



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report –Nov. 24–Nov. 30, 2020

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EDUCATION:

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(NPS.edu 24 Nov 20)

(DVIDS 24 Nov 20) ... Petty Officer 2nd Class Taylor J Vencill

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ALUMNI:

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(NBC4i WCMH-TV 23 Nov 20) ...Kristina Bravo, KTLA and Nexstar Media Wire

A Southern California native made history this week as the first Black astronaut to work at the International Space Station as a long-term crew member.

Victor Glover, who was born in Pomona, arrived at the NASA outpost on Tuesday as part of SpaceX's second crew launch. The 44-year-old Navy commander and pilot is the only space rookie of the four-member crew, who's staying at the station for six months. He graduated from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1999 before earning three master's degrees between 2007 and 2010 at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the Naval Postgraduate School and the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.



5. [A U.S. Navy Admiral Visited Taiwan, And China is Really Angry](#)

(The National Interest 25 Nov 20) ...Peter Suci

After multiple sources reported that U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Michael Studeman, director of the J2, made an unannounced visit to Taiwan this week, Beijing has vowed a response. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China “firmly” opposed any form of official exchange or military contact between Washington and Taipei.

Studeman is a distinguished graduate of Naval Postgraduate School and honors graduate in Mandarin Chinese from the Defense Language Institute and a distinguished graduate of the National War College.

6. [Patrick Joseph “PJ” Jones](#)

(Legacy.com 29 Nov 20)

PENSACOLA, Fla. Patrick Joseph "PJ" Jones, 82 of Pensacola, Fla., passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Col. Jones enlisted in the Marine Corps in Albany in August 1956. Upon completion of boot camp in Parris Island, S.C., and infantry training at Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, N.C., he received orders to N.A.S. in Jacksonville, Fla. where he attended the Naval Aviation Fundamental School and Aviation Electrician "A" School. Upon completion of these schools he was transferred to Marine Corps Air Station in Opa-Locka, Fla., and joined VMR - 353 for duty. While at M.C.A.S. in Opa-Locka, Pvt. 1st Class Jones received a Secretary of the Navy appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and was transferred to the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Bainbridge, Md. Cpl. Jones entered the U.S. Naval Academy as a midshipman in June 1958, graduated in June 1962, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He completed The Basic School in Quantico, Va., in December 1962, and received orders to N.A.S. in Pensacola, Fla., as a student naval aviator. 1st Lt. Jones received his aviator wings in June 1964. He proceeded to Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C., and joined VMFA(AW)-235 flying the F-8E Crusader. In December 1965, he deployed with the squadron to MAG-11 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. During this tour Lt. Jones flew combat missions in the F-8 and O-1C "Birdog."

Upon completion of this overseas tour, Capt. Jones received orders to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

NPS ANNUAL REPORT:

The latest [NPS Annual Report](#) and summary has been posted to the NPS website. This edition emphasizes aspects of our mission that we want NPS stakeholders to understand better, and provides a baseline of updated messaging with supporting facts to reference in your communications.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

December 18: [Fall Quarter Graduation](#)



EDUCATION:

NPS Scholar Program Takes Warfare Tactics Instructors to the Next Level

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WTIs, pronounced “Witties,” are a cadre of officers trained by the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center (SMWDC) to conduct advanced tactical training, doctrinal development, assessments of shipboard at-sea training, and serve in critical operational billets.

The genesis of the NPS “WTI Scholars” program began when leaders at SMWDC saw a return on investment from officers in the WTI program who already had an NPS master’s degree, or were earning their degrees through NPS’ distance learning program.

According to Capt. Ryan Billington, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training, Operations, and Readiness at SMWDC, there was a key difference for officers with an NPS education.

“Officers with master’s degrees from NPS bring a deep understanding of systems, tactics, and processes,” said Billington. “These officers are incredibly well-rounded, for they are well versed in tactics as a WTI and also understand the concepts behind them because of their NPS graduate education, and we value the education those officers are receiving.”

The WTI Scholars pilot program, which currently has 4 students with the aim to double that or better in 2021, is designed to tie academic theory with the operational experience of these advanced tactically-trained officers to create even greater warfighting capability, said Capt. Chuck Good, NPS’s Surface Warfare Chair.

“We are adding the academics to the intense real-world experience they’ve amassed so they have ‘the why’ behind their tactical principles,” said Good. “By understanding ‘the why’ these officers will have greater warfighting proficiency making them better practitioners – something that’s greater than the sum of its parts.”

