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Richard S. Elster, Provost/Academic Dean,
Naval Postgraduate School

Elster, Richard S.; Sanders, John

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**RICHARD S. ELSTER
PROVOST/ACADEMIC DEAN
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Richard Elster was born on 3 December 1939. He attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis where he received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial Organizational Psychology.

In January of 1969 he joined the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School. His teaching focused on DoD manpower, personnel and training policies. From 1 July 1975 to 1 July 1978, he was on leave from the Naval Postgraduate School. During that period, he worked in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), and as Senior Scientific Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower)/Chief of Naval Personnel, Admiral James D. Watkins.

On 1 October 1979, he was promoted to professor in the Department of Administrative Sciences at the Naval Postgraduate School. In July of 1983, he became Chairman of the Department of Administrative Sciences.

During the period of 1984-1988, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower. Additionally, he was Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) during the period 7 April - 28 June 1988.

In 1989, he filled the Chief of Naval Operation's manpower chair at the Naval Postgraduate School. During January-September 1990, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support. He was named Dean of Instruction at the Naval Postgraduate School in September 1990 where he served in this role until June 1995. On July 1, 1995 he was named Provost/Academic Dean of the Naval Postgraduate School by the Secretary of the Navy. He was appointed to a second five-year term in July of 2000.