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Naval Postgraduate School: fulfilling customer needs

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Naval Postgraduate School: Fulfilling Customer Needs

“In the next century there will be two types of military forces: those who put a priority on educating and training people, and those which are defeated in battle. The distinction will be as sharp as that.”

Australian Minister of Defense Ian McLachlan, 1998

NPS education is explicitly tied to the needs of the Navy and Defense, changes to keep pace with the dynamic environment of our national security, and adheres to the highest academic standards as evidenced in the names and offerings of our graduate schools.

School of International Graduate Studies houses the Defense Resource Management Institute (DRMI) as well as the National Security Affairs department and program, the Center for Civil Military Relations, the Center for Contemporary Conflict and the new Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences has the most seemingly traditional programs but each is focused on military problems and applications. The Electrical, Mechanical, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering programs, a highly specialized and tailored program in Meteorology and Oceanography called METOC, Combat Systems and Space Systems curricula are found within this School.

Graduate School of Operations Information Sciences has some of the most operationally relevant and sought after programs including Operations Analysis, Defense Analysis/Special Operations, Information, Strategy and Operations (ISO), Modeling of Virtual Environments and Simulation, Undersea Warfare, and Computer Science.

Graduate School of Business and Public Policy awards an MBA that provides the essentials of business and management in the context of defense. It offers tracks in acquisition, financial management, logistics and manpower and also provides certificate programs in these same areas.

Enriching Education and the Operational Environment

In our information technology and computer science programs, our students and faculty are working on assuring the security of our communication networks while thinking about how terrorists would exploit information technology and computer network attacks for their own purposes.

In our engineering, meteorology and combat systems programs, faculty and students are working with unmanned vehicles in areas such as mine detection, rescuing downed pilots and terrain mapping. They are building and testing navigation, guidance and control systems, developing micro-air vehicles, and modeling flight operations.

NPS will soon have a COMBATT SS, which is the command and control of the future Navy ships on campus for students and faculty to use in support of wargames, fleet battle experiments and other learning and research.

NPS has classified facilities for both teaching and research.

Nearly every NPS graduate completes a thesis, many of them sponsored by operational commands or their supporting organizations that provide the guidance, data and support for the research projects. In many cases, the student brings a real-world problem with them which they are able to solve guided by NPS faculty.

Students in many curricula participate in wargames involving simulation, policy analysis, operations, combat modeling and a full spectrum of technical and strategic skills. Other students participate in real-world operations and experiments.

While at NPS, many officers get both a graduate degree and are able to complete studies in Joint Professional Military Education through the Naval War College or through other service programs. This allows them to better contribute to both service and Joint warfighting as they progress through their careers.

Rapid Program Development To Meet Changing Needs of National Security

Few, if any, other universities would be willing or able to respond in this manner. NPS is able to do this because of the collective knowledge and experience of our faculty, as well as their genuine interest in and dedication to new and emerging defense and national security problems. This ability of NPS faculty to apply their collective knowledge and expertise in new and different ways in a rapid manner to meet emerging problems or potential threats is another example of what sets NPS apart from other universities. For example:

In January 2003, NPS launched a Master's degree program and executive education in Homeland Defense and Homeland Security in support of the Department of Justice and the Navy, which will bring local and state officials

BZ! This is about speed and agility. I'm proud of the way NPS has responded to this challenge.
Admiral Vern Clark, CNO, January 2003 about the Homeland Security Leadership Development program

together in the classroom to learn from each other and NPS. Faculty from our Computer Science, National Security Affairs, and Information Science departments will combine their expertise in counter-terrorism, information operations, and national security. This program went from concept to implementation in less than six months.

In response to increasing demand for officers with the analytical and technical skills to lead, as well as competing demands on officer career paths, NPS developed the Systems Engineering and Analysis program, which combines systems engineering, sensors and weapons, business, operations analysis and strategy and policy in a single program. Students from the U.S. and other countries and faculty from many different disciplines work in a collaborative manner and the program culminates in a cross-functional team project directly related to operations.

The Center for Civil-Military Relations is dedicated to strengthening democratic civil-military relationships in many countries throughout the world including Columbia, Indonesia, and South Africa.

The Center for Civil Military Relations and the Naval Postgraduate School...both really support the kinds of attributes that we believe are important in a professional military...The civilian control of the military is key to that. The proper relationship of the military in a democratic society is very important. Both the rule of law and the law of armed conflict are important tenants of that...to effectively accomplish your mission with all proper regard for human rights...The Naval Postgraduate School...program...has been very successful and had broad applications over a full range of countries...it's particularly effective.

Admiral Thomas Fargo, USN, Commander of the Pacific Command

NPS supports a program for Commander Third Fleet where NPS faculty spend approximately one quarter onboard the USS Coronado. It is an opportunity for mutual collaboration and direct application of NPS research to fleet problems. In one telling example of the value of this program, when a recent Navy exercise highlighted a need for Anti-Submarine Warfare, renowned Operations Research Professor Alan Washburn responded by developing a short course to teach staff officers and operators the basics of search theory.

NPS developed an Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities Program (EIPC) and a Leadership and Development for Sustained Peace (LDESP) Program to assist countries in turbulent times.