



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – March 8-14, 2022

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EDUCATION:

[Nobel Laureate, Game Theorist Shares Perspective on Conflict with NPS Students, Faculty](#)

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RESEARCH:

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[Opinion: The Pandemic Crime Paradox Might Have a Rational Explanation After All](#)

(The Washington Post 7 Mar 22) ... Megan McArdle

A year ago, on a trip to New York City, I noticed a curious disconnect: Almost everyone I interviewed was convinced that crime had risen sharply. But when I asked them whom they knew who had been victimized, they drew blanks... Now a new working paper from Maxim Massenkoff of the **Naval Postgraduate School** and Aaron Chalfin of the University of Pennsylvania suggests another explanation: Americans were becoming more anxious about crime because, by one important metric, it actually was increasing more broadly.

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The Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) Department of Defense Analysis, nationally-recognized for its leading graduate education and research programs in information strategy, political warfare and innovation design, has welcomed a new faculty member to the team with Dr. Carter Malkasian joining the university as professor and chair of the department.

[We Want World Peace — So Why Is It So Elusive?](#)

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According to famed and prolific historians Will and Ariel Durant, over the past three and a half millennia there has been at least one war in 92 percent of those years... John Arquilla, professor of defense analysis at the **Naval**



Postgraduate School, weighed in on this issue a decade ago in Foreign Policy. In 2012 he concluded, “The 44 years since they [the Durants] made that observation have not added a single year of peace to that meager total.”

[Oil Surge Leads to Return of Realpolitik](#)

(Yahoo Finance! 8 Mar 22) ... Javier E. David

When an oil crunch turns foes into frenemies

Since Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine for the sin of refusing to exist as a Russian satrapy, fiery crude prices are stoking fears of a 1970's style oil shock, and sending a chill down the market's spine... Alas, Iranian oil stocks won't provide much more than “a temporary blip” of relief, according to Brenda Shaffer, a faculty member at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, a senior advisor for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center.

[Making Coercion Work Against Russia](#)

(War on the Rocks 11 Mar 22) ... Jane Vaynman and Tristan A. Volpe

As the Ukraine war enters its third week, Western countries continue to impose significant economic sanctions against Russia and support Ukrainian forces with overt military aid. But Western leaders have refrained from making explicit demands about what Russia must do for this coercive punishment to stop. There have been calls on President Vladimir Putin to end hostilities and military operations in Ukraine. But, so far, these requests are not especially specific, nor are Western leaders connecting them to the rollback of economic sanctions and military aid... Tristan A. Volpe is an assistant professor in the Defense Analysis Department of the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a nonresident fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is grateful for insightful feedback on earlier parts of this analysis from his students.

[“I Wouldn't Be Surprised if a Year From Now Nord Stream 2 Was Functional” \(Podcast\)](#)

(Energy Live News 14 Mar 22) ... Dimitris Mavrokefalidis

International energy specialist tells ELN that the current energy crisis is more severe than the 1973 oil crisis... Asked whether she believes that the impact of this war will still be felt by the international energy markets in the years to come, Brenda Shaffer, Professor at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** and Senior Advisor for Energy at the research institute Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told ELN: “I am not sure what kind of lessons we will learn.

[Listen: Sanctions on Russia Create High Stakes for Global Economy, Fuel Prices \(Audio Interview\)](#)

(SP Global 14 Mar 22) ... Jasmin Melvin

The oil markets' reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been dramatic to say the least as global oil and gas supplies, already struggling to keep up with the strong post-pandemic recovery in fuel demand, were further tightened as countries pulled away from Russian resources. And the Analytics team at S&P Global Commodity Insights has said "there are not sufficient sources of incremental supply to cover a substantial prolonged loss of Russian oil."... Senior editor Jasmin Melvin spoke with foreign policy and international energy specialist Brenda Shaffer, Professor at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, about what's needed to shore up global energy supplies and bring down prices, as well as whether sanctions remain the right tool for dealing with geopolitical conflicts.

ALUMNI:

[Dan Rodricks: The Remarkable Bob Bruninga Believed We Could Lick Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels](#)

(Baltimore Sun 8 Mar 22) ... Dan Rodricks

I know what Bob Bruninga would say about Vladimir Putin's barbaric war on Ukraine and the calls for the U.S. and its allies to ban the import of Russian oil as a major sanction: “The future is electric vehicles. The more we build them, the more people drive them, the less dependent America will be on foreign oil. We will lick our addiction to fossil fuels.”... He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, spent 20 years in the Navy, reaching the rank of commander, and landed at the Naval Academy as a senior research engineer in the Aerospace Engineering Department, assisting students with capstone projects.



Bestselling Author, Veteran Brad Taylor First In-Person Author in Two Years at Barr Library Event

(Army.mil 10 Mar 22)

New York Times bestselling author Brad Taylor will discuss his newest thriller, End of Days, March 25 in Barr Memorial Library's first in-person Authors at Your Library program since March 2020... A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, Taylor is a 21-year veteran of the Infantry and Special Forces. He retired in 2010 after participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as classified missions around the world. He holds a Master of Science degree in Defense Analysis from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, with a concentration in Irregular Warfare.

Capt. Everett Alcorn Assumes Command of Navy Officer Training Command Newport

(DVIDS 11 Mar 22) ... Darwin Lam

A change of command ceremony was held for Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) at the Marine Detachment Auditorium in Newport, R.I., March 11... He graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a degree in computer science. Following flight training in Pensacola, Fla., he was designated a naval aviator in 2000. He received his master's degree in business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2006, completed Command and General Staff College at Marine Corps University in 2013, and is a 2021 graduate of the NATO Defense College.

VX-9 Holds Aerial Change of Command

(DVIDS 11 Mar 22) ... Hannah Moore

Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9) held an aerial change of command ceremony above Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Mar. 10... Captain William McCombs is a native of Concord, CA. Prior to assuming command of VX-9 he served as the Chief Operational Test Director of VX-9 from 2018 to 2021. He is a 1996 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1998. He holds a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California and is a graduate of U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Class 126.

Leon Native Participates in Ice Exercise 2022 in Arctic Ocean

(McPherson Sentinel 12 Mar 22) ... Stephanie Fox

A Leon, Kansas, native is serving with Naval Ice Center supporting Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2022 in the Arctic Ocean... Wilmington is a 2011 Bluestem High School graduate and a 2015 University of Kansas graduate. Wilmington was also selected for **Naval Postgraduate School**, July 2022. Wilmington has taken the skills learned from education and those learned in Leon to become the sailor they are today.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Mar 14-18: [Center for Executive Education LCA Course](#)

Mar 21-24: [NWSI Nimitz Research Group Warfare Innovation Workshop](#)

Mar 25: [Winter Quarter Graduation](#)

Mar 29: [SGL with Rear Admiral Blake Converse](#)

Apr 4-8: [Center for Executive Education NSLS Workshop](#)

Apr 19-21: [Naval Research Working Group](#)



EDUCATION:

Nobel Laureate, Game Theorist Shares Perspective on Conflict with NPS Students, Faculty

(Navy.mil 8 Mar 22) ... Javier Chagoya

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Dr. Roger Myerson, an internationally-recognized economist and 2007 Nobel Memorial Prize recipient in Economic Sciences, offered an informal guest lecture with Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students and faculty in the Defense Analysis (DA) department, Feb. 28.

