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NPS Defense Management Expert Elected to ASPA National Council

Friday, February 16, 2007

by Barbara Honegger Senior Military Affairs Journalist

Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) George F. A. Wagner Professor of Public Management Lawrence R. "Larry" Jones, a world renowned expert on defense budgeting and financial management, has been elected to National Council of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA).

The largest public sector management, policy and administration professional association in the nation, ASPA has close to 14,000 members from academe and all levels of government, both in the U.S. and abroad. Jones will represent members from the association's District V, covering most of the western part of the country.

"Being an ASPA national council member is, in effect, being a member of its board of directors, responsible for reviewing the policy and operations of the organization," Jones explained. "This is especially an honor, because national council members are elected by members from their region, by mail balloting."

Jones was formally informed of his new position in a letter from ASPA's Washington, D.C. headquarters. "Congratulations! Your colleagues have elected you as the representative for District V," wrote Executive Director Antoinette Samuel.

Jones has been active in the ASPA since the late 1970s. He is also the elected chair of the association's section on international and comparative administration (SICA), one of its earliest divisions with a long and distinguished history.

Jones is also currently president of the International Public Management Network (IPMN), a network of academics and practitioners in public sector management and administration with more than 1,300 members from 95 nations, who are dedicated to improving international communication and research in public management reform. In addition, he is past chairman of the Association for Budget and Financial Management.

Along with other newly elected National Council members, Jones will be introduced to ASPA's membership at its annual conference Mar. 26 in Washington, D.C. His three-year term as District V national council member begins Mar. 27.

Jones received his bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University and master's and doctoral degrees in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, with an emphasis on government planning, budgeting and financial management. He is the author or co-author of 17 books, 15 written while at the Naval Postgraduate School, and more than 100 journal articles and chapters on international, national and state budgeting and policy, management and budget control, public financial management, and government reform.

"The textbook I did with NPS Professor of Public Budgeting Jerry McCaffery, Budgeting and Financial Management for National Defense, is the only one of its kind in the world," Jones noted. "There is no other book that applies the principles and expertise of budgeting and financial management specifically to the unique and complex area of defense."

The first edition of the book was published in 2004, and the second will be out early next year. In 2001, Jones and McCaffery published its more generic predecessor, Budgeting and Financial Management in

the Federal Government.

Jones' 1994 book with Frederick Thompson, *Reinventing the Pentagon*, has been notably influential. "When Donald Rumsfeld became President Bush's secretary of defense, it's as if someone at a very high level had read the book and started implementing many of the ideas and concepts in it, almost like a checklist," Jones noted. "This was also true in the 1994 to 1999 period under Secretary of Defense Cohen."

Jones has just completed yet another book, also co-authored by Thompson. *From Bureaucracy to Hierarchy in Netcentric and Quick Learning Organizations* will become available in March.

Among a long list of professional honors, Jones won the Aaron B. Wildavsky Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Public Budgeting and Finance in 2005, as well as the Wildavsky Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Policy Sciences in 1998, from the American Association for Budgeting and Financial Management.

"The Wildavsky awards are the highest awards in my field," Jones explained. "To receive one of these awards means you've been judged one of the leading scholars in your field in the last 65 years. Also, receiving the Wildavsky, not just once but twice, was especially meaningful, as Professor Wildavsky was my mentor at the University of California at Berkeley."

Jones began his career as budget analyst and management auditor in the budget division of then Governor Ronald Reagan's State of California Department of Finance, serving from 1971 to 1973. He later served as budget and planning officer for the University of California, Berkeley, working in the chancellor's office.

Jones' first academic appointment was as an assistant professor in the business school at the University of British Columbia. He then served as director of the graduate program in public management at the University of Oregon. From 1980 through 1985 Jones held a number of positions at the University of Oregon, including associate professor of public financial management; chairman of the school's graduate public affairs committee, U.S.-Canadian studies program and graduate program committee; and member of its executive committee. He was also chairman of the graduate public affairs committee at Wallace School of Public Affairs, where he taught as an assistant professor.

Jones first came to the Naval Postgraduate School in 1987 as a visiting professor and became a full tenured professor the next year, serving as assistant NPS dean for faculty and graduate programs.

"The most enjoyable part of my professional life has been the opportunity to teach and conduct research at the Naval Postgraduate School because of the high caliber of students in the NPS Graduate School of Business and Public Policy," Jones stressed. "I came here as a visiting professor intending to leave after a year or two, and here I am about to hit my 20th year. Working for the Navy at NPS with these great students who are officers inside the system, and alongside high-quality faculty as a peer team, is and continues to be the best thing that has happened to me in my career."

Jones has twice been the recipient of the NPS Award for Outstanding Research Accomplishment, in 1998 and 2002.

In addition to 20 years of teaching, research and publishing at the nation's premier national defense and security research university, Jones has been a visiting lecturer and conducted research at East China University in Shanghai in the People's Republic of China; Oxford University; and the London School of Economics. He has taught at other universities throughout western Europe and in Russia, Australia, Thailand, Taiwan and Brazil. Jones was a Fulbright Scholar in Canada and Switzerland in 1993 and 1994, and a visiting professor at the University of Geneva in Switzerland the following year. In 2003, he was Erskine Visiting Chair at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Jones has consulted widely in the Department of Defense, including for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and the Navy budget office, N-82. He currently works with the Naval Pacific Air Command at North Island, and the program executive officer for C4I (command, control, computers, communications and intelligence) and Space Command, part of the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in San Diego.

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