



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Mar. 9-15, 2021

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RESEARCH:

1. [LLNL and NPS ink MOU for collaboration](#)

(Newswise 10 Mar 21) ... Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

(EurekaAlert! 10 Mar 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan K. Serpico

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3. [Naval Postgraduate School, BNNano Form Nanomaterials Research Partnership](#)

(Executive Gov 15 Mar 21) ... Brenda Marie Rivers

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4. [Demand Is Soaring for US-Bred Working Dogs, So Why Can't We Supply More?](#)

(American Kennel Club 12 Mar 21) ... Victoria Sanchez

We're facing a national security issue: there aren't enough working dogs... A recent report from the Graduate School of Defense Management at the **Naval Postgraduate School** revealed the importance of working dogs within the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The report backs concerns previously raised by the AKC Detection Dog Task Force about over-reliance on foreign-sourced dogs being placed as government working dogs (GWD). It also contains an in-depth analysis of the GWD industry and provides recommendations to improve the sourcing of U.S.-bred and trained dogs, including working more closely with the AKC and other stakeholders.

FACULTY:

5. [UO researcher lands two NSF grants to boost seismic modeling](#)

(Around the O 9 Mar 21) ... Victoria Sanchez

The National Science Foundation has awarded UO computer scientist Brittany Erickson two competitive grants, both of which involve building high-performance code for seismic modeling that will be available to the greater scientific community... The second grant of \$489,000 is for three years and comes from a collaboration with Jeremy Kozdon, an applied mathematician from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Erickson is the primary investigator for the grant.



ALUMNI:

6. SECDEF Nominates Next INDOPACOM, PACFLEET Commanders

(Seapower Magazine 8 Mar 21)

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced March 5 that the president has made the following nominations: Navy Adm. John C. Aquilino for appointment to the grade of admiral, and assignment as commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Aquilino is currently serving as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii... Vice Adm. Sam Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania graduated from Villanova University and was commissioned in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War 2 enlisted Sailor. He has earned a Master of Arts in International Studies from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Systems Analysis from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is also a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, the Naval War College and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours in the F-14, F-15 and F/A-18 and 1,100 carrier landings.

7. Newly named Bryan fire chief comes with 30 years of fire service

(KAGS TV 8 Mar 21) ... Tristan Lewis

The Bryan Fire Department has named the next fire chief after a months-long, nationwide search. The city announced Richard Giusti will assume the position early next month...He holds a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security from the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from American Military University and two Associate of Applied Science degrees in Fire Science and Instructor of Technology and Military Science from the Community College of the Air Force.

8. The Viral Global Movement Boosting U.S. White Nationalism

(AOL.com 9 Mar 21) ... Mark Greenblatt, Lauren Knapp

A White nationalist movement that fueled a new rise for Europe's far-right continues to gain momentum around the world and is helping to lure in and radicalize new recruits, according to terrorism experts. The French Government dissolved the world's first major "Identitarian" group in February, but not before its underlying ideology spread to at least 16 countries, including the United States..."I absolutely believe that there's a massive change that's occurred, like on a scale that I can't even put into words," Adamczyk said. In September, he published a thesis on Identitarianism to earn a master's degree in security studies through **the Naval Postgraduate School's** Center for Homeland Defense and Security. The report, which earned the CHDS's Outstanding Thesis Award, issues a warning for fellow law enforcement professionals.

9. U.S. 7th Fleet, III MEF Conduct Staff Integration

(Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet 10 Mar 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shannon Burns

Sailors and Marines are getting a chance to integrate and expand their combined skillsets through an ongoing liaison exchange program aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet Flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)... "I am a supply officer by trade. Currently, I am serving on my **Naval Postgraduate School** payback tour as an Operational Contract Support (OCS) Advisor for III MEF in Camp Courtney," said Maldonado. "So far, my contributions to 7th Fleet have been to provide OCS support because this billet is not organic to the Navy's structure. I also serve as a [liaison officer] to provide the 7th Fleet staff with information on Marine Corps activities."

HOUSING:

10. Two military families sue over horrendous housing conditions in Monterey.

(Monterey County Weekly 12 Mar 21) ... Mary Duan

The smell wafted from their daughter's bedroom closet, a skunky-musty odor that had Amber D'Antonio and her husband, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Louis "Gus" D'Antonio, scratching their heads about the source.

They didn't smell it initially when they moved into their home in the La Mesa military housing development, Amber says, so Gus could attend the **Naval Postgraduate School**. And that's because contractors had to come in and deep clean the place after previous tenants left behind a mess.



UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

March 16: [All Hands Stand-down to Address Extremism in the Ranks](#)

March 18: President's next "Ask me Anything" 15–1600: (ICYMI: [view 4 March AMA](#))

March 26: [Winter Quarter Virtual Graduation Ceremony](#)

April 8: Virtual Town Hall



RESEARCH:

LLNL and NPS ink MOU for collaboration

(Newswise 10 Mar 21) ... Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

(EurekAlert! 10 Mar 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan K. Serpico

Newswise — Whether working informally or through a collaboration agreement, LLNL and the Monterey-based Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) have enjoyed an enduring relationship for more than two decades.

While the two institutions have worked together informally for years, until recently they had had only had one memorandum of understanding (MOU) spelling out their joint ventures (2004-2009).

In January, LLNL and NPS finalized a second and new five-year MOU that provides a framework for NPS faculty and student research collaboration with LLNL and reciprocal involvement of LLNL staff in NPS research and academic activities.

“It makes sense when you have two internationally recognized government institutions, one academic and the other a national lab, within about 100 miles of each other, for them to work together,” said retired LLNL nuclear engineer Craig Smith, now an NPS research professor in physics.

“The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Defense (DoD) have a very significant overlap of missions for national defense. Working together, they can leverage synergies for their complementary capabilities that make important contributions to help our national defense. This work not only benefits LLNL and NPS, but also helps the nation,” Smith said.

Col. George Sakaldasis (U.S. Air Force, retired), a senior adviser for military and nuclear affairs in the Lab’s Office of Defense Coordination (ODC), which helped develop the new MOU, expects the pact to enhance educational benefits not only for NPS students but for LLNL employees.

It will assist in graduate distance learning for master’s, Ph.D. and certificate programs for Lab employees. Employees who are interested in NPS courses can check out the LLNL employee education assistance website at the degree partnership page.

“The MOU also provides for rotating guest lecture visits at NPS and LLNL, and enhances opportunities for NPS students to work with LLNL researchers. We consider this partnership to be a vital piece of Livermore’s overall relationship with the U.S. Navy,” Sakaldasis added.

NPS is the Department of the Navy’s applied research university combining student operational experience with graduate education and research to deliver defense-focused solutions and leaders.

“Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is one of the premier institutions in the U.S. national laboratory complex,” said NPS President and retired Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau. “Our now formalized partnership between NPS and LLNL is intended to further strengthen the historic ties between our two institutions.

“Dozens of NPS masters and Ph.D. students have completed their dissertation and thesis research in close collaboration with LLNL, and now, we have a firm foundation for collectively enhancing our applied research and education that will help solve the toughest naval and national challenges.”

Jeffrey Paduan, the NPS dean of research, noted: “This new agreement will strengthen and expand upon the research collaborations between our two institutions. It recognizes the great technical capabilities within the Laboratory and the great benefits of involving our defense-focused faculty and our operationally experienced students in joint projects. We all look forward to creating and executing more of these projects.”

Founded in 1909 at Annapolis, Maryland (the home of the U.S. Naval Academy), NPS moved to Monterey in 1951. The school has an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of approximately 2,700 students – about 1,400 full-time and about 1,300 part-time.

Its student body includes officers of all five U.S. military services, civilian employees from the departments of Defense and Homeland Security, law enforcement personnel and officers from numerous allied nations. NPS has graduated more than 40 astronauts, more than any other graduate school in the nation.



Over the years, several dozen Lab leaders or researchers have spoken at NPS– including LLNL co-founder Edward Teller; Bruce Goodwin, who headed the Weapons Complex and Integration Directorate; and Ron Lehman, a former director of the Lab’s Center for Global Security Research (CGSR).

NPS faculty regularly participate in CGSR workshops as speakers and panelists.

During the first MOU, Smith served as the LLNL chair professor at NPS. He lectured and taught classes on basic nuclear physics, nuclear energy and weapons effects, along with supervising two Ph.D. and 14 master’s students engaged in Livermore collaborations.

“When NPS students conduct research at LLNL, they bring their experience with them for the Lab’s benefit,” said Smith, who has taught at NPS for 17 years. “They also contribute as researchers for Lab programs.

“I think one of the more important benefits is that as NPS officers work with LLNL researchers, and as they later move through their careers with increasing responsibility, they carry with them knowledge of the Lab’s capabilities.”

A current Lab employee, Zachary Davis, a senior fellow at LLNL’s CGSR, has served as a research professor at NPS for 15 years, most recently in the school’s Defense Analysis Department.

Within the NPS Defense Analysis Department, which has a focus on irregular warfare and includes Special Operations Forces (SOF), such as Army Green Berets and Navy Seals, Davis teaches courses on counterproliferation.