Myerson spoke of his research in game theory and its application to conflict studies, with a distinct focus on the current conflict in Eastern Europe, as well as its global, economic and political implications. He also expressed a keen interest in NPS faculty research in the areas of statebuilding and stabilization studies. Myerson was invited to the university by Dr. Carter Malkasian, who joined NPS as Defense Analysis chair in late 2021.

During his lecture, the Nobel Laureate drew on insights from his experience as a game theorist to describe how the U.S. should think about deterrence in the current conflict, and the importance of local accountability in a robust democracy. He continued on to say, in his opinion, it is dangerous to appease an adversary's demands, and re-enforced the critical role of trust across partner nations.

Myerson is the David L. Pearson Distinguished Service Professor of Global Conflict Studies in the Harris School of Public Policy and the Griffin Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. He has made seminal contributions to the fields of economics and political science, and in game theory, introduced refinements of Nash's equilibrium concept.

He is the author of *Game Theory: Analysis of Conflict* (1991) and *Probability Models for Economic Decisions* (2005), and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He was awarded the 2007 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in recognition of his contributions to mechanism design theory, which analyzes rules for coordinating economic agents efficiently when they have different information and difficulty trusting each other.

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RESEARCH:

Study: Outdoor Street Crimes Rose During Pandemic

(TCR 8 Mar 22)

A new working paper from researchers at the **Naval Postgraduate School** and the University of Pennsylvania has found that even though the number of crimes fell in 2020, the chance of being victimized if you were out on the street rose significantly, reports Megan McArdle in an op-ed for the Washington Post.

“In 2020, the risk of outdoor street crimes initially rose by more than 40% and was consistently between 10-15% higher than it had been in 2019 through the remainder of the year,” the study says.

McArdle argues that perhaps the propensity to commit all sorts of crimes was rising, but the pandemic made it harder for most ordinary criminals to find victims. She believes the idea offers a plausible account of what happened over the past few years and warns that it points to the potential for other crimes to surge the way homicides have as cities reopen and people return to the streets.

While she admits that it's possible that the crime surge is mostly a result of pandemic-driven factors (loneliness, boredom, fewer checks on intimate partner violence, or breakdowns of policing), McArdle



also says that the main factor could be a lack of community trust in the police, possibly making people more likely to settle scores on their own, or that police might have reacted to public anger by pulling back from active policing, creating more opportunities for crime.

[Study: Outdoor Street Crimes Rose During Pandemic - The Crime Report](#)

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Opinion: The Pandemic Crime Paradox Might Have a Rational Explanation After All

(The Washington Post 7 Mar 22) ... Megan McArdle

A year ago, on a trip to New York City, I noticed a curious disconnect: Almost everyone I interviewed was convinced that crime had risen sharply. But when I asked them whom they knew who had been victimized, they drew blanks.

This mirrored a larger debate in American politics. People were convinced in 2020 crime was getting worse. But when you asked them if they themselves were more likely to be victimized, they weren't noticeably more alarmed. Yes, homicides were increasing, but as a report last year from the center-left think tank Third Way noted, homicide is "the rarest of crimes." Many other kinds of crime had gone down in 2020.

A number of theories have been offered for this phenomenon. One, popular on the left, is that Americans were simply overreacting to media hype about the rising murder rate, which was probably being driven by pandemic-related factors, such as increased stress, that would eventually fade. A second, favored on the right, is that a perverse effect of progressive prosecutors and anti-police activism has been to disincentivize people from reporting crimes for which no one will be caught or punished. A third is that people were reacting to public disorder, from tent cities and open drug use to the riots that followed the murder of George Floyd. These things weren't particularly dangerous to the average person, but they certainly were vivid, and they fed a narrative that things were spiraling out of control.

Now a new working paper from Maxim Massenkoff of the **Naval Postgraduate School** and Aaron Chalfin of the University of Pennsylvania suggests another explanation: Americans were becoming more anxious about crime because, by one important metric, it actually was increasing more broadly.

That's arguably what we should have assumed all along, since crime rates often rise and fall together. When they diverged during the pandemic, many people looked for some factor unique to homicide, such as more guns being on the street, psychological pressure from the pandemic, or diminished trust in the police. But there was always another possibility: Maybe the propensity to commit all sorts of crimes was rising, but the pandemic made it harder for most ordinary criminals to find victims.

Whenever commentators tried to soothe an anxious public with the news that rapes, robberies and burglaries were actually decreasing, other commentators — including me — pointed out that the opportunities for most crimes had fallen dramatically during the pandemic. Muggings are hard to accomplish if no one is on the street, and most burglars prefer not to invade occupied homes. But since murders tend to involve people who know each other, that countervailing pressure might not have suppressed the murder rate as much as other crimes.

This is where the work of Massenkoff and Chalfin comes in. Instead of just looking at the gross number of crimes, they looked at the ratio of crimes to the amount of time people spent in public. And they found that even though the number of crimes fell, the chance of being victimized if you were out on the street rose significantly: "In 2020, the risk of outdoor street crimes initially rose by more than 40% and was consistently between 10-15% higher than it had been in 2019 through the remainder of the year."

There are some caveats to that finding: If the people who were out on the street are demographically or otherwise more likely to be victims of crime, that might skew the results. And their primary data covers only a few cities, so the results might not translate to other places. But, at very least, this looks like a plausible account of what happened over the past few years.

And we should reckon with it, because it points to an even grimmer corollary: If they are right, other crimes might surge the way homicides have as cities reopen and people return to the streets.



Whether that happens depends, first, on whether they are correct and, second, on why the crime surge happened in the first place. It's possible that it is mostly a result of pandemic-driven factors — loneliness, boredom, fewer checks on intimate partner violence, or perhaps breakdowns of policing due to the exigencies of covid-19. If so, crime might slacken as the pressure of the pandemic does.

But it is also possible that it represents some more enduring factor. For example, after Floyd's murder, community trust in the police might have plummeted, possibly making people more likely to settle scores on their own. Or police might have reacted to public anger by pulling back from active policing, creating more opportunities for crime.

The only way to know for sure is to wait and see. But we really cannot afford to wait before we start preparing for the possibility of higher crime rates. If the surge comes, we need to be ready with proactive measures to get it under control.

[Opinion | The pandemic crime paradox might have a rational explanation after all - The Washington Post](#)

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FACULTY:

NPS Defense Analysis Department Welcomes New Chair

(Navy.mil 8 Mar 22) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Norket

(NPS.edu 8 Mar 22) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Norket

The Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) Department of Defense Analysis, nationally-recognized for its leading graduate education and research programs in information strategy, political warfare and innovation design, has welcomed a new faculty member to the team with Dr. Carter Malkasian joining the university as professor and chair of the department.

Malkasian brings a range of academic and advisory experience to the university. Following doctorate studies at Oxford University, Malkasian served across multiple conflict zones in varied advisory capacities, culminating in his service as the senior civilian advisor to then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford from 2015-2019.

