



FEBRUARY 2024

NPS Foundation holds annual Advisory Council Meeting focused on Naval Innovation Center at NPS

On January 22, 2024, the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation Advisory Council and Board of Trustees convened, both in-person and virtually, for the 4th Annual Advisory Council Meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting is to update the Advisory Council on NPS progress and initiatives. This year's meeting was focused on [Naval Innovation Center \(NIC\) at NPS](#) progress and to assess the way forward with the help of the Advisory Council.

The Hon. **Carlos Del Toro**, Secretary of the Navy, joined remotely to reaffirm his commitment to the NIC, which he first announced in December 2022, and to provide an update on his investments in NPS to the esteemed leaders in attendance. Del Toro emphasized the critical role played by transformative technologies emerging from the Naval Postgraduate School, citing real-time examples of laser and weapons systems currently deployed in the Mediterranean and Middle East, and conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to both the Advisory Council and the Board of Trustees for their unwavering commitment to strengthening national security and supporting the NPS mission.

The meeting also included presentations from NPS President, retired Vice Adm. **Ann Rondeau**, who shared insights into the institution's vision and strategic direction, and NPS Provost, Dr. **Scott Gartner**, who provided valuable updates on academic initiatives. Additionally, two current students, Lt. **Alex Evans** and Capt. **Brian Allen**, presented their ongoing research on 5G technology for military applications, showcasing the importance of CRADAs with industry partners, in their case Qualcomm, to advance the important research taking place at NPS. [Read more.](#)

To view the complete list of Advisory Council Members, visit npsfoundation.org/advisory-council.

Athena 4 Partners 1.0 Release – Graduates from Beta to Production Version



Athena

We're thrilled to announce the official launch of Athena/Athena 4 Partners 1.0, marking a significant milestone for the collaborative research tool. Athena has evolved from its beta phase and transitioned to the production version, offering enhanced features and capabilities.

Thank you to our (over 100!) Athena beta users who provided invaluable feedback, suggested new capabilities, and advocated for Athena throughout NPS and the defense education enterprise. Key features of Athena for Partners 1.0 include:

- Streamlined Access Groups for targeted and controlled collaboration.
- Enhanced Group Notifications for efficient communication.
- Robust Shared and Personal Collections for better resource management.
- Access to NPS and Marine Corps University papers for comprehensive research.
- Active participation from Corporate Partners, enriching collaborative efforts.
- Chat and Discussion feature for instant and long-term collaboration.
- Ability to respond to or submit research requests or DOD leadership priorities.
- Relevant News Aggregation from over 40 sources based on your interests.

If you'd like to learn more or sign up for your account, visit athena4partners.org. If you already have your account, you are invited to join our Weekly NPS Foundation Athena Update session on Fridays at 9 p.m. UTC/ 4 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. PT. The weekly update includes relevant updates, new features and walk-through demos. We also have a weekly onboarding call every Monday. The exact time of the Monday meeting will vary to accommodate alumni in non-US time zones.

Email athena@npsfoundation.org with questions or to be added to the Monday or Friday meeting invitations.

The NPS Foundation Athena team is growing! Join us in welcoming retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. [Devin “Hat Trick” Smiley](#), MS in Computer Science ‘17, as the new Athena Program Manager, and [Tim Hughes](#) as Athena Software Engineer. Smiley is spearheading the strategic management and growth strategy for Athena while Hughes will focus on enhancing technical

capabilities, ensuring a seamless user experience, and managing back-end infrastructure for Athena's continued excellence.

A Message to NPS from Secretary of the Navy, The Hon. Carlos Del Toro



The Secretary of the Navy, The Hon. Carlos Del Toro, recently sent a powerful message to the Naval Postgraduate School community, announcing the 5-year extension of NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau and highlighting the institution's crucial role in addressing global challenges.

Del Toro confirmed his plans for continued investment in NPS, stating, "With President Rondeau's continued leadership, we are also planning significant investments in NPS. These include modernization of the NPS campus and labs, as well as a new, purposefully designed facility to house the Naval Innovation Center (NIC)—an asset for the entire Fleet and Force."

The NIC at NPS is poised to enhance defense education and applied research, empowering students and faculty to accelerate "ideas to impact" alongside academic, defense and industry partners. Del Toro emphasized NPS' enduring role as a leader in innovation,

asserting, "NPS has always been a catalyst for change. Now more than ever, NPS is needed to keep our Navy and our nation in the lead."

