



FEBRUARY 2023

Annual NPS Foundation Advisory Council Meeting at NPS

The NPS Foundation Advisory Council, headed by former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff retired Adm. Mike Mullen, brings together military, government and industry leaders to advance the strategic initiatives of the Naval Postgraduate School, to develop new, innovative ways for the Foundation to expand and enhance our support, and to raise the national and international profile of NPS. We were fortunate to have many of the Advisory Council members onsite at NPS on Jan. 24 to discuss NPS' transformation efforts, including the recently announced Naval Innovation Center at NPS.

The support of NPS expressed by this impressive group, many of whom are NPS alumni, is a testament to the caliber of Naval Postgraduate School students, faculty and staff, and substantiates NPS' role as a hub of the U.S. Navy's research and innovation ecosystem.

[Read the announcement](#) on the Advisory Council's two newest members former Secretary of Defense, Mr. Leon Panetta, and former Chevron CEO, Mr. David O'Reilly.

NPS Foundation Advisory Council Members include:

ADM Mike Mullen, USN (Ret), *Chair*
GEN Keith Alexander, USA (Ret)
Don Beall
VADM Kevin Cosgriff, USN (Ret)
ADM James Ellis, USN (Ret)

David O'Reilly
The Hon. Leon Panetta
The Hon. Dan Quayle
VADM Ron Route, USN (Ret)
VADM Jan Tighe, USN (Ret)

ADM Thomas Fargo, USN (Ret)
ADM Cecil Haney, USN (Ret)
ADM Henry Mauz, USN (Ret)
Dr. Tim McAdams
ADM William McRaven, USN (Ret)
ADM Robert Natter, USN (Ret)
ADM Eric Olson, USN (Ret)

VADM Patricia Tracey, USN (Ret)
ADM Sandy Winnefeld, USN (Ret)
Gary Wipfler
Bill Warner
Geoff Yang
The Hon. Dov Zakheim

[View their bios here.](#)

Naval Postgraduate School Foundation appoints Dan Lynch, John Micek to Board of Trustees



The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation appointed Dan Lynch, CEO and Managing Director of Carmel Realty Company and Monterey Coast Realty, and John Micek, President and Co-Founder of Climb High Capital and Co-Founder of Red Stitch Wine, to its Board of Trustees.

Lynch and Micek join the NPS Foundation at a critical time for U.S. national security and during a period of transformation for the Naval Postgraduate School. National security affects every individual, and every individual is responsible for the work of national defense. The NPS Foundation's new board members highlight community interest and investment in the Naval Postgraduate School at a time when the stakes are high. Strategic competitors to the United States have greater access to commercial state-of-the-art technologies than ever before and are wielding

these technologies to attack America's interests and our citizens' personal security. As a Nation, we cannot afford to be complacent as our technological edge erodes or is made irrelevant by the modernization and growth of our adversaries' militaries. [Read more.](#)

"We are at an inflection point in American innovation. Our Department of Defense is committed to adopting emerging technologies and national security solutions faster than our adversaries. Naval Postgraduate School students, faculty and alumni are the difference makers for our Nation to maintain competitive advantage.

The experiences and connections of our new members bring immense value to the Foundation's work and will greatly enhance our support and advocacy for NPS, the Naval Innovation Center, corporate partnership and community engagement." - Hank Plain, Chair

Retired Adm. Cecil Haney, NPS '87, on technology transformation throughout his career.

Retired Adm. Cecil Haney, Former Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Pacific Fleet was recently honored as the 26th inductee to NPS' Alumni Hall of Fame for recognition of his lifetime of service to the nation and U.S. national security.



[Watch the Video](#)

"[Haney] was always the kind of leader that was accessible and led from the front in a quiet way with his demeanor, his confidence, his competence and his intellect. He is an exemplar of what we value in the Navy."

- Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau, NPS President



NPS Office of Research and Innovation will Accelerate Solutions from Idea to Impact

The Naval Postgraduate School recently established the [Office of Research and Innovation](#) (OR&I) in response to the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy's call to leverage emerging technologies and innovative design practices to accelerate the development of full-spectrum capabilities in order to maintain decisive advantage and hedge against uncertainty.

During a recent address at Columbia University, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro stated, "The best way to deter our adversaries is for the department to restore its technological superiority." The Department of the Navy is driving innovation across every aspect of the service.