Malkasian's diverse experiences led to his service in a multitude of environments, ranging from Afghanistan to Washington, D.C. He served in Helmand province as a State Department political officer, in addition to al-Anbar in 2004-2006, in Kunar in 2007, and in Honduras in 2012.

As he returns to academia, Malkasian says that he is excited to begin working with the exceptional faculty in the Defense Analysis department as they continue advancing the critical thinking skills of the DOD's future military leaders.

"I'm the chair, but a chair is only as good as a department," he said. "Together, with consultation from the students and others, we are going to be able to set the strategic direction and I'm going to try to help as much as I can. We want to make sure NPS continues to educate our future leaders in this changing environment."

Malkasian knows that the challenges the nation faces today are different than those of the past, and he looks forward to evolving the department with the university to meet that challenge.

"The United States is shifting towards worrying about new, near-peer competitors in this period where there's a great amount of technological change happening," he said. "The Defense Analysis department is already adapting to that, and I look forward to being there as it continues to do so."

Malkasian points to the long-standing motto of the Defenses Analysis program – "Train for Certainty, Educate for Uncertainty" – as a perfect expression of the driving forces behind the department's important mission in education and research.

"We don't know exactly what kind of threats the United States will face tomorrow; we don't know exactly what context and exactly what environment," he said. "But our leaders have to be ready to adapt



to whatever challenge they may face. It's a time to be able to look at different options, see different futures, and plan the best possible course of action.”

It's an opportunity to make an impact, he says.

“I'm really happy to be here at the Naval Postgraduate School,” he stressed. “I think there is no larger goal than helping the students be able to advance in their careers, and to continue to help protect the United States.”

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We Want World Peace — So Why Is It So Elusive?

(The Hill 8 Mar 22) ... Merrill Matthews

According to famed and prolific historians Will and Ariel Durant, over the past three and a half millennia there has been at least one war in 92 percent of those years.

That's a whole lotta war. And Russian President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked and criminal (and hopefully soon to be ended) invasion of Ukraine has put civilization there again.

The Durants write in their book “The Lessons of History,” “War is one of the constants of history, and has not diminished with civilization or democracy. In the last 3,421 years of record history only 268 have seen no war.”

They wrote that in 1968. It's been 54 years since, for a total of 3,475 years now. Unfortunately, the past 54 years haven't added many, if any, to the number of war-free years.

In 1968 the United States was heavily involved in the Vietnam War, which ended in 1975. The U.S. was the key player in the Persian Gulf War (1990-91). Then there was the war in Afghanistan, which lasted from 2001 until last year. And there was the war in Iraq (2003-11).

Of course, other countries were engaged in war even when the United States remained on the sidelines or acted only as a support system. There was the Iran-Iraq War (1980-88), the Yugoslav Wars (1991-2001), and the First and Second Congo Wars (1996-2003), to cite a few major conflicts.

Sadly, now 2022 will be added to the war years. Indeed, this year will go down as a very deadly and destructive one, possibly spilling over into future years.

It's not entirely clear why the Durants decided to begin their war tally 3,421 years earlier. They don't say in the book, nor do they footnote it (though many of the footnotes in “The Lessons of History” refer to their monumental 11-volume “History of Civilization”). Their “Lessons” was published in 1968. Subtract 1,968 from 3,421 and you have 1453 B.C. But why then? Most historians claim that there have been about 5,000 years of “recorded history.”

It's just a guess, but the traditional date for pharaoh allowing the Jews to leave Egypt was about 1450 B.C. (though many scholars now dispute that date).

So perhaps the Durants were alluding to the traditional date for the Exodus, since some of the Old Testament books are “recorded history” of that exodus and journey to what would become the land of Israel.

Whatever their reason for choosing 3,421 years ago, notice the Durants claim that “war is one of the constants of history,” and that neither the spread of civilization nor democracy has changed that trend.

John Arquilla, professor of defense analysis at the **Naval Postgraduate School**, weighed in on this issue a decade ago in *Foreign Policy*. In 2012 he concluded, “The 44 years since they [the Durants] made that observation have not added a single year of peace to that meager total.”

So, war has played a role in our world and our lives for 92 percent of the past three and a half millennia.

It's a tragic commentary on the history of human civilization. Although billions of people want to live in peace and never see the death and devastation war can bring, it takes only one person – in this case, Putin, backed by his enablers – to shatter that hope for peace.



Oil Surge Leads to Return of Realpolitik

(Yahoo Finance! 8 Mar 22) ... Javier E. David

When an oil crunch turns foes into frenemies

Since Vladimir Putin attacked Ukraine for the sin of refusing to exist as a Russian satrapy, fiery crude prices are stoking fears of a 1970's style oil shock, and sending a chill down the market's spine.

The U.S. government is weighing slapping embargoes on Russia's crude — the latest escalation in a series of dramatic penalties imposed on Moscow as its incursion into Ukraine enters its second week. The frenzy briefly drove Brent to a new 14-year high above \$130 per barrel, sent the Dow swooning into official correction territory, and is stirring stagflation fears from their decades-long dormancy.

Although a solid labor market and healthy pay hikes have become a defining characteristic of the pandemic-era recovery, concerns are swirling about how much longer economic activity can remain impervious to soaring inflation that's hit a 40-year peak, a point made by Yahoo Finance's Ines Ferre on Monday.

Skyrocketing oil and gas prices — where the average price is set to climb to fresh records above \$4 — are of no help, to say the least.

"You have to ask yourself: Is the consumer in better shape to deal with higher energy prices?" Baird managing director Michael Antonelli told Yahoo Finance Live.

"And I would say yes. But if you were to look into the history of the market... energy shocks can tend to lead to a recession," he added.

Enter three countries with rather rocky relationships with the West. With Russian oil potentially set to be taken offline, governments now need cooperation from all of them in order to blunt the impact of a potential black swan event (one that is indirectly benefiting Putin's efforts as oil prices soar).

Over the weekend, Axios reported that the Biden administration is making overtures to Saudi Arabia — which itself has been something of an international pariah since the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi — in order to coax more oil out of the kingdom. And it doesn't end there.

The White House is also reportedly reaching out to authoritarian Venezuela — an implacable foe since the reign of the now-deceased Hugo Chavez — in the hopes of adding more crude to the global energy queue, The Wall Street Journal reported late Sunday. Heavily sanctioned and isolated since Chavez's demise, Venezuela may be ripe for the picking — or rather the peeling, with the White House reportedly hoping to "peel" Caracas away from Moscow's influence, The Journal reported.

Perhaps the most surprising turn of events involves bringing Iran — an avowed foe of the United States — back in from out of the cold. Isolated for years because of its suspected nuclear ambitions, Tehran is becoming a linchpin for the Biden administration's ambitions to offset the loss of Russian supply.

Alas, Iranian oil stocks won't provide much more than "a temporary blip" of relief, according to Brenda Shaffer, a faculty member at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, a senior advisor for energy at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center.

"Energy traders have largely factored in the expectation of increased Iranian supplies. And there may not be as much Iranian oil ready to ship as the administration believes," Shaffer wrote recently.

"It's an open secret that a lot of Iranian oil is already traded. China already buys Iranian oil uninhibited. Iranian oil has many ways to circumvent U.S. sanctions — some is exported via Iraq and Kuwait, and there is a vast fleet of off-the-books oil tankers specializing in shipping Iranian crude and other liquid fuels," she added.

