questions answered about climate change and disasters from FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at West Shore Community College...Criswell is a Free Soil native who attended Free Soil elementary school and Manistee Catholic Central High School before earning a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University, and masters' degrees from the University of Colorado and the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Holy Name Catholic School Names Escanaba Man As Interim Administrator](#)

(RRN 28 June 23) ... Jack Hall

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(Daily News June 23)

Holy Name Catholic School has named Jeffery Sierpien of Escanaba as interim administrator. Sierpien will assume his new role on June 30...Sierpien holds two master's degrees—an MBA from **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey Bay, CA, and a Master's in Human Resources Management from Webster University in St. Louis, MO. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University in Detroit, and an associate's degree in Law Enforcement from Macomb Community College in Warren, MI.

[Navy Information Operations: Time for a New Unrestricted Line Community](#)

(USNI 24 June 23) ... Bart D'Angelo

Information operations (IO) can kill people and break things. A cyberattack damaged centrifuges in Iran, and electromagnet attacks can disable power grids, yet. U.S. naval officers designated to lead IO are a subset of the cryptologic warfare officer (CWO) restricted line community. For Navy IO to be effective, officers in charge of IO need to be a separate, unrestricted line community focused solely on IO... Commander D'Angelo is a naval intelligence officer with more than 21 years of active service. He completed his undergraduate degree in maritime operations at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, and has master's degrees from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the Naval War College. He has had many assignments in the Navy, including on board two aircraft carriers and three tours in Japan.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

July 6: [Faculty Conversations Series](#): The NPS Research Enterprise

July 7: [Foundations of Academic Writing](#)

July 25: SGL with CEO's (ret) Lockheed and Raytheon



SECNAV:

SECNAV Outlines Naval Education Strategy, Prepares DON to Meet Evolving Warfighting Challenges

(DVIDS 23 June 23)

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro released his Naval Education Strategy (NES) today, which provides guidance to modernize naval education to meet our Nation's security needs.

The strategy provides the framework for the Department of the Navy (DON) to deliver more effective, efficient, and integrated naval education to the total force in support of President Biden's national security priorities and the National Defense Strategy (NDS).

“Education is a critical warfighting enabler,” said Secretary Del Toro. “We will continue to strengthen our Department's culture, policies, processes, talent management, and investments to reflect education's key role in force development.”

Secretary Del Toro outlined the NES during remarks at the Naval War College change of command ceremony, where Rear Adm. Peter A. Garvin relieved Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield as President.

“Shoshana, I cannot thank you, and your husband, David, enough for your tireless efforts these past four years as you both dedicated your time and energy to supporting our War College family. The War College is a key component to developing our warfighters' intellectual edge to achieve warfighting advantage,” said Secretary Del Toro.

The Naval War College is part of the Naval University System (NUS), which is the primary way that the DON delivers education to its force. Other DON academic degree granting institutions include the United States Naval Academy (USNA), Marine Corps University, **Naval Postgraduate School** (NPS), and the United States Naval Community College (USNCC).

The Naval Education Enterprise (NEE) consists of the NUS, Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps; Flag Officer, General Officer, and executive education programs; Voluntary Education/Tuition Assistance (TA) programs, and other DON-funded scholarship, fellowship, and graduate education programs.

The DON uses a combination of these programs and education delivery methods to form a continuum of learning that addresses the Service's unique requirements, and addresses the dynamic security environment's complex issues within curricula.

The NES provides a framework to prioritize and invest in these programs and institutions.

“Our naval education institutions are the primary way that we develop our warfighters' intellectual edge to achieve warfighting advantage. We must increase investments in our education institutions and training programs to ensure they fulfill that responsibility,” said Secretary Del Toro.

Sailors, Marines, and DON civilians at all levels are expected to contribute to the Department's culture of continuous learning, embrace opportunities to develop professionally, and seek opportunities to improve our combat readiness, Secretary Del Toro added.

