



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Mar 14 - 20, 2023

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SECNAV:

[Navy Secretary Reaches Out to Caribbean Nations in Fight Against Climate Change](#)

(Defense.gov 15 Mar 23) ... Jim Garamone

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FACULTY:

[Two Decades After Invasion of Iraq, Shadow of War Still Looms Large \[Video Interview\]](#)

(Yahoo!News 15 Mar 23)

Twenty years after the US-led invasion of Iraq, the shadow of the war still looms large. As well as the destabilisation of Iraq and the wider region, the conflict also created a power vacuum that enabled the rise of the Islamic State group. In this special edition, we speak to Samuel Helfont, assistant professor of strategy and policy at the Naval War College programme at the California-based **Naval Postgraduate School** and the author of several books on Iraq.



ALUMNI:

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(Radio Results Network 13 Mar 23) ... Jack Hall

The Delta County Chamber of Commerce welcomes its newest employee, Matthew Valiquette, who will serve as the Chamber and U.P. State Fair's Operations Manager... Valiquette holds a master's degree in national security affairs from **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, CA, a bachelor's degree in political science from Ohio State University, and an associate's degree in business administration from University of Maryland. Originally from Escanaba, Valiquette graduated from Escanaba Area High School in 1988.

[NASA Astronaut Returns Home to Baldwin to Inspire Local Elementary and High School Students](#)

(ABC 7 NY 13 Mar 23) ... Chanteé Lans

An astronaut who grew up on Long Island came home to inspire local kids with a special visit... Moghbeli, a U.S. Marine Corps major, graduated from Baldwin High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering with information technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Mar 24: [Winter Quarter Graduation Ceremony](#)

May 10 -11: [NPS 20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium](#)

Mar 29 -31: Naval Space Summit



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Climate change in the United States is a matter of concern with droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires and more happening with greater severity and more often.

In the Bahamas, it is more than a concern, it is an existential threat.

"Climate change is a matter of life and death for us here in this country," said Bahamas National Security Minister Wayne R. Munroe. "There is a choice – if there is not a reverse – to either become refugees or die. It is that serious a matter for this country."

The United States takes climate change seriously and Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro journeyed to the island nation off the coast of Florida to pledge support for the Caribbean nations fighting for their very existence.

Del Toro made the trip — the first by a secretary of the Navy to the Bahamas – to hear from those fighting against climate change and to find out how the service can help in the struggle. Daniel P. Erikson, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Western Hemisphere affairs, accompanied the secretary.

"The consequences of our changing climate are an existential threat," Del Toro said during a speech at the University of the Bahamas in Nassau. "The increasing severity of those consequences are already being acutely felt here in the Caribbean. You are on the front lines of the climate crisis."

Del Toro emphasized that all nations of the region must cooperate to address climate change and put in place policies to halt the rise in global temperatures and mitigate the effects that will surely happen given the changes already evident.

"Climate change does not respect borders or multilateral groupings," he said. "Hurricanes do not care what passport you carry, whether Bahamian, Jamaican or American. Islands around the world — including those that are part of the United States, such as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands — share similar climate challenges."

In that light, Del Toro praised a partnership between the University of Hawaii and the University of the Bahamas. The two university systems will work together to combat and mitigate climate change. Del Toro also announced an upcoming partnership between the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the University of the Bahamas.

Hurricanes have slammed the Bahamas, with five major hurricanes hitting there in the past eight years. One of those – Dorian – killed 50 people and more than 1,500 are still missing.

"We know that many other storms, minor storms that bring more rainfall than they did in the past, are now also more frequent, causing landslides and flooding that take a devastating human and economic toll never giving you a chance to fully recover, to come up for air before the next storm threatens once again," Del Toro said.

But climate change also means sea-level rise, and the Bahamas and many other island nations in the Caribbean are in danger. The highest point in the Bahamas is just 200 feet above sea level. The rise that has already occurred has meant coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion into groundwater, and more extreme temperatures. "They are severely impacting not just the environment, but people's daily lives and livelihoods, especially in the critical tourism industry," the secretary said.

The nations of the region are responding to this threat, and the secretary pointed to PACC 2030 — the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis. Vice President Kamala Harris announced the initiative in June 2022. The two main strategic goals of PACC 2030 are to strengthen energy security and to promote climate adaptation and resilience.

"The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team has been working on climate and energy security for a long time, and we are accelerating and broadening those efforts," Del Toro said.