While there are four different types of WTI areas – anti-submarine warfare surface warfare, amphibious warfare, mine warfare and integrated air and missile defense – Good noted that NPS did not have to create any special curriculum to match them; rather, NPS leveraged the curricula and capabilities it already had and folded each WTI type into them.

“We had nine different curricula already available in our catalog for the WTI’s to take advantage of that map directly to their core warfighting competencies,” said Good. “The thesis work that they are doing is all warfighting related. NPS and SMWDC are working together to improve and enhance an officer’s warfighting capability at key points in a surface warfare officer’s career.”

One key educational challenge facing WTIs is that many of them have had to forgo the opportunity to obtain graduate education due to the WTI career path constraints precluding lengthy in-residence educational tours. NPS has stepped in and shortened certain curriculums programs allowing WTIs to obtain an accelerated master’s degree in order to get back to the fleet in a reasonable time to fill key billets. The price for this is the elimination of certain milestones that a full-length resident NPS curriculum typically provides, such as JPME Phase I and a subspecialty code but the core Masters’ requirements are still met in all nine “WTI Scholars” offerings.

“Junior officers often desire to do both in-residence education at NPS and complete the WTI course of instruction and follow-on production tour,” said Billington. “However, not everyone has the career timing to do both before department head school. The WTI Scholars Program gives them the ability to complete both the WTI course of instruction, a WTI production tour, and graduate education in residence at NPS.”

While in-resident education at NPS and being a WTI was not mutually exclusive prior to the WTI Scholars Program, there wasn’t a direct route for students to directly build off their WTI training with



further academic education. According to WTI Scholar Lt. Grant Arrigo, one of the first four students currently in the pilot program, this program allows him to be a WTI and a forerunner in the field of space, especially with the emergence of space as a realm for military operations.

“From the fleet, space is very important from a targeting and communication standpoint” said Arrigo. “Having the background for the surface WTI program, I know that targeting is always your limiting factor and space is the next frontier for that. As far as the whole breadth of space operations goes, I can apply my NPS education to any combat system. I’m interested to see how I will be able to take everything back to the fleet and be better informed on the strategic policy side of the house, as well as the technical side.”

Good noted that the relationship between NPS and SMWDC will flourish simply because of the cross pollination of highly educated officers coming to NPS and returning the fleet.

“These officers will be bringing relevant and current tactical information up to campus, and then they’ll take their academic knowledge back to the waterfront.”

As for SMWDC, Billington expressed that WTIs are “warriors, thinkers, and teachers,” and when these tacticians return to the fleet from NPS they will have become exceptional warfighters.

“An officer who has completed both WTI training and NPS graduate education program will be the most lethal and tactically proficient tactical action officer on their ships because they have the requisite background knowledge both in the classroom and in relevant community tactics,” said Billington.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/383692/nps-scholar-program-takes-warfare-tactics-instructors-next-level>

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[Return to Index](#)

Microgrid Experts Host First Electric Utility Training Academy for Armed Forces

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The Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and other federal, state and local agencies are working towards U.S. energy self-sufficiency by constructing microgrids and other renewable power energy sources across military installations.

In an effort to further the understanding of renewable power energy via microgrids, NAVFAC EXWC enlisted electric utility professionals from ONR and NPS to co-host 12 classes within three half-day sessions. 46 participants from across all armed forces—U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force—attended the debut Microgrid Academy.

For background, a microgrid is a self-sufficient energy grid with controlled capability—meaning it can disconnect from a traditional electric grid and operate autonomously. Microgrids are important for a variety of reasons, namely because if a first power source from an electrical grid fails, a microgrid can break off and operate on its own, using local stored energy and generation in times of crisis—for example storms or power outages. Microgrids not only provide a backup energy source in case of emergencies, but can also reduce costs, and offer a solution for communities to be more energy self-sufficient and, in some cases, more environmentally friendly.

Microgrid Academy presentations consisted of several electric utility topics, including SKM electric distribution, ARC analysis and modeling, XENDEE modeling, Navy microgrid case studies from NAVFAC EXWC and NPS, resilience in the DOD as it pertains to energy sufficiency, base utility responsibilities, doctoral thesis excerpts, and an overview of the Electric Power Research Institute microgrid development.

