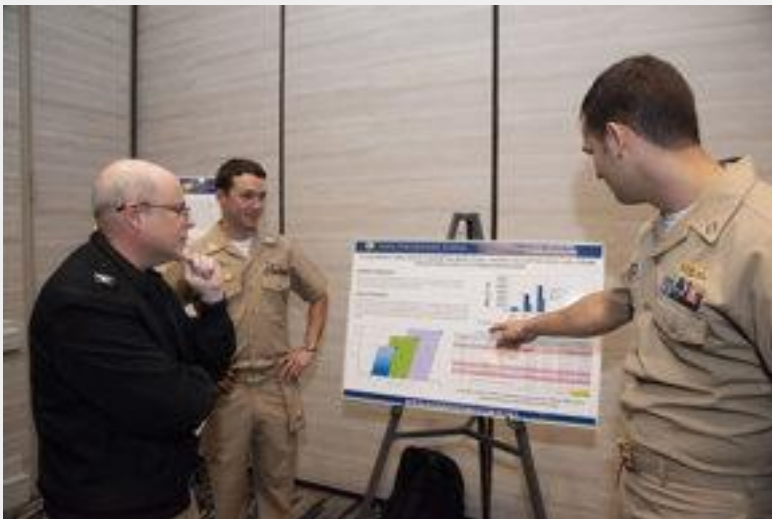




MAY 2023

Innovation Capstone Gives NPS Students a Pathway to Transition New Ideas to the Fleet

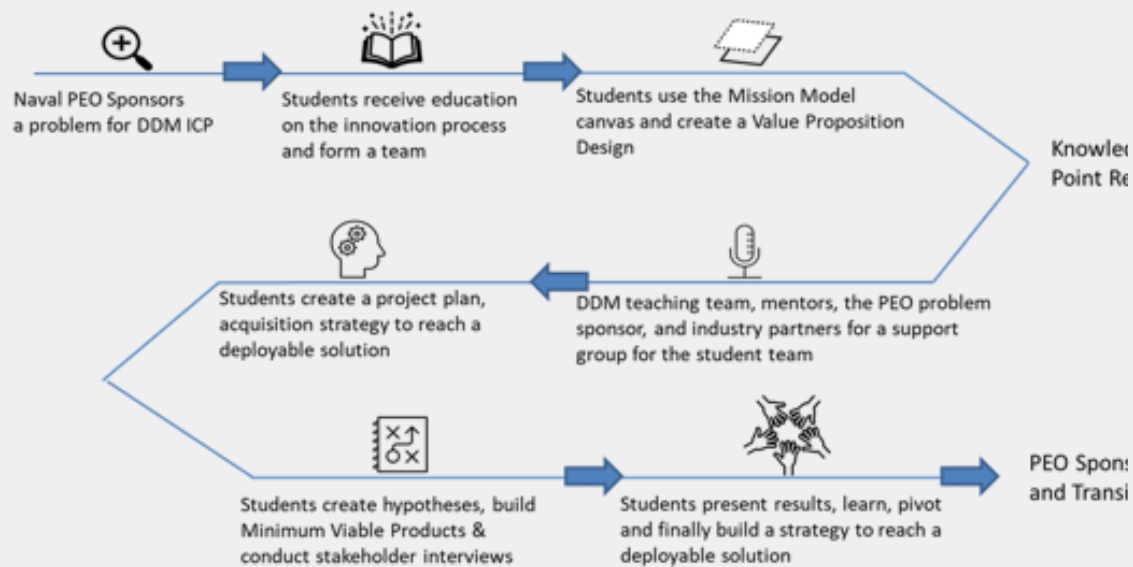


The Naval Postgraduate School is piloting an innovation capstone opportunity enabling NPS' warrior-scholar students to work with U.S. Navy sponsors on developing and transitioning their innovative ideas within the space of a year. Through practical experiential learning with an intentional focus on relevant technological innovation transition and adoption, NPS students will gain the ability to lead through uncertainty, as well as the knowledge and requisite skills to leverage technologies for innovative solutions to operational problems.

The Innovation Capstone Project (ICP) is a new program that enables interdisciplinary student teams with varied technical research and acquisitions backgrounds to collaborate on a project to meet a capability requirement. Together, the teams prepare and move proposals to a point where

they're pitching their capstone ideas to a panel of military, industry and acquisitions experts. Those with the most compelling solutions and transition plans will be selected to move forward into the next phase of rapid prototyping and development with the acquisition community.