"We know that urgency is in order. Time is not on our side," he continued. "We are in the critical decade to make meaningful progress so that we can avoid the worst climate scenarios. We must act now. We view the climate crisis much the same way as damage control efforts on a stricken ship. This is an all hands on deck moment."

The Department of the Navy is stepping forward with Climate Action 2030, a broad, multi-pronged approach. The Navy is working to improve efficiency of ships, electrifying vehicles and greatly reducing emissions. "We are upgrading water and electrical infrastructure right here in the Bahamas at our Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center," he said. "We are bringing on more renewables, which means fewer fossil fuels and lower emissions. Over the last decade, we have added more than one gigawatt of renewable energy to the grid."

The Navy is also funding efforts to help restore coral reefs and is eager to pursue further efforts on coral reef research, regrowth and even creation.

Climate action requires partnerships, he said. "The plan calls for partnerships. We want to share and trade information, resources and expertise with governments and [non-governmental organizations] around the world," he said. "Everywhere from Vietnam to Ghana to right here in the Caribbean, we are collaborating on projects, enabling best practices to cross-pollinate. Climate Action 2030 will help ensure that great ideas, like climate change itself, have no borders."

The Department of the Navy works alongside other U.S. government agencies to address crises brought about by climate change. "We recognize that the resilience of our friends and neighbors in this region is of critical importance to our own security, and we want to help," the secretary said. "That's why key elements of our involvement in the Caribbean are training exercises, as well as medical and engineering expert exchanges, to empower strong and collaborative regional responses to emergencies."

This covers everything from responding to health needs after a storm and also building greater resilience and local capabilities to prevent, identify and safely respond to vector-borne diseases, which are becoming less predictable and more prevalent as the climate changes, he said.

He noted that the USNS Comfort, the Navy's 1,000-bed hospital ship, is a common sight in the Caribbean and plays a vital role in the wake of climate change disasters.

The Navy is putting its money where its mouth is, as Navy engineers have planned, designed and carried out dozens of projects in the Caribbean from humanitarian assistance to military construction projects. "In fact, since 2008, our engineers have executed nearly \$100 million in construction projects in the region," he said.

These projects include airfield improvements and an emergency operations center in the Bahamas; upgrading a pier in Barbados; an operations center and other disaster relief infrastructure in Dominica; emergency response facilities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and expanding the hangar and warehouse at the airfield on Exuma Island, which is an essential disaster response hub.

The engineers also worked in Jamaica, St. Lucia and Haiti. "And we are scoping a future project with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force at Coral Harbour," he said.

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EDUCATION:

NAVWAR Seeking Applicants for Department of Defense's New HBCU/MSI Scholarship for Service Program

(DVDS 16 Mar 23) ... Lily Chen

Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) is currently accepting applications for the **Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI) Scholarship for Service (S4S) Program**. The deadline is March 31.



This brand-new program across the Department of Defense (DoD), piloted by NAVWAR, is an effort to encourage research and educational partnerships between HBCU/MSIs and government defense organizations. Like the NAVWAR HBCU/MSIs Data and Cyber Internship program, NAVWAR is prioritizing supporting young graduates by providing unparalleled hands-on experience and mentorship from Navy STEM professionals along with financial assistance.

“We are honored that NAVWAR is the first in the DoD to pilot this fantastic program alongside NPS,” said NAVWAR Commander Rear Adm. Doug Small. “By investing in the next generation of world-class talent and cultivating relationships with HBCU/MSIs, we are embracing the diversity that makes us a better and more inclusive team. I look forward to seeing what participants of this program will achieve as part of the One NAVWAR family.”

A two-year graduate program funded by the DoD, the S4S Program allows competitively selected recent undergraduates from HBCU/MSIs to pursue their master's degrees in a variety of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields relevant to the DoD. With tuition, salary and travel all covered by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, this comprehensive program seeks to provide as much support as possible for the entire duration.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and eligible to receive a security clearance. Candidates must also be a recent graduate from an accredited four-year academic institution deemed as a HBCU or MSI by the U.S. Department of Education with a field of study in STEM.

There are multiple stages in the S4S program, with participants first reporting to the Naval Information Warfare Centers (NIWCs) for onboarding in August 2023. Afterwards, the participants transition to NPS in Monterey, Calif. in September for fall quarter to complete their studies for a master's degree. Candidates will round out the remainder of the program finishing their thesis at their identified NIWC. Upon completion of the program, graduates have a service commitment to work at their respective NIWC for three years, with a salary commensurate with their masters-level experience. Locations include:

- NIWC Atlantic
 - Charleston, S.C.
 - New Orleans, La.
 - Norfolk, Va.
- NIWC Pacific
 - San Diego, Calif.

