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Naval Postgraduate School Alumni Association & Foundation NPS Distinguished Alumni

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Hamming Award - David Netzer; Distinguished Alumni Award - Louis Pow Chuen

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PROVOST ELSTER: It is with distinct pleasure that we present a Distinguished Alumni Award today. This award is presented to Naval Postgraduate School Alumni based on their significant accomplishments, recognition in a field of study or practice, or their impact on the educational programs of NPS. Today this award is presented to Professor Louie Pow Chuen, Chief Defence Scientist, Singapore Ministry of Defence. Professor Lui holds an Operations Research Master degree from NPS PC; please step forward. Professor Lui has been Chief Defence Scientist in the Ministry of Defence of the Singapore Armed Forces since 1986. His contributions to key defense decisions began even earlier and are now legendary. In the mid-1980s he initiated an operations analysis organization in the Ministry of Defence of Singapore, which, in less than twenty

years, has expanded to embrace information technology, systems engineering, and operations research as core elements of the defence establishment. In recent years his influence has extended to many high tech activities both in and outside of the Singapore government. These alone would merit his recognition today. I want to emphasize, however, his growing contributions to education and his longstanding connection to NPS. As the first recipient of a Ministry of Defence fellowship in 1971, PC Lui came to us to study operations analysis. He graduated with honors in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the usual time. Since then, he has been instrumental in establishing many education links with NPS which have involved over 100 Singapore students in residence here and a great many students who have been instructed by NPS faculty in Singapore. In addition to this

award, he was, this morning, inducted into the newly inaugurated Naval Postgraduate School Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established to recognize the accomplishments of the School's most distinguished alumni and friends who, through their achievements in positions at the highest levels of public service, have made the greatest contributions to society, the defense of their nations and to the Naval Postgraduate School. Professor Lui's photograph has been added to the Hall of Fame display on the NPS quarterdeck. I encourage you to view this display as you move into the Ballroom for the reception after graduation. Congratulations PC!

PROVOST ELSTER: Excellent Interdisciplinary research and teaching at NPS are vital if the School is to meet the unique educational requirements of the military services. Accordingly, the Naval

Postgraduate School today presents for the third time the Richard Hamming Award for Interdisciplinary Achievement. Richard Hamming's widow Mrs. Wanda Hamming, and colleagues and friends of Dr. Hamming, have provided the NPS Foundation with the means to fund this annual award. Richard Hamming was on the faculty of NPS for many years. Among the many awards he won as the Turing Prize, the most prestigious award given to computer scientists. Dr. Hamming was a national treasure, and left his mark on all the students and faculty who met him.

Today, we announce that NPS Distinguished Professor David Netzer is the recipient of the third Hamming Award. (pause) Will Distinguished Professor Netzer please come on stage. Presenting the Hamming Award is RADM Tom Mercer, Vice-President of the

Naval Postgraduate School Foundation. Dr. Netzer joined the Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics in April 1968, rising from Assistant Professor to full Professor in 1981. He was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor in 1994 and now serves as the School's Dean of Research. Over the years, his teaching has exhibited his depth of knowledge and his research is exemplary, notably in aircraft propulsion. His professionalism in aeronautics is evidenced by membership on many defense committees. But efforts which identify Dave Netzer as the epitome of interdisciplinary accomplishment are the following:

- He leads cross-campus research in unmanned aerial vehicles of many sizes, modes of propulsion, and payloads. This is design work that is inherently multidisciplinary in nature.

- As Dean of Research he is universally respected for his balanced approach to campus-wide research across many fields and disciplines. His knowledge of many academic and military disciplines is legendary. He oversees a research program of over \$60 million.
- During the past year his talents were drawn upon in 2 diverse and vital ways, and I may add, tested him to the upmost. The first was his responsibility for overseeing the establishment of 3 new NPS Research Institutes. The second was as leader and integrator of a year-long study at NPS called "CROSSBOW". CROSSBOW involved at least 10 faculty members and over 40 students. The project involved unmanned aircraft design, innovative warship configurations,

compatible sensors, complex
electronic networks for
communications and control, and the
logistics for their sustainment.
This is the most extensive
interdisciplinary work yet done at
NPS.

Distinguished Professor David Netzer
exemplifies the spirit of the Richard
Hamming Award by his broad and balanced
outlook, his positive leadership, his
devotion to the Navy and perhaps most
importantly of all, by his intelligence,
patience, foresight and wisdom.
Congratulations Dave!