



Alumni Events are Back!



San Diego area alumni came together for two social and networking events to reconnect with the NPS community. Both hosted happy hours included a range of alumni from the 70s to recent graduates. Events are also open to individuals who are interested in learning more about NPS and to corporate partners looking to

strengthen their connection to the school. The Carlsbad event featured remarks by retired Lt. Gen. Mike Dana, incoming advisor to the NPS Foundation.

Two events are being held this week at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico and the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington featuring special guests Lt. Gen. Edward Banta and retired Adm. James "Sandy" Winnefeld, respectively.

Email us at alumni@npsfoundation.org to request an alumni event in your area or visit npsfoundation.org/alumni-events to view and register for scheduled events!

Alumni Spotlight

Spring Quarter graduate, **Lt. Cmdr. Austin West**, MS in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography '21, was recently awarded the prestigious Parsons Award for Scientific and Technical Progress by the Navy League of the United States. Every year, this award is given to a U.S. Navy or Marine Corps officer, enlisted or civilian, who has made an outstanding contribution in any field of science that has furthered the development and progress of the Navy or Marine Corps. This award is in recognition of West's research examining the atmospheric effects of the maritime environment on the Navy's High Energy Laser Weapons System (HELWS) and how adaptive optics could compensate for those effects making the futuristic weapons system more effective.



[Watch the Video](#)

Lt. Col. Kitefre Oboho, MS in Special Operations and Irregular Warfare '15, assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, on July 14, 2021. From 2017-19, Oboho served as the aide-de-camp to then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, who now is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Oboho also held leadership positions with the 2nd Ranger Battalion from 2012-17, including executive officer, operations officer, company commander and adjutant. He also was selected early among his peers for promotion to colonel.



Retired Lt. Col. Brian Decker, MS in Defense Analysis '09, was named Director of Team Development for the Indianapolis Colts. Decker joined the Colts as a player personnel strategist in 2017 and served as the Director of Player Development for 2018-19. A graduate of Eastern Kentucky, Decker retired after serving 22 years in the U.S. Army. His last assignment was Commander of Special Forces Selection and Assessment (SFAS), overseeing the development and execution of Special Forces talent acquisition strategy.



NPS News

Professor John Arquilla, co-founder of Defense Analysis Dept. retires



After 30 years of extraordinary service at NPS, Distinguished Professor of Defense Analysis, John Arquilla has retired. An expert in special operations, unconventional warfare, and international policy, Arquilla has extensive experience advising senior military leaders and Department of Defense policymakers from Operation Desert Storm to Operation Enduring Freedom. Arquilla has published 14 books and authored many widely published articles and commentaries that have informed national policy.

In 1992, Arquilla co-founded the Defense Analysis Department at NPS with Dr. Gordon McCormick and then-CDR William McRaven. He designed and instituted the *Special Operations and Irregular Warfare* and *Information Strategy and Political Warfare* curricula. Since

that time, Arquilla has served as a professor of defense analysis and will continue to serve NPS as an emeritus professor.

“I’ve always considered it a privilege to serve here, and it has certainly been an honor to work with the faculty across the campus, as well as our students from all of the services, and so many countries around the world. I truly could not imagine having a more rewarding experience anywhere else.”

- Dr. John Arquilla – on his time at NPS

HASC Chairman talks defense innovation, technological leadership



Congressman Adam Smith, 17th Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), discussed the critical role of creativity, innovation, and emerging technology in U.S. national security during his presentation, “Advancing Our Defense Technological Leadership,” offered live to students, faculty and staff in NPS’ King Auditorium and broadcast online. Smith also toured campus and was briefed in NPS’ Large Experimentation Annex, a highlight of which is the first-of-its-kind Xerox ElemX 3D Liquid Metal Printer. [Watch the lecture.](#)

NPS launches Center on Combating Hybrid Threats

Hybrid warfare blurs the lines between military and unconventional conflict. Their intentional use of disinformation, prevarication, cyberattacks, economic pressure and the deployment of irregular armed groups presents a critical challenge to the world’s democracies. NPS' new Center on Combating Hybrid Threats (CCHT) is part of an international effort to detect, deny, disrupt, degrade, defeat and ultimately deter the use of hybrid threats. Drawing on NPS’ immense intellectual capital, the CCHT serves as a locus for interdisciplinary research, education programs and outreach for partners near and far. [Read more.](#)

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Hybrid threats combine military and non-military as well as conventional means, including disinformation, cyberattacks, economic pressure, and the deployment of irregular armed groups, and use of regular force. These methods are used to blur the lines between war and peace, and to sow doubt in the minds of target populations.

— NATO response to hybrid threat

RIDE ALONG

The Road to 10,000 Miles

Former Naval Postgraduate School Foundation Board President, Bill Warner, is cycling 10,000 miles to support the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation and the leaders, technologies and ideas of our Nation's premier defense education and research institution. Ride along by pledging to make a donation for each mile he rides. [Pledge your support now](#) to follow along and receive updates along the way!



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