Of the presentations, the XENDEE modeling platform sparked great interest for participants. In layman's terms, the XENDEE modeling platform allows users to begin microgrid modeling by defining



detailed scenarios regarding their unique energy utility program(s). The modeling platform dissects these scenarios, and returns a comprehensive overview of data for electric utility engineers.

For military and civilian personnel who have used the XENDEE modeling platform, it has proven to be an imperative tool—especially at Naval Station Rota.

“XENDEE modeling is an additional tool in a decision maker’s toolbox that can quickly and succinctly pull massive amounts of data, organize it, and allow for various modeling scenarios to be played out,” said Bryan Long, NAVFAC Utilities and Energy Manager Branch Head. “Naval Station Rota—who are already using the XENDEE model—surprised UEM leadership with the results from XENDEE modeling; at first, the results may not have seemed like the way forward, but after allowing the model to optimize a solution, the results were positively astounding.”

Long added that in the end, using the XENDEE model helped bring the NAVFAC EXWC UEM organization to make better strategic decisions that were both cost-effective and technologically evolved.

“The Microgrid Academy expertise from its instructors was extremely well-received by DOD students,” said Robert Nordahl, NAVFAC EXWC Microgrid Power Systems Team Lead. “NPS was a significant help in bringing the Microgrid Academy to fruition! We also had students and instructors in several continents. Moving forward, as the Microgrid Academy continues to expand, so will our ability to meet the microgrid educational needs of both military and civilians, whether they are CONUS or OCONUS.”

The Microgrid Academy plans to host ten Microgrid Academy students towards the end of January 2021 for hands-on microgrid instruction. This instruction has been in high-demand from Microgrid Academy participants, indicating the increase need to continue the Microgrid Academy on a more regular, quarterly basis.

For more information on the Microgrid Academy, please contact Robert Nordahl at robert.nordahl@navy.mil.

About Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC): NAVFAC EXWC is a command of more than 1,300 dedicated federal employees, contractors, and military personnel who provide science, research, development, testing, evaluation, specialized engineering, and mobile logistics capabilities to deliver sustainable facility and pragmatic expeditionary solutions to the warfighter.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/383659/microgrid-experts-host-first-electric-utility-training-academy-armed-forces>

[Return to Index](#)

RESEARCH:

NPS Researchers Use Flying Laboratory to Study Wildfire Smoke Effects on Naval Operations

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Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, NPS’ aerial researchers from the Department of Meteorology’s Center for Interdisciplinary Remotely Piloted Aircraft Studies (CIRPAS) and Airborne Research Facility had not flown a research mission, that is, until these wildfires presented a key opportunity for study that could lead to improved naval operations.



The research team, consisting of NPS Meteorology Research Professor Dr. Anthony Bucholtz, Research Associates Ryan Yamaguchi and Roy Woods, and five others, conducted 15 five-hour flights sampling the air from the lowest possible altitudes to higher than 20,000 feet. They did so with three goals in mind.

“First, we wanted to understand the effects of smoke on the radiative balance of the atmosphere,” said Bucholtz. “The second was to study the characteristics of the sea salt particles over the ocean and lower atmosphere. And the third goal was to gather data to test Navy global and regional aerosol models.

“Depending on how much smoke and sea salt particles there are, it can affect the performance of various sensors and visibility,” continued Bucholtz. “Smoke can be a factor in various theaters of operation for the Navy because smoke can have an effect on visibility, the performance of electro optical sensors, or the performance of high energy lasers.”

According to Yamaguchi, who had to personally evacuate from his home due the wildfires, the team was collecting smoke data to ultimately help improve one of the Navy’s key weather models – the Coupled Ocean/Atmosphere Mesoscale Prediction System (COAMPS) – developed by researchers at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and used by the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center for short-term numerical weather prediction for various regions around the world.

NPS partnered with the NRL in Monterey during the mission to utilize the COAMPS computer model to forecast the aerosol conditions as an aid to flight planning. The data gathered during these flights will be used to test how well these models perform and their accuracy when predicting the aerosol conditions.

“For collecting smoke, we have an intake on the front of the aircraft and we can draw in outside air into our different aerosol instruments that can measure the size, scattering and absorption qualities and the concentration of the smoke,” noted Yamaguchi. “We also have advanced data acquisition systems that measure humidity, wind, pressure and standard atmospheric variables in the nose of the aircraft.”