The ICP is a catalyst for accelerating innovation and helps bridge the gap between the lab and real-world application. Integrating acquisition expertise throughout the development process creates more realistically-deliverable outcomes and expedites the speed at which innovations can be deployed. [Read more.](#)



“The point of this capstone is to take all the great work being done around the NPS campus and put it into a pathway that moves it forward. Think of it like ‘Shark Tank’ for the Navy. We are developing our military students’ ability to lead innovation informed by their operational experience and transition their good ideas to solve real operational problems.”

– Raymond Jones, Chair of the Department of Defense Management

NPS, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability Team Up for Department of the Navy’s Latest Climate Tabletop Exercise



The Naval Postgraduate School hosted a two-day Department of the Navy Climate Tabletop Exercise to tackle climate and sustainability initiatives.

“For the Department of the Navy, climate readiness is mission readiness: it makes us better warfighters,” said Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment (EI&E) and the Navy’s Chief Sustainment Officer. “Our installations – whether at home or abroad – are where warfighting begins, our power projection platforms. We exercised elements and generated actions that ensure that these platforms are survivable and that the coastal communities that we call home are just as resilient.”

During the two-day event, participants concentrated on three focus areas – water security, energy security, and coastal resilience – and briefed their results to a group of senior leaders including Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment (EI&E) and the Navy’s Chief Sustainment Officer, NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau, and Dr. Arun Majumdar, dean of the Doerr School of Sustainability. [Read more.](#)

“Building solutions to the challenges of climate change depends on turning knowledge and innovation into impactful solutions. This tabletop exercise – along with the broader collaboration between Stanford University and the U.S. Navy – allows us to identify the connections and gaps in our knowledge. It then provides a forum for taking this wealth of insights, data, and information and laying the groundwork for solutions that make a difference.”

– Dr. Arun Majumdar, Dean of Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability

Welcome aboard Dr. Alan Van Nevel, NPS' new Associate Provost for Research



Dr. **Alan Van Nevel**, NPS' new Associate Provost for Research, recently joined the Office of Research and Innovation. Van Nevel earned his PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and has been a career Navy scientist at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division (NAWC-WD) in China Lake, where his research focused on automatic target recognition, autonomous systems, and image and signal processing. At NAWC-WD, Van Nevel rose through the ranks from being a branch and division head to a research director and then chief scientist before coming to NPS.

On a personal level, Van Nevel is an accomplished high school and college soccer referee, and goalkeeper coach. He enjoys being with his wife of 27 years, two children, and said you might find them out hiking or walking in Monterey with their two Great Danes and Basset Hound!

"My professional goal is to pursue and enable new discoveries that will fundamentally change how the Navy fights and wins today, and in the future. In my new role at NPS, I am excited about the opportunities to support cutting-edge research that not only leverages the faculty depth and operational experience of our students, but also enables us to partner more effectively with naval warfare centers and laboratories to accelerate development and delivery of capabilities to the fleet."

— Dr. Alan Van Nevel, Vice Provost for Research

Putting Defense Acquisition on a Wartime Footing: Annual Symposium Shares Latest Research and Updates

Speakers to discuss outreach to industry and partners, workforce initiatives, rapid acquisition processes, policy recommendations, and the application of digital tools and emerging technology

The Naval Postgraduate School will host the 20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium on May 10 and 11, 2023. This event is free and open to the public, with both virtual and in-person sessions. **Registration is open until May 10:** www.researchsymposium.com

For 20 years, this event has brought together an interdisciplinary mix of perspectives from government, industry, and academia to provide a 360-degree view of acquisition as a warfighting tool. Attendees will be the first to hear original research and the latest updates from leaders in the defense acquisition community.

Who will be there: This year's keynote speakers continue the trend of beginning each day with insight and strategic guidance from senior leaders.

The Honorable William LaPlante, PhD, under secretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment, opens the event on May 10. LaPlante offers perspective on where the U.S. acquisition community stands with enhanced acquisition authorities meant to expedite the procurement and production of goods and services, as well as the transitioning of emerging technologies through the valley of death.

The Honorable Nickolas Guertin, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, will kick off May 11. Guertin has been attending the symposium as a researcher and presenter for over a decade. In his current role, Guertin has overseen increasing use of digital engineering, modeling, and simulation in the testing environment.

This event is co-hosted by the Acquisition Research Program and the Naval Warfare Studies Institute at Naval Postgraduate School, with support from the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation and Alumni Association.