Regardless of how much supply results from the moves toward Iran, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, the events in Eastern Europe underscore how realpolitik has always been the fulcrum driving oil prices.

Europe is the most vulnerable in the near term, given its heavy reliance on Russian energy, and highlights the urgency behind the continent's need to wean itself off those supplies. Our current crisis is also spurring a consensus among unlikely bedfellows — and not a moment too soon — that is rapidly coalescing around the idea that the U.S. should become a more reliable font of secure energy supplies.

Sadly, it appears unlikely that the diplomatic efforts will make a material difference for a problem that economists say can only be resolved by curbing demand.

[Oil surge leads to return of realpolitik: Morning Brief \(yahoo.com\)](#)

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Making Coercion Work Against Russia

(War on the Rocks 11 Mar 22) ... Jane Vaynman and Tristan A. Volpe

As the Ukraine war enters its third week, Western countries continue to impose significant economic sanctions against Russia and support Ukrainian forces with overt military aid. But Western leaders have refrained from making explicit demands about what Russia must do for this coercive punishment to stop. There have been calls on President Vladimir Putin to end hostilities and military operations in Ukraine. But, so far, these requests are not especially specific, nor are Western leaders connecting them to the rollback of economic sanctions and military aid.

Many analysts and reporters have noticed the absence of coercive demands with alarm. If the United States and Europe hope to compel Putin to stop the war, they will need to tell Putin what specific actions he can take to reconnect Russia to the global economy. A compellence strategy imposes costs with the threat of more pain to come until an adversary changes its behavior in some way. It must involve clear demands. Otherwise, the adversary could assume that no amount of concessions will be sufficient to end the punishment. In the Ukraine war, however, the Western focus on economic and military punishment seem prudently designed to turn up the heat on Putin and his elite supporters. Indeed, withholding demands buys time for sanctions and lethal aid to inflict visible costs on Russia.

But the success of punishment today creates a key dilemma for coercion tomorrow: It is going to be difficult to credibly promise the Russians that this pain will stop. On the one hand, the United States and Europe need to convey their resolve to punish Russia until it withdraws from Ukraine. On the other hand, Washington and Brussels must eventually promise to roll back punishment if Moscow concedes. This assurance would present Putin with an off-ramp to avoid further pain by complying with Western demands over Ukraine.

Assurances will be an ugly but essential component of the coercive campaign against Russia. Putin deserves no quarter for his unprovoked aggression against Ukraine. The natural inclination is to “toss him an anvil, not a life jacket,” as Russian chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov recently lamented. Putin may also reject any off-ramp offered to him at this stage. “I think Putin is angry and frustrated right now,” CIA Director William J. Burns stated to Congress on March 8, underscoring that “he’s likely to double down and try to grind down the Ukrainian military with no regard for civilian casualties.” But pushing a nuclear-armed autocrat down the plank without any exits could be dangerous for Europe and the world. Moreover, assurances are not rewards for atrocious behavior — they merely lay out the terms for punishment to stop once Moscow reverses course. Western leaders should therefore consider how current efforts to ratchet up punishment might make it harder to credibly assure the Kremlin down the road, and start planning for difficult diplomatic dilemmas ahead.

Economic Warfare: Hard to Turn Off

The centerpiece of Western pressure on Russia is a broad array of financial sanctions. These are creating immense costs across the Russian economy. As tools for getting states what they want, sanctions in general have a mixed track record. But, they are most likely to work when applied by multilateral coalitions and international institutions. Sanctions are also sticky; once applied, they often become difficult to remove. In this case, the pressure has been highly coordinated, particularly between



the United States and the European Union. In addition to governmentally imposed restrictions, many private companies are “self-sanctioning” by withdrawing their services, investments, and purchasing from the Russian market.

The extent and nature of the sanctions imposed against Russia make it more likely that restrictions will remain in place for a considerable time. Some measures — such as blocking off Russia’s central bank — may not have been anticipated by Moscow. Russian institutions appear to be left with few workarounds to insulate themselves against new measures. A key implication here is that sanctions will be strongest in their initial use, before Russia has a chance to insulate its economy even further. So, states applying economic pressure are best served using these tools now, rather than assuming that they would have similar effects if threatened or reapplied in the future. The effects of economic levers are also likely to grow as the sanctions remain in place. This creates an additional incentive for Western states to keep the sanctions in place: It allows them to potentially avoid imposing additional measures that they themselves will find more costly.

It’s also not likely that any of the sanctioning countries will be able to bail out from the sanctions regime easily. The highly publicized nature of this coordination also signals the strength of the opposition to Russia — countries are less likely to bow out of terms when they commit themselves collectively in front of public audiences. Finally, the coordination of sanctions took considerable effort, so stakeholders are likely to become vested in maintaining this economic punishment regime until a potentially large set of goals, including retributive punishment against Russia, is met.

Beyond government sanctions, many private companies have decided to pull out of the Russian market in various ways. The voluntary withdrawal of major enterprises — notably BP, Shell, Disney, Netflix, Apple, FedEx, DHL, Visa, and Mastercard — expands the effect of sanctions to more businesses and individuals. Energy companies started to avoid Russian oil and gas purchases before the United States announced governmental bans on this activity. The steps by private companies allow the United States and its partners to apply greater pressure while avoiding domestic political backlash that might arise from requiring private companies to take the actions they’ve taken voluntarily.

So far, the Western sanctions regime has been effective in ratcheting up the punishment for Russia. The traditional logic of compellence stipulates that the costs imposed on Russia must not only be high, but also come with the expectation that this pain will continue or even increase until Putin reverses course. This suggests that Western nations need to carefully control economic damage — increasing the financial costs before decreasing or ultimately removing the pain altogether. The sanctions biting into the Russian economy right now may be ill-suited to this task.

Some economic sanctions on Russia can be lifted with a policy statement, but that means they can be reinstated or changed as well, and that might give Russian leaders pause. From a practical standpoint, it would be fairly easy for states to alter the content or timing of a sanctions policy change. There is no way to assure Russia that a particular policy will indeed be announced as soon as its tanks cross back into Russia. In a de-escalation scenario, if Russia withdraws from Ukraine, these steps will be difficult to reverse quickly. They would be giving up tactical positions, and pulling back lines of logistical support. What if Russia takes these steps but the West decides to renege and not announce any change to the sanctions policy? Or lift some sanctions but not others? At that point, Russia would have even less leverage to influence the policy choices. Western governments also cannot promise a return to business as usual because they cannot control the willingness of private companies to do business with Russia.

The multilateral approach also creates incentives for this coalition to continue its pressure even in the event of Russian de-escalation over Ukraine. Deep differences could emerge among sanctioning states as to what concession or change of behavior by Russia would be sufficient to lift sanctions. For example, some sanctioning states will themselves face greater blowback costs from sanctions, and so may be willing to accept less from Russia in order to end sanctions sooner. Others — including, of course, Ukraine itself — could set the bar higher. This dynamic makes it hard to use promises to lift sanctions as a credible bargaining tool. It also privileges maintaining the restrictions that states already managed to agree upon.

