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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights

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Historical Highlights Hotel del Monte Naval Postgraduate School

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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

HOTEL DEL MONTE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

1879

Pacific Improvement Company buys the bankrupt Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad and the site for the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey at a sheriff's sale in Salinas. The company begins construction on a broad gauge railroad line from Castroville to Monterey.

1880

Southern Pacific Railroad opens the Monterey-Castroville broad gauge line.

Construction begins on Hotel Del Monte in February.

Pacific Improvement Company buys Ranchos El Pescadero and Point Pinos from David Jacks. Rancho El Pescadero is renamed the Hotel Del Monte Park Reservation. Today it is known as Pebble Beach.

Southern Pacific begins Monterey-San Francisco through-service via the "Monterey Express" on June 2.

The Hotel Del Monte official opening is celebrated on Saturday, June 5.

1881

The Pacific Improvement Company completed The Eighteen Mile Drive, which would later be called the 17-Mile Drive. The company also built a swimming tank and salt water baths on Del Monte Beach.

1883

Pacific Improvement Company builds a small retaining dam in Carmel Valley and lays a pipeline along the Carmel River into Pacific Grove and the Hotel Del Monte.

Noted botanist Rudolf Ulrich completes the Arizona Garden. A three story, 50-foot wide x 197-foot long west wing is added to Hotel Del Monte.

1887

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The Hotel Del Monte burns to the ground on March 31. The Pacific Improvement Company opens the El Carmelo Hotel in Pacific Grove in May as a temporary facility. Businesses quickly arise around the hotel and the religious retreat becomes a town. Part of the Hotel Del Monte reopens for business in December.

1888

Hotel Del Monte officially reopens on June 16.

1906

The great San Francisco earthquake and fire destroy the Hopkins School of Art at UC-Berkeley and art studios and galleries throughout the bay area. Artists, especially the western Impressionist painters, are left destitute.

1907

The Hotel Del Monte opens a new art gallery on the first year anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake. The gallery quickly gains international prominence. Many notable artists migrate to the Monterey Peninsula and Carmel begins to flourish as an art colony.

The “Great White Fleet” departs Hampton Roads, Virginia for the first world cruise by the U.S. Navy.

1908

The Great White Fleet visits Monterey in May.

1909

Great White Fleet returns to Hampton Roads following a 14-month cruise which covered 43,000 miles.

The Navy establishes a School of Marine Engineering at Annapolis by order of the Secretary of the Navy. This school would later evolve into today’s Naval Postgraduate School.

1912

The School of Marine Engineering is renamed the Postgraduate Department of the

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Naval Academy.

1915

The Pacific Improvement Company hires Sam Morse to liquidate company assets on the Monterey Peninsula.

1917

The Postgraduate Department at Annapolis is closed and all students and military faculty are assigned to combat billets.

The log cabin Del Monte Lodge burns. Morse deconstructs the Hotel Carmelo in Pacific Grove and uses the materials to build the new Del Monte Lodge, now known as Pebble Beach Lodge.

1919

Classes resume for the Postgraduate Department of the Naval Academy. New programs are added and the school is renamed the Naval Postgraduate School.

Morse forms the Del Monte Company and purchases the Hotel Del Monte and its 20,000-acre complex.

1924

Fire strikes the Hotel Del Monte for a second time. Sections of the hotel are salvaged but the main structure is lost.

1926

The Hotel Del Monte celebrates the opening of its new facility. More than 3,000 guests attend the gala event. Through a unique blend of art and architecture, the new hotel design integrates art, natural history, and cultural history of the Monterey Peninsula.

1927

A General Line Course is established at NPS.

1933

The 18th Amendment to the Constitution is repealed. The Hotel Del Monte

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transforms the children's' playroom into the Tap Room bar.

1940

Jo Mora completes the La Novia diorama for the Hotel Del Monte.

1942

NPS student population nearly doubles with the outbreak of World War II and the need for advanced technical skills among officers.

The Navy requisitions the Hotel Del Monte in December and begins preparations for a pre-flight training school.