"This event brings together the very best, top of the heap thinkers and practitioners of the acquisition world. Acquisition research shows us what works, what does not, and provides us insights and guidance into new and better ways of serving our warfighters during these new, dangerous, but not unprecedented times."

– Dave Lewis, NPS Chair of Acquisition

The NPS Foundation and Alumni Association Establishes Philippines Chapter

The newly established Philippines Chapter of the Naval Postgraduate School Alumni Association has recently elected its inaugural Board of Directors and Officers. The group is led by Chairman, retired Vice Adm. Narcisco Vingson Jr., MS in Systems Engineering '05, and President, Maj. Gen. Arturo Rojas, MS in Defense Analysis '04.

The esteemed group plans to launch with a General Assembly this month and periodic socials that will focus on relevant topics of interest. These events aim to encourage meaningful conversations, provide updates on important and timely issues, and create a bridge back to NPS and the alumni network. The group consists of graduates from the class of 1999 to the recent graduates of the class of 2022, representing all the Philippine armed services.

To establish an alumni chapter in your area contact alumni@npsfoundation.org.

You can also host an [alumni event](#) or plan a [class reunion](#) with resources and support from the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation. [Learn more](#).

Cheer on Sam Buttrey in the Jeopardy! Masters Tournament



Buttrey finished second to James Holzhauer in Game 1 on May 8th, giving him one point toward his total.

Here's how it works:

- May 8: Winners of each game get three points, second place one, third place zero.

- May 9–10, 12, 15–17: Starting with Day 2, the previous episode's winners will face each other in the second game with a randomly drawn third contestant; the other game will feature those who finished second or third.
- May 22–23 (semifinals): Lowest two point finishers are eliminated. Remaining four contestants play four round-robin games, with the lowest finisher eliminated.
- May 24 (finals): Two-game total point final.

Alumni Updates



Decorated astronaut **Michael López-Alegría**, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '88, has been selected by the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day Planning Committee as the recipient of the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award. Members of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community will honor López-Alegría during the U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day (WSD) on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Named for the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the Ronald Brown Award recognizes demonstrated leadership in promoting the important role of standardization in eliminating global barriers to trade.

López-Alegría—who hosted the first ever standards meeting from the International Space Station—has more than 40 years of aviation and space experience.

Rear Adm. **Kurt Rothenhaus**, MS in Computer Science '99 and a PhD in Software Engineering '08, a program executive officer at Naval Information Warfare Systems Command, has been appointed to serve as chief of naval research. Rothenhaus is among nine appointees in [a flag officer assignment list released April 27](#) on the U.S. Navy's website. He has held the role of NAVWAR PEO for command, control, communications, computers and intelligence since May 2020. His prior shore tours include work as program manager of the Navy's tactical networks and commanding officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific. He also completed assignments as an officer on USS Harry S. Truman, chief engineer on USS O'Brien and staff member on USS Fife. The Navy commissioned Rothenhaus in 1992 after he graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree. Throughout his career, he has received various military awards, such as the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.



Rear Adm. **Thomas J. Moreau**, MS in Management '02, will be assigned as vice director, J-4, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. Moreau is currently serving as director, Supply, Ordnance and Logistics Operations Division, N4L, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. (lower half) **Christopher D. Stone**, MS in Systems Technology (Command, Control and Communications) '02, will be assigned as commander, Expeditionary Strike Group SEVEN/Commander, Task Force SEVEN SIX/Commander, Amphibious Force, SEVENTH Fleet, Okinawa, Japan. Stone is currently serving as special assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Rear Adm. (lower half) **Michael S. Sciretta**, MS in Operations Research '99, will be assigned as director, Maritime Operations, United States Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Sciretta is currently serving as commander, Standing North Atlantic Treaty Organization Maritime Group TWO, Naples, Italy.



U.S. Navy Capt. **Patrick McKenna**, MS in Systems Engineering '17, assumed command from Capt. Andrew Gainer in a change of command and retirement ceremony at Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific on May 4. As commanding officer, McKenna will lead more than 5,200 civilian employees and military members across the globe in serving NIWC Pacific's information warfare mission. A native of Middleton, Wisconsin, McKenna's naval career began in 2000 at Officer Candidate School in Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. Since then, he has logged more than 3,000 flight hours as an operational aviator and served in various leadership roles. Prior to assuming command at NIWC Pacific, he served as Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) Commander Rear Adm. Doug Small's executive assistant.

