Students Deploy, Provide Emergency Communications Support

By Kenneth A. Stewart

The Naval Postgraduate School’s Hastily Formed Networks (HFN) Research Group recently deployed to the Central Philippines to support disaster recovery efforts in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. HFN Research Group Director, and NPS Department of Information Sciences Lecturer Brian Steckler deployed to the region in advance of his student team to conduct early communications assessments.

“I am working with the Marine Corps Pacific Forces Experimentation Center in support of the Third Marine Battalion (3rd MEB). The 3rd MEB is in charge of the initial Marine response to Typhoon Haiyan,” said Steckler. “My first step was to find out where they want to use our communications capabilities and to conduct an assessment to determine local communications needs.”

The Hastily Formed Networks group is not just in it for the academic value. We have deployed to other major disasters where we have provided real support to people in desperate need.” U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Travis Beeson

HFN teams equipped with satellite-enabled, handheld devices were given the green light to conduct rapid Information and Communication Technology assessments. NPS’ HFN team also used the advanced communications tools at their disposal to create hastily formed networks.

“The communications link is critical, we cannot coordinate if we can’t communicate,” said NPS student and U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Travis Beeson of Versailles, Ohio. “We establish emergency communications between critical HA/DR centers, hospitals and NGOs.

According to Steckler, a major complication in a situation like this is aid distribution — some areas do not get enough assistance and others get too much. HFN members helped to establish the communications infrastructure that will allow disaster relief professionals to get to the areas where aid is needed most.

“The Hastily Formed Networks group is not just in it for the academic value. We have deployed to other major disasters where we have provided real support to people in desperate need,” said Beeson. Ironically, Beeson was just recently in the Philippines to establish a baseline assessment of the Philippine communications infrastructure in support of a thesis he is writing about communications and disaster relief operations.
University Center for Civil-Military Relations Supports Multinational Counterterrorism Exercise

By Kenneth A. Stewart

Students and faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR) recently completed a three-year effort to lead an unprecedented 18-nation counterterrorism exercise conducted under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states at the Indonesian Peace and Security Center located in Sentul, Indonesia.

The exercise was born of the 2010 inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Participants were drawn from an elite group of ministers from the ten ASEAN member states — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and the eight partnered or “plus” nations — Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.

“The exercise involved 872 military and civilian personnel from all 18 ASEAN Plus countries and was the first to be conducted under the auspices of the ADMM-Plus EWG-CT,” said CCMR Deputy Counter Terrorism Program Director retired Navy Capt. Tim Doorey.

“The long-term goal of the exercise was to have a common regional procedure in tackling transnational terrorism,” added Indonesian Armed Forces Commander Gen. Moeldoko.

Doorey noted the strategic and economic importance of the ASEAN Plus member states taking part in the exercise.

“More people live inside ADMM-Plus countries than the rest of the world combined, and more than half of the world’s GDP resides in these 18 nations,” said Doorey.

CCMR involvement in the exercise dates back to Feb. 2012, when the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense — Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, approached the CCMR for assistance in the preparation of a series of realistic scenarios and the creation of a strategic-level Table Top Exercise (TTX) designed to help ASEAN members states to improve multinational, regional responses to terrorist threats in South East Asia.

“The decision was made to have a two-year program leading to a major exercise. We were tasked to come up with scenarios that were designed to force regional cooperation,” said Doorey.

“Counterterrorism is generally treated as a national or law enforcement issue. We wanted to show through realistic scenarios that there are many areas where unilateral, or even bi-lateral, responses to terrorism would likely fail and demonstrated the utility of a multinational effort to eradicate this problem,” continued Doorey.

Research into counterterrorism is one of the core areas that the CCMR at NPS has been addressing since its inception in 2002.

“The CCMR’s mission is to build partner capacity and to improve interagency and international coordination and cooperation by addressing civil military challenges which include, amongst other things, combating terrorism,” said CCMR Combating Terrorism Program Manager Paul Shemella.

CCMR-developed counterterrorism scenarios were pitted against four multinational working groups tasked with addressing a major maritime threat against a liquefied natural gas facility or tanker, or an attack against a major regional athletic and cultural event with global attendance. The threat of a Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) in the hands of a sophisticated regional terrorist organization was added on the last day of the exercise.

“The TTX was very strategic in nature, we looked at the long range work that needs to be done in response to terrorism and piracy,” said former NPS Superintendent and CCMR Strategic Communications Specialist, retired Rear Adm. Richard Wells. “The answer to dealing with terrorism is a strategic planning process which includes communicating, building infrastructure, and training together to deal with terrorism.”