[DVIDS - News - SECNAV Outlines Naval Education Strategy, Prepares DON to Meet Evolving Warfighting Challenges \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

[SECNAV Outlines Naval Education Strategy, Prepares DON to Meet Evolving Warfighting Challenges > United States Navy > display-pressreleases](#)

[Return to Index](#)



RESEARCH:

Developing a Jellyfish-Inspired Ocean Sensor

(*Phys.org* 22 June 23) ... Katie Kerrigan

Using a design inspired by one of the ocean's best sailors, a team of scientists at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory is developing a low-cost sensor for ocean observations. The sensors are modeled after *Velella velella*, which are floating jellyfish-like organisms that sail across the surface of the ocean.

The new sensor platforms—developed in collaboration with the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a local aerospace electrical engineering company—incorporate advanced low-power electronics that can measure key oceanic factors, such as salinity, temperature, and position. The data is then transmitted to researchers using satellite communication for real-time global monitoring.

Measuring salinity

Salt makes water denser, and while surface water circulation is driven primarily by surface winds, changes in seawater density and temperature drive ocean currents deep below the surface. Global ocean circulation models suggest that these density-driven deep currents play a significant role in mediating our planet's climate, as well as ocean nutrient and carbon dioxide cycles.

Though satellites are capable of capturing salinity data from large portions of the ocean, data from buoys and in-water devices, such as the *Velella velella* sensors, provides localized, high-resolution readings.

"If we can better monitor ocean health and how environments around the world are changing, then we can make better decisions on how to mitigate or adapt to those changes," says Leslie Hamilton, an APL materials science engineer.

Modeled after nature

Nicknamed "by-the-wind sailors," the *Velella velella* that inspired APL's sensors form large schools and feed on plankton as they float across the sea, propelled by winds pushing on their sails. For the biomimetic sensors to pack such a technologically heavy punch in such a small package, many components are multifunctional.

"Not only does the sail capture wind, it's also a feature to house electrical components, like antennae, that need to sit above the waterline," says Kyle Lowery, a mechanical design engineer at APL. "And the bottom of our *Velella velella* resembles a ship's keel, which simultaneously houses the bulk of the electronics, provides a convenient location for the salinity sensor, and lowers the sensor's center of gravity for stability."

In areas of the ocean that are nutrient and plankton scarce, real *Velella velella* can capture the power of the sun using symbiotic algal cells and then turn that power into energy via a process similar to photosynthesis. Each of APL's *Velella*-inspired silicone sensors harvests the energy of the sun, too, using two solar arrays above its fin to power its tiny electronics.

"As it floats in the ocean, the solar energy will recharge the battery," says APL electrical engineer Daniel Ayoub. The salinity sensor will be submerged and continuously measuring salinity levels.

Adaptable aquatic communicators

The electronics, which can be adapted for a variety of research interests, are designed to periodically report temperature, position, and salinity via satellite communication. To test these capabilities, an early electronics prototype was deployed via weather balloon from the Delaware coast. The prototype is currently in the middle of the Atlantic and has been reporting position and temperature multiple times a day for over 20 weeks.

To perform initial buoyancy tests, the team set the sensors afloat in the APL pond. This was followed by a tethered release in the Pacific Ocean. Recently, researchers at the Naval Postgraduate School deployed the latest iteration of their design in Monterey, California. The sensor is currently tethered to a pier to allow for continued testing and evaluation in a real ocean environment.

In future testing phases, researchers will deploy a collection of devices that resemble *Velella velella*'s natural school structure and are capable of providing larger sets of critical oceanic data.



[Developing a jellyfish-inspired ocean sensor \(phys.org\)](#)

[Return to Index](#)

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[Kuleana: The Professors](#) | [Kuleana](#) | [kitv.com](#)

[Return to Index](#)

FACULTY:

Technology to be Focus of Biden-Modi State Visit as Both Leaders Face Challenges

(Washington Examiner 22 June 23) ... Naomi Lim

President Joe Biden rolling out the diplomatic red carpet for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an overture to both leaders' domestic and foreign audiences.

As the two men contend with international challenges presented by China and Russia, they are also preparing for reelection campaigns next year.

