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What Alumni say about the Naval Postgraduate School

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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The Naval Postgraduate School has been a pioneer in developing relevant, innovative curricula to improve combat effectiveness of the Navy, U.S. joint services, and coalition defense forces, and the institution's faculty and alumni have always achieved great things.

NPS educational programs have helped to develop successive generations of officers who have led their services with distinction. This remarkable legacy can be measured by those who have played important roles in American history. Following are just a few examples.

"The Naval Postgraduate School is a national – and international – treasure. With its rigorous curriculum, talented faculty and a diverse student body that includes students from all the U.S. armed forces, other federal agencies and more than 60 nations, NPS contributes greatly to enhanced joint, coalition and interagency effectiveness. Knowledge and imagination are the keys to dealing with the challenges of this new era, and here at NPS those keys are forged. The School rightly boasts an illustrious past, but I am convinced that its future burns even brighter."

Admiral Michael Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations (Operations Research, 1985)

"The battlefield of today and the battlefield of the future are going to continue to be uncertain, chaotic, plagued with fog and friction, and very dangerous. We need military leaders who can work and thrive in that particular environment. An NPS education, bolstered by student and faculty research, produces a graduate whose intellectual agility and flexibility will prove increasingly valuable to the naval services and the Joint force in dealing with such uncertainty."

General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps (Electrical Engineering, 1969)

"To your own professional development, it doesn't matter whether you are Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, International or DOD civilian the message is the same and I guarantee that those who take full advantage of this opportunity at postgraduate school will look back on it one day as major turning point in their professional lives as it has been in mine."

Admiral James D. Watkins, former CNO and Secretary of Energy (Mechanical Engineering, 1958)

"NPS is a place where one gains an appreciation for the technical perspective. It will help form the underpinning of all future understanding of the power of the information age. When I reflect on my 36 years in uniform, I can easily identify two events with my own intellectual awakening: completion of a graduate program at the Naval Postgraduate School, and my one-year assignment to the CNO's Strategic Studies Group, where I was able to focus my attention on the future."

Vice Adm. Arthur K. Cebrowski, former President, Naval War College and Director, OSD Office of Force Transformation (Computer Systems Management, 1973)

"My degree prepared me for a variety of jobs, from being a research associate at Sandia National Laboratories to the National Security Council. In every single position, I used the technical knowledge and professional experience gained here (at NPS.) My successes simply would not have been possible without the underpinnings from NPS."

General John Gordon, U.S. Air Force, former Homeland Security Advisor (Physics, 1970)

"This splendid school opened a host of opportunities for the advancement of Naval and military science not previously available."

Admiral Arleigh Burke, former Chief of Naval Operations (Ordnance Engineering, 1930)

"Well, thank God I didn't know how screwed up we were before I put together and got the orders out for this underground organization that was now running things (in the Hanoi POW camp). I might not have had the drive, the heart to do it. And thank God I had been to PG School, which in hindsight I think gave me the confidence to throw out a good portion of 'the book' on how to run a prisoner of war civilization, and to start over. The situation required it, and there was no other way to go."

Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale

"I paid the Navy back every time I got near a shipyard. I would organize all of the MRP systems, management systems, I would take them away from the shipyard and do them myself – do them better – so I saved the Navy lots of money. I could prove I paid them back (for NPS) with a handsome return. The School gave me my career."

The Hon. James G. Roche, former Secretary of the Air Force