As Indonesia and the U.S.’ three-year co-chairmanship of the EWG-CT comes to a close, preparation for the 2nd iteration of exercises and multinational counterterrorism efforts are already under way.

Singapore and Australia will assume co-chairmanship for the EWG-CT in April of 2014.
Naval Studies Program Pits NPS Student Expertise Against Navy’s Challenges

By Kenneth A. Stewart

The Office of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) has turned to the Naval Postgraduate School and its core of operationally-experienced students and expert faculty to directly address some of the most challenging questions facing the sea services today under the umbrella of the Naval Studies Program.

“We are working to educate the operational code leaders about what we are capable of here at NPS and working with the codes in the Pentagon to find matches between operational needs and our capabilities,” said NPS Dean of Research Dr. Jeff Paduan.

The program aims to make NPS students available to Navy leaders as the students apply their NPS education and operational experience to pressing naval challenges. Program organizers hope to accomplish this through the alignment of applied naval studies requirements, student-led research, and the interdisciplinary expertise of NPS faculty.

“What I think is exciting is that this program will allow students and faculty to rotate through operational problems and learn what is important to the Navy. In turn, the program gives us the opportunity to showcase some of our abilities and to highlight the value that we bring,” said Paduan.

Associate Professor retired Army Col. Alejandro “Andy” Hernandez serves as the Naval Studies Program project manager at NPS.

“NPS studies and analysis activities will serve as a focal point, stimulus, and major source of strategic, tactical, and operational thought within the Navy communities,” said Hernandez.

Program organizers are now laying the groundwork necessary to facilitate interaction between naval codes and NPS students. “Next year we hope to incorporate some sort of requirements fair — a workshop where sponsors from the various operational codes can present their problems and meet with students interested in working on specific problems,” said Paduan.

But while the Naval Studies Program is still in its infancy, several, program-sponsored studies are already underway at NPS. In fact, a combined total of 76 Marine Corps and Navy studies will be in full swing by December.

NPS student, Lt. Jerry Wyrick, is conducting a study that is indicative of the type of research that the Naval Studies Program was developed to address.

While working in the naval intelligence field, he and his colleagues were forced to make some difficult choices. The Information Dominance Officers that were coming to his office required training, but under current manning and fiscal constraints, attending a typical 18-month cyber information dominance program was not an option.

Recognizing the need for a fiscally-sound, short-term training solution, Wyrick is using Naval Studies Program funds to develop a course that will answer the cyber community’s basic training needs.

“Upon graduation, course participants will be able to do entry level programming. If you understand the logic of programming and what your system is capable of, you will be able to gain the skillsets necessary to understand the capabilities that exist,” said Wyrick.

NPS Department of Physics Assistant Professor Joseph P. Hooper was named the 2013 Carl E. and Jessie W. Mennenken Faculty Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. Hooper was recognized for his highly regarded research on explosives, explosive detection, lightweight armor and materials under extreme conditions. Since joining NPS in 2011, Hooper has published nine peer-reviewed articles and has been awarded more than $2 million in research grants. Hooper has also presented his work to the prestigious American Physical Society and has advised to completion 13 M.S. theses at NPS, one award-winning, and has supervised 12 summer interns.

Retired Rear Adm. Robert C. Austin who served as NPS Superintendent from July 1986 to July 1989, passed away early this month near family and loved ones in Connecticut. Austin’s 35 years of naval service as a submariner included command of the USS Finback (SSN-670), a Sturgeon class attack submarine, from 1968–1972. He also served as deputy commissioner, U.S. Component of the US/USSR Standing Consultative Commission and as director for International Negotiations. In this capacity, Austin played a critical role in the disarmament talks between the United States and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

NPS Space Systems Professor Jim Newman is working with U.S. Southern Command on an ambitious international CubeSat program in an effort to evaluate how low-cost space communications capabilities can support information sharing and tactical communications across wide geographic regions, including remote and densely forested areas. The CubeSats were launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base aboard an Atlas 5 rocket and housed inside an NPS developed CubeSat launcher—the NPS Cul. The launcher held eight Poly-PICOSatellite Orbital Deployers from which the satellites were deployed.
The Naval Postgraduate School and the U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office (E2O) have partnered under an initiative to conduct student-led research that will address some of the Marine Corps’ most pressing energy challenges.