Despite the White House's insistence that Modi's official state visit is not about China, the United States and India want to broadcast the partnership's "robustness" abroad, according to former State Department policy planning staffer Paul Kapur, particularly since the prime minister has not condemned Russia's war in Ukraine.

"They want to make that clear, so China will see that," Kapur, now a U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** national security professor and Vandenberg Coalition advisory board member, said. "That will also give Modi some legitimacy heading into his elections, India's elections, next year. And also domestically, the Biden administration will be able to demonstrate that it has a strategy in the Indo-Pacific."

The U.S. and India have drifted closer since the Cold War to offset China's rising influence in the Indo-Pacific, and this visit is set to result in closer cooperation regarding critical and emerging technology, from semiconductors to telecommunications, artificial intelligence, space, and biotechnology, as India's military arsenal continues to depend on Russia, including sophisticated defense systems such as the S-400 Triumf and Pantsir missile system.

Fellow Trump administration alumni Victoria Coates, a former deputy national security adviser-turned-Heritage Foundation senior research fellow, applauded Biden for being open to expediting arms sales to India, especially approving the co-production of General Electric F414 engines for Indian fighter jets and the purchase of General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drones.

"This is an important step in a much bigger process to help India reduce its security dependency on Russia and become more interoperable with the U.S., as well as Japan and Australia," she said. "Unfortunately, the Biden administration is not coupling this progress with deals for increased energy exports to India, notably for natural gas, which would help India reduce its reliance on coal and so reduce emissions."

Supplementing education and people-to-people programs, Brookings Institution nonresident fellow and Johns Hopkins University international affairs professor Joshua White previewed the prospect of an agreement for Micron Technology Inc. to build a semiconductor plant in India, describing the visit's series of announcements as "significant and substantive."

"When you look at the string of senior officials that have been making the rounds in Delhi to button this up, it's quite significant," he said. "India has many partners around the world, and a relatively small



bureaucracy to service those engagements, so making progress requires this kind of intense tempo that we've seen over the last few months."

More broadly, Modi's visit underscores the importance of India to Biden as an Indo-Pacific "rising tide" and the "personal bond" between the pair, however strained by Indian democratic backsliding, according to American Enterprise Institute senior fellow Sadanand Dhume, after 70 lawmakers implored Biden to press the prime minister on his treatment of religious minorities and the news media, in addition to his country's internet outages.

Simultaneously, it is "undeniable" that there is more economic and security collaboration between the U.S. and India under Modi, with renewed focus on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Australia and Japan and roughly \$20 billion in new defense spending, per Dhume. It is also undeniable that China has outcompeted India economically, with China's capita per income approximately six times that of India, their geopolitical imbalance exacerbated by their disputed 2,000-mile border.

"China becoming more, from an Indian perspective, more aggressive on that boundary as the economic gap between the two countries has widened has driven India closer to America's arms," Dhume said.

For Hudson Institute Future of India and South Asia Initiative Director Aparna Pande, who predicted there would be a "bro hug" between Biden and Modi, the prime minister's visit also provides him with the opportunity to appear courted by the world's leading superpower during his self-proclaimed "Year of India" before New Delhi hosts the Group of 20 summit this September and his reelection bid next year.

"The [Bharatiya Janata Party] does have an upper hand, it is still popular, and Mr. Modi is personally very popular, so, barring any problems, his party has a high chance of winning next year's election," Pande said. "But the economy is one of India's challenges because even though India is the fastest growing economy right now in the world, at 6.9%, India needs to grow in double digits in order to get over all the labor problems, unemployment, invest in infrastructure, invest in the economy, invest in military modernization."

"If some of those deliverables help India on the unemployment front or labor front, investment by U.S. companies or ways in which Indians can get skilled or get jobs, that would really help both India and Mr. Modi," she added.

[Technology to be focus of Biden-Modi state visit as both leaders face challenges | Washington Examiner](#)

[Return to Index](#)

What Happens to Putin Now?

(New York Times 30 June 23) ... Thomas L. Friedman

The events playing out in Russia feel like the trailer for the next James Bond movie: Vladimir Putin's ex-chef/ex-cyberhacker/recent mercenary army leader, Yevgeny V. Prigozhin, goes rogue.

