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International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem

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MEDIA ADVISORY

International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem

Experts from around the world opened the Fifth International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem today at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Scientists, engineers, and military and civilian officials are meeting to discuss technical and policy issues for mine detection, de-mining operations, and mine countermeasures. Details of the conference are available at <http://www.demine.org>.

Highlights of the meeting include a presentation Tuesday morning by Dr. Seymour Deitchman, focusing on the recent report by the National Research Council (NRC) Naval Studies Board, *Naval Mine Warfare: Operational and Technical Challenges for Naval Forces*. Deitchman served as vice chairman of the study.

The board notes that the low cost and wide availability of modern sea mines makes them a growing threat to commercial ships as well as naval forces. The experts on the NRC panel offered seven recommendations for improving the operational effectiveness of the Navy's mine warfare forces, said NPS Prof. John D. Pearson, who served on the committee. The results of the study will soon be briefed to the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark and Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, he added.

Pearson will chair the closing session of the symposium Thursday afternoon.

Media interested in scheduling an interview with experts attending the International Symposium on Technology and the Mine Problem should contact John Sanders, NPS Public Affairs Office, via e-mail at HYPERLINK "<mailto:jfsander@nps.navy.mil>" jfsander@nps.navy.mil or phone at 831-656-3346 (office), 831-277-4299 (cell).

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