In addition, the relative power of the Western bloc may increase further as the Russian economy collapses. Russia’s weakness may be perceived as an opportunity to use sanctions to further degrade its



ability to fight future conflicts. The problem is not in the desire to use sanctions in this manner — which is itself a potentially effective strategy — but rather in Russia’s expectation that this will be the case. Knowing that an even more powerful West will be tempted to continue pressing, Russia has few reasons to believe an off-ramp that includes claims that sanctions would be lifted. This expectation would strangle any prospects for diplomacy.

Overt Military Aid: Fast and Risky

The United States and members of NATO have made it clear that they will not send soldiers into Ukraine to fight Russia. But this limit belies the scale of indirect involvement in the war.

Western nations have marshaled massive packages of lethal military aid to arm Ukrainian forces with a variety of weapons and equipment — from Javelin antitank and Stinger surface-to-air missiles to machine guns, sniper rifles, ammunition, and secure communication systems. Washington authorized over \$350 million in military aid and started delivering the weapons to staging grounds in Poland within days. The European Union took the unprecedented step of establishing a common purchase fund of almost \$500 million for members to send weapons. So far, over 22 countries have joined this effort to flow arms and material support into Ukraine.

Military aid is a venerable tactic for inflicting pain on an adversary without the risks associated with direct action. The goal is simple: Arm Ukrainians so they can more effectively kill Russian soldiers and resist the invasion. In the past, however, lethal military assistance has often been cloaked under a veil of plausible deniability. Washington’s use of covert intermediaries in Pakistan to support the mujahideen insurgency against the Soviets in Afghanistan is the most infamous example. The covert nature of this lethal military assistance dampened escalation risks between the two superpowers, which helped to keep the local war from spilling over into a major confrontation. Russia also seems to utilize private mercenary forces, notably the Wagner Group, to intervene in local conflicts around the world without running risks of direct confrontation with Western militaries.

The notable difference in Ukraine today is that Western nations are brandishing military aid in an overt fashion. Many leaders have made public announcements laying out material support commitments to Ukraine; official government social-media accounts echo these statements.

The overt nature of this military aid campaign can enhance coercive punishment against Moscow in three ways. First, the United States and its European allies appear to be imposing more immediate costs on Russian forces compared to going covert. Sending weapons to Ukraine in plain sight enables the West to send more weapons faster than if it were trying to do so stealthily and with deniability. Instead of making lengthy efforts to hide weapon shipments to staging grounds, Western nations can spend more time and resources on supplying military aid as quickly as possible given operational security concerns. The outpouring of support seems to be bolstering the morale and capabilities of Ukrainian forces, enabling them to inflict grave setbacks on the Russian incursion.

Second, overt military assistance demonstrates Western resolve to run significant risks over Ukraine. There is a stronger element of brinkmanship at play here relative to the covert option. Overtly arming Ukrainians sets in motion a process that could get out of hand, dragging the United States and NATO closer toward the brink of direct intervention against Russian forces. The groundswell of public opposition in the West to Russia’s actions may soon push Western leaders to become more involved in the conflict. For example, a chorus of voices is already calling for more lethal aid and even attacks on Russia to establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine. This process puts pressure on Moscow (and the West) to end the crisis before it boils over.

Third, the focus on public signals bolsters alliance cohesion. NATO members have struggled to mount unified responses to Russian revanchism in the past. But Western leaders are now tying their hands to military aid commitments in front of each other and their audiences at home and abroad, including Moscow. Military staff from the United States, Britain, and the European Union are also coordinating several efforts to send weapons and materials to Ukraine, pulling NATO and E.U. members closer together. These highly visible steps raise the costs of defection — states are less likely to break ranks down the road after making overt commitments and empowering multilateral coordination cells. The



more unified the response that Russia confronts, the greater the threat of punishment becomes as the war drags out.

The campaign to arm Ukraine is proving to be an essential tactic for routing Russian forces and increasing the cost of the war for Moscow. This effort should continue until Russia reverses course. But as with the sanctions, the same attributes that make the overt provision of military aid such a powerful instrument of coercive punishment also create barriers to guiding Putin down an off-ramp later. Public rather than secret commitments to arm Ukraine's military introduce domestic political friction into any future rollback process. It will be more difficult for Western leaders to dial these activities back down without sparking domestic criticism. Western leaders may need to consider the electoral consequences of ending military aid, especially if the public views rollback as tantamount to appeasing Putin.

In a similar vein, disagreements among nations about when to end military assistance could spoil diplomatic deals down the road. Some European states more directly threatened by Russian aggression now have even stronger incentives to further bolster future deterrence through more military assistance. This may well be a prudent move. The Baltics, for example, might see a bargain with Russia that limits Western assistance as resolving an immediate problem at the expense of creating another one down the line. This variety of incentives within the coalition will make it difficult to maintain unity after the moment of crisis passes. And as with the financial sanctions, Russia might anticipate that some states will want to keep sending weapons into Ukraine, and see assurances about the future of military aid as meaningless and little reason to change its behavior.

The rapid provision of weapons at the outset of the conflict could enable an insurgency to flourish in Ukraine over the long term. Given the overt commitments made so far, Western countries would become the public patrons of such a resistance force. But it can be hard to end an insurgent movement. Guerilla attacks can continue well after weapon shipments end. This would make it difficult to scale back the violence in Ukraine as part of a negotiated settlement with Moscow. Russia is no stranger to observing how military assistance takes on a life of its own during a long insurgency, so may not see even a promise to cease future lethal aid to Ukraine as such a valuable Western concession in a bargain.

Delayed Demands

Compellence usually benefits from laying out specific demands with deadlines by which time the adversary must comply. "There has to be a deadline," Thomas Schelling underscored, "otherwise tomorrow never comes." Without a deadline, the adversary could use diplomacy as a ruse to buy time while advancing its objectives. But in this case, Western countries may well be deliberately delaying their demands, even though it seems to violate a core tenet of compellence. The White House intimated as much on Mar. 3, with White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki telling reporters, "I don't think now is the moment where we are giving anybody that sort of an off-ramp." Delayed demands may be quite beneficial in the context of the Ukraine conflict for three reasons.

First, withholding demands could buy time for economic sanctions and military aid to inflict visible costs on Russia. Unlike direct military action, the full effects of these types of measures are not apparent immediately. In some past coercive campaigns, states have also let the punishment kick in before laying out specific criteria for it to end. Before negotiating the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran over its nuclear program in 2015, for example, the United States walked away from public diplomacy for several years and laid siege to Tehran with harsh multilateral sanctions. Western leaders may want to make the unfolding status quo in Ukraine more untenable for Putin. As key actors in Russia feel the mounting costs of the conflict with each passing day, they could become more pliable to Western demands to change this status quo.

Second, the situation on the ground in Ukraine may be moving too fast for the West to nail down concrete demands. By exercising patience, Western states put themselves in a better position to identify more specific bargaining terms as the situation solidifies. The ideal demand today might not be the prudent demand a week later. Leaders do not want to make a demand and then make a new, lesser demand — it gives the appearance that they are conceding. Unfortunately, smaller demands sometimes become the only viable option for ending the conflict. The grim logic of war termination therefore means that leaders may be wise to hold off on issuing public demands during the initial stages of battle.