Prigozhin, a character straight out of "Dr. No," leads a convoy of ex-convicts and soldiers of fortune on a madcap dash to seize the Russian capital, shooting down a few Russian military helicopters along the way. They meet so little resistance that the internet is full of pictures of his mercenaries waiting patiently in line to buy coffee: "Hey, could you put a lid on that? I don't want it to spill on my tank!"

But then, just as suddenly, as Prigozhin's men got within 120 miles of Moscow, he apparently caught wind that his convoy on the open highway would be sitting ducks to a determined air attack. So Prigozhin opted for a plea bargain, arranged by the president of Belarus, and called off his revolution — sorry, didn't mean it, I was just trying to point out some problems with the Russian Army — and everyone called it a day.

It's still not clear if the stone-hearted Putin conveyed any direct threat to his old pal Prigozhin, but as Putin's former bag man, Prigozhin clearly wasn't taking any chances. With good reason. As the ever-helpful president of Belarus, where Prigozhin reportedly surfaced on Tuesday, said, the Russian president told him that he wanted to kill his traitorous mercenary commander, to "squash him like a bug."



Like the sinister Ernst Stavro Blofeld, the Bond villain who leads the international criminal syndicate SPECTRE and was often seen petting his white cat while plotting mayhem, Putin is often seen at his 20-foot-long white table, with visitors usually seated at the far end, where, you suspect, a trapdoor waits, ready to swallow anyone who gets out of line.

My first reaction — watching this drama unfold on CNN and then replayed over the past few days — was to wonder: Was this whole thing for real? I am not a conspiracy buff, but “Live and Let Die” had nothing on this Mutiny on the Moskva script — a script that is still playing out, as the analog Putin tries to keep pace on state-run Russian TV while the digitally savvy Prigozhin continues to run circles around him on Telegram.

To the question many readers have asked me — “What happens to Putin now?” — it is impossible to predict. I would be careful, though, about writing Putin off so fast. Remember: Blofeld appeared in six Bond movies before 007 finally eliminated him.

All one can do for the moment, I believe, is to try to calculate the different balances of power shaping this story and analyze who can do what in the coming months.

Let me start with the biggest balance of power that should never be lost sight of. President Biden, please come onstage and take a bow. It was the broad and sustained coalition Biden assembled to confront Putin in Ukraine that ripped the facade off Putin’s Potemkin village.

I like how Alon Pinkas, a former Israeli diplomat in the United States, described it in Haaretz this week: Biden understood from the start that Putin “is the epicenter of an anti-American, antidemocratic, fascist constellation that needs to be defeated, not negotiated with. “Prigozhin’s mutiny “essentially did what Biden has been doing for the past 18 months: exposing Putin’s weaknesses, puncturing his already impaled veneer of supposed strategic genius and aura of invincibility.”

Putin has long ruled with two instruments: fear and money, covered with a cloak of nationalism. He bought those whom he could buy —and jailed or killed those whom he couldn’t. Some Russia watchers, though, argue that fear has now left the building in Moscow. with Putin’s aura of invincibility having at least taken a hit, others could soon challenge him. We’ll see.

If I were Prigozhin or one of his allies, I’d still stay away from anyone walking along a Belarusian sidewalk with an umbrella when the sun is shining. Putin has done a pretty effective job of eliminating his critics, and one should never underestimate the deep fears of Russians about any return to the early 1990s chaos after the fall of the Soviet Union and how grateful many still are for the order that Putin restored.

It’s Putin’s balance of power with the rest of the world where things get complicated, because we in the West have as much to fear from Putin’s weakness as his strength.

There is no sign yet that the Prigozhin mutiny, or the Ukrainian counteroffensive, has led to any significant collapse of Russian forces in Ukraine, but it is too soon to draw any final conclusions.

U.S. officials argue that Putin’s strategy is to exhaust the Ukrainian Army of its 155-millimeter howitzer artillery shells, the mainstay of its ground forces, as well as of its antiaircraft interceptors, so its ground forces would be naked to Russian airpower and then try to hold on until the Western allies are exhausted or Donald Trump gets re-elected and Putin can get a dirty deal where he saves face in Ukraine.