Bucholtz and Yamaguchi studied a wide variety of types of smoke during their flights in order to better understand different environments and variables.

“We looked at young smoke near the fire, aged smoke far away from the fire, and smoke at multiple altitude levels,” said Bucholtz. “We sampled the smoke over land, over the ocean and over clouds, so we got an amazing data set.”

While the two researchers still need to dive deeper into their data for a full analysis and its implications, they already have requests from researchers at Arizona State University, the California Institute of Technology and NRL to view the data, which the two are confident they will be able to use to better understand the effects of atmospheric smoke and improve the Navy’s operations in a smoke-filled environment.

<https://nps.edu/-/nps-researchers-use-flying-laboratory-to-study-wildfire-smoke-effects-on-naval-operations>

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[Return to Index](#)

ALUMNI:

California Native is 1st Black Astronaut to Join Extended Mission on Space Station

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A Southern California native made history this week as the first Black astronaut to work at the International Space Station as a long-term crew member.



Victor Glover, who was born in Pomona, arrived at the NASA outpost on Tuesday as [part of SpaceX's second crew launch](#). The 44-year-old Navy commander and pilot is the only space rookie of the four-member crew, who's staying at the station for six months.

For NASA, the mission begins regular crew rotations at the space station with the help of a private company's spacecraft.

Glover was [chosen](#) as an astronaut in 2013 while he served as a legislative fellow at the U.S. Senate. [Asked about his career trajectory](#) in an interview released by NASA, Glover noted his experience at Ontario High School, from which he graduated in 1994.

"It goes way back," he said. "So high school athlete, love being part of a small high-performing team, wrestling and football. [I] was fortunate to wrestle in college while pursuing my engineering education."

He graduated from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1999 before **earning three master's degrees between 2007 and 2010 at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the Naval Postgraduate School and the Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.**

Glover said he originally wanted to be a Navy SEAL.

"I wind up deciding to go into aviation and learn to fly," he said.

Black astronauts have made short stays at the space station before, according to [The New York Times](#), but Glover is the first to join a crew for an extended stay.

"It is bittersweet because I've had some amazing colleagues before me that really could have done it, and there are some amazing folks that will go behind me," he said of the milestone in a recent interview with [The Christian Chronicle](#). "I wish it would have already been done, but I try not to draw too much attention to it."

Over the summer, as Americans protested following the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, Glover spoke about racial injustice on Twitter.

In response to [a question about astronauts sticking to space](#), he explained: "Remember who is doing space. People are. As we address extreme weather and pandemic disease, we will understand and overcome racism and bigotry so we can safely and together do space. Thanks for asking."

Glover has four children with his wife, Dionna Odom, of Berkeley, according to NASA. His mother still lives in Southern California, and his father and stepmother reside in Prosper, Texas.

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/u-s-world/california-native-is-1st-black-astronaut-to-join-extended-mission-on-space-station/>

[Return to Index](#)

A U.S. Navy Admiral Visited Taiwan, And China is Really Angry

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After multiple sources reported that U.S. Navy [Rear Adm. Michael Studeman](#), director of the J2, made an [unannounced visit](#) to Taiwan this week, Beijing has vowed a response. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China "firmly" opposed any form of official exchange or military contact between Washington and Taipei.

Studeman's reported visit came as the Trump administration has increasingly engaged with the Republic of China's government in Taipei. The Pentagon has declined to comment on whether Studeman actually visited Taipei, however the two star admiral would have been a likely candidate to make such a trip. Studeman, who is the son of a career naval officer, is a 1988 graduate of the College of William and Mary, and **is also a distinguished graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School**, and honors graduate in Mandarin Chinese from the Defense Language Institute and a distinguished graduate of the National War College.

He had previously served as an air intelligence officer for attack squadron 35 (VA-35). Adm. Studeman previously commanded the Hopper Information Services Center, Suitland, Maryland, and



Joint Intelligence Operations Center, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade, Maryland. He was also the director of intelligence, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Florida.

According to USNI News, while Studeman's reported visit to Taiwan may have given concern to Beijing, it actually would not be unprecedented. [USNI News quoted](#) Eric Sayers, a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, who explained that active-duty officers at the two-star level have previously visited Taiwan.