“I am excited to see how this program will grow in the future and how many successful participants will continue their DoD careers as a result of this significant opportunity,” said Sharmeka Speights, human resources director at NIWC Pacific. “This Scholars program will help institutionalize inclusion and diversity within NAVWAR and the DoD as a whole and is a tremendous opportunity to support HBCU/MSI graduates to provide them with employment and mentorship as they earn their STEM master's degrees.”

[DVIDS - News - NAVWAR Seeking Applicants for Department of Defense's New HBCU/MSI Scholarship for Service Program \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net/news/navwar-seeking-applicants-for-department-of-defense-s-new-hbcu/msi-scholarship-for-service-program)

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RESEARCH:

NPS Student Operational Insight and Faculty Collaboration Advances Hypersonics Applied Research

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Under the leadership of NPS' Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) department and with sponsorship by the Office of Naval Research, recent improvements in the NPS Supersonic Wind Tunnel (SSWT) laboratory have made the facility fully capable of conducting long duration high supersonic testing and experimentation, advancing NPS' support to the Navy's Force Design imperatives, as outlined in the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) Navigation Plan (NAVPLAN) 2022.

"Hypersonic systems provide a combination of speed, maneuverability and altitude that enable highly survivable, long-range, rapid defeat of time-critical, heavily-defended and high-value targets," CNO Adm. Mike Gilday commented during an early 2022 visit to industry partners developing hypersonic technologies. "Delivering hypersonic weapons continues to be one of the Navy's highest priorities, which the Navigation Plan makes clear."

"Our research capability is unique among academic institutions in the United States," said Dr. Garth Hobson, MAE professor and Principal Investigator for the SSWT. "You'd have to go to NASA or the big Air Force research laboratories to match these capabilities. We can run the wind tunnel for half an hour at a time at Mach 4 and that allows us to do very meaningful experimentation."

This capability, combined with NPS' ability to conduct highly-classified research and the intellectual and operational capital of its faculty and officers, positions NPS to be a critical enabler in meeting future force requirements in the realm of hypersonics.

In recognition of its role in educating mid-career officers in warfighting applications and applied hypersonics research, on Dec. 8, 2022, NPS was officially welcomed into the University Consortium for Applied Hypersonics (UCAH), a collaborative network of more than 100 universities and 150 industry partners actively working in the field. Membership in UCAH has already borne fruit, with collaborative efforts underway between NPS, the University of Arizona and North Carolina State University initiated through this engagement.

"Membership in UCAH opens up a wide spectrum of opportunities for NPS to engage in basic and applied research essential to helping the United States remain competitive with our adversaries in this challenging discipline," stressed Dr. Kevin Smith, NPS Vice Provost for Research.

"The national effort in hypersonics will undoubtedly generate advances in many existing and new technologies with applications that can help solve operational problems of warfighting," he continued. "NPS participation in UCAH can help accelerate the transition of these technologies to operational applications."

Supersonic vs. Hypersonic

A Mach number is generally understood as the ratio of air speed to the local speed of sound: "Mach 2" refers to twice the speed of sound; "Mach 3" is three times, and so on.

The speed of sound, however, is not a constant. The "local" speed of sound depends on a variety of factors including the altitude, temperature and density of the surrounding air. For example, the speed of sound at sea level at 59 degrees Fahrenheit is 761 miles per hour. At a height of 20,000 meters and minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it's 660 miles per hour. The term "supersonic" refers simply to a speed higher than the speed of sound.



At high speeds around Mach 5, however, things get rather peculiar. The surrounding air molecules break apart and turn into an electrically-charged plasma with the kinetic energy of the aircraft changing to heat, yielding intense variations in air density and pressure that materialize through a series of shock waves and expansions.

This is hypersonic speed.

“Something becomes hypersonic when it’s in air that can no longer be treated as ‘perfect.’ Things start to react and you start to worry about how hot things get,” explained Ben Nikaido, a computational fluid dynamics expert with NASA’s Ames Research Center who is working on his doctorate at NPS with the SSWT team.

“There really is no absolute line in the sand that says everything beyond this speed is hypersonic and below it is supersonic. It’s a large gray area with a lot of overlap,” Nikaido explained. “For example, the air is so thick at sea level that even when you’re flying something at Mach 2 or 3, you can still get hypersonic effects.”

