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Acquisition Research Program Need to Know Newsletter

2023-02-27

NPS Need to Know Newsletter Acquisition Research Program, 2023-02-27

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Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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NEED TO KNOW

Acquisition Research Program Newsletter
January 27, 2023 — Issue 134

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Military support for Ukraine took a turn this week: from a drawdown of existing supplies to contracting for 31 Abrams tanks plus related supplies. This \$400 million Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative package marks the beginning of a contracting process to provide additional capabilities to Ukraine.

Last year saw a **boom in foreign military sales**, caused in part by a rebound after the pandemic slowdown and in part by the demand from the war in Ukraine. Sales are expected to stay high as foreign partners and allies will need to restore their supplies.

The United States will also need to replenish stockpiles. A recent CSIS study shows the results of wargaming a war with China in the Taiwan Strait: **key munitions could run out in a week.**

DoD issued two new policy documents.

- The new **small business policy** has three objectives: 1. implement a unified management approach for small business programs and activities; 2. ensure the Department’s small business activities align with national security priorities; 3. strengthen the Department’s engagement and support of small businesses.
- The updated **autonomy in weapon systems** establishes policy and guidance for the use of autonomy in lethal programs and the review process for such programs. This policy is also intended to protect against unintended engagements. It establishes an Autonomous Weapon Systems Working Group.

Our top story brings the latest update on the **Joint Warfighting Cloud**

Capability, which will ask all four vendors to create a zero-trust cloud environment.

Defense Innovation Unit's annual report for FY2022 shows continued progress, with 17 prototypes transitioning to production.

In ARP news, we are thrilled to announce the keynote speakers for this year's symposium, coming up May 10-11. The Honorable **Nickolas Guertin**, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, has confirmed he'll be joining us, and the Honorable **Dr. William LaPlante**, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, has been invited. Many of our speakers and chairs have already chimed in to say how excited they are to return for an in-person gathering in Monterey. Registration link and more details about the symposium are available online -- see the link in the ARP section below.

This Week's Top Story

[JWCC vendors to test zero-trust concept in commercial cloud](#)

Mark Pomerleau, Defense Scoop



The Department of Defense plans to leverage the four vendors that were recently awarded its major enterprise cloud computing contract to experiment with the implementation of so-called zero-trust principles in a commercial cloud environment.

Zero trust is a concept that essentially assumes networks are already compromised and requires organizations to validate users, devices and data continuously. The DOD released its zero-trust strategy in October, which outlines three courses of action: institute zero-trust modernization improvements on the existing network, engage in zero-trust commercial clouds, or engage in a zero-trust privately designed cloud.

It also defines a target level and advanced level of zero trust. The target level is the minimum set of capability outcomes to secure and protect data and requires the delivery of 91 activities. Advanced level requires a total of 152 activities.

The Pentagon plans to lean on Amazon Web Services, Google, Microsoft and Oracle — all of which were recently awarded the Joint Warfighting Cloud Capability (JWCC) contract worth up to \$9 billion — to test if achieving zero trust to the “target level” in the cloud is possible, according to an official overseeing the effort.

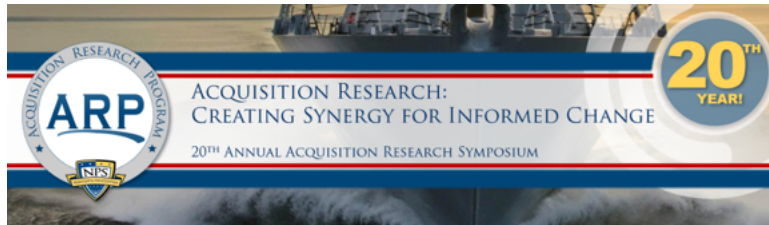
When the DOD was looking at what commercial clouds exist, the zero-trust portfolio management office decided to ask the four cloud service providers — which will be competing for JWCC task orders — if they could implement zero trust at the target level within their cloud infrastructures, according to Randy

Hesnick, who leads that office.

[Read more.](#)

ARP and NPS News

[Symposium registration is now open](#)



Join us in Monterey on May 10-11, 2023. Symposium website has information about travel, hotels, and tips for presenting.

[Register now!](#)

[Faces of NPS: Maj. Gen. Alice Treviño, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Contracting](#)

MBA '07, Senior International Defense Management Certificate '21



Earning a Logistics MBA offered the opportunity to augment my contracting and acquisitions background with defense transportation, supply chain management and materiel specialization. Upon graduation, I've been able to leverage these skillsets in every position that's followed, including with the US Transportation Command where we initiated the Northern Distribution Network to improve supply routes into Afghanistan **Valuable connections like those the ARP fosters bring research, innovators and acquisition professionals together.** By appreciating what we all may be going through from other perspectives, we can break down barriers and challenge ourselves to think differently about complex problems. [Read more.](#)

[NPS Office of Research and Innovation will Accelerate Solutions from Idea to Impact](#)

Rosemary Mena-Werth, Naval Postgraduate School

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) recently established the Office of Research and Innovation (OR&I) in response to the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy's call to leverage emerging technologies and innovative design practices to accelerate the development of full spectrum capabilities in order to maintain decisive maritime advantage and hedge against uncertainty. [Read more.](#)

Acquisition and Innovation

[With demand high in Ukraine, US Army ramps up artillery production](#)

Jen Judson, Defense News

[US arms export approvals soared in 2022](#)