It’s not a crazy strategy. Ukraine fires off so many 155 rounds — as many as 8,000 per day — that the Biden team is now scrambling to find more stocks before the new factories making them come online in 2024.

Logistics matter. So does whether you are playing defense or offense, because offense is harder and the Russians are now really dug in and have laid mines all across their defense lines, which is why the Ukrainian counteroffensive has been off to a slow start.

As Ivan Krastev, a Russia expert and the chairman of the Center for Liberal Strategies in Bulgaria, told me: “In the first year of this war, when Russia was on the offensive, every day that it was not winning, it was losing. In the second year, every day that Ukraine is not winning it, it is losing.”

We should not underestimate the courage of Ukrainians. Nor should we underestimate how exhausted they have to be as a society.

And as has happened in history, the Russian Army has been learning from its mistakes, John Arquilla, a longtime professor of strategy at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** in California and the author of



“Blitzkrieg: The New Challenge of Cyber Warfare,” explained to me, “The Russians suffer, but they always learn.”

Putin’s army has gotten better at pushing authority down to the officers on the front lines and using drones extensively, Arquilla argued. At the same time, the Ukrainian Army has drifted somewhat from its early strategy emphasizing small, mobile units, armed with intelligence and smart weapons, attacking the lumbering Russian Army — to adopting a bigger, heavier profile and using more tanks.

“The Ukrainians were winning with small units, swift-flowing information and smart munitions,” Arquilla said. “Now they look a lot more like the Russian Army they were defeating.” The battlefield will tell us whether this is the right strategy.

All that said, we should be worried as much by the prospect of Putin’s defeat as by any victory. What if he is toppled? This is not like the last days of the Soviet Union. There is no nice, decent Yeltsin-like or Gorbachev-like figure with the power and standing to immediately take over.

“The old Soviet Union had institutions — there were party and state organs, central and provincial — which were responsible for maintaining their bailiwicks, as well as some order of succession,” Leon Aron, a Russia scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, whose book about Putin’s Russia is being published in October, remarked to me. “When Putin came in, he bulldozed or subverted all political and social structures outside the Kremlin.”

But Russian history does offer some surprising twists, Aron added: “Longer term, historically, successors to Russia’s reactionary rulers are often more liberal, especially early in their term: Alexander I after Paul I, Alexander II after Nicholas I, Khrushchev after Stalin, Gorbachev after Andropov. So if we can get through a transition from Putin, there is some hope.”

In the near term, though, if Putin is ousted, we could well end up with someone worse. How would you feel if Prigozhin had been in the Kremlin this morning, commanding Russia’s nuclear arsenal?

You could also get disorder or civil war and the crackup of Russia into warlord/oligarch fiefs. As much as I detest Putin, I detest disorder even more, because when a big state cracks apart, it is very hard to put it back together. The nuclear weapons and criminality that could spill out of a disintegrated Russia would change the world.

This is not a defense of Putin. It is an expression of rage at what he did to his country, making it into a ticking time bomb spread across 11 time zones. Putin has taken the whole world hostage.

If he wins, the Russian people lose. But if he loses and his successor is disorder, the whole world loses.

[Opinion | What Happens to Putin Now? - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

[Return to Index](#)

ALUMNI:

AFFEW hosting FEMA leader, Free Soil native Criswell for Tuesday Talk

(Shoreline Media 23 June 23) ... Steve Begnoche

Get your questions answered about climate change and disasters from FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at West Shore Community College.

AFFEW is hosting Criswell for a conversation about climate change and disasters.

“I’m very excited. This is a big deal,” Julia Chambers, AFFEW president and co-founder, told the Daily News.

Criswell is a Free Soil native who attended Free Soil elementary school and Manistee Catholic Central High School before earning a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University, and masters’ degrees from the University of Colorado and the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

Criswell was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on April 22, 2021 as the 12th administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She is the first woman confirmed to serve as the



administrator, where she leads the nation's efforts in helping people before, during, and after disasters, according to FEMA.