Mitigating such extreme forces and temperatures for air-breathing aircraft or missiles, let alone maintaining command and control, is no small feat. However, breaking through to the hypersonic side presents a host of tactical and strategic advantages, namely through unmatched speed and difficulty to detect and defend.

“While the U.S. Navy currently uses the Aegis Combat System on Arleigh Burke and Ticonderoga-class cruisers to defend ships at sea, high-energy lasers are becoming more important to our layered defensive against rapidly evolving threats,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Curran, a Ph.D. candidate in laser physics and executive director of the Meyer Scholar program. “To lead effectively and fight decisively, NPS is working to develop officers who are technologically competent and confident in the employment of advanced naval warfare systems.”

A Mighty Wind

Thanks to a three-year grant by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Code 35, Naval Air Warfare and Weapons, ONR’s innovative naval prototypes division, Hobson and his team have spent the last year renovating, reconstituting and recalibrating various components of the wind tunnel.

The complex – a decommissioned engine test cell which dates back to 1956 – now consists of three massive pressure vessels of compressed air at several hundred psi. Operation is powered by a powerful electric motor and multiple compressors that pump the high-pressure air into air dryers before converging in a plenum chamber, from which it blasts at Mach 4 into the 4 inch-by-4 inch test section at temperatures near minus 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Additionally, with a grant provided by the NPS Foundation, the installation of a specialized air heater allows air speeds to be increased through Mach 5.

Over the next year, the team will focus on modeling and investigating the elemental physics of hypersonics, Hobson says. Drawing extensively on Xerox’s first liquid metal printer and a small powder bed metal printer, NPS engineers are able to fabricate a wide variety of components out of different metals, including aluminum and titanium, predict their performance using computational fluid dynamics, and see how they perform under hypersonic conditions.

Crucial to this process has been the work of NPS Aerospace Engineering student U.S. Navy Ensign G. Forrest Dawe, who has developed a method to measure internal conditions to further streamline the newly-upgraded wind tunnel.

The newly-commissioned ensign is attending NPS as a Shoemaker Scholar, meaning he’s on a fast track to earning his master’s degree right after his undergraduate degree at Boston University and before attending Navy flight training in Pensacola, Fla. He aims to become a test pilot, so not only is he intimately involved in the science of hypersonics, he could be a practitioner of hypersonic flight as well.

“During the course of the supersonic wind tunnel upgrade, our team ran simulations on it and predicted that there would be vortex conditions along the sidewall,” he explained. “So my thesis involved using a probe to measure velocity and pressure along the wind tunnel.”

All of this initial research is in preparation for the third year of the ONR grant for experimenting with hypersonic propulsion. Specifically, the team will develop and model a solution to a vexing problem in



hypersonic research – an engine “unstart,” which is the violent breakdown of engine inlet airflow at hypersonic speeds.

“In other words, an ‘unstart’ is when a supersonic inlet reverses supersonic air flow within a nanosecond,” Nikaido explained. On the best of days, this results in power loss of the aircraft and a sudden if not violent yaw.

“We do the research to generate novel ways of preventing this from occurring, all the while learning a lot about the physical underpinning of supersonic airflow.” Hobson said. “There are many challenges associated with hypersonic speeds. The value of our research is not only to develop solutions to improving hypersonic flight, but to do it alongside our military students who contribute operational insight while they gain technical understanding to develop effective concepts of operation.”

Such aircraft, and the leaders ready to employ them, are on the horizon with NPS and its SSWT laboratory playing a critical role in hypersonics innovation through graduate education and research.

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FACULTY:

Two Decades After Invasion of Iraq, Shadow of War Still Looms Large [Video Interview]

(Yahoo!News 15 Mar 23)

(France 24 15 Mar 23)

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[Two decades after invasion of Iraq, shadow of war still looms large \(yahoo.com\)](#)

[Two decades after invasion of Iraq, shadow of war still looms large - Middle East matters \(france24.com\)](#)

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ALUMNI:

Delta County Chamber Hires Valiquette As Operations Manager

(Radio Results Network 13 Mar 23) ... Jack Hall

(Daily Press 14 Mar 23)

The Delta County Chamber of Commerce welcomes its newest employee, Matthew Valiquette, who will serve as the Chamber and U.P. State Fair’s Operations Manager.

