



NOVEMBER 2022

## **Naval Postgraduate School Foundation invests \$145K in defense research of critical technologies and education programs**



The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation recently invested a total of \$145,000 in defense research projects and education programs led by Naval Postgraduate School faculty that support the exploration and application of critical emerging technologies for national security.

“Our Defense Innovation Fund and Seed Program allow private funding to quickly and directly propel innovation in the Department of Defense and catalyze partnerships between industry, academia and government,” said Karen Hargrove, NPS Foundation Trustee and chair of the Foundation’s Funding Committee. “The myriad of threats facing our nation are diverse and complex. We must work together to advance our national security in the face of new and evolving challenges.”

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation uses a competitive, venture capital funding model to select SEED and seedling projects that are at the forefront of responding to the new threats facing our country. This second round of funding for 2022 supports Naval Postgraduate School priorities and accelerates the adoption of new capabilities into the Naval services and the broader Department of Defense. [Read more.](#)



*“The SEED and Seedling funding from the NPS Foundation allows NPS to be highly flexible and responsive to emerging threats and innovative technologies. This support is critical to ensuring that we maintain a competitive advantage over our near-peer adversaries. This support also furthers NPS’ collaboration with industry partners, greatly expanding our capabilities to conduct highly relevant research and deliver solutions to the warfighter.”*

*– Dr. Kevin Smith, NPS Vice Provost for Research*

### **NPS Alumni Visit NPS for 35th Class Reunion**



NPS welcomed the 35th class reunion for PL-63, 1987 Computer Systems Management graduates last week. They reconnected with each other and faculty on campus but also on Zoom with more than 20 additional classmates.

The return to campus was organized by the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation & Alumni Association, and

the experience inspired graduates to reminisce on the value of their time at NPS, and on the impact and benefits of their degrees.

"The Computer Systems Management degree I received in 1987 from NPS was invaluable in my professional career during the time I served in the USMC, during my post-USMC career in the civilian sector, and as a civil servant in the Department of Defense," said retired Marine Corps Maj. Donna Gerlaugh. "Throughout the remainder of my professional life, which remained in the computer systems management arena, I often returned to the basics that I received at NPS and used them to place new IT management challenges/situations into perspective within that basic framework."



*"Our time with President Rondeau was unexpected, but was the 'icing on the cake!' We were extremely appreciative of her time and her words. This reunion was the most meaningful yet because, as we get older and time passes, we realize more and more just how important our friends, Shipmates, and military family truly are to us."*

*—Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Janet Stewart*

## **NPS' Dr. Sam Buttrey Advances to Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions Semifinals**

Associate Professor, Operations Research Dr. Sam Buttrey defeated Second Chance winner Jessica Stephens and six-game champ Zach Newkirk with a runaway game to [conclude the Tournament of Champions quarterfinals](#) last night, Monday, November 7.

**Watch Buttrey take on Matt Amodio and John Focht in the semifinals on Thursday, November 10!**

How did Dr. Buttrey prepare to take on Jeopardy! Champions like Amy Schneider and Matt Amodio? Find out in this [NEW video](#).



If you've been watching Sam on Jeopardy you know he is quick with his witty remarks. [Watch this NEW video](#) for some his best quips!



## NPS Professor Selected for ONR's Young Investigator Program for Research Impacting Lasers at Sea

One of 25 awardees selected for the Office of Naval Research's highly-competitive Young Investigator Program for 2023, Dr. **David Ortiz-Suslow**, a research assistant professor in the NPS Department of



Meteorology, will focus his grant on addressing a critical gap in our understanding of ocean wave impacts in the lower atmosphere, critical to the effectiveness of shipboard combat systems.

***“NPS is the perfect place to conduct this research,” said Ortiz-Suslow. “Not only do we have the technical expertise for this research in the faculty, but we also have students who have first-hand operational experience using the equipment we are trying to make more effective.”***

Ortiz-Suslow's ONR research sponsor, Dr. Daniel Eleuterio from the Ocean Battlespace and Expeditionary Access department, says the research is key to understanding how the marine atmospheric surface layer impacts the electromagnetic propagation environment for Navy systems like radar, radio and optical communications systems, and directed energy weapons.