She brings with her an extensive career in public service, serving 30 years at all levels of government.

In addition to serving in the National Guard and as a firefighter, she managed the Office of Emergency Management for Aurora, Colorado, worked in the Federal Emergency Management Agency and was commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management department before being appointed to her current position.

According to her biography on FEMA's Website, "Criswell also proudly served 21 years in the Colorado Air National Guard. She is a veteran of two overseas tours to include as a fire officer in Kuwait immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, and to Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010 where she advised senior leadership on fire protection requirements for new and existing military bases in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The talk will be held in the auditorium at West Shore Community College. Criswell will give 10 minutes of opening remarks on "Climate change and Disasters" and then will be available to engage with the audience for discussion and to answer questions.

Chambers said she decided to invite Criswell after seeing a post from Free Soil resident David Dufon, Criswell's uncle, who noted his niece had addressed the United Nations on the topic.

She messaged Dufon asking if he thought Criswell would be interested in speaking locally. He responded quickly asking if June 27 would work.

Chambers was then put in contact with Criswell's staff at FEMA who reviewed details and told her Criswell was excited to be coming to West Shore to talk in the AFFEW event.

Chambers said when something or somebody catches her eye as a potential speaker for AFFEW, she reaches out. The worst that can happen, is they will say no, she said.

Criswell, however, agreed to talk.

"It's kind of a once-in-lifetime event. It's kind of exciting," Chambers said.

[AFFEW hosting FEMA leader, Free Soil native Criswell for Tuesday talk | News | shorelinemedia.net](#)

[Return to Index](#)

Holy Name Catholic School Names Escanaba Man As Interim Administrator

(RRN 28 June 23) ... Jack Hall

(ABC 10 28 June 23)

(Daily News June 23)

Holy Name Catholic School has named Jeffery Sierpien of Escanaba as interim administrator. Sierpien will assume his new role on June 30.

Holy Name's current principal, Joseph Carlson, announced his resignation in April to assume the role of principal at St. Francis High School in Traverse City.

Sierpien has had a distinguished career in United States Marine Corps and the private sector, bringing a wealth of managerial and executive experience to the role. He feels that serving the school is a calling for him in assuring that area families will be able to provide their children with an exceptional Catholic education.

"Holy Name Catholic School is a tremendous asset to our local community," Sierpien said. "It is clearly evident that this school has positively impacted generations of local families. We all must do everything we can to see that this school succeeds into the future."

As the school's interim administrator, Sierpien sees this role as "an opportunity to serve the Church, our students and the local community." He will initially focus on spearheading the search for a new full-time principal, overseeing faculty and staff at Holy Name, making policy decisions, and assisting in strategic planning. He will also spend time building relationships with the teachers, staff, students, families and the many supporters who have all helped Holy Name thrive.

"I look forward to working with the staff and helping build the next chapter of Holy Name. We can do this by responsibly allocating our resources to those specific priorities identified by our school council



and the supporting parish priests. We are aiming to ensure that Holy Name continues to be a proud beacon of quality Catholic education in the Central U.P.”

Sierpien’s career started in the United States Marine Corps where he eventually rose to the rank of Major before his retirement in 2017. His last duty station was serving as Commanding Officer for the Detroit Military Entrance Processing Station located in Troy, MI. He also served in billets within Special Operations Command, Headquarters Marine Corps and multiple others.

Sierpien deployed a total of seven times during his military career, which included places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan and Europe.

From Nov 2018 to Nov 2019, Sierpien served as the Delta County Airport Manager, a position he left in 2019 to dedicate more time to his family and to pursue an entrepreneurial opportunity.

Sierpien holds two master’s degrees—an MBA from **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey Bay, CA, and a Master’s in Human Resources Management from Webster University in St. Louis, MO. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University in Detroit, and an associate’s degree in Law Enforcement from Macomb Community College in Warren, MI.

Holy Name’s Pastoral Delegate, Father Rick Courier, pastor of St. Thomas Church in Escanaba and St. Anthony’s Church in Wells, says he looks forward to working with Sierpien in helping move Holy Name School forward.