Third, the absence of public demands opens space for Western diplomats to probe conditions behind closed doors. Perhaps Washington and Brussels already conveyed conditions to Moscow in private through backchannels or intermediaries. This move could help the West to manage the dilemma between imposing significant punishment on Putin while eventually presenting him with an off-ramp to end the war. Private demands would give the United States and its allies more room to maneuver without the appearance of backing down or relieving pressure.

There are, however, some notable downsides to delayed demands when it comes to creating credible off-ramps out of the conflict. The lack of clear demands might fuel a belief that Putin already seems to hold — the notion that the West is determined to undermine and weaken Russia. The image of punitive measures targeting Russia with no end in sight could be used to further galvanize Putin’s domestic propaganda. In this environment, Putin himself, his top leadership, and the broader Russian public may become increasingly unlikely to believe any Western off-ramp offers made down the road. The lack of public demands also erodes the credibility of any promises attached to private discussions. It is easier for leaders to disavow pledges made away from public scrutiny. Russia may anticipate this and see private assurances as inherently not credible, or worry that Western leaders will be pressured by their own publics to reverse assurances when they are revealed.

Implications

It is, of course, important to underscore that the Ukrainian people will ultimately decide what terms they can accept with Russia. They should retain full agency to accept or reject any negotiated settlement.

The West should try to stay on the same page as the Ukrainian government. Keeping a close eye on the tradeoffs between coercive punishment and assurance will be crucial. Other scholars have already noted how direct military involvement raises escalation risks. Our analysis suggests another dynamic. Western sanctions and military aid are improving Ukraine’s bargaining leverage. But the success of this punishment could make it harder for the Ukrainians to cut a deal with Russia, if diplomacy ever returns as a viable solution. Western leaders may not be able to turn off the heat on Moscow in a seamless fashion, or even agree on when it should be turned off — the water in the pot may continue to boil for some time. Without clear signs that de-escalation will ease punishment on Russia beyond the battlefields in Ukraine, Moscow may opt to double down on the war. In this way the West could inadvertently spoil a deal the Ukrainians broker to end the war with Russia.

Putin’s track record of coercive diplomacy in the lead-up to the invasion also suggests that he could reject all off-ramps in the future. He has repeatedly used diplomacy to practice deception. He may double down anyway, seeing victory on the ground as the only acceptable outcome, even at immense economic cost. Yet it is still essential to make sure that punishment levers can be dialed down as part of a coherent compellence strategy. Putin’s rejection of reasonable off-ramps would itself provide timely warning of even more malign revanchist motives. Moreover, it could be more costly to back Putin into a corner where escalation with more indiscriminate violence is his sole option. Even deals with small probabilities of success are worth trying to avoid greater catastrophe.

At this stage we cannot divine the precise shape that assurances or off-ramps might take as the conflict unfolds. The difficulty of making both threats and assurances credible haunts compellence strategies in general. But it appears to be especially vexing in the Ukraine conflict. Unfortunately, our analysis does not yield satisfying solutions to the dilemma, beyond identifying how it works and what kind of problems should be anticipated.

The policy focus thus far has rightly been on making the war costly for Russia in economic and military terms. Going forward, any transition to compellence will require greater attention to the tension between inflicting necessary damage on Moscow while ultimately promising to stop the punishment once Putin complies with Ukrainian and Western demands. There are good reasons to keep these preparations private. But Western leaders should anticipate the friction points likely to emerge from the coercive tactics on vivid display now, especially if war termination does ultimately require the Ukrainians to strike a grim bargain with Moscow.



Jane Vaynman is an assistant professor of political science at Temple University. She is the 2021-22 Lightning Scholar at Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. Follow her on Twitter at @JaneVaynman.

Tristan A. Volpe is an assistant professor in the Defense Analysis Department of the **Naval Postgraduate School** and a nonresident fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is grateful for insightful feedback on earlier parts of this analysis from his students.

[Making Coercion Work Against Russia - War on the Rocks](#)

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“I Wouldn’t Be Surprised if a Year From Now Nord Stream 2 Was Functional” (Audio Interview)

(Energy Live News 14 Mar 22) ... Dimitris Mavrokefalidis

International energy specialist tells ELN that the current energy crisis is more severe than the 1973 oil crisis.

Much speculation has been made over the mark the Russia-Ukraine war will leave on the global energy industry.

Asked whether she believes that the impact of this war will still be felt by the international energy markets in the years to come, Brenda Shaffer, Professor at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School** and Senior Advisor for Energy at the research institute Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told ELN: “I am not sure what kind of lessons we will learn.

“I would not be surprised, maybe I’m going to pay for this comment, but I would not be surprised if a year from now, Nord Stream 2 was functional.

“Let’s see, once there’s ceasefire and people are not dying and if the Russian troops go home who knows, we will probably be back to where we were.”

Professor Shaffer added that the current energy crisis is potentially more severe than the 1973 oil crisis.

Watch the video to listen to the entire interview.

["I wouldn't be surprised if a year from now Nord Stream 2 was functional" - Energy Live News](#)

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Listen: Sanctions on Russia Create High Stakes for Global Economy, Fuel Prices (Audio Interview)

(SP Global 14 Mar 22) ... Jasmin Melvin

The oil markets' reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been dramatic to say the least as global oil and gas supplies, already struggling to keep up with the strong post-pandemic recovery in fuel demand, were further tightened as countries pulled away from Russian resources. And the Analytics team at S&P Global Commodity Insights has said "there are not sufficient sources of incremental supply to cover a substantial prolonged loss of Russian oil."

Senior editor Jasmin Melvin spoke with foreign policy and international energy specialist Brenda Shaffer, Professor at the U.S. **Naval Postgraduate School**, about what's needed to shore up global energy supplies and bring down prices, as well as whether sanctions remain the right tool for dealing with geopolitical conflicts.

Stick around after the interview for Starr Spencer with the Market Minute, a look at near-term oil market drivers.

[Sanctions on Russia create high stakes for global economy, fuel prices | S&P Global Commodity Insights \(spglobal.com\)](#)



ALUMNI:

Dan Rodricks: The Remarkable Bob Bruninga Believed We Could Lick Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels

(Baltimore Sun 8 Mar 22) ... Dan Rodricks

I know what Bob Bruninga would say about Vladimir Putin's barbaric war on Ukraine and the calls for the U.S. and its allies to ban the import of Russian oil as a major sanction: "The future is electric vehicles. The more we build them, the more people drive them, the less dependent America will be on foreign oil. We will lick our addiction to fossil fuels."

As an electrical engineer, Bruninga was bullish on electricity and using the sun to make more of it to power our homes and cars.

He was an ingenious and energetic man who, until his death last month, contributed thousands of watts of brain power and voluminous volts of enthusiasm to electrical systems, radio technology, solar power arrays, small satellites and hybrid and electric vehicles.

Bruninga, who was 73, had lived with advanced sarcoma for two years and his family said his death in February "was precipitated by the long-term effects of COVID-19." I wish I had spent more time with him. He was certainly one of the most interesting men I ever met.