"Education is the key connector for this work. Our educational institutions hold great promise and opportunity," Del Toro added.

NPS is a central connector in the naval innovation ecosystem, uniquely positioned to complement the Naval Research and Development Establishment. OR&I will fully leverage the school's enduring and fundamental strengths – motivated warrior-scholar students with fleet and field experience; renowned, defense-expert faculty; a mission grounded in advancing the naval services; and close proximity to the heart of American technological innovation.

"OR&I will be a support mechanism to take NPS' research enterprise to an entirely new level, leveraging our naval innovation ecosystem – a network of academia, defense researchers, and industry working with NPS faculty, students and the operational fleet," according to Dr. Kevin Smith, NPS Vice Provost for Research and head of OR&I. [Read more.](#)



Artificial Intelligence Summit at NPS Accelerates Critical Capabilities

The fourth quarterly Naval Artificial Intelligence Summit took place December 5-9 at the Naval Postgraduate School. More than 160 participants from the eight Navy AI Task Forces, Warfare and Warfighting Development Centers, the fleet, Fleet Marine Force and DOD engaged in-person and virtually at the summit co-hosted by the U.S. Navy Chief AI Officer (NCAIO) Brett Vaughan and NPS' Naval Warfare Studies Institute.

Decision Advantage is one of six force design elements and will be enabled by AI as stated in the Chief of Naval Operations' NAVPLAN 2022. These AI Summits are held to tighten the connections between Naval AI enablers, practitioners and users, as well as grow the Naval AI community into a platform for accelerated AI deployment supporting the Navy's highest priorities.

"We focused attendees time on planning Naval AI training and education, AI/machine learning (ML) operations deployment pipelines, and AI Fusion, a concept for the operational deployment of AI in service to distributed maritime operations and the hybrid fleet," said Vaughn. "NPS has been instrumental as a central connector and helping us develop a blueprint for a Naval AI organization and governance structure." [Read more.](#)



Whitcomb receives Navy Superior Civilian Service Award

For strengthening national defense through his research and for mentoring other engineers to do the same, Clifford Whitcomb received one of the highest awards bestowed on civilian employees of the U.S. Navy during a ceremony at the Statler Hotel on the Cornell campus Thursday, Jan. 16.

The Navy Superior Civilian Service Award is granted to civilians who make contributions in a variety of areas ranging from successful project leadership and scientific achievements to unusually heroic acts.

Whitcomb spent nearly 20 years on the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School, serving as a chair of the Systems Engineering Department and director of the Institute of Systems Engineering. He was designated as a distinguished professor at the school, an honorary title recognizing exceptional scholarly activities that have made outstanding contributions to the school's mission.

The award reads, in part: "Dr. Whitcomb's exceptional leadership, work within academia, relevant research, and devotion to the Naval Postgraduate School was unsurpassed. [He] spearheaded the departmental Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology accreditation in 2010, and reaccreditation in 2013, for both resident and distance learning programs. Additionally, he mentored over 60 faculty and staff members and oversaw more than 500 graduate students and 11 doctoral graduates."

The citation continues, "As a renowned researcher within Systems Engineering, he secured millions of dollars in reimbursable funds that have led to improved ship design and construction, shipyard production methods, and submarine and surface ship modularity for the United States Navy. Furthermore, in support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Naval Research, he created system-of-systems architecture for meteorological and oceanographic models and unmanned aerial systems." [Read more.](#)

NPS is seeking Permanent Military Professors for Assignment in Monterey

NPS is seeking to select Permanent Military Professors for ultimate assignment at NPS in Monterey! This August, the PMP community will select up to 12 PMPs with assignment at either USNA or NPS.

A PMP is a true warrior-scholar. Experienced warfighters selected by NPS to serve as PMPs begin doctoral studies at NPS or a civilian institution and, upon graduation with a PhD, join the NPS faculty with a rare combination of extensive operational experience and academic excellence.

PMPs strengthen ties between the civilian faculty at NPS and the Navy, Department of Defense, and whole of US government. They bring Fleet perspectives to classroom instruction, academic curricula, and research programs. In addition to teaching, they engage in and supervise student research directed at addressing Fleet needs and capability gaps.