“Professor Ortiz-Suslow has been a rising star since we first encountered his research at the University of Miami,” said Eleuterio. “He has continued to grow as a leader in the community on National Science Foundation, ONR, and other federally-sponsored projects and is a great asset for the Naval Postgraduate School faculty and students. [Read more.](#)”



## **NPS enters cooperative research and development partnership to explore utilization of virtual training environments across the U.S. Navy**

The CNO’s NAVPLAN 2022 recognizes the ground-breaking potential of immersive, virtual technologies, placing a clear priority on the utilization of Live Virtual Constructive training environments across the U.S. Navy.

“LVC training continues to be a game-changer in training our combat leaders in the Fleet,” the NAVPLAN states. “From the Fleet Commander, to the pilot in the cockpit, to the First Class Petty Officer on the radar scope, LVC allows us to train together in one environment at unprecedented levels of integration and complexity.”

NPS continues to support this initiative by expanding its partnerships with organizations working at the leading edge of their respective fields. The school's latest industry collaboration is the launch of a cooperative research and development partnership with [Improbable](#), a technology company developing metaverse design and development software that helps users create interconnected virtual worlds and live, scalable testing, training and evaluation (TT&E) environments.

Representatives from Improbable visited the NPS campus this week to install their virtual environment software and train NPS users. In addition to NPS research support, future plans include a partnership with the Naval Research Enterprise on the execution of a large-scale TT&E event to explore Fleet capabilities of this emerging technology.

NPS' [Modeling, Virtual Environments and Simulation \(MOVES\) Institute](#) will lead exploration of Navy-specific uses for Improbable's software by supporting future NPS student, faculty research. Master's and doctorate degree programs through the MOVES Institute prepare graduates to be subject matter experts in modeling, simulation and synthetic environments, with the skills to provide both technical and managerial leadership in all areas of simulation development, sustainment and application. The program's rigorous technical background prepares graduates to adapt to today's rapidly-evolving technical landscape.

## Alumni in the News



**Mallory Decoster**, MS in Remote Sensing Intelligence '12, from the Johns Hopkins Applied Research Lab is a member of the impact team for [NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test \(DART\)](#). DART is the first-ever mission dedicated to investigating and demonstrating one method of asteroid deflection by changing an asteroid's motion in space through kinetic impact and recently completed a successful attempt to alter the orbit of an asteroid for the first time in history.

Decoster completed her master's degree as a civilian in the Naval Postgraduate school in California, and its support of her degree required her to spend a year as an employee of the Department of Defense. That brought her to Charlottesville, the home of the National Ground Intelligence Center.

[Read about](#) Decoster's work or [listen to a recent podcast.](#)



Cmdr. **Emily Shilling** received the 2022 LGBTQ+ Corporate Advocate of the Year Outie Award from Out & Equal, a global organization working exclusively on LGBTQ+ workplace equality, at the annual Workplace Summit on Oct. 20 in Las Vegas.

Shilling is the Naval mission planning system military deputy program manager for the Strike Planning and Execution Office (PMA-281) at Patuxent River and is also a member of NAVAIR's Diversity Action Team. She works with transgender personnel, senior leadership, Congress, and the Defense Health Agency to provide mentorship, advocate for inclusive military service, improve access to medical care, and create a safe work environment. The organization recognized Shilling for advocating for the LGBTQ+ community and working to improve the Navy's inclusion efforts. [Read more.](#)

## Alumni Updates

Viken Detection recently announced that retired Adm. **Craig Faller**, MS in National Security Affairs '91, has been appointed to its board of directors.

Faller is a retired four-star United States Navy Admiral with nearly four decades of global leadership experience. Faller most recently led United States Southern Command where he was responsible for U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean with the primary objective of forging strong security partnerships. He has served in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific regions both on large staffs and in Command of a United States Navy Carrier Strike Group and two warships. He has extensive Washington, DC experience in the Pentagon and with Congress as the Department of the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs (lead representative to Congress on behalf of the leadership of the Navy). In the Pentagon he served as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense.



Lockheed Martin recently announced that retired Army Lt. Gen. **Michael Williamson**, MS in Systems Acquisition Management '97, will be the new senior vice president of Global Business Development & Strategy. The appointment is effective Nov. 1.

Williamson joined Lockheed Martin in 2017 following a distinguished career with the U.S. Army. He served as the principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and director of Acquisition Career Management. He also served as a congressional fellow on Capitol Hill.

"The focus on deterrence internationally is greater than even before, and Lockheed Martin brings unrivaled capability to replenish and upgrade the defense of nations around the world from emerging threats. As we develop the 21st Century Security technologies and capabilities to ensure our customers remain ahead of ready, I can't think of a better leader than Michael Williamson to grow our business worldwide and support our international priorities," said Lockheed Martin Chief Operating Officer Frank St. John.

