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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights

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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights 2012

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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights

2012

On Campus this Month

January 4
New Student Orientation
POC Capt. Alan Poindexter, Ext. 2291

January 19
"Protecting U.S. Contracting Funds in Afghanistan"
NPS Foundation
Winter Quarterly Event
POC NPS Foundation,
Ext. 2339

January 23
Gen. Douglas Fraser
Commander, U.S. Southern Command
Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture
POC Lt. Jenny Phillips, Ext. 2466

January 25
"Robo-Ethics: Rhetoric vs. Reality"
A Symposium for the Warfighter
Washington, D.C.
POC Jeff Kline, Ext. 7946

Campus Icon Wayne Hughes Keynotes Fall Commencement Ceremonies
By MCI Rob Rubio

"You should be justly proud of what you have accomplished here. We will be proud to call you NPS alumni, and look forward to hearing great things from you in the future."
— NPS President Dan Oliver

Historical Highlights
1912 was a milestone year in the history of the Naval Postgraduate School.
The Navy had established the School of Marine Engineering in 1909 and the first graduates had completed their studies in 1911. Rapid advances in science, engineering and technology—including the development of aircraft and radio telegraphy—and disasters such as the sinking of the *Titanic* convinced Secretary of the Navy George von I. Meyer to rename the school, expand the programs of study and increase student population.
With an executive order, Meyers introduced the new name: the Postgraduate Department, U.S. Naval Academy. The name was subsequently changed to Naval Postgraduate School after World War I.
Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

p3 University Inducts Two New Members into Prestigious Hall of Fame
p4 NPS Faculty Develop Research Tools for Antarctic Expedition
p6 Student Analyzes Cost Savings of Rechargeable Batteries

UPDATE NPS
JANUARY 2012

The Dudley Knox Library provides historical highlights for the monthly publication, *Update NPS*. These "caption stories" blend archival photos and documents into a concise storyline to showcase the origin and evolution of NPS as well as achievements of the institution's leaders, faculty and alumni.



DUDLEY KNOX LIBRARY

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The Naval Postgraduate School completed its cross-country move from Annapolis to Monterey with a formal dedication ceremony 60 years ago on February 15, 1952. Then Secretary of the Navy Dan Kimball was the keynote speaker and dignitaries included Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, whose strategic vision for NPS in 1939 had set the stage for the subsequent purchase of Hotel Del Monte and the move west.

National media attended the ceremonies as famous war heroes mixed shoulders with professors and local notables while 700 students stood in formation on the elegant hotel lawn and then marched into the dining room (now called the McNitt Ballroom) for the ceremony.

The *Monterey Herald* quoted SECNAV Kimball: “Nothing is more important for the advancement of Naval science and the future greatness of the American Navy than to provide adequate opportunity for its officers to carry on their advanced study and individual research. This school provides this opportunity.”

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Rear Admiral Frederick Moosbrugger, an NPS alumnus who served as superintendent in the early 1950's, dedicated the Trident Room bar in May 1953.

Moosbrugger earned the Navy Cross for his decisive WWII victory in the Battle of Vella Gulf, Solomon Islands, and the Navy commissioned a Spruance-class destroyer, the USS Moosbrugger (DD-980), in his honor.

The Trident Room is part of the Spanish Revival Hotel Del Monte, built in the mid-1920's during Prohibition. It was euphemistically called the children's play room when the resort was dedicated in 1926. With passage of the 21st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1933 and the repeal of Prohibition, the children's play room was renamed the Del Monte Tap Room.

Today's Trident Room decor displays historic hotel and Navy memorabilia collected by head bartender Pete Charette.

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The earliest example of a Naval Postgraduate School logo was discovered last month, tucked away in a Dudley Knox Library storeroom. The logo, which was used in a World War II NPS publication, shows the school's year of establishment (1909) and identifies the program's relationship with the Naval Academy.

The logo was printed on the cover of the school's General Instructions booklet for 1944. Several post-war publications were stored with this booklet and, together, the books in this set provide an important historical snapshot of the evolution of NPS as it became independent of the Naval Academy.

The eight-page 1944 General Instructions booklet has been added to the Dudley Knox Library archives and is among hundreds of historical documents and rare books that are available to researchers. The archives reading room in Knox Room 261 is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until noon and by appointment.

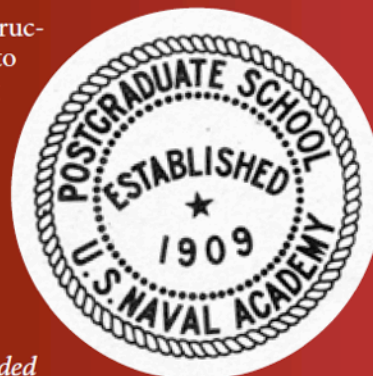
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In 1921, while still stationed in Annapolis, Md., the Naval Postgraduate School welcomed the first students from other branches of the military. Marine Corps Captains Charles Jones and Clyde Matteson and Coast Guard Lt.j.g. Robert Donohue began the legacy that has grown today to include both military and DOD civilian students. That same year, NPS also welcomed the first group of international students.

Today, the school hosts military officers from around the world and across services, promoting the diversity and collaboration that have become cornerstones of the NPS mission. At any given time, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from up to 50 different countries can be seen around campus, representing their service through education and collaboration.