To apply for the PMP program, applicants must be O-5s or selected to O-5 following this year's statutory board. Applicants must also be able to serve a minimum of five years following PhD graduation and will serve until statutory retirement. Applications to NPS PhD programs are due by 8 May; the separate PMP program applications are due to Pers-443 on 30 May. Further details about the program, eligibility requirements and application process can be found on the MyNavy HR [PMP portal](#).

For more details about the PMP program at NPS, please visit the [NPS PMP webpage](#).

Alumni Updates

Capt. **Janet Days**, MBA '05, became the 51st commanding officer of Naval Station Norfolk on Friday, Feb. 2, making her the first Black female to hold the position in the installation's 106-year history.

Days graduated from Old Dominion University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in business. She earned a master's degree in business administration from the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval War College command and staff diploma. She also is a graduate of Joint and Combined Warfighting School at Joint Forces Staff College and is a qualified joint specialty officer.

Days has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (seven awards), Army Commendation Medal (two awards), Army Achievement Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.





Lt. Col. **Rebecca Bissette**, MS in Meteorology '04, became the new commander of the 225th Support Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony at the Western Air Defense Sector, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 4, 2023.

After assuming command, Bissette addressed the members of the 225th SPTS about the challenges they face today. "I would like to take this opportunity to talk about two areas that I think are critical to our shared success. The level of risk we are willing to accept, and our readiness."

According to Bissette, risk is "the gap between our goals end state and the concepts and resources needed." She emphasized that she has authority and responsibility to effectively use and seek out available resources to accomplish the mission. "But, to effectively accept this risk each of you must be an agile and adaptive leader, allowing decentralized execution of mission-type orders to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative. To minimize risk, we must be ready."

Red Cell Partners, an incubation firm building technology-focused companies that are bringing revolutionary advancements to market within the national security and healthcare arenas, today announced that retired Adm. **William K. Lescher**, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '87, the 41st Vice Chief of Naval Operations, has joined as a Senior Advisor. In addition, Lescher has joined DEFCON AI, a Red Cell portfolio company building next-generation tools for



the modern military mobility environment, as a Strategic Advisor.

“As someone who has worked for years to help advance a culture of innovation and continuous learning in the Navy, I understand the proven power of tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning to transform performance in areas that have long been a source of frustration. I also understand the importance of holding ourselves accountable for making a measurable difference to our warfighters and to the American people, and see the same perspective in the teams at Red Cell and DEFCON,” Lescher said. “I look forward to contributing to these organizations in meaningful ways and working together to achieve great outcomes, not only for Red Cell and DEFCON, but for our Nation.”

[Submit an Alumni Update](#)

[Meet more Students & Alumni: Faces of NPS](#)

Remembering The Challenger and Columbia Tragedies



It has been 20 years since the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated as it returned to Earth on Feb. 1, 2003, killing all seven astronauts on board: commander Rick Husband, pilot Willie McCool, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '92, mission specialists Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Michael Anderson, David Brown and payload specialist Ilan Ramon of Israel.

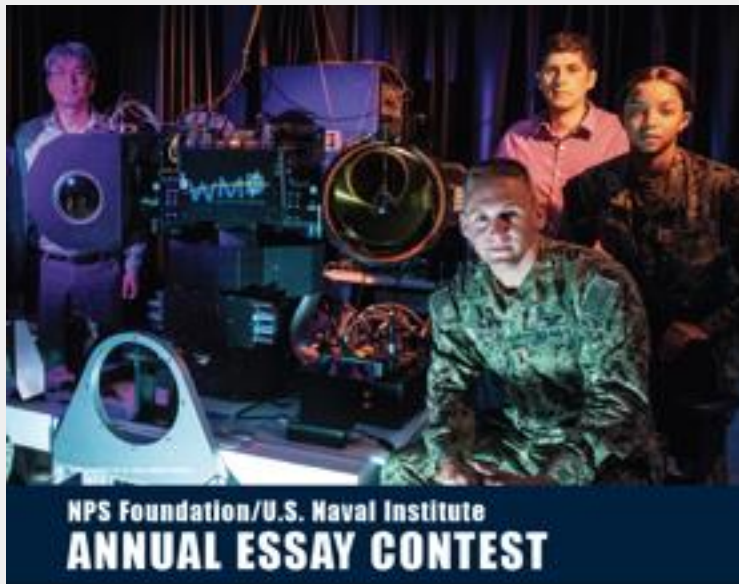
NASA's space shuttle Challenger launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral 37 years ago on its 10th mission on Jan. 28, 1986. It exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, claiming the lives of all seven people onboard: Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Capt. Mike Smith, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '68, Ellison Onizuka and Christa McAuliffe.