**Laura Kavanagh**, CHDS Executive Leadership Program, was recently appointed New York City fire commissioner, making her the first woman to head the New York City Fire Department.



Since February, Kavanagh has served as acting interim fire commissioner. Prior to that, Kavanagh worked at City Hall as a special assistant to Mayor Bill de Blasio. As commissioner, Kavanagh will oversee the day-to-day administration of the largest fire department in the United States, along with its 17,000 employees and \$2 billion budget.

Kavanagh is an alumnus of the Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security and the Stanford Graduate School of Business' Summer Institute. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations from Whittier College and a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



**Kenneth Pravetz**, MS in Security Studies '19, who has served in Virginia Beach for 23 years and has 35 years of career fire experience, has been named the city's new fire chief. Pravetz is currently the deputy chief of services, responsible for personnel, finance, training, logistics, planning and community risk reduction. He will begin his new role Jan. 1.

"Pravetz has the proven leadership and communication skills needed to be successful across our organization, in collaboration with our community partners and through a wide range of public safety emergencies," City Manager Patrick Duhaney said in a statement. "His decades of diversified management

experience will help Virginia Beach continue to be a national leader in public safety for many more years to come.”

Pravetz, a U.S. Air Force veteran, has an associate degree in fire science, a bachelor’s degree in health and safety and a master of public administration degree.

## Submit an Alumni Update Meet more Students & Alumni: Faces of NPS

### Get Involved!



### Present Your Research in Monterey at the 2023 Acquisition Research Program Symposium

PROPOSALS DUE NOVEMBER 29, 2022

The Naval Postgraduate School announces the 20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium to be held May 10-11, 2023 as a hybrid event. The Symposium Program Committee solicits proposals for papers or panels from academicians, practitioners, researchers at think tanks, and others interested in defense acquisition research. **We seek a diverse audience of influential attendees** from academe, government, and industry who are well placed to shape and promote future research in acquisition. [Submit or Learn More.](#)

**NPS STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**  
**2023 RAPID INNOVATION DESIGN CHALLENGE**

MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS AS THEY EXPLORE HOW TO UNLEASH THE POWER OF TECH TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Earn Professional Certificates in no-code application development  
Experience a state-of-the-art no-code application focused on connecting people, functions, and systems through a hands-on workshop
- Potential To Earn Directed Study Credits  
Enhance your education while giving back to the community
- Pair With Industry Experts  
Mentor students while developing technical skills
- Flexible Commitment  
Challenge period runs February to mid-April 2023

TO SIGN UP OR LEARN MORE, VISIT [NPS.EDU/DESIGN-CHALLENGE](#)

### 2023 Design Challenge: Local Challenges, Global Solutions - Seeking NPS Student Mentors

Schools and students are invited to envision, develop, and design innovative solutions to local climate challenges. Through engagement with design challenges presented with scaffolded lessons that support student learning and engagement, students

will be asked to consider how science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) can be used to create meaningful solutions with global impact. [More information.](#)

## NPS Foundation Events



### I/ITSEC Alumni Reception

ORLANDO, FL

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Connect with NPS alumni and current NPS faculty and staff at the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) in Orlando, FL. I/ITSEC is the world's largest modeling, simulation and training event. The date and time are subject to change but will take place during the I/TSEC Conference November 29 - December 1.

[Register here.](#)



### Grand Winter Ball

DECEMBER 3, 2022

In the ballroom of the historic Hotel Del Monte, we host an evening of live music, dancing, delicious food and drink, and wonderful company. Each December this magical evening will transport you to a winter wonderland complete with snow, trees, lights and a musical red-carpet entrance to remember.

[Special pricing for alumni, students and faculty! Buy your tickets here.](#)

To purchase a sponsored table, [contact the NPS Foundation](#).

## Upcoming Virtual Event

### **America In Transition: How Homeland Security Is Changing and What Leaders Need To Know in 2023**

The NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security is hosting an upcoming five-part interactive webinar series. National experts will discuss the evolving homeland security and emergency management landscapes at a time of transition and increasing concern domestically and globally. Each webinar will tackle an important topic for the Nation and underscore what homeland security leaders and newly elected and appointed officials need to know heading into 2023. Stay Tuned! **Registration and additional information will be available soon.**

#### **Wednesday, November 30, 2pm ET**

What Keeps Us Going? Understanding Vulnerabilities in the Energy Sector and Our Supply Chains

#### **Wednesday, December 7, 2pm ET**

The Global Picture: What Do Foreign Threats Mean For Us Here At Home?