People in Anne Arundel County saw him driving around in his customized "woody" Toyota Prius adorned with rooftop solar panels and signs promoting hybrid vehicles. Boaters who cruised into a certain part of Marley Creek might have seen his amazing solar pier jutting out from Bruninga's waterfront property.

Some might have called him eccentric, especially when he drove his solarized "FrankenVolt" between his home in Glen Burnie and his job at the U.S. Naval Academy.

But Bruninga was a serious, forward-thinking citizen of Planet Earth, distressed by climate change and doing everything possible to reduce his carbon footprint and encourage others to do the same.

My first contact with him was by email. He chided me for a column opposing the construction of a third Chesapeake Bay Bridge on the grounds that it would encourage more driving. "I agree that we have too many cars," Bruninga wrote, "but your argument that more cars means more emissions is a disjointed comparison." He then did what he did in numerous emails that followed — flooded me with facts about the robust development of EVs and battery technology and the positive effects renewable energy will have on the environment.

His message was this: The future is here, and if we embrace it now, we might save the planet.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, he was the son of Ervin Bruninga, an FBI agent, and Maybelle Cornelius Bruninga, a homemaker and community leader. As a boy, Bob Bruninga developed a lifelong interest in electronics and ham radio. He also learned to love nature, joining the Boy Scouts and exploring the waterways and caves of northern Alabama with his siblings. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and graduated from Coffee High School in Florence, Alabama in 1966.

From there, he undertook studies in electrical engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology on a Navy ROTC scholarship. His senior project foreshadowed his interest in EVs: Bruninga electrified an old Volkswagen for the first MIT/Caltech cross-country Clean Air Car Race in 1970.

He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in California, spent 20 years in the Navy, reaching the rank of commander, and landed at the Naval Academy as a senior research engineer in the Aerospace Engineering Department, assisting students with capstone projects.

In 2001, Bruninga founded the academy's Small Satellite Program, helping midshipmen design and build microsattellites and take them to launch. One of the 11 academy satellites in orbit, PCSAT, is considered the oldest surviving student-built satellite in space, according to the academy.

Through all these years, Bruninga maintained a keen interest in the world of ham radio. He was considered a pioneer in the field, having developed the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) to use amateur radio to transmit messages and the real-time location of a person or vessel. Thousands of people have used it, according to a biography provided by Bruninga's family.

"Bob [enabled] school groups to talk with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station via ham radio," says the biography. "Bob founded the annual Appalachian Trail Golden Packet event during which APRS users send messages along Appalachian Trail summits from Georgia to Maine each July."

While at the Naval Academy in 1985, Bruninga met his wife, astronomer and professor Elise Albert, when he wanted to build a radio antenna next to the observatory on the Physics Department roof. Bob often quipped that he "didn't get the antenna but did get a wife."

The Bruningas, who were married 37 years, had a daughter, Bethanne, and a son, A.J. Their century-old waterfront home became a solar power showplace, with panels to catch the sun on the roof of the house and garage, on the lawn below their rear deck and along a floating pier. A geothermal system heats and cools the house.

There will be a memorial at the Annapolis Friends Meeting at a date to be announced.

His family had two suggestions for those who wanted to honor Bob Bruninga in some way. The first was to make a donation to an educational program related to the International Space Station called Space Telerobotics using Amateur Radio. The second suggestion requires a bit more effort but strikes me as perfect: "Take a special action of your choice, whether large or small, in his memory that contributes to conserving and sustaining our planet."

[Dan Rodricks: The remarkable Bob Bruninga believed we could lick our addiction to fossil fuels | COMMENTARY – Baltimore Sun](#)

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Bestselling Author, Veteran Brad Taylor First In-Person Author in Two Years at Barr Library Event

(Army.mil 10 Mar 22)

New York Times bestselling author Brad Taylor will discuss his newest thriller, *End of Days*, March 25 in Barr Memorial Library's first in-person Authors at Your Library program since March 2020.

Taylor will discuss *End of Days*, his newest thriller in the bestselling Pike Logan series, beginning at 11:30 a.m., with copies available for purchase.

Stuck at home in Charleston for months because of COVID, Taskforce operators Nephilim "Pike" Logan and Jennifer Cahill finally have the chance to get married in a lavish ceremony in front of family and friends. But their plans suddenly change when two trusted Israeli allies, Shoshana and Aaron, show up at the rehearsal with an urgent request. A former head of the Mossad has apparently been assassinated by an Iranian-backed terrorist group while paragliding in Switzerland. But Shoshana and Aaron doubt that theory, and want the Taskforce to help identify the true culprits. This mission, however, is a stretch even for Pike and his team of unconventional operators, starting with their need to travel on Israeli passports in order to evade COVID restrictions as they race the clock to stop World War III. A prophesy for the *End of Days*. A man hell-bent on starting a new war to end all wars. Only Pike Logan stands in the way.

A retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, Taylor is a 21-year veteran of the Infantry and Special Forces. He retired in 2010 after participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as classified missions around the world. He holds a Master of Science degree in Defense Analysis from the **Naval Postgraduate School**, with a concentration in Irregular Warfare.

Taylor published his first book, *One Rough Man*, which became an immediate hit and established the bestselling Pike Logan series in 2011. Subsequent books in the series include *Hunter Traitor* and *American Killer*.



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Capt. Everett Alcorn Assumes Command of Navy Officer Training Command Newport

(DVIDS 11 Mar 22) ... Darwin Lam

A change of command ceremony was held for Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) at the Marine Detachment Auditorium in Newport, R.I., March 11.

Capt. Everett Alcorn relieved Capt. Mark Hazenberg as commanding officer of OTCN.

Under Hazenberg's leadership, OTCN trained more than 6,000 students. He directed high-risk training, including the Firefighter Trainer, Combat Training Pool, and Damage Control Wet Trainer, providing training to more than 30,000 students across Officer Candidate School (OCS), Officer Development School (ODS), Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), Surface Warfare Officers Command, U.S. Coast Guard units, and fleet units. OTCN also earned the Naval Education Training Command (NETC) Retention Excellence Award in 2020 and 2021.

"The OTCN team continues to impress me," said Hazenberg. "They have met challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, with enthusiasm and a 'can-do' attitude – continuing to send quality leadership to the fleet."

Hazenberg was awarded the Legion of Merit for his contribution and accomplishments during his tour of duty from July 2020 to March 2022.

Alcorn arrived to OTCN after serving as a military professor in the National Security Affairs Department at the U.S. Naval War College.

During the ceremony, Alcorn shared his excitement while addressing the staff.

"Watching you develop future leaders morally, mentally, and physically on a daily basis and witnessing your professionalism and dedication is inspiring," said Alcorn. "I am truly honored to be here. I am excited about the opportunity to shape the future leaders of our Navy and I can't wait to see your future accomplishments."

He graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a degree in computer science. Following flight training in Pensacola, Fla., he was designated a naval aviator in 2000. He received his master's degree in business administration from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in 2006, completed Command and General Staff College at Marine Corps University in 2013, and is a 2021 graduate of the NATO Defense College.

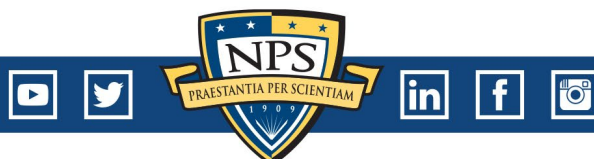
Alcorn's operational assignments include tours with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Six (HC-6), USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Eleven (HS-11). He commanded Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC-28).