NPS Students Accelerate Innovative Over-The-Horizon Technology Solution



In one of the first research projects under the [Naval Innovation Exchange \(NIX\)](#) Intelligent Autonomous Systems (IAS) team, NPS Students, U.S. Navy Lt. **Austin Dumas** and Lt. Cmdr. **Hans Lauzen** and U.S. Marine Corps Capt. **Daniel Lim** conceived an autonomous over-the-horizon (OTH) maritime solution – a capability that has the potential to be in the hands of warfighters as early as next year.

Dumas, a student dual-enrolled in the Space Systems Operations and Space Systems Engineering curricula at NPS, noticed a capability gap in his operational experience before coming to Monterey. To leverage the NIX program, Dumas was paired with Lauzen, a Surface Warfare and Information Professional Officer studying in the Space Systems Operations program, and Lim, a communications officer who is dual-enrolled in the Space Systems Operations and Systems Acquisition Management curricula.

Under the NIX construct, Dumas, Lauzen and Lim were able to rapidly conceptualize, prototype and experiment by utilizing new and pre-existing agreements with industry known as Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs). One of these CRADAs is with Saronic Technologies, a Texas-based company consisting of veterans, technologists and engineers who specialize in autonomous and unmanned vehicle technology.

Their work with Saronic resulted in the successful demonstration of low-observable unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) that enable over-the-horizon communications via space-based systems like Starlink, Iridium, and SATPAQ.

The technology was successfully demonstrated during Navy exercises in the summer of 2023, as well as at NPS' own Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (JIFX) event in October. The students were then able to brief the test results to major stakeholders such as the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RD&A) and the Chief of Naval Research, among others. [Read more.](#)

“With the tools that NPS has allowed us to have, the CRADA partnerships with industry, the hands-on fleet experiment and operational testing that we’re able to participate in, we now have a product that is able to be delivered to the warfighter faster than it would take any other program office to create.” – Lt. Cmdr. Hanz Lauzen

NUWC hosted TECHTalk focused on Design for Manufacturing and Assembly



As technology evolves at an unprecedented pace, staying ahead of the curve requires a commitment to continuous learning. Recognizing the importance of skill development, the Undersea Weapon's Department at Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport forged a partnership with the Naval Postgraduate School to provide an experiential training opportunity aimed at enhancing skills in the crucial domains of Designing for Manufacturing and Assembly. This training culminated in a day of Technical Talks (TECHTalk) hosted at NUWC Division, Keyport, Nov. 16, to provide recommendations for improvements toward sustainment issues. [Read more.](#)

Engineering Special Operations

By Lt. Cmdr. **Joseph Grim**, MS in Systems Engineering '23, **Ryan Cervino**, MS in Systems Engineering '23, **Christy Spaulding**, MS in Systems Engineering '23, and **Allen G. Zahneigh Sr.**, MS in Systems Engineering '23



Four NPS systems engineering graduates describe their master's degree capstone research, required for graduation, in this recent U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings article. The students tackled a tough issue: detecting and countering weapons of mass destruction. Their solution conceived of a highly mobile and flexible Systems-of-Systems (SoS) for special operations forces (SOF) to detect and counter chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) indicators within a confined or open area in a time-constrained environment. They call it CANARY SoS. [Read more.](#)

Going to WEST 2024 in San Diego, CA?

Join the Naval
Postgraduate School
Foundation & Alumni
Association for a
hosted Happy Hour
Reception

Tuesday, February 13,
2024

27AB Foyer
(Upper Level, San
Diego Convention
Center)

RSVP

NPS Students, Faculty, Staff,
Alumni and Industry
Partners and guests are
welcome to attend!



If you and/or your company will be at WEST and would like to connect with the Naval Postgraduate School or the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation, please contact [Todd Lyons](mailto:tlyons@npsfoundation.org) at tlyons@npsfoundation.org to schedule a time to meet or stop by the Naval Postgraduate School Booth, #1851.

NPS Experts: Conversations on Critical Topics

Naval Postgraduate School faculty and staff are actively engaged in impactful discussions across a spectrum of critical topics, reflecting the expertise of the individuals and the institution's contributions to addressing defense and national security challenges.