“There is a precedent. However, the goal on both sides has been to keep these military-to-military exchanges discrete so they can continue on a regularized basis,” Sayers said. “It is unfortunate this one leaked out. Visits of this type are consistent with long-standing U.S. policy and are critical to ensuring our two militaries remain closely aligned to deter Chinese coercion.”

Arming Taiwan

The administration also recently authorized billions of dollars of [arms sales](#) to the Republic of China (Taiwan) to help it fend off increased aggression from the People’s Republic of China (PRC), which sees the independent, self-governed island as a breakaway province. Beijing has increasingly made it clear that Taiwan will be returned to its control, by force if necessary.

The PRC government has also publicly [denounced the arms sale](#), and the Chinese Foreign Minister has stated that it urged “the United States to strictly observe the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, and stop selling weapons to Taiwan or having any military ties with it.”

China has already declared sanctions on U.S. defense contractors as a response to the arms sales, while the U.S. government has continued to maintain its unofficial ties with Taiwan and presided as its main source for military hardware. This includes a recent deal worth a [reported \\$2.37 billion](#), and follows the sale of [three additional weapons](#) systems in a separate deal worth \$1.8 billion.

Despite the harsh reaction from Beijing, the Trump administration reaffirmed its commitment to Taiwan and offered its own equally harsh warning should the People’s Republic of China mount a military effort to bring the independent island nation under its control.

“I can’t imagine anything that will cause a greater backlash against China from the entire world if they attempted to use military force to coerce Taiwan,” White House National Security Adviser [Robert O’Brien said Monday](#) during a visit to the Philippines. “The U.S. is with her friends in Taipei. We will continue to be there.”

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-admiral-visited-taiwan-and-china-really-angry-173380>

[Return to Index](#)

Patrick Joseph “PJ” Jones

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He completed The Basic School in Quantico, Va., in December 1962, and received orders to N.A.S. in Pensacola, Fla., as a student naval aviator. 1st Lt. Jones received his aviator wings in June 1964. He proceeded to Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C., and joined VMFA(AW)-235 flying the F-8E



Crusader. In December 1965, he deployed with the squadron to MAG-11 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. During this tour Lt. Jones flew combat missions in the F-8 and O-1C "Birddog."

Upon completion of this overseas tour, Capt. Jones received orders to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. He completed this duty under instruction in June 1969 and was awarded a degree in aerospace engineering.

Upon completion of transition training in the F-4B "Phantom," Capt. Jones was again ordered to MAG-11 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. During this tour he flew combat missions in the F-4, TA-4-F and OV-10A aircraft. During December 1970, Capt. Jones received orders to the U.S. Naval Academy where he served as an instructor in the engineering department and as a company officer in the executive department.

At the completion of this tour of duty in July 1974, Maj. Jones was transferred to the Marine Aviation Detachment in Point Mugu, Calif., where he served as project officer, program manager, and executive officer. September 1976 saw Maj. Jones assigned overseas to MAG-15, MCAS in Iwakuni, Japan, serving as executive officer of VMFA-115. In July 1977, as commanding officer, he brought the squadron to MAG-31, MCAS in Beaufort, S.C.

During this second tour at MCAS Beaufort he served as executive officer of PROV MAG-40, commanding officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-31, and commanding officer of VMFA-251. Col. Jones served on the staff of DC/S for Aviation of HQMC from June 1980 to June 1982. During this time, he was selected for Top Level School and attended the Naval War College in 1983. Upon graduation, Col. Jones was assigned as the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C. From June 1985 to July 1987 he commanded MAG-41 at NAS in Dallas, Texas.

Col. Jones served as III MEF chief of staff from August 1987 to July 1988 when he assumed command of MATSG Pensacola. His personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 51 Strike/Flight awards and two Navy Commendation Medals with "V" device.

After retirement in 1990, PJ taught nine years at Pensacola Catholic High School. He played golf three days a week until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard Jones and Bridget Roland. He is survived by his wife, Tanya Gunter Jones; his sons, Kevin Jones, Brian Jones (Lisa), Daniel Hynes (Michele), and Tim Hynes (Elizabeth); daughters, Nora Emling (Justin), and Kelly West (Glen); nine grandchildren; and his two cats, Boo and Peanut.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. at Harper-Morris Memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Autism Pensacola, 10001 North Davis Highway, Building 1, Pensacola, FL, 32514.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesunion-albany/obituary.aspx?n=patrick-joseph-jones-pj&pid=197181008>

[Return to Index](#)