Rachael A. Dempsey, MS in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography '02, was recently appointed as the National Ocean Service's (NOS) first-ever Deputy Assistant Administrator for Navigation, Observations, and Positioning. In this position, Dempsey has full responsibility for establishing, managing, and providing strategic direction for the NOS navigation, observations, and positioning programs. She also supervises NOS's information technology and data management strategies. With nearly 28 years as a Meteorology and Oceanography Officer in the United States Navy, Dempsey has broad meteorological and oceanographic prediction and operational application expertise and significant experience leading large, diverse organizations and managing financial resources. She also possesses an extensive background in cyber operations and network defense.



U.S. Navy Capt. **Mark Burke**, MS in Defense Analysis '08, recently became the commander of the Naval Special Warfare Center (NSWCEN) in a ceremony presided over by Rear Adm. Keith Davids, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (USNSWC). NSWCEN is an echelon III command under USNSWC whose mission is to develop, plan, and conduct training of U.S. Navy naval commandos. This includes the assessment, selection, and training of SEALs and SWCCs. A native of Pittsburg and a 1999 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Burke completed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training in 2000. A highly decorated naval officer with years of experience in special operations, Davids noted Burke is well-equipped to lead the NSWCEN and continue their improvement efforts for NSW accession, selection, and training pathways.

Philippine Army Brig. Gen. **Leonardo Peña**, MS in Defense Analysis '07, commander of the 302nd Infantry Brigade in Negros Oriental, has been designated as the new assistant division commander of Army's 3rd Infantry Division. Lt. Gen. Benedict Arevalo, AFP Visayas Command chief, said that Peña will remain in Negros Oriental, for Joint Task Force Negros. JTF Negros was tasked to help in restoration of peace and order in Negros Oriental, following the assassination of Gov. Roel Degamo and the killing of eight others, inside his residential compound in Pamplona town on March 4.



U.S. Navy Lt. **Kahra Kelty**, MS in Mechanical Engineering '22, was selected for the 2023 U.S. Armed Forces Women's National Soccer team. Kelty along with 21 other active duty women from the U.S. Armed Forces were selected during the Armed Forces Women's Soccer trials, held Apr. 30 - May 6 at Peterson SFB, Colorado. The Team will travel to the Netherlands in June for the Armed Forces Soccer Training Camp followed by the CISM Women's Soccer Championship. [Learn more.](#)

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

The Human Factor: The Final Flight of an Aerospace Physiologist



The doctor at the forefront of Model Based Human Systems Integration reflects on his 20-year-long career and its impact on the Air Force.

Lt. Col. **Matthew Taranto**, MS in Human Systems Integration '13, is a former F-16 pilot, doctor of Aerospace Physiology, professor at the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and researcher at the forefront of MBHSI before recently retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

"I started initially in the Air Force with the desire to be an aviator," Taranto said. "I later realized that there may be more out there than just flying airplanes. So, I took some time to make a calculated pivot in helping aviators do their job better in complex spaces."

Taranto has held a variety of assignments spanning five Air Force commands and numerous physiology missions, including serving as the U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Thunderbirds, and TPS aerospace physiologist. He is an Aerospace Medical Association Board Certified Aerospace Physiologist, a Defense Acquisition University Certified Acquisition Level II Science/Technology

Management and Engineering Professional, and a distinguished graduate of the United States Naval Postgraduate School.

[Watch His Final Flight](#)

Levy one of 149 Black health care leaders to know



Becker's Hospital Review honored **Marlow H. Levy**, MS in Management '10, vice president of operations at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, as one of "149 Black Healthcare Leaders to Know" for 2023.

According to Becker's, the list is comprised of individuals who are fostering positive patient experiences, promoting health equity and paving the way for the next generation of leaders.

Levy has more than 30 years of leadership experience in a variety of health care systems with a particular focus on delivering health care strategy, growth and process improvement to improve hospital safety, care delivery, surgical throughput, operational efficiency and better patient experience. He joined Baptist Health in 2022.

"We are so pleased that Marlow is sharing his heart for people and service at Baptist Jacksonville," said Nicole B. Thomas, hospital president of Baptist Jacksonville. "His commitment to living out the

values of equity and inclusion in the workplace is driving results for our patient, our patients and this community.”

Sole active-duty Marine brings operational planning expertise to the JTF-SD



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. **Benjamin Tuck**, MS in Computer Science '16, special technical operations chief for the Joint Task Force-Space Defense (JTF-SD), is the sole active-duty Marine in the organization who brings critical operations planning knowledge and strategy to the protect-and-defend mission.