The Marine Corps first initiated the E2O program in 2009 with the mission to “analyze, develop and direct the Marine Corps’ energy strategy.” The impetus for the initiative was born of the realization that the Marine Corps is using far more energy today than it did in the past. “Over the last 10–15 years, we have had a 250 percent increase in computer usage on the battlefield, and the average Marine infantry battalion is using four-times the amount of fuel today than it did in 2001,” said E2O Director Marine Corps Col. Jim Caley.

“The investments we are making today in technology and cultural change at the forward edge of the battlefield have the opportunity to reduce our fuel reliance and the number of logistical convoys that feed that need,” continued Caley.

Caley notes that Marine Corps efforts to reduce reliance on traditional fuel sources will increase the operational reach of expeditionary units and save lives as well as dollars. He also insists that the student research being conducted at NPS provides real value to the Marine Corps. “Our students study at NPS and then come back prepared to lead us to a great energy future,” said Caley. “We get tremendous value from the non-uniformed perspective [of NPS faculty]. They look at us from outside with, the audacity to question why we do things, but then help us to move forward.”

NPS Associate Professors retired Army Col. Andy Hernandez and Dr. Jomana Amara lead the E20 effort at NPS. “We want to educate Marine Corps officers to look at energy differently, and to help them to come up with energy solutions for the Marine Corps’ energy problems,” said Amara. “The E20 program is concerned with expediting applications of portable and renewable energy.”

“We are most concerned with the manner in which green technologies affect the operational footprint,” said Hernandez. “Whenever you look at an operational gap, you have to consider the energy usage.”

Program administrators say the program is a win for both the Marine Corps, and the students pursuing energy-related studies. “When they [NPS students] leave, they leave with a set of skills with direct benefit to the Marine Corps,” said Amara.

NPS Senior Marine Corps Representative, Col. Mitchell McCarthy insists that Marine Corps investments into energy research directly support the Marine Corps’ combat effectiveness. “The amount of fuel required to support a single Marine in the field is really astronomical,” said McCarthy. “What we are doing here is finding solutions that will allow us to reduce those fuel needs and focus our logistical trains on those things that we need to use to accomplish our mission.”

Fleet Master Chief Addresses NPS Enlisted Staff

Fleet Master Chief for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (MPT&E) April Beldo met with NPS enlisted staff members during a scheduled visit to the campus, Nov. 20. Beldo offered a behind the scenes view of Navy career planning and advancement, while sharing some of the lessons she has learned over her decades-long naval career.

“I have served for over 30 years, and my best tool has always been staying positive and daily self discipline,” said Beldo. “I encourage you all to continue preparing yourselves for the next level,” she continued. “Many of you will become the Navy’s future leaders, and when you get there, your junior Sailors will be seeking your advice.”

As one of only four fleet master chiefs in the U.S. Navy, Beldo also discussed the role of senior enlisted staff. “It is our responsibility to provide an opportunity for junior Sailors to succeed in their careers,” said Beldo. “We signed up for this experience … This is how we take care of the country, our families and ourselves.”
NPS Supply Corps Student Honored With Prestigious Batchelder Award

By MC3 Danica M. Sirmans

NPS operations analysis student Lt. John Sprague was officially presented with the Navy League of the United States Vice Adm. Robert F. Batchelder Award by university President, retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, during a small ceremony in Herrmann Hall, Nov. 19.

The Batchelder Award is presented annually to select Supply Corps officers based upon their significant personal contributions to the supply readiness of the Navy’s operating forces. Sprague was honored for his time serving with SEAL Team Three.

“It really is a team award,” said Sprague. “I was very fortunate to be with a great team at LOGSU-1 [Logistics Support Group ONE] and SEAL Team Three. I’d like to share this recognition with them.”

Sprague worked with the Combat Service Support (CSS) personnel for SEAL Team Three and the Naval Special Warfare Group Logistics Support Unit in 2012.

“Our mission was to develop and maintain a wide range of enabling options for the combatant commander, and this award is really a testament to the dedication and expertise of the entire CSS troop in fulfilling that mission,” Sprague said. “I’m grateful to the Navy League for recognizing the contributions of Naval Special Warfare logisticians, and am very pleased to accept the award on behalf of our entire team.”

Due to limitations in travel, this year’s Batchelder Award honorees were presented with their awards during small ceremonies at their respective current commands. Sprague recently checked into NPS in pursuit of his master’s degree in the NPS Department of Operations Research.