[Paparo Says Ukraine Aid Will Help Deter China in Indo-Pacific](#)

Adm. **Samuel J. Paparo**, MS in Systems Analysis '15, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Feb. 1

[The Navy Is Not Ready for the Information War of 2026](#)

By Vice Adm. **T. J. White, USN** (Ret.), Modeling & Simulation Strategic Advisor to NPS, MS In Systems Technology (C3) '93, Rear Adm. Danelle Barrett, USN (Ret.), and Cmdr. Jake Bebbler, USN

[Iran's IRGC and the Battle for the Middle East \[Podcast\]](#)

The Pivot Podcast featuring Dr. **Afshon Ostovar**, Associate Professor, National Security Affairs

[How Iran could respond to U.S. strikes \[Interview\]](#)

Capitol Crude: The U.S. Energy Policy Podcast with Brenda Shaffer, Faculty Associate - Research, Energy Academic Group

NPR host Scott Detrow and Dr. **Afshon Ostovar**, Associate Professor, National Security Affairs

[Will US confront Iran? Analyst says it must to stop Houthi attacks on major oil shipping route \[Podcast\]](#)

Capitol Crude: The U.S. Energy Policy Podcast with **Brenda Shaffer**, Faculty Associate – Research, Energy Academic Group

[Campaigning Through the WEZ: CJADC2 Is More than Kill-Chains](#)

Vice Adm. **Brian Brown**, USN (Ret), MS in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography '97, and Capt. Joel Davis, USN (Ret), Executive Leadership Certificate '18

[Develop a Persuasive Strategy for All-Domain Naval Power](#)

Capt. **Sam J. Tangredi**, USN (Ret), MA in National Security Affairs, '85

[How Service Members Should Prepare for Graduate School](#)

By Capt. **Casey Mahon**, USN, MS in Operations Research '07

NPS Alumni Impact: Lt. Col. Jim Wall



“The Naval Postgraduate School provided an incredible on-ramp for change in my U.S. Army career path,” noted retired Lt. Col. **Jim Wall**, MS in Systems Technology '86. “I am quite serious when I say that the NPS experience was life changing.”

Wall started his Army career as an armor officer, his attendance at NPS and a newly-discovered passion for modeling and simulation forever changed his career path. Following his NPS studies, Wall’s decades of uniformed and civilian service established his reputation as a nationally-recognized expert in the use of modeling and simulation (M&S) to advance training and operations, culminating in his selection as an I/ITSEC Fellow – the highest honor given by the National Training and Simulation Association.

Over his career, Wall’s countless accomplishments include using M&S to validate several improvements to the first-generation M1 battle tank; creating the first Virtual Sand Table simulated 3D environment; leading the development of the Emergency Management Exercise System used to train more than 20,000 emergency responders across the U.S.; and serving as co-principal investigator for the Digital EMS program that connects emergency transport with emergency rooms while on the move.

“Over the years, I think back fondly of the wonderful time I had at NPS,” Wall said. “I have monitored the tremendous contributions of the [MOVES Institute](#) in M&S. I frequently encounter exceptional contributors, academics and former students who are a testament to the great education and high standards at NPS. Without a doubt, NPS is a national treasure, especially to the defense community.”

Upcoming & Recent Club Events



Drone Racing Club - First Meeting

February 7, 2024
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
RoboDojo, Root Hall 125A/B, Naval
Postgraduate School

Learn More & Register



NPS Running Club participates in Fort Ord Inside Trail Race

The NPS Running Club participated in the Fort Ord Inside Trail Race on January 27.



The club took the top three (and four of the top six overall) male finishers in the 10k race. In the 25k, the club took the top four male 20-29 spots and the top female finisher in the 20-29 age group.

Learn more about [NPS Foundation clubs & club membership](https://npsfoundation.org/clubmembership).

Alumni Updates

Naval Postgraduate School alumni astronauts, **John Herrington**, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '95, and **Jasmin Moghbeli**, MS in Engineering Science '15, are making a profound impact by giving back to the community and inspiring the next generation.

['Why can't I be an astronaut?': First Native American to go to space speaks to Alaska Native students](#)

John Herrington who is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, kept his keynote speech short and sweet. He shared with the roomful of students, ranging from middle schoolers to college students, what led him to pursue a career as an astronaut. Herrington said he didn't have a strong direction when he began college and that it took time to find his path. [Read more.](#)

[Astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli talks to Camp Anchor participants from space](#)

Camp Anchor is a year-round program serving more than a thousand children and adults with special needs. Camp members got a first-hand look at what it's like to defy gravity from thousands of miles away, in space, as they chatted with astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli who is embarking on her very first space flight. [Read more.](#)



Leaders from the Defense Department and intelligence community gathered at Fort Meade, Maryland, Feb. 2, 2024, for the change of command ceremony of U.S. Cyber Command, as Army Gen. Paul M. Nakasone passed the flag to Air Force Gen. **Timothy D. Haugh**, MS in Joint Information Operations '05. Haugh also became the director of the National Security Agency and the chief of the Central Security Service. Haugh is well-versed in the organizations after having served at Nakasone's deputy. He has had a long history in intelligence and cyber fields since he commissioned into the Air Force in 1991. [Read more.](#)

"Our talent is unmatched in the world," Haugh said in his remarks. "The National Security Agency and Cyber Command create advantages for the nation." The organizations will continue to create and use new technologies

because "that is part of our enduring advantage," the Air Force general said. He said the watchwords of his term will be "people, innovation and partnerships."