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Lt. Laurance Safford, who is often called the “father” of Navy cryptology, became the officer-in-charge of the Office of Naval Intelligence Code and Signal Section in 1924. The following year, in a prescient speech to Naval Postgraduate School students, Safford said: “All nations have learned the lessons of the World War and will probably make even greater efforts to intercept and read enemy messages in the future than were made in the past...In a war between nations of approximately equal strength, Radio Intelligence could easily become the decisive factor.”

By the late 1920's, NPS communications courses included coding and decoding; by the early 1930's, cryptography and cryptanalysis. Admiral Chester Nimitz expanded NPS student input in radio engineering and communications in 1939 and later added specialized graduate programs for Navy reservists. The first reservists in communications intelligence, shown in a class photo below, completed their studies in the summer of 1941. These NPS alumni were well prepared for immediate assignment to cryptology units during the rapid, post-Pearl Harbor mobilization. They played an important role in breaking the Japanese code, JN-25, which led to key victories at the Battles of Coral Sea and Midway in 1942.

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In 1956, the Chief of Naval Personnel established a five-month management certificate program at NPS called the Navy Management School. The program produced quick results and within five years, the management school offered a masters degree program.

Lt. Cmdr. Al Rilling earned his masters degree in management from NPS in 1962 and later received a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. His dissertation, "The First Fifty Years of Graduate Education in the United States Navy, 1909-1959," was the first work to comprehensively examine the origin and early evolution of NPS.

Following graduation from NPS, Rilling served in the Pentagon, taught at the Naval Academy and commanded three ships. After retiring from active duty, he returned to Monterey to teach management at NPS. In his dissertation research, Rilling corresponded with several notables who helped shape the post-World War II expansion of NPS and its move to Monterey - including Vice Adm. Vincent Murphy, Rear Adm. Herman Spanagel and Electrical Engineering Professor George Giet. These letters are now in the NPS archives in the Dudley Knox Library.

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The first classroom and laboratory buildings at NPS – Spanagel, King, Root, Halligan and Bullard halls – were designed by architect Walter A. Netsch in 1951.

Netsch graduated from MIT in 1943, served in the Army Corps of Engineers in the North Pacific during WWII, and joined the Chicago firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in 1947. In 1950, he became SOM's lead architect for the Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey, then single-handedly developed the plans for the NPS campus in Monterey. Details of his NPS architectural plans were published in two articles in *Architectural Record* in 1954 and 1955.

Netsch also designed the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. A book published in 2008 by the Northwestern University Library Press, *Walter A Netsch, FAIA: A Critical Appreciation and Sourcebook*, chronicles his career and achievements. It is available in the Dudley Knox Library.

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An early NPS campus model designed by architect Walter Netsch.

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NPS established its Hall of Fame in 2001 and inducted the first two members in September. The inductees were both alumni of Operations Research and both were service secretaries at the time - Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White (1974) and Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche (1966). The two men are pictured below at an event luncheon with then U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place in King Hall as part of the September commencement exercises, just weeks after the 9-11 attacks. White, who was keynote speaker for the commencement, noted, "Those of us whose thinking was shaped during the Cold War are in danger of missing the obvious. As the whole world has changed, threats have changed. When threats change, our strategy must change. It is time to think anew."

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From left, Thomas E. White, Gordon England, Donald H. Rumsfeld and James Roche. (Photo by Helene C. Stikkel)

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NPS established two important new programs 25 years ago as it pioneered the development of interdisciplinary studies in electronic warfare (EW) and joint command, control and communications (Joint C3) in 1977.

Austere defense budgets in the 1970's prompted a series of studies on the role and value of NPS and the Air Force Institute of Technology. Three major studies were completed in 1975, including one by a Department of Defense Select Committee on Excellence in Education chaired by Deputy Secretary of Defense W.P. Clements, Jr.

Clements noted that graduate education was "absolutely vital to defense programs." His committee took a close look at the antisubmarine warfare and operational naval intelligence interdisciplinary programs NPS had created in the early 1970's -- early experimental programs that had been designed to blend traditional academics with specialized warfare-oriented courses.

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NPS' Mobile Weather Radar

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In recent years, NPS faculty and student research has yielded many important discoveries and developments that have advanced military programs and systems. Annual research grants now total more than \$200 million a year - a significant leap from the immediate post-World War II era.

In 1947, as faculty waited for President Harry Truman to sign an appropriations bill to purchase Hotel Del Monte, the Secretary of the Navy commissioned a study by the American Council on Education. Chaired by Dr. Henry Heald, founding president of Illinois Institute of Technology, the committee noted that: "A serious obstacle to research at the present time is the space problem...faculty members (are) crowded six to eight to an office...(and) there is virtually no nook or cranny of space available for faculty research laboratories."

After NPS moved to Monterey, it earned provisional accreditation from the Western Association of Colleges (WAC) in 1955.

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The 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach is one of the most famous scenic drives in America. The route, established in the late 19th Century as an excursion for guests of Hotel Del Monte, originally began and ended at Herrmann Hall on the NPS campus. The 17-Mile Drive earned its name from the length of its course as it wound through the 7,000-acre Hotel Del Monte Park Reservation (today's Pebble Beach), then along the Monterey Bay shoreline, past the Chinese Village and Presidio of Monterey, then to landmark buildings such as Monterey's Colton Hall and the city's early Spanish adobes.

The scenic and cultural excursion was once called 18-Mile Drive and an 1889 Hotel Del Monte Souvenir book in the Pete Charette Collection provides an excellent description of the drive and several illustrations. The book will be on display in the new Herrmann Hall Welcome & Historic Center when it opens next year.

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