“We are excited to welcome Jeff Sierpien as Holy Name’s interim administrator,” Father Courier said. “Jeff brings to this position an impressive resumé, a great deal of executive experience, and a new perspective to Holy Name. His passion for the school will make him an asset through this transition to a new principal. His exceptional communication skills and leadership abilities will be crucial in empowering staff members and connecting them with students and their families.”

Sierpien currently lives in Escanaba with his wife Rachel and their three sons. All three boys have attended or still are attending Holy Name. He said that he is eager to share his experiences and devote his time to benefit Holy Name. He encourages others in the community to join him, Holy Name staff and stakeholders in securing the school’s next chapter of excellence.

[Holy Name Catholic School Names Escanaba Man As Interim Administrator | Radioresultsnetwork.com](#)

[Holy Name Catholic School names new interim administrator – ABC 10/CW5 \(abc10up.com\)](#)

[Holy Name Catholic School names Sierpien interim administrator | News, Sports, Jobs - Daily Press](#)

[Return to Index](#)

Navy Information Operations: Time for a New Unrestricted Line Community

(USNI 24 June 23) ... Bart D’Angelo

Information operations (IO) can kill people and break things. A cyberattack damaged centrifuges in Iran, and electromagnet attacks can disable power grids, yet. U.S. naval officers designated to lead IO are a subset of the cryptologic warfare officer (CWO) restricted line community. For Navy IO to be effective, officers in charge of IO need to be a separate, unrestricted line community focused solely on IO.

The Navy’s officer corps is broadly divided into two groups—line officers responsible for warfighting and staff officers who handle non-warfighting duties such as supply, medical, and legal. Line officers are further divided into unrestricted and restricted communities. Unrestricted line officers are responsible for combat and include the aviation, surface, submarine, and special warfare designators while restricted line officers occupy a gray area of warfighting that is not directly involved in combat but also not staff officer functions. The restricted line communities include information warfare, public affairs, and others.

Defining IO

In the Navy, IO is misaligned as a CWO responsibility and an element of the larger information warfare (IW) community. In addition to CWO, IW also includes intelligence, meteorology, and information professional officers. Military doctrine defines IO in multiple ways, but it is commonly



described as the integrated employment of information-related capabilities in concert with other lines of operation during military operations to influence, disrupt, corrupt, or usurp the decision making of adversaries and potential adversaries. In other words, IO is targeted at an enemy to have an effect. IO officers spend their days planning or executing operations against an adversary. In contrast, the other elements of information warfare support warfighting but do not target an enemy for effect. Intelligence and meteorology provide battlespace awareness to the commander, and information professionals operate the global naval information technology networks. IO does not belong with these other IW disciplines because it is fundamentally warfighting and not warfighting support.

Operators in the Navy are a part of the unrestricted community and IO officers should be included in this group. In joint doctrine, IO's core capabilities are electronic warfare (EW), computer network operations (CNO), psychological operations (PsyOps), military deception (MilDec), and operations security (OpSec). The word operations is in CNO and PsyOps. The "J" code on joint staffs and the "N" code on Navy staffs for IO is nearly always "39." Any officer knows that operations fall under the "3" designator. In addition, IO is a warfare area with real weapons that do real damage. An airstrike or an EW attack on a power plant can cause physical damage. Similarly, a cyberattack or a special forces infiltration can both destroy a centrifuge. It is hard to argue that IO is not operations. It is time to add information operators to aviators, surface warfare officers (SWOs), submariners, and special warfare personnel.

Designation as an unrestricted line officer is an important distinction because only unrestricted officers command warfighting units. Tenth Fleet, whose mission includes "Directing and delivering desired tactical and operational effects in and through cyberspace, space and the electromagnetic spectrum," is currently led by an aviator. This is not to say that the officer in question is incapable, but it is an obvious mismatch for that position. Would a SWO or an intelligence officer lead an air wing? Would an aviator or information professional lead a destroyer squadron? The answer here is emphatically no, so why do IO officers not lead what is an IO command in Tenth Fleet? One could argue that numbered fleet commanders have always been led by different communities in the Navy. Submariners, SWOs, and aviators have long alternated in these positions. However, Tenth Fleet is unique—it is assigned a specific warfighting area instead of being responsible for all elements of naval warfare like a geographic numbered fleet. In this way, it is much more analogous to destroyer squadrons, submarine squadrons, or air wings. Thus, IO officers should be unrestricted line officers and lead units whose specific warfighting function is IO.

