2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

July

Then Secretary of Homeland Security, the Honorable Janet Napolitano, welcomed a handful of international colleagues to NPS for a Five Country Ministerial, July 22. The focus was on how close cooperation between the five allied nations can be applied to countering extremist terrorism, combating cyber-crime, and improving the exchange of criminal history information between the five nations.

Two Naval Academy Midshipmen wrapping-up summer internships at NPS, Daniel Fallon and Jonathan Drieslein, evaluate the utilization of QR, or quick response, codes in a chat environment. "One of the many ways QR codes can help in emission control is to relay the code through light as we did with ship-to-ship signaling. However, now the QR code represents hundreds of characters and with the use of stronger LED lights, and flashing much more rapidly, messages can be relayed without radio emissions," NPS Associate Professor Dan Brutzman explained.

NPS joins regional leaders, educators and students at Hartnell College’s Internship Symposium, designed to partner local college students with leading NPS researchers. In the summer of 2013, NPS hosted 93 interns throughout various STEM-related disciplines, hoping to recruit the next generation of STEM professionals.

The latest cohort of the Executive Master of Business Administration distance learning program attends campus orientation week, Aug. 19 -25. Although the EMBA program is delivered via video teleconference, each cohort spends a week on campus to attend course work on leadership and teamwork.

In spite of the government shutdown in early September 2013, NPS welcomes its new President, retired Vice Adm. Ronald A. Route and thanks Interim President Rear Adm. Ian Tighue for her service to the university as she returns to Washington.

To help combat the escalating rate of suicide within the active-duty military community, NPS student Lt. Darryl Dispot creates the Emotional Vitality Assistant, a smartphone application that provides service members with immediate access to mental health resources.

Defense Analysis Assistant Professor Bradley J. Strawser challenges his students to wrestle with the complex ethical questions surrounding lethal autonomous systems by hosting a debate between University of Denver Visiting Associate Professor Heather M. Roff and freelance journalist Joshua Faust. Sept. 23. Debate participants sought to answer the question, “Does the future of unmanned and autonomous weapons pose greater potential ethical dangers or potential ethical rewards?”

The newest group of Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group (CNO SSG) Director Fellows are announced by CNO SSG Director retired Adm. James Hogg. The mission of the CNO SSG is to generate revolutionary naval warfare concepts at the direction of the Chief of Naval Operations himself. The group focuses its efforts on high-potential tactics and innovative procedures that have not yet been exploited by the Navy.

Naval Support Activity Monterey’s Installation Environmental Program is awarded two prestigious Chief of Naval Operations’ environmental awards, July 17, for excellence in cultural resource management and installation sustainability.

August

NPS Department of Operations Research, Drs. Tom Lucas, Paul Sanchez, Susan Sanchez and Chris Nannini, are honored with the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Koopman Prize for outstanding publication in military operations research. The professors were recognized for their contributions to a book on large-scale, experimental design and analysis.

NPS researchers and students collaborate with NASA scientists at Florida International University’s Aquarius Habitat on an innovative approach to transforming the possibilities of human-robot collaboration by using autonomous robots that can assist humans in mapping, navigating and exploring underwater space domains.

September

NPS mourns the passing of alumnum retired Navy Cmdr. M. Scott Carpenter, the university’s first graduate selected to be a NASA astronaut. Carpenter was part of the original Mercury 7, and was the second American to orbit the earth on board the Aurora 7 spacecraft.

Four faculty in the NPS Department of Operations Research, Drs. Tom Lucas, Paul Sanchez, Susan Sanchez and Chris Nannini, are honored with the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences Koopman Prize for outstanding publication in military operations research. The professors were recognized for their contributions to a book on large-scale, experimental design and analysis.

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October

Rocky Mountain Institute Cofounder and Chief Scientist Dr. Amory B. Lovins returns to NPS, Dec. 6, to present at one of the university’s frequent Defense Energy Seminar guest lectures. Lovins discussed his book, “Reinventing Fire,” which encourages a transition away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy by 2050.

Retired Adm. Michael G. Mullen, 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and 28th Chief of Naval Operations, addresses NPS graduates, families and friends at the Fall Quarter Graduation Ceremony held in King Auditorium, Dec. 20. Mullen, himself an NPS operations research alumnus, congratulated the 373 students earning 377 degrees this quarter.

November

NPS researchers celebrate multiple advancements in the operational utility of two concept unmanned systems. The TaLEUAS, or Tactical Long Endurance Unmanned Air System is a tethered, hex-rotor aircraft designed to work with very little human command and control. The Air Mobile Buoy concept could fill operational gaps pertaining to sea-based, non-persistent surveillance and could also provide a much-needed, all-weather UAV capability.

Senior service leaders dedicated time to address the NPS student body of mid-level officers on critical manpower and personnel issues in the month of November. In separate visits to campus, Vice Adm. William F. Moran, Chief of Naval Personnel and U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg addresses students on these critical Pentagon issues, while also fielding questions from the audience.

December

Mechanical engineering student Lt. Cmdr. Jamie Cook is honored with multiple awards during the NPS Center for Materials Research student research showcase, Dec. 11. Cook’s research into advanced carbon nanomaterials was met with high praise on campus, earning a DMR Outstanding Research Award as well as the Naval Sea Systems Command’s Excellence in Naval/Mechanical Engineering award.