Joe Gould, Defense News

[Watch: Software Defines Tactics: Fielding Transformational Capability without Transforming Acquisition](#)

Hudson Institute

with James Guerts, Jason Weiss, Dan Patt, and Bryan Clark

['Keep It Simple, Stupid'—Senior Military Space Leaders Focus on Streamlining Acquisition](#)

Chris Gordon, Air & Space Forces Magazine

[Lawmakers want GAO to assess risk of government contractors working for China](#)

Chris Riotta, FCW

[Calvelli calls for stepped-up use of contractor watch list](#)

Michael Marrow, Inside Defense

[Commentary: Want to innovate for DoD? Pay close attention to Ukraine](#)

Pete Newell, Defense News

[DIU's FY22 Year in Review](#)

Defense Innovation Unit

[DIU asks industry for help getting hypersonic test jet closer to lift off](#)

Theresa Hitchens, Breaking Defense

Research

[Assessing Transfer of Department of Defense-Originated Dual-Use Technology](#)

James Hasik, Benjamin McMartin, John Fargo, Rob Farley, Anthony Vatterott, Hina Kazmi, Lloyd Everhart, Katherine Vargas Medina, and Andrea Sanchez Zuniga | Baroni Center for Government Contracting

[Empty Bins in a Wartime Environment: The Challenge to the U.S. Defense Industrial Base](#)

Seth G. Jones, Center for Strategic & International Studies

[Chinese Nuclear and Missile Proliferation](#)

Congressional Research Service

[Columbia Class Submarine: Program Lacks Essential Schedule Insight amid Continuing Construction Challenges](#)

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Events

[PPBE Reform Commission Open Mic: Reprogrammings](#)

February 8, 2023 | 1300

Request a seat at ppbe_reform@ppbe.senate.gov to share your thoughts.

Policy

[DoD Directive 3000.09: Autonomy in Weapon Systems](#)

Department of Defense

[DoD Releases Small Business Strategy](#)

Department of Defense

Defense and Federal Government

[In reversal, US to send 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine](#)

Joe Gould, Defense News

[Pentagon's annual weapon test report reverses classification, details major program challenges](#)

Jaspreet Gill, Theresa Hitchens, Justin Katz And Sydney J. Freedberg Jr. |
Breaking Defense

[Navy Won't Publicly Release Results of Amphibious Ship Study](#)

Caitlin M. Kenney, Defense One

[Commerce's draft space traffic management service goes beyond DoD's baseline](#)

Theresa Hitchens, Breaking Defense

[How China became the world's leading exporter of combat drones](#)

Zaheena Rasheed, Al Jazeera

[Howard University becomes first historically Black university to lead a DOD research center](#)

Doug G. Ware, Stars and Stripes

[Is This New Microwave Weapon the Answer to Iranian Drones?](#)

Patrick Tucker, Defense One

[Commentary: Can we deploy hypersonic weapons before China and Russia outgun us? It's up to Congress](#)

Seth Cropsey, The Hill

Congress

[House Oversight expected to create new IT and cybersecurity subcommittee](#)

Nihal Krishan, Fedscoop

[Colorado Dem threatens to hold Pentagon nominees over Space Command HQ](#)

Bryant Harris, Defense News

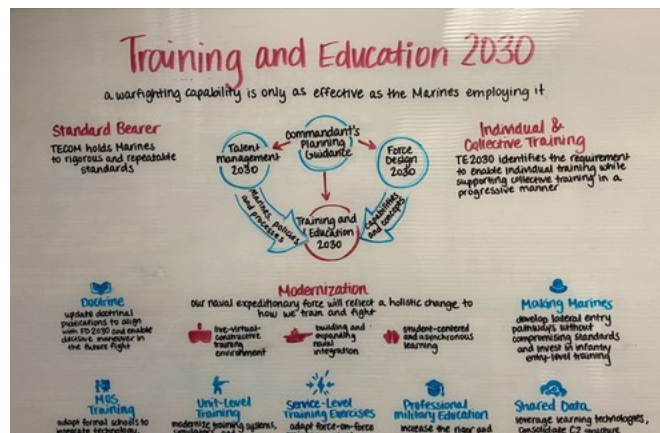
[Armed Services committee adds 11 members, quality of life panel](#)

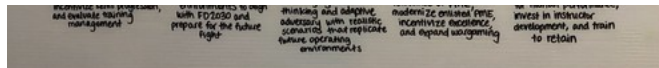
Leo Shane III and Bryant Harris, Defense News

One more thing...

[Training and Education 2030](#)

U.S. Marine Corps





Whiteboard visualization from Kayla Haas. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/kaylaolsen_yesterday-the-us-marine-corps-published-activity-7024024738788245504-f_5P

On professional military education: As we prepare for the future fight, we need Marines who possess the intellectual ability to out-think their adversaries. We hone this ability through deep and active engagement with the brightest minds and the most challenging material, which forces Marines to contend with their assumptions, perceptions, and concepts. PME must be dynamic, relevant, portable, and fit within the time constraints of a Marine's career. It must also reward intellectual curiosity and calculated risk-taking to maximize intellectual growth. To maintain our intellectual edge, we will increase the rigor and relevance of our PME, reinforce the culture of life-long learning, and modernize enlisted PME. Furthermore, we will deepen PME incentives and expand wargaming.

[Read more.](#)

Contact the editor

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