Capt. Michael J. Smith, USN, earned an MS in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1968. Selected as an astronaut candidate in 1980, his initial flight, on Challenger, ended in tragedy on Jan. 28, 1986, shortly after launch. Cmdr. William McCool, USN, received his MS in aeronautical engineering from NPS in 1992 and reported to NASA for astronaut training in 1996. After seventeen days in space on his first mission, piloting Columbia, he perished with his crew shortly before landing, Feb. 1, 2003.

The "Astronaut Michael J. Smith, CAPT, USN and Astronaut William C. McCool, CDR, USN Astronautics Award," sponsored by the NPS Foundation, was established in their

honor to annually recognize the outstanding graduate of NPS' Space Systems curricula.

2023 Annual NPS Foundation/U.S. Naval Institute Annual Essay Contest is Open



PURPOSE: The NPS Foundation/U.S. Naval Institute Annual Essay Contest is jointly sponsored by the NPS Foundation and the U.S. Naval Institute to encourage writing for publication and critical thinking among students, faculty, and staff at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. Essays should be based on thesis, research, or operational experience that best advances the military profession.

ELIGIBILITY:

FOR NPS STUDENTS

The essay can be directly related to a thesis or recent operational experience.

FOR NPS FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBERS

The essay could address an issue of particular relevance to the military profession.

PRIZE: \$5,000

DEADLINE: 31 March 2023

The winner will be published in Proceedings and recognized by the Naval Postgraduate School.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Open to NPS students, faculty, and staff.
- Essays must be no more than **3,000 words** (including footnotes, endnotes, and sources).
- Include word count on title page of essay but do not include author name(s) on title page or within essay.
- Submit essay as a Word document online at www.unn.org/npessay
- Essays must be original and not published (online or in print) or being considered for publication elsewhere.



For more details, please visit www.unn.org/npessay



Naval Postgraduate School Foundation

The submission window is open through March 31 for the 2023 NPS Foundation/U.S. Naval Institute Annual Essay Contest. This jointly sponsored essay contest encourages writing for publication and critical thinking among students, faculty, and staff at the Naval Postgraduate School. \$5,000 prize.

Essays should be based on thesis, research or operational experience that best advances the military profession.

[Learn more and submit your essay.](http://www.unn.org/npessay)

Upcoming Events

WEST 2023 - San Diego Alumni Event!



Join fellow NPS alumni, NPS representatives, industry partners and the NPS Foundation at Basic Bar & Pizza on February 14 at 4:30 p.m. for hosted refreshments socializing and networking! Learn more about [WEST 2023](#).

RSVP

If you or your company are interested in meeting with NPS or NPS Foundation representatives at WEST 2023, please contact Alyssa Olson at comms@npsfoundation.org or reach out via [LinkedIn](#).

20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium May 10-11, 2023

[Join a diverse group of acquisition professionals in Monterey](#) for a research-focused forum that connects scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world who are delivering acquisition research and warfighting solutions.

In Case You Missed It:



Trident Room Podcast – Episode 42

Dr. John Arquilla and Dr. Peter Denning – Automation and Seapower

In this episode, our guests discuss important themes regarding the future of automation and its implications for naval combat, hosted by Karl Flynn. This episode was recorded on November 30, 2022.

The Pentagon must make a culture shift to embrace innovation

By Mac Thornberry, former Texas congressman who served as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Thornberry is a Defense Innovation Board member and a senior adviser to the Silicon Valley Defense Group.

People are the bedrock of our nation's military and create the culture that is foundational for innovation. But thus far, our Department of Defense is falling short of building an organization where people are encouraged to lead, make mistakes as they learn, challenge outdated thinking and pursue new creative initiatives... That sort of culture is essential to success on the battlefield. And a culture of innovation is fundamental to acquiring, adopting and scaling new technologies that will give our men and women in uniform the advantage they deserve over our competitors.