The State of IO

If one accepts the premise that IO is operations, then they should be aghast at where the officers who perform that function are placed. IO functions are currently one portion of the portfolio of a CWO, though the CW community has its roots in signals intelligence (SigInt). Young CW officers traditionally cut their teeth in the ship's signals exploitation space (SSES) on surface combatants or by leading collections teams on aircraft and submarines. The most recent O-6 promotion board convening order states that "the best of fully qualified CW officers will have documented experience across all CW core mission areas (SIGINT, EW, cyber)." CW officers will often discuss the need to get some cyber "stink" on them or to be careful of too much "stink" for the fear of being pigeonholed into only cyber billets—the implication being that cyber is important, but that officers should not focus their whole careers on it.

This is a significant issue. Would a SWO ever worry about getting too much sea time? Officers that specialize in cyber, EW, or any IO core capability should focus on that as their primary warfighting function. As niche jobs in CW, IO will never be properly implemented in the Navy. The new Maritime Cyber Warfare Officer (MCWO) and Cyber Warfare Engineer (CWE) officer communities is an excellent step in breaking out cyber and shows the Navy is aware of this deficiency, but both communities remain restricted. MilDec, PsyOps and OpSec are missing from the CW community. In fact, there is no community in the Navy that would add these functions as a primary mission. Staffs requiring this function often assign them to a CWO or treat them as collateral duties. Officers placed in these positions may not get training, and if they do, it is unlikely to be more than a one or two-week course. A mishmash of mission priority, responsibility, and training for IO can only result in underperformance.

A New IO Community



The solution is a new unrestricted line officer community dedicated to IO. The aviation community is a perfect model for this. Multiple aircraft types have associated communities that specialize in their platform (helicopter, fighters, P-8s, etc.), but all united by the common component of flying. Similarly, an IO community would be united by information-related roots but separated into its core capabilities. A single designator will streamline community management and AQDs used to designate which core IO capability and officer is qualified in. All pilots start their training in primary before moving onto more specific pipelines that ultimately lead to a specific type/model/series aircraft. An IO officer would complete initial community training at a dedicated IO school before moving on to a specific school in EW, CNO, PsyOps, MilDec, or OpSec. An initial tour and major milestones would be performed in their core capability. Disassociated tours outside of the core capability—but still within the IO umbrella—would create a well-rounded officer. Regardless of pipeline, it would establish a resolute IO community with unrestricted line officers able to lead at the highest levels of the Navy.

Recognizing IO as an unrestricted line warfare area also lends itself to creating warfighting elements that easily integrate into current Navy models. Instead of a few officers performing IO at a numbered fleet, imagine an entire task force responsible for IO made up of five squadrons, one for each IO core capability, with a commander on par with a submarine task force or a carrier strike group commander. In other words, a seat at the table. If this were Thanksgiving dinner, IO is currently at the kids' table. It is time for IO to step up and be treated like an adult. It is a warfare element that kills people and breaks things. The Navy should treat it that way and give it the proper level of authority and responsibility.

If IO is to be a warfighting area capable of contributing to victory in war, then the Navy must treat it as a priority. This should start by aligning IO under a single community manned with a new corps of unrestricted line officers.

Commander Bart D'Angelo, U.S. Navy

Commander D'Angelo is a naval intelligence officer with more than 21 years of active service. He completed his undergraduate degree in maritime operations at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, and has master's degrees from the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the Naval War College. He has had many assignments in the Navy, including on board two aircraft carriers and three tours in Japan.

[Navy Information Operations: Time for a New Unrestricted Line Community | Proceedings - June 2023 Vol. 149/6/1,444 \(usni.org\)](#)

[Return to Index](#)