“Effective and efficient resource allocation is a fundamental task for Supply Corps officers,” said Sprague. “The operations research curriculum [at NPS] provides a world-class opportunity to study and apply advanced methods for analysis and decision-making.”

The Batchelder award recognizes work done over the course of one full calendar year. Nominations are due in April of the following year and a Flag-led board selects awardees in May.

Monterey Military Cyber Association Sign of Growing Community

By Kenneth A. Stewart

Some of the Naval Postgraduate School’s, and the local communities, leading cyber thinkers recently came together in honor of the inaugural celebration of the Monterey Military Cyber Professionals Association, Nov. 22.

The association was the brainchild of NPS student, U.S. Army Capt. Joseph Billingsley, a strategist who recognized the need for a professional association that could cater to the needs of the various cyber-related professions — professions that have become increasingly critical to both industry and national defense.

“My motivation for focusing on cyber as opposed to more traditional areas of strategic thought was the growing concern about this field on Wall Street, K Street and Main Street. The need has been clearly articulated in numerous strategic planning documents and policies,” said Billingsley.

Former commander of U.S. Army Cyber Command retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, the first officer to lead Army Cyber Command, congratulated Billingsley on his work and expressed high hopes for the new organization.

“I applaud the work being done by Joe on the MCPA. Cyber is the number-one threat to national security, and people, not technology, will out think and out maneuver these cyber threats,” said Hernandez.

The Honourable Kim Beazley, Australian Ambassador to the United States, presented, Royal Australian Navy Capt. Michael Smith with the Medal of the Order of Australia during a short ceremony in Washington, D.C. last month. Smith serves as the Royal Australian Navy’s liaison officer to the Naval Postgraduate School. The investiture ceremony was conducted in support of the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, which was announced earlier this year. Smith was given the award for his exceptional performance of duty in Navy workforce design and management.

U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg addressed NPS Army Officers and Soldiers from the nearby Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, during a lecture offered at King Auditorium, Nov. 8. Bromberg addressed the critical manpower and personnel issues Army leaders are facing back in the Pentagon, while also fielding questions from the audience. “We are cutting back,” Bromberg said, presenting a message heard across all the services in the modern era of sequestration and its effects on the budget. Bromberg detailed manpower concerns and considerations while also delivering comment on Army Strategic Priorities across the service.
Chief of Naval Personnel Talks Manpower

By MC3 Danica Sirmans

Chief of Naval Personnel and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Vice Adm. William F. Moran recently addressed students at King Auditorium. The visit provided the Navy’s personnel chief with an opportunity to update the 1,500 officer students in attendance on key manpower issues facing the sea service.

“Our primarily role is to develop readiness and manning for the fleet, its central to what we do,” said Moran.

Moran made it clear that his focus, as chief of naval personnel, is to support the Chief of Naval Operations tenets — Warfighting First, Operate Forward, and Be Ready. He also stressed three of his own key concepts in addressing the Navy’s personnel issues — trust, balance, and stability.

“Trust became a huge issue for the mission,” said Moran. “It’s how you implement, execute, and communicate that makes the difference on how policy is received in the fleet … We have processes to [establish and] reestablish trust in the Navy and with its leaders.”

Moran also highlighted the need for balance in the fleet. He cited the Navy’s officer community, currently made up of 52 percent restricted officer designators, with 48 percent designated to warfighting.

“We need to get back to the 60 to 40 ratio in favor of the unrestricted line officer designators, especially in a time where we’re working with a pressurized budget,” said Moran. “I’m looking for balance across those lines.”

“Stability is also really important,” he continued. “Those are our three lines of business. When decisions come to me that don’t address the trust factor, don’t address the balance of the force, and don’t address the stability for families and Sailors, then we have to go back and get it right.”

With just an hour scheduled to address the crowd, Moran spent only half of his available time on his own remarks. “I will only consider this visit a success if I get to hear from you,” he said. In an effort to encourage dialogue with NPS students, Moran spent the rest of his time fielding questions from the student body.

In closing, he provided the officers with some advice for when they complete their academic programs and return to future assignments.

“If there’s one tip of advice that I have for students here, it would be to focus on communication,” Moran said. “You’re here to focus on research, data and science — focus on how you can communicate what you learn.”

