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NPS Alumnus Applies Education, Navy Career in Leading NOAA Operations

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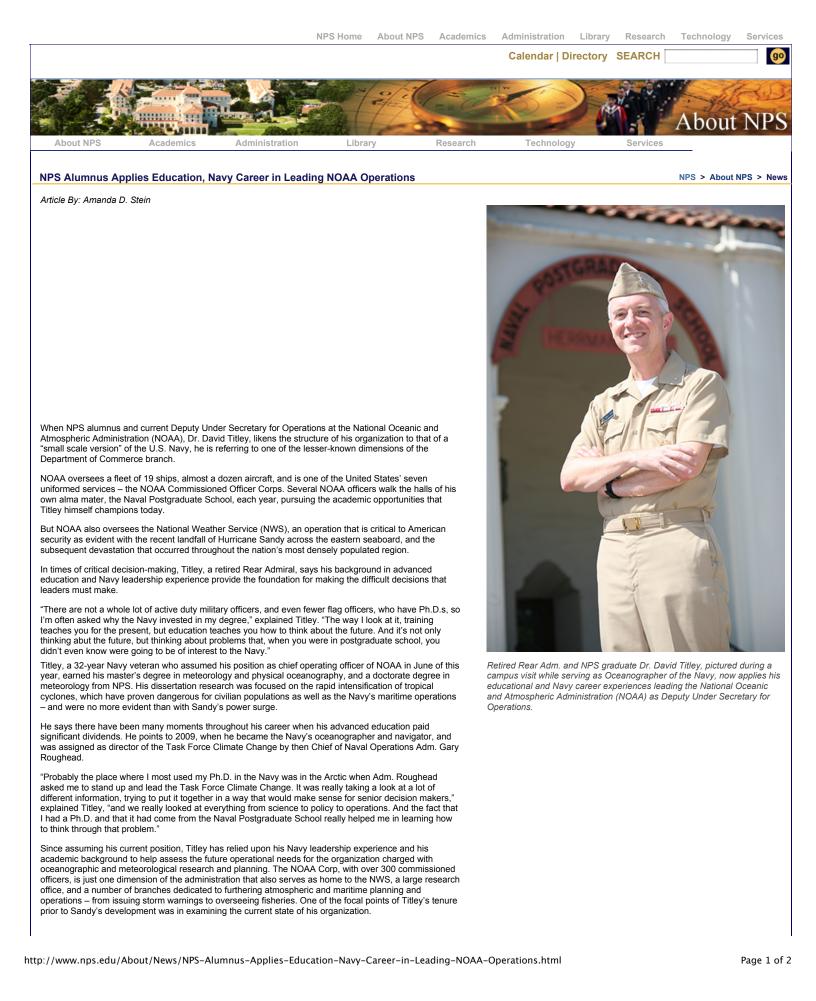
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"Right now, as the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations, I'm really just working out some real basic things. In fact, to borrow from Adm. John Harvey, I'll say 'Brilliant at the Basics,' because I think it can apply to NOAA," said Titley. "It's important to look at how we manage our IT, how we do our hiring of civilian personnel, how we do our acquisition, how we do our financial management, and how we just do the business of NOAA. All of those things, I'm just taking a hard look at and seeing where there are opportunities for improvement."

With such a wide-reaching research mission, Titley sees the NOAA operations as necessary to keep the U.S. a step ahead of the challenges of the future – one of growing concern is climate change. He noted the Arctic has seen a dramatic decrease in multi-year ice, which had previously prevented ships from passing through the region. Today, leaders are beginning to ask the logistical questions about an area that may soon see more traffic from tourism, commerce and resource exploitation.

"What we see in climate change, I think of it really as no more or no less than the physical battle space in which our Navy has to operate everyday," explained Titley. "And when directed by the national security, they be required to fight and win in that battle space. So just as we plan for changes in policy, changes in economics, and changes in demographics, the U.S. security establishment, and the Navy in particular, should also plan for when our physical environment is going to change. And that really, to me, is the link between the national security and the physical science of climate."

Titley has decades of experience in weather systems and oceanography, having previously served at Fleet Numerical Meteorological and Oceanographic Center, Naval Oceanography Operations Command, and Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

Having served both Navy and civilian meteorological and oceanographic institutions, Titley understands the value of the two coming together in collaboration. In looking to the future, he expressed hope that NOAA will continue to find new opportunities to share expertise and ideas with partners in the scientific community.

"I think that collaboration is important, and it certainly continues to improve. And it really extends from strategic all the way down to tactical. At the strategic level, we work very closely with the Navy on the Ocean and Atmosphere Prediction System, because at the end of the day, we share a battle space."

Titley hopes to see partnerships between NPS and NOAA extended as well, and beyond the university's meteorology and oceanography departments, drawing on the expertise and research within fields like operations research.

"I think there is an opportunity for collaboration with NPS and the great mixture it has beyond the meteorology and oceanography departments," Titley explained. "Some of what we do requires people with skillsets different that oceanographers or meteorologists. It requires skillsets such as operations research or operations analysis, among others. So I see this as not only collaboration with the institutional departments we have worked with previously, but reaching across departmental lines to reach those that may not have participated yet."

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