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Today@NPS

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Today@NPS showcases some of the speakers, conferences, experiments, lectures, and other events that take place at the Naval Postgraduate School on a daily basis. If you would like more information about any of the highlighted activities please contact the public affairs office at pao@nps.edu. To view more stories visit the [Today at NPS archive](#). NPS' photo galleries and graduation pictures can be found on the [Photo Gallery - Collections page](#).



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Chablis J. Torrence

Final Cyber Security and Privacy Training Session This Week

MC2 Chablis J. Torrence

A packed house attends one of several Information Technology and Communications Services (ITACS) cyber security and privacy training sessions for students, faculty and staff in Glasgow Hall, June 13.

"This isn't just about your security here, but at home as well," said ITACS Information Systems Security Manager Terrence Welliver, emphasizing the value of the information presented beyond the workplace.

Attending the live two-hour training session meets several annual training requirements for all users of the NPS Educational Research Network (ERN), or .edu. ITACS officials note that although it is a DOD directive that mandates all personnel receive annual information assurance training, it's also a sensible requirement for safe access to valuable NPS computer systems.



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

Military Faculty Shares Conquests of the "Seven Summits"

MC2 Chablis J. Torrence

Military Associate Professor Cmdr. Michael Hsu of the NPS Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering offers insights into his experiences climbing seven of the world's highest mountains over a period of 10 years, known in mountaineering circles as the "Seven Summits," during a special guest lecture in Spanagel Hall, June 5.

The Seven Summits refer to the collective of the highest peaks on each of the seven continents ... Mount Everest in Nepal being the tallest of the seven.

Would Hsu do it again? "Yes," he emphasized. "Mountaineering has been a fun hobby, but it pales in comparison to our service in the military. I have had the chance to do even more interesting things in the Navy!"

Having spent 20-plus years in the Navy, Hsu is looking forward to retirement and a new career in the medical field. He retires in September and plans to enter medical school thereafter.

NPS Alumnus Recounts Efforts to Defeat Piracy

Kenneth A. Stewart

Former Expeditionary Strike Group 2 Commander, retired Rear Adm. Terrence E. McKnight fields a student's question on East African piracy in NPS' King Auditorium, June 4. McKnight's anti-piracy efforts are documented in his book, "Pirate Alley," and were recounted during the latest installment of the Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture series.

McKnight, an NPS alumnus, returned to a packed auditorium where he recounted his sometimes humorous and often frustrating efforts to defeat Somali pirates. "We were like the dog that chases down a car. He catches it, then doesn't know what to do with it," quipped McKnight.

Humor aside, McKnight recalled the numerous issues that arose during early attempts to quell piracy off the Somali coast. Lawyers were tasked with determining the status of pirates, where they were to be prosecuted and if convicted, where they should be jailed.



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

"We caught pirates, but there were questions about what to do with them once we caught them," said McKnight.

Despite the legal ambiguities that plagued early piracy efforts, McKnight insists that progress has been made. He points to a 64 percent drop in pirate attacks between 2011 and 2012. McKnight attributes this drop to increased international anti-piracy operations in the region and several seemingly basic anti-piracy measures including the presence of security teams, lookouts, alarms and safe rooms.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Grant Ammon

Republic of Korea Air Force Major General Visits NPS

MC3 Danica M. Sirmans

Republic of Korea Air Force Maj. Gen. Jae-Bock Park meets with National Security Affairs faculty members at NPS' Peacock Room, June 4. Park obtained a master's degree from NPS in computer system management 26 years ago.

"I've been dreaming of coming back to NPS," said Park. "My dream came true this week."

Park sat down with NPS professors for a round table discussion focused on relations between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea. Discussion also touched on China's role in defusing tensions between the Republic of Korea and its reclusive, Stalinist neighbor to the North, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Associate Professor Chris Twomey took part in the discussion. Twomey is one of NPS' leading Chinese military and foreign policy experts. "China is a key partner for North Korea and without Chinese support, North Korea would likely collapse," said Twomey. "Some of China's interests are aligned with American interests ... [China] ends up being the state that the U.S. and South Korea turn to leverage North Korea."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Shawn J. Stewart

Defense Analysis Faculty Brief State Dept. Official on Anti-Gang Initiative

MC3 Shawn J. Stewart

Sam Farr, U.S. Representative for California's 20th congressional district, speaks to NPS faculty during a campus visit, May 30. Farr brought Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, Ambassador Rick Barton, onto campus for an introductory look into NPS' community advisory initiative designed to apply counterinsurgency strategy to combat gang activity in nearby Salinas, Calif.

"We are interested in how we can use your ideas in places where there is a wide range of violence ... and help societies in crisis," said Barton.

Barton leads a relatively new effort at the U.S. State Department designed to drive efforts in conflict prevention and stabilizing crises in key developing nations. He was especially interested in hearing how innovative initiatives are applied through locally-driven solutions.

"No matter what you call them, gangs or youth movements, they are part of an issue that we need to understand better," continued Barton. "We are eager to hear your thoughts and have a conversation on this important topic."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Shawn J. Stewart

Students, Faculty Briefed on Advantages of Laser Peening

MC3 Shawn J. Stewart

Vice President for Advanced Technologies, Dr. Lloyd Hackel, with Curtiss-Wright Surface Technologies' Metal Improvement Company, details how his company optimizes the performance of metal materials by utilizing "peening technology" during a guest lecture in NPS' Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Auditorium, May 29. Hackel discussed how peening technology can improve efficiency, reduce replacement costs and mitigate corrosion.

"The basic idea is to use laser peening to engineer residual compressive stress where ever you would want it," said Lloyd. "The laser creates a plasma that is covered by a thin layer of water shot in short pulses of 20 nanoseconds."

"The advantage of laser peening is the deep level of residual compressive stress I can push into the metal. This keeps cracks closed and its initiating properties keeps them from growing, ultimately improving the fatigue resistance of highly-stressed components," added Hackel.

The lecture also featured Electric Power Research Institute Senior Engineer and Project Manager, Dr. Paul Crooker. Crooker works with the institute's Pressurized Water Reactor Materials Reliability and Technology Innovation Program.



U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya

University Welcomes New Provost to Campus

Dr. Douglas A. Hensler, pictured in front of Herrmann Hall, began his tenure as the 14th provost of the Naval Postgraduate School today, June 3. Hensler joins NPS following five years as dean of the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, and a lengthy career in both academia and industry. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced Hensler's selection in mid-April following a diligent search led by the NPS Provost Search Committee.

Hensler hit the ground running with a packed schedule of commitments during his first full day on the job, but noted he has been eager to get started since accepting the position in April.

"I have been looking forward to this day for some time," Hensler said. "The Naval Postgraduate School has an outstanding academic reputation, and in combination with its mission to the Navy and Department of Defense, the university is truly a critical asset for our national security. Serving as Provost for this institution is a true honor for me professionally, and a wonderful opportunity for my family."

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