1943

The Del Monte Pre-Flight School is dedicated on February 13.

1944

The Del Monte Pre-Flight School closes, but the Navy continues its wartime use of the Hotel Del Monte by establishing a Naval Technical School.

At the urging of Chief of Naval Operations Fleet Adm. Ernest King, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox commissions the Pye Board to conduct a comprehensive study of officer education. The board recommends an increase in students, academic programs and funding for the Naval Postgraduate School. The Pye Board's report influences key policymakers in the Pentagon and Congress, and leads to major advances for NPS.

1945

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz succeeds Fleet Admiral King as Chief of Naval Operations. Nimitz, like King, will play a pivotal role in the development of NPS.

1947

With Fleet Admiral Nimitz as CNO, the 80th Congress passes P.L. No. 303, which

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formally establishes the Naval Postgraduate School as a separate activity from the Naval Academy.

Congress authorizes and appropriates funds for the purchase of the Hotel Del Monte to provide a new campus for NPS.

The first contingent of the General Line School arrives at the Hotel Del Monte in September. The Naval Technical School is gradually phased out.

1951

The Naval Postgraduate School accelerates its class schedule and staff begin final preparations for a cross country move. Studies conclude in late November and shipments by rail, sea, and air begin. Nearly 500 people (370 students, 65 civilian faculty, 25 Navy staff officers, and 25 civilian employees) packed their cars for the trip. Three million pounds of scientific equipment and office furniture -- from mechanical computing machines to building-size wind tunnels -- were sent by sea, rail and air to the new campus in Monterey.

1952

Official dedication ceremonies for the new Naval Postgraduate School in February 1952, with Secretary of the Navy Kimball the keynote speaker. He told the audience: "The establishment and enlargement of the Naval Postgraduate School is much more than a mere educational achievement. It is a definite forward step in the march toward the kind of security we must have in the disordered world in which we live today."

1954

USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered ship, is commissioned.

The first commercial silicon transistors are produced.

1955

Admiral Arleigh Burke, a 1930 NPS graduate, is the first NPS alumnus to become Chief of Naval Operations.

1956

The first women officers (WAVES) begin academic studies at NPS .

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1957

Russia successfully launches Sputnik.

1959

In a 1959 commencement address at NPS, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke, a 1930 Postgraduate School alumnus, attributed several important naval advances to the Navy's long-term commitment to postgraduate education. "Rapid technological advance...did not come by accident, nor did it come overnight. It has been the result of educating carefully selected officers in each succeeding generation of officers," he said.

One of the most respected admirals to ever serve as CNO, Burke delivered an address which identified timeless characteristics of the Naval Postgraduate School. "This year we mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of this splendid school. The naval leaders of 50 years ago showed great perspective and foresight in seeing the need for advanced technical and scientific knowledge among naval officers. They recognized that ships and naval weapons were becoming more complex, that their proper employment at sea would require officers who were familiar not only with the age-old profession of the sea, but who could understand and could use effectively the complex weapons of the years to come... We in the Navy today are the inheritors of that legacy of wisdom, and we can see clear evidence of their foresight all around us."

1960

The first successful laser experiments are conducted.

1961

Aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) commissioned.

1966

Cmdr. Eugene Cernan becomes the first NPS graduate to fly in space. During the flight of Gemini 9, Cernan conducts a two-hour space walk. He is the second American astronaut to perform an extravehicular activity.

1972

Capt. Eugene Cernan becomes the first NPS graduate to walk on the moon during

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the flight of Apollo 17.

1980'S

The first personal computers are produced.

1991

The USS Arleigh Burke, the first ship in the Navy's new class of AEGIS guided missile destroyers, is commissioned.

1997

In an open letter to the Navy's officer corps, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson states: "The rigorous educational programs offered at NPS...fulfill the Navy's needs for specialists in high tech fields (and) provide students with a sound basis for achieving a broadened perspective on global issues and challenges that lie ahead." NPS graduates, Johnson said, "will help guide our Navy into the 21st century through fresh thinking and innovation."