AgEagle Aerial Systems Inc., a leading provider of full stack drone, sensors and software solutions for customers worldwide in the commercial and government verticals, has appointed Company Chairman **Grant Begley**, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '82, to Interim Chief Executive Officer position. Retiring from the United States Navy after 26 years of service as an officer, Grant led operational assignments flying fighter aircraft, designated Top Gun, followed by assignments relating to development and management of next generation manned and unmanned aerial systems, weapon systems and joint executive acquisitions. Grant holds master's degrees in aerospace and Aeronautic Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a bachelor's degree in general engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy.



"I am honored to lead the Company marked by its deep Unmanned Aerial System ("UAS") technology heritage. I look forward to working closely with the Board, senior leadership, and the many talented employees of AgEagle to usher a new chapter of growth for all our stakeholders. Together, we will capitalize on the growing interest from government and military agencies worldwide in AgEagle's eBee VISION as well as increasing investments in leading UAS solutions by military and public safety organizations worldwide."



Director Christopher Wray has named **Sanjay Virmani**, MBA '21, as the special agent in charge of the Counterterrorism Division of the Washington Field Office. He most recently served as deputy assistant director in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Mr. Virmani joined the FBI as a special agent in 2003 and was assigned to the San Francisco Field Office where he worked cyber and counterterrorism matters. He earned a bachelor's in industrial engineering from California State Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo and received a master's in business administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. [Read more.](#)

iLamp Oregon proudly announces the addition of Colonel **Jeffrey Williams**, MS in Aeronautical Engineering '87, to its executive team as Chief Operating Officer. Williams, a seasoned astronaut with a remarkable career spanning over four decades, brings a wealth of technological, engineering, systems integration, operations, international relations, and project management expertise to the iLampOregon team. [Read more.](#)



John Murray, MS in Homeland Security '17, has been named assistant chief of police to the Salinas, California, Police Department, which has been operating without a chief or assistant chief. Murray has worked for the Salinas Police Department for 27 years. Most recently he was a commander in the field operations division. As assistant chief, he will serve as acting police chief until the next chief of police has been hired.

Zurich North America announced **Jason Meador**, MS in Engineering Science (Mechanical Engineering) '03, currently Head of Zurich's crop insurance business, Rural Community Insurance Services (RCIS), has been appointed to lead the Direct Markets business that serves auto dealers and rental operations as of February 1. Meador, a Navy veteran, has a rich background in the insurance industry. Most recently, he served as the Head of RCIS, leading the crop insurance business at Zurich. Meador joined Zurich over 10 years ago and has held several leadership roles since that time, including Head of Strategic Execution for North America, Chief Operating Officer of the former Alternative Markets business



unit and Head of Captives. Prior to joining Zurich, Meador was a Principal with The Boston Consulting Group serving clients in the Insurance and Financial Services industry. Meador holds an MBA from the University of Maryland, an MS in Engineering Science from the Naval Postgraduate School and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University. [Read more.](#)



Goosehead Insurance, Inc., a rapidly growing, independent personal lines insurance agency, announced today the appointment of **David Lakamp**, MBA '03, as Chief Service Officer. Lakamp brings more than 14 years of extensive insurance and service experience to Goosehead and 11 years of military leadership in the U.S.Navy. In his role, Lakamp will lead the service organization to support the Company's next phase of rapid expansion. He will focus on driving operational efficiencies across technology and process planning to enhance and build upon Goosehead's industry-leading service delivery team. During his military career, Mr. Lakamp was a U.S. Naval Flight Officer leading 87 combat missions, and he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School.

[Submit an Alumni Update](#)

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

The Naval Postgraduate School is Hiring! The Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, has open tenure-track faculty positions in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), as well as faculty positions in Physics, Materials Science, Data Science, Math and Defense Management.