#### **Wednesday, December 14, 2pm ET**

The Evolving Cyber Threat: How Do We Face a National Threat to Distributed Infrastructure?

#### **Wednesday, December 21, 2pm ET**

Fighting with Nature: How Society is Changing Its Approach to Natural Hazards

#### **Wednesday, January 21, 2pm ET**

America in 2023 and Beyond: Changes in the Homeland Security Landscape

### **In Case You Missed It:**

### **Defense Innovation Board holds Inaugural Meeting at Pentagon**

A new roster of members of the Defense Innovation Board met Monday at the Pentagon for the first time. Michael Bloomberg is the board's chair. Retired Adm. **Michael Mullen**, NPS '85, the NPS Foundation's Advisory Council Board Chair, is one of seven new members from across industry, government and academia.

"Put simply, we are not doing our jobs here if we are not...drawing on the strengths of the private sector and helping service members do their jobs across the globe. The DIB was established to help spur [#innovation](#) across the department and bridge the public and private sectors," Bloomberg said. "Over the years, the board has been successful in bringing new ideas forward, including on talent and culture, digital transformation, software acquisition, and artificial intelligence...There is much more that we can do — and I'm looking forward to the challenge." [Read more.](#)



## **[Sustaining the Fight for Women's Rights in Iran as Repression Tightens](#)**

By Yu-Ping Change and Ghashia Kiyani

Ghashia Kiyani is a Donal R. Beall Fellow in NPS' Defense Analysis Department.

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in custody after being detained for improperly wearing a hijab, ignited protests across Iran. Though the Iranian government blames foreign influence, the demonstrations are more diverse than any in Iran's recent history. They include students, merchants, artists, athletes, business owners, and a range of ethnicities. Moreover, women have been at the forefront, demanding women's rights, while taking off headscarves and cutting their hair.

What influence, if any, will these protests have on women's rights in Iran, and on the shrinking space for the civil society organizations that advocate for them? [Read more.](#)



## **[Faces of NPS: Cyber Security and Digital Technologies Impact on National Security](#)**

**[Department of Defense Releases its 2022 Strategic Reviews – National Defense Strategy, Nuclear Posture Review, and Missile Defense Review](#)**

**[Report to Congress on Emerging Military Technologies](#)**



[Pentagon's Shyu, LaPlante push to get critical tech into production](#)

[China calls for new 'strategic guidance' at 20th Party Congress](#)

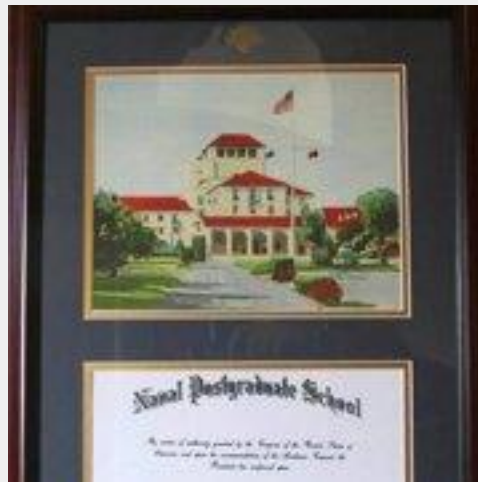
[The Role of US Technology in China's Public Security System](#)

[David or Goliath? How Thinking Like a Small Nation Can Help Counter China](#)

[US-China report recommends backchannel diplomacy with Chinese military](#)

[Pentagon, U.S. Arms Makers to Talk Russia, Labor and Supply Chain](#)

## SHOP NPS GEAR ONLINE



In-store pick-up available for local orders. The shop is now open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Questions about the shop or the merchandise available? Contact the Peacock Shop [Manager](#).

**Shop NPS Gear**

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When you order through AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5 percent of your purchase price to the NPS Foundation, equipping our nation's premier defense education and research institution!

**Shop AmazonSmile**

## **"PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE"**



Make your mark on the NPS campus with a custom brick on our "Pathway to the Future," a unique, lasting way to remember and mark your connection to NPS.

**Design Your Brick**

**Connect with us!**



Your gift helps produce the Leaders, Technologies, and Ideas  
our Nation needs to keep our service members  
safe abroad and us all safe at home.

Thank you for your generosity!

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