As operations manager, Valiquette will make important strategic, planning and policy decisions. He will also develop, implement, and review current operational policies and procedures along with hiring and supervising maintenance personnel. He will also make sure that the valuable resources of the organizations are used as efficiently as possible.

Most recently, Valiquette worked as Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board in Green Bay, where he coordinated and oversaw all of the business affairs of the organization. In this position, he led a diverse 40-member Board of Directors across an 11-county region of Northeast



Wisconsin. As the executive director, he managed over \$50 million in federal, state and local grants over a 10-year period.

Valiquette also served as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, honorably retiring in 2009 following a 21-year active-duty career which included multiple combat tours in Iraq. He was also a master instructor for the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, where he taught political science and served as faculty advisor to more than 100 students majoring in political science.

Valiquette holds a master's degree in national security affairs from **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, CA, a bachelor's degree in political science from Ohio State University, and an associate's degree in business administration from University of Maryland. Originally from Escanaba, Valiquette graduated from Escanaba Area High School in 1988.

"Matt has an impressive background and brings to our organizations all the skills that we are looking for in an operations manager," said Delta County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Vickie Micheau. "He has exceptional communication and leadership abilities, which are crucial for motivating staff members and connecting with stakeholders."

"Clearly I'm navigating a steep learning curve, but I'm also very thankful for the opportunity to learn from extremely knowledgeable and experienced pros with Vickie and Sheila [Sheila Krueger, Chamber Associate Director], unequivocally two of the absolute best in the business," Valiquette said. "I'm beyond grateful and excited to join the Chamber and U.P. State Fair team, and look forward to collaborating and contributing to the truly amazing and positive team that works tirelessly to make a difference in bettering our community."

As the Chamber's Operations Manager, he has many goals for the coming year, while learning about the operations of the Chamber and U.P. State Fair.

"My initial primary goals are really focused on familiarizing myself with current operations and building relationships with the countless community stakeholders involved in the Chamber and U.P. State Fair," he said. "As my knowledge level develops, I look forward to strategically enhancing our Facilities Maintenance and Renovation plan, ensuring we are responsibly allocating our resources to priorities collectively identified by our Board and Authority leadership."

Valiquette says that he is eager to share his experiences and devote his expertise and knowledge to his home area and the businesses and residents of the U.P.

[Delta County Chamber Hires Valiquette As Operations Manager | Radioresultsnetwork.com](#)
[Valiquette is U.P. State Fair operations manager | News, Sports, Jobs - Daily Press](#)

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NASA Astronaut Returns Home to Baldwin to Inspire Local Elementary and High School Students

(ABC 7 NY 13 Mar 23) ... Chant e Lans

An astronaut who grew up on Long Island came home to inspire local kids with a special visit.

NASA Astronaut Lt. Col. Jasmin Moghbeli returned to Baldwin to collaborate with students at the elementary school and high school she attended.

Moghbeli graduated from Baldwin High School in 2001 and most recently from the NASA Candidate program in early 2020.

With missions to the International Space Station Artemis, missions to the Moon, and ultimately, missions to Mars in her future, Moghbeli hopes to inspire some of her fellow Bruins with this visit.

First, she stopped by Lenox Elementary School to take part in a Balloon Rocket Challenge with students.

It was at Lenox Elementary as a 6th grader where Moghbeli wrote a book report about another female astronaut and donned a space suit to present to her class.

Later, she visited Baldwin High School to work with teens on a plane design challenge followed by a Q&A session with the STEM/Engineering Academy students.



"From when I graduated from Lenox, it took 22 years before I got the call to become an astronaut," she said.

It then took six years for her chance to launch into space.

Moghbeli will take off in August as the commander on Crew 7, which is a mission to the International Space Station.

"We'll be up there doing science experiments on objects and our bodies to see how we react in space," she said.

And she told students on Monday that she will take a piece of Lenox with her when she goes.

"She did say that she is bringing some of Lenox love with her, she has a few items that she says she's going to carry with her into space," Lenox Principal Sheila Jefferson-Isaac said.

Each student left an imprint on the heart of their favorite astronaut.

"I hope that I learn just like her and maybe I can be an astronaut and maybe I can reach my dreams like she did," said 5th-grader Ava Drinkwater-Louverture.

Moghbeli, a U.S. Marine Corps major, graduated from Baldwin High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering with information technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

[NASA Astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli returns home to Baldwin to inspire local elementary and high school students - ABC7 New York \(abc7ny.com\)](#)

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