View open positions here: [MAE tenure track position](#) | [All open faculty positions](#) | [Staff positions](#)

In Case You Missed It:

[Readout of the Defense Innovation Board Winter 2024 Meeting](#)

The Defense Innovation Board (DIB) held its [winter board meeting](#) in the Pentagon on Jan. 26, 2024. The DIB Chair, Michael R. Bloomberg, gave remarks on the state of Department of Defense innovation efforts, and then turned to the DIB Members to discuss findings and recommendations from two studies that were initiated in October 2023, entitled "Lowering Barriers to Innovation" and "Building a DOD Data Economy." The chair also announced two new studies on "Aligning Incentives to Drive Faster Tech Adoption" and "Optimizing How We Innovate with Our Allies and Partners."

For the first study, the board identified seven domains of barriers across security, acquisition, information technology, human capital, culture, data, and partnerships; and provided 17 actionable recommendations developed through months-long research with defense, academia, and industry stakeholders. The board concluded that if implemented, these recommendations will facilitate, adopt, and scale innovation across DOD.

For the second study, the board observed the need for immediate action addressing barriers to DoD data access and sharing, breaking silos to data innovation within DoD, and empowering data stewards across the ecosystem to lead more effectively. The board also discussed the need for empowering young digital natives, upskilling data talent in the existing national security workforce, and upgrading DoD contract incentives for industry partners. [Read more.](#)

[Click here to watch the meeting.](#)

RELATED: [Op-Ed: To spur real defense innovation, empower CDAOs and bake tech into military career choices](#)

[Hicks Makes Case That Effective Defense Innovation Is Moving Forward](#)

Innovation is key to continuing U.S. military might, and the Defense Department is working to make the institution more agile and a good partner for private capital, said Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks at the American Dynamism Summit in Washington, January 30.

Hicks said there's one advantage the Chinese cannot outmatch, steal or copy — because it's part of America's DNA. That is "American ingenuity: our ability to think freely, innovate, change the game, and in the military sphere, to imagine, create, and master the future character of warfare," she said.

DOD must keep pace with "a dynamic U.S. private sector that continues to out-innovate the world," she said. DOD looks to develop a fast-moving cycle that identifies key capabilities and moves them to effective solutions. She called it "a warfighter-defined investment funnel ... comprising novel operational concepts, prototyping and experimentation; expeditious acquisition pathways; open doors for newcomers to enter; and a more level playing field." [Read more.](#)

Related:

[DOD Harnesses Science, Technology to Counter Adversaries](#)

[Defense Innovation Official Says Replicator Initiative Remains On Track](#)

[Pentagon CTO eyes increased experiments with Australia in rapid tech push](#)

[After you: DoD, industry look to each other for investment in space mobility](#)

[Defense technology firms watch new strategy for 'generational' change](#)

[Op-Ed: Congress, Administration Can do More to Spur Private Sector R&D for Defense](#)

[Faces of NPS: Immersive Technologies in Military Training and Operations](#)

[CHDS Emergence Program Graduates 29 Students](#)

[This year's Panetta Lecture Series takes on variety of subjects, viewpoints](#)

[Marine Corps activity receives service's first S&T 'reinvention laboratory' designation](#)

[Navy updating information superiority vision with a focus on data](#)

[Lawmakers Call on Biden to Create a New Maritime Policy Czar](#)

[New DOD program aims to pollinate U.S.-made biotech](#)

[Holistic examination of the next iteration of US Cyber Command underway](#)

[How one Army unit uses cheap drones and ChatGPT to train others in modern warfare](#)

[Overcoming Shattered Supply Chains With AI](#)

[When Deterrence Fails, Warfighting Becomes Supreme](#)

[To Uppgun Seapower in the Indo-Pacific, You Need an Army](#)

[The Next Global War: How Today's Regional Conflicts Resemble the Ones That Produced World War II](#)

[U.S. Can Respond Decisively to Cyber Threat Posed by China](#)

[Ukraine Is Losing the Drone War](#)

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](#).

2023 Mission Impact Report



The 2023 Mission Impact Report encapsulates a year of significant achievements and contributions of the Naval Postgraduate School

"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.

Shop NPS Gear

and the Naval Postgraduate
School
Foundation. [Download the
PDF.](#)

Design Your Brick

Read the Report

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!

Make a Donation

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Naval Postgraduate School Foundation & Alumni Association

Mailing Address: NPS Foundation, PO Box 8626, Monterey, CA 93943

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation is a non-federal entity. It is not a part of the DOD or any of its components and it has no governmental status.

