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## Vice Chief of Naval Operations Visits Naval Postgraduate School Students

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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**Vice Chief of Naval Operations Visits Naval Postgraduate School Students**

Article By: Defense Media Activity

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark E. Ferguson met with students, faculty, and staff at the Naval Postgraduate School Feb. 12, to discuss strategic perspectives that will impact future naval operations and readiness.

During his address, Ferguson discussed strategic factors NPS students will have to consider as they develop programs to support current and future national security initiatives.



*Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark E. Ferguson addresses Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students, faculty and staff during a campus visit, Feb. 12, covering a variety of issues from budget constraints, future strategy and NPS' educational value to fleet officers.*

"In this period marked by increasing change, we are seeing an increase in both the sophistication and the proliferation of technologies designed to deny us access to the global commons," Ferguson said.

As students look at the flash points of political instability around the globe, especially those in the Levant, Africa, the East and South China Sea, Ferguson explained that naval forces will likely become even more in demand.

"The demand for naval forces has never been higher," Ferguson said. "As we transition out of two prolonged land wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we are seeing increased demand from the combatant commanders for naval forces."

The Naval Postgraduate School provides advanced education and research programs that increase U.S. and partner nation military combat effectiveness to enhance national security. The research programs instituted at NPS are designed to provide independent assessments of proposed solutions to military challenges, and evaluations of new technologies.

Ferguson, a 1984 graduate of NPS, also met with retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, NPS president, who appreciated a return visit by the distinguished alumnus.

"Adm. Ferguson ... has been a consistent, vocal advocate of the institution and the value of our efforts to educate our students, our military's leaders," Route said. "He dedicated a significant portion of his time here on campus to share his perspective, offer advice and to field questions directly from our community of students, faculty and staff."

Before wrapping up his comments, he provided some career advice to the students who will lead their services in the future.

"The education and perspective you gain during your time here is invaluable," Ferguson said. "Take full advantage of the opportunity you have at NPS to think about the strategic challenges and choices you'll face in the future."

That advice was well received by NPS students.

"Adm. Ferguson gave clear and concise answers regarding the future, and our education here at NPS," said Lt. Cmdr Edgar Jatho, a Computer and Information Programs student.

Posted February 13, 2014