During his time at NPS and LLNL, Davis has advised approximately five Ph.D. and 50 master’s students, often connecting NPS students with technical experts at the Lab as part of their research.

NPS students working with Lab scientists and engineers have examined issues such as chemical and biological weapons, disinformation, additive manufacturing, emerging technology on the battlefield, electromagnetic pulse effects, explosives/energetics, counterproliferation, verification and homeland defense.

CGSR has hosted many NPS SOF officers as visiting scientists who want to conduct research and write about topics of mutual interest to LLNL and SOF.

“Many of my NPS students have visited the Laboratory and collaborated with Lab scientists on their thesis research,” Davis said. “Their experience and knowledge greatly aid LLNL technology developers, especially regarding battlefield-technologies and capabilities. Their relationships with the Lab last throughout their military careers and beyond.

Many of the thesis projects on which Davis has given advice have been used as publications for SOF and he has lectured at various SOF facilities as part of their training.

LLNL’s MOU with NPS represents the second such agreement the Lab has recently concluded with a military service’s graduate school. In early 2020, a similar MOU was concluded with the Dayton, Ohio-based Air Force Institute of Technology.

In Davis’ view, the typical NPS student is an accomplished mid-career officer who has been selected by their service as their best and brightest, destined to be a future leader. “The relationships with the Lab that are established while they are students at NPS last a lifetime and provide equal benefits.”

[LLNL and NPS ink MOU for collaboration \(newswise.com\)](https://www.llnl.gov/newsroom/2020/03/11/llnl-and-nps-ink-mou-for-collaboration)

[NPS, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory expand collaboration on applied research | EurekAlert! Science News](https://www.llnl.gov/newsroom/2020/03/11/nps-lawrence-livermore-national-laboratory-expand-collaboration-on-applied-research)

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New CRADA between NPS and BNNano to Research Nanomaterial Applications

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MONTEREY, Calif. - Coupling applied research with defense-focused education, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) has entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with BNNano, an advanced manufacturing company known for producing revolutionary Boron Nitride Nanotubes, to test and evaluate Boron Nitride nanomaterials for potential defense applications.

Boron Nitride Nanotubes are a revolutionary nanomaterial that exhibits a desirable combination of exceptional physical and chemical properties to include high thermal conductivity, electrical resistivity, superhydrophobicity and high thermal stability, strength and stiffness. Applications may include electric insulation, fire retardants, radiation shielding, metal lightning, and corrosion resistance.

The CRADA will allow faculty and students from NPS' Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) Department to test BNNano's proprietary Nanobarb™, a Boron Nitride Nanotube embedded with mechanical barbs designed to enhance reinforcing properties.

MAE faculty, Drs. Claudia Luhrs, Emre Gunduz, and Andy Nieto, are NPS' key collaborators incorporating the Nanobarb™ into their research, which tailors materials' properties resulting in nanomaterials with a wide range of applications (i.e., supercapacitors, impact resistant structural components, microelectronics, high temperature systems and conductive aerospace composite structures). The researchers plan to look into enhancing the thermal conductivity of lightweight carbon composites used by the aerospace industry as well as phase change materials to optimize temperature regulation systems in living and storage spaces.

"The idea is to see how the properties of the material compares to the applications where we're already using boron nitride," said Luhrs. "Each of us has individual projects in which we are using boron nitride, and [BNNano's] part of the collaboration is providing the materials while we evaluate it and share the data as how effective it might be for different applications."

Nanomaterials are not necessarily an inexpensive resource, but due to the CRADA, the NPS students who come to NPS with operational experience to research warfighting solutions as they get their graduate education, now have more access to them for research.

"We're basically augmenting existing projects with this, taking note of research results and the students' experience," said Gunduz. "I think that works for both sides. There are some theoretical potential gains in the performance by using even small amounts of these additives in the regular metal or other things."

According to Nieto, student and faculty research at NPS has the ability to accelerate applied research solutions to key operational problems.

"There's plenty of opportunities on these projects," said Nieto. "For the most part, the research at NPS is focused on defense or Navy purposes. Ideally, these students will take what they learn and apply it to challenges directly forward [in the Fleet]."

In fact, the collaboration between NPS and BNNano is the direct result of an NPS alumnus applying his NPS experience while working to advance nanotechnology. While working with BNNano, NPS Systems Technology graduate and retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Scott Kish saw potential applications of their nanotechnology within DOD capabilities, and worked to connect the company with NPS to develop potential breakthroughs.

"The idea that BNNano should