After earning a master's degree in computer science with a focus in cyber warfare and space systems from Naval Postgraduate School, and completing Naval War College where he studied operational art, Tuck was a perfect fit for the JTF-SD. In 2021, Tuck arrived and began applying his unique skillsets directly to the space domain. Tuck now brings his operational planning perspective into the JTF-SD as the STO chief, helping shape planning efforts to ensure the plans truly enable the force flow for the supported command.

“Marines are called to get the job done regardless, so we must be ready even if space is not there. Here at the Joint Task Force, our mission is protecting and defending the on-orbit assets,” said Tuck. “So, you've got satellites for communications, you've got satellites for intelligence, you've got anything you can think of on-orbit. How do you make sure you protect and defend those capabilities? Because space is no longer benign and there are other nations that have capabilities that can put our assets at risk.”

Upcoming Event

20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium

May 10-11, 2023

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation & Alumni Association is a proud sponsor of the Acquisition Research Program at the Naval Postgraduate School's **20th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium**. We are pleased to invite you to attend the symposium on May 10-11, 2023, at Embassy Suites Hotel Monterey Bay – Seaside, CA. The program, lodging, registration, and other details can be found at www.researchsymposium.com.

Acquisition research is a mission-critical pursuit for the Department of Defense, enabling the identification and development of necessary tools, technologies, and strategies to carry out missions effectively while maximizing efficiency, reducing costs, and mitigating risks.

Attend Virtually

In Case You Missed It:

Powering American Renewal With Innovation

with David McCormick, Chris Brose and Ryan Evans

A rich conversation on wielding innovation and smart policies to create an American renewal. Featuring Dave McCormick, author (along with James Cunningham) of [Superpower in Peril: A Battle Plan to Renew America](#) and Chris Brose of Anduril Industries. [Listen Now.](#)

Military Children Serve Too!

Military children serve, too. They are resilient and brave, and that's the very reason they have a whole month dedicated to recognizing them. Every year, the Department of Defense observes

April as the Month of the Military Child to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide and recognize the unique challenges of military-connected children. The Month of the Military Child also aims to highlight programs, resources and services available to support the overall well-being of military children, youth and teens.

Military children continue to thrive despite the challenges of having a parent, or both, serving in the Armed Forces. We asked a few of our own Presidio of Monterey military children some questions, and their answers might surprise you. [Read the interviews.](#)

British airship may help U.S. military patrol South China Sea

A British airship is to “transform the way the US Navy and Marine Corps conduct operations across the Pacific” to meet a rising threat from China. The Airliner 10 is on course to find itself deployed by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command on operations in the South China Sea within the next two years.

Cooperation between Bedford-based Hybrid Air Vehicles and the US Department of Defense began when Marine Corps Captains Ben Cohen and John Schmaltz spotted Airlander’s potential while at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Now, the DOD has announced new funding to develop the project, which may see Airlanders in service for the US military within the next two years. [Read more.](#)

[Read the original announcement here.](#)

Upgrading the Mindset: Modernizing Sea Service Culture for Trust in Artificial Intelligence

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Humr is currently a PhD candidate as part of the Commandant’s PhD-Technical Program

In this article, Naval Postgraduate School PhD student Lt. Col. Scott Humr explores the challenges and opportunities of integrating artificial intelligence into military decision-making processes.

As we enter the new Cognitive Age, it's crucial that our naval culture adapts to these changes and promotes behaviors that fully leverage the benefits of advanced technologies. To compete effectively with AI technologies, it's essential that the Services examine core beliefs and values, understand their organizational cultures, and implement necessary change.

NPS is vital in bringing together experienced educators and students to advance future naval concepts. NPS student researchers are actively exploring the areas of trust in AI, technology acceptance, and culture, providing significant insights into the intersection between people and technologies. This research can save lives and resources by informing the development of human-machine teaming strategies, improving technology adoption within military organizations, and enhancing decision-making processes. [Read more.](#)

[Faces of NPS: Computer Science, Interdisciplinary Research with International Impact](#)

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[4th Annual Information Awards Dinner Recognize Superior Performance In The Information Environment](#)

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[First looks at major 2024 defense policy bill come this week](#)

[What Biden's expected Joint Chiefs pick will likely face in the Senate](#)

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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Have you attended America's Heroes Golf Tournament or Grand Winter Ball? Are you a member of an NPS Foundation Club? If you have experience with the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation please consider leaving us a review.

[**Write a Review**](#)

"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.**