In certain fields, the private sector is far surpassing the government in developing new technologies. We will lose partners quickly if DOD's culture is not open to working with both traditional and non-traditional suppliers. When the government makes it difficult, costly and unwelcoming in some cases to support our national security, the partners we need to protect the country will point their business resources in a different direction. [Read more.](#)

China balloon: Many questions about suspected spy in the sky

The massive white orb that drifted across U.S. airspace this week and was shot down by the Air Force over the Atlantic on live television Saturday triggered a diplomatic maelstrom and blew up on social media.

China insists the balloon was just an errant civilian airship used mainly for meteorological research that went off course due to winds and had only limited “self-steering” capabilities. It also issued a threat of “further actions.”

In a statement after the craft was shot down, China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the use of force by the U.S. was “an obvious overreaction and a serious violation of international practice. It added: “China will resolutely uphold the relevant company’s legitimate rights and interests, and at the same time reserving the right to take further actions in response.”

The United States says it was a Chinese spy balloon without a doubt. Its presence prompted Secretary of State Antony Blinken to cancel a weekend trip to China that was aimed at dialing down tensions that were already high between the countries. [Read more.](#)

Chinese spy balloon over the US: An aerospace expert explains how the balloons work and what they can see

A spy balloon is literally a gas-filled balloon that is flying quite high in the sky, more or less where we fly commercial airplanes. It has some sophisticated cameras and imaging technology on it, and it’s pointing all of those instruments down at the ground. It’s collecting information through photography and other imaging of whatever is going on down on the ground below it.

These days, imaging is conducted across different regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. Humans see in a certain range of this spectrum, the visible spectrum. And so if you have a camera and you take a photograph of your dog, that’s a visible photograph. That’s one of the things spy aircraft do. They take regular photographs, although they have very good zoom capabilities to be able to magnify what they’re seeing quite a lot.

But you can also gather different kinds of information in other parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. Another fairly well-known one is infrared. If it’s nighttime, a camera operating in the visible part of the spectrum is not going to show you anything. It’s all going to be dark. But an infrared camera can pick up things from heat in the dark. [Read more.](#)

Preparing for strategic competition: The need for irregular warfare professional military education

By Lt. Gen. Charles Cleveland (Ret.), Daniel Egel, David Maxwell and Col. Hy Rothstein (Ret.), a recently retired faculty member of the Naval Postgraduate School.

The Department of Defense does not provide the irregular warfare professional military education necessary for success in competition and conflict in the 21st century. This is not a new problem, but it is one that may deserve new attention from the Congress and the Pentagon. There are plenty of opportunities for irregular warfare-focused education. Indeed, the joint force has developed and sustained a multitude of educational offerings directly related to irregular warfare. However, there is no coherent professional military education “architecture” for irregular warfare. There is no dedicated IW segment in DOD education and no mechanism for relevant officers, enlisted, and civilians to receive the “continuous access to IW-related training, doctrine, and education” which the Irregular Warfare Annex to the 2020 National Defense Strategy highlighted as a requirement. [Read more.](#)

What Is More Important for Ukraine to Win: The Explosion of a Tank or the Spread of Information about a Tank Explosion?

By George Chkhikvadze (current NPS student), Matthew J. McGowan (current NPS student), Trevor Davison (current NPS student) and Corban Pierce

Coverage of the Russia-Ukraine war again reinforces two critical elements needed to defeat an enemy: a military unit's will to fight and a nation's will to fight.[1] In most instances, these two elements work in tandem and define one another. The psychological resilience and support of the community significantly determines the resistance of the armed forces, just as examples of success on the battlefield contribute to strengthening the community's psychological resilience. [Read more.](#)

Zachary Shore: the Struggle Between Vengeance and Virtue in WWII

In this episode, Andrew talks to This is Not Who We Are author Zachary Shore about America's struggle between vengeance and virtue during World War Two with a particular focus on the decision to drop two atomic weapons on Japan and to rebuild Germany. **Zachary 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. [Read more.](#)

Faces of NPS: Acquisition – From Idea to Impact

Learning to Get Real and Get Better: A Conversation with Learning Leaders

Air Force Says Proposed Chinese-Owned Mill in North Dakota Is 'Significant Threat'

US plans to expand its military presence in Philippines to counter threats against Taiwan

How Truman Sold Americans on Going Hungry

China has reasons to keep cool after U.S. downs suspected spy balloon

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