Focus On … Incoming Ombudsman Crystal Culwell

A Monthly Look at Names and Faces on Campus

NPS Ombudsman Kate Brandt is stepping down due to a permanent change of station associated with her husband’s pending December graduation. Brandt served as the direct conduit between students, their family members and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Incoming ombudsmen, Ms. Crystal Culwell, replaced Brandt. NPS Dean of Students Capt. Tom MacRae thanked Brandt for her work and welcomed Culwell.

“I am so thankful for the volunteer work that you’ve done and I’m sure Crystal [Culwell] is up to the task,” said MacRae.

“I want Crystal to think about her goals and continue building on the ombudsman program that I’ve put together over the past two years,” added Brandt.

Culwell expressed optimism about her new responsibilities and spoke of her desire to work with Naval Postgraduate School students and families.

“I want to make sure that I’m visible to the families and able to be as proactive an ombudsman as Kate [Brandt] was. A big part of my job is to make sure that our community is aware of the resources available to them and ensuring NPS students and families that I am accessible,” said Culwell.
Any Day at NPS ...

NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route, meets with leadership and staff from the university’s Contracting and Logistics office for the latest campus communications session, Nov. 14. Route is slated to meet with all academic and administrative departments campus-wide over the next few months to hear directly from the faculty and staff that service the NPS community. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)

NPS’ Enlisted Recreation Committee (ERC) Vice President Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Myers receives a donation from USMC Student Capt. Robert Epstein on behalf of NPS Marine Corps Students. The donation will help the ERC fund events for the enlisted community at NPS. (U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Chablis J. Torrence)

Naval War College Monterey graduates gather for a photo outside NPS’ Halligan Hall. 21 students were honored during a ceremony, Nov. 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)

The NPS Center for Joint Services Electronic Warfare successfully completed its international Technology for Information Operations workshop, Nov. 14. The workshop provided practitioners with a platform upon which they explored everything from quantum information systems to weapons systems experimentation. (U.S. Navy photo by Javier Chagoya)

NPS Senior Marine Corps Representative Col. Mitchell McCarthy, above center, uses a cutlass to cut the first slice of cake during NPS’ Marine Corps Birthday Celebration in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom, Nov. 9. The ceremony was held in honor of the Marine Corps’ 238 years of service to the nation. (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Shawn J. Stewart)

STUDENT voice

By Lt. j.g. Barry Scott, Chairman President’s Student Council

Fellow Students,

Brush off those campaign buttons and start practicing your debate skills! January will be election month for the President’s Student Council. This is your opportunity to become more active in the NPS community. Over the past six months the Student Council has enjoyed increased participation from students across all curriculum and services. The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Recorder will be up for election.

After a brief hiatus, the President’s Student Council intranet page is back up and running. Stop by the page and check out the minutes from recent meetings, learn about past and future involvement of the PSC, or contact us with suggestions on how we can better serve students.

Thanks to the increased participation from the student body, nominations for the Secretary’s Guest Lecture series have steadily increased. The deans and the student council review each nomination and select the best candidates to be invited. Speakers often schedule their events far in advance, so please continue to submit your nominations to: http://intranet.nps.edu/SGL/index.html.

Finally, thank you to all the students who helped make the 2013 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner a great success. The Monterey Bay Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States, the Navy League, and the President’s Student Council were honored to host members of the Monterey community, students, and faculty as well as six witnesses to the bombing of Pearl Harbor at this annual event. Thank you for allowing us to pay homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice on that fateful day.
On Campus this Month

December 10
Fall Quarter Awards Ceremony
POC Student Services, (831) 656-3816

December 12
Naval War College
Graduation Ceremony
Barbara McNitt Ballroom
POC Rose Drake, (831) 656-2118

December 14
Army vs. Navy Tailgate Party
Trident Room

December 15
Naval War College
Graduation Ceremony
Barbara McNitt Ballroom
POC Rose Drake, (831) 656-2118

December 20
Fall Quarter Graduation Ceremony
Commencement Speaker
Adm. Mike Mullen, (Ret.) USN
POC Lt. Jon Volkle, (831) 656-2466

December 25
Christmas

Historical Highlights
With this issue, we invite you to help tell the NPS story.

Can you name the NPS professor shown here?

HINTS:
1. He was once scheduled for execution by the Japanese during WWII.
2. He was spared execution due to the efforts of his former students from Japan who were members of the execution review committee.
3. He was the first person to receive a doctorate in International Relations from a U.S. school and a former diplomatic envoy to the Philippines.

Think you know to whom we are referring? Follow this link to contribute to the story: http://bit.ly/1diNjW1.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

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