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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights

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called the Navy Management School)

Sanders, John

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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights
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In 1956, the Chief of Naval Personnel established a five-month management certificate program at NPS called the Navy Management School. The program produced quick results and within five years, the management school offered a masters degree program.

Lt. Cmdr. Al Rilling earned his masters degree in management from NPS in 1962 and later received a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. His dissertation, "The First Fifty Years of Graduate Education in the United States Navy, 1909-1959," was the first work to comprehensively examine the origin and early evolution of NPS.

Following graduation from NPS, Rilling served in the Pentagon, taught at the Naval Academy and commanded three ships. After retiring from active duty, he returned to Monterey to teach management at NPS.

In his dissertation research, Rilling corresponded with several notables who helped shape the post-World War II expansion of NPS and its move to Monterey - including Vice Adm. Vincent Murphy, Rear Adm. Herman Spanagel and Electrical Engineering Professor George Giet. These letters are now in the NPS archives in the Dudley Knox Library.

The Dudley Knox Library provides Historical Highlights.

(John Sanders)

For photo caption: Letter to Cmdr. Al Rilling from Rear Adm. Herman Spanagel, 1972.