Hazenberg heads to Office of the Commander, Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii next.

OTCN is overseen by the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), headquartered at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill. NSTC manages all initial Navy officer and enlisted accessions training except for the U.S. Naval Academy.

OTCN conducts four officer accession training schools and is located at Naval Station Newport. The four schools consist of Officer Candidate School (OCS); Officer Development School (ODS); the Limited Duty Officer and Chief Warrant Officer (LDO/CWO) Academy and the Naval Science Institute - Seaman to Admiral 21 (STA-21) Program. The officers on staff, Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs) and U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructors (DIs) also provide training assistance for these schools, especially with the academic and physical training of the candidates and students.

The mission of OTCN is to develop civilians and fleet Sailors morally, mentally, and physically into newly commissioned officers, imbuing them with the highest ideals of honor, courage, and commitment in order to prepare graduates for service in the fleet as Naval officers.



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VX-9 Holds Aerial Change of Command

(DVIDS 11 Mar 22) ... Hannah Moore

Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Nine (VX-9) held an aerial change of command ceremony above Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Mar. 10.

During the change of command event, Capt. Todd Zentner assumed all duties and responsibilities as the Commanding Officer of VX-9 from Capt. William McCombs.

McCombs' command began in 2021 and since then he has led over 350 officers and enlisted personnel through a variety of events.

"I had the privilege of joining this squadron exactly 4 years ago. During this tour I have witnessed amazing things from Vampires. Your demonstrated expertise, hard work, and sweat is essential to ensuring our warfighters can launch off the pointy end of the boat on dark nights, and fly into battle with confidence," he said.

During Capt. McCombs tour as Commanding Officer, he focused on not only maintaining Navy standards but also updating and refurbishing outdated elements of VX-9.

Vice Adm. Kenneth Whitesell, Commander, Naval Air Forces/Commander, Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet, had this to say about Capt. McCombs' service, "As a quiet, humble professional over the last 26 years, you have lived the warrior ethos many strive for, but few realize. No words will capture all you have done for our country".

Captain William McCombs is a native of Concord, CA. Prior to assuming command of VX-9 he served as the Chief Operational Test Director of VX-9 from 2018 to 2021. He is a 1996 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1998. He holds a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California and is a graduate of U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Class 126.

McCombs' operational tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington include Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 134, VAQ-135, and VAQ-132, where he served as the Executive and Commanding Officer. He flew in Operations ALLIED FORCE, NORTHERN WATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM.

McCombs had this to say about his time at VX-9, "It has been an honor and my privilege to stand in front of you as the CO and fly your aircraft. Fair winds to each and every one of you. I wish you the very best."

"Captain Zentner, your leadership will ensure VX-9 continues to evolve to support the Air Wing of the Future in the most effective and cost-efficient manner. The Vampires are lucky to have you. I know you are up for the challenge," McCombs added about his relief.

Captain Todd Zentner is a native of Mill Creek, Washington. He is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 2000. He holds a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Capt. Zentner's operational tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington include Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 140, VAQ-135, and VAQ-133, where he served as the Executive and Commanding Officer. He flew in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM while deployed on USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) and USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). During an additional sea tour, he served as the Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 Landing Signals Officer (LSO) on USS JOHN C STENNIS.

Capt. Zentner also completed shore tours as an instructor pilot and LSO at VAQ-129, VAQ Detailer at PERS-43, and EA-18G GROWLER Requirements Officer attached to the Director of Air Warfare, OPNAV N-98.

“Vampires, I am proud to serve with you. The business of VX-9 is very clear. We deliver victory. Whether the fight is east or west, we ensure the leading edge is equipped to win. That is not easy work. In fact, it is extremely hard, and hard is authorized.”- Capt. Todd Zentner, Commanding Officer (VX-9)

[DVIDS - News - VX-9 Holds Aerial Change of Command \(dvidshub.net\)](https://dvidshub.net)

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Leon Native Participates in Ice Exercise 2022 in Arctic Ocean

(McPherson Sentinel 12 Mar 22) ... Stephanie Fox

A Leon, Kansas, native is serving with Naval Ice Center supporting Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2022 in the Arctic Ocean.

ICEX 2022 is a threeweek exercise designed to research, test, and evaluate operational capabilities in the Arctic region.

Lt. Colleen Wilmington joined the Navy more than six years ago for the opportunities the military provides.

“I joined the Navy because my great-grandfather, Wilbur Clayton “Wil” Klemm, Sr., Captain USN (Ret.) commissioned from the United States Naval Academy in 1948,” said Wilmington. “His life inspired me to join the Navy. He encouraged my career until his passing in February 2020.”

Wilmington is a 2011 Bluestem High School graduate and a 2015 University of Kansas graduate. Wilmington was also selected for **Naval Postgraduate School**, July 2022. Wilmington has taken the skills learned from education and those learned in Leon to become the sailor they are today.

“Growing up, I learned the importance of working until the job is done and the importance of teamwork,” said Wilmington.

Wilmington serves with the Naval meteorology and oceanography officer.

“My favorite part about being in the Navy is working with sailors and advancing integration across the unit,” said Wilmington.

According to Navy officials, U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel are participating in the exercise alongside personnel from the Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Canadian Navy, and the United Kingdom Royal Navy.

During the exercise, personnel will conduct research and operations in the Arctic Region. A temporary ice camp named Ice Camp Queenfish is being established which consists of shelters, a command center, and infrastructure to safely house and support more than 60 personnel at any one time.

“The Arctic region can be unforgiving and challenging like no other place on Earth,” said Rear Adm. Richard Seif, commander of the Navy’s Undersea Warfighting Development Center in Groton, Connecticut, and the ranking officer of ICEX 2022. “It’s also changing and becoming more active with maritime activity. ICEX 2022 provides the Navy an opportunity to increase capability and readiness in this unique environment, and to continue establishing best practices we can share with partners and allies who share the U.S.’s goal of a free and peaceful Arctic.”

Serving in the Navy means Wilmington is part of a world that is taking on new importance in America’s focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

“The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command contributes to national defense through situational awareness and environmental preparation of the battlespace, which informs and anticipates impacts from the seafloor to the stars,” said Wilmington.

There are many opportunities for sailors to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

“My proudest accomplishment in the Navy was participation in Tri-Carrier Operations in 2017,” said Wilmington. “I served on USS Theodore Roosevelt as a Surface Warfare Officer, Nimitz as a Surface



Warfare Officer and Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Team (NOAT) Understudy, and Ronald Reagan as the NOAT Lead. ICEX 2022 will likely replace Tri-Carrier Ops as my proudest achievement.”

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Wilmington, as well as other sailors, know they are part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe for generations of sailors who will follow.

“Serving in the Navy means giving back and being a part of a bigger community,” added Wilmington. “As a Naval meteorology and oceanography officer, we have the opportunity to be involved in a multitude of operations and it improves how we understand and support everything from research to operations.”

[Leon native participates in Ice Exercise 2022 in Arctic Ocean – The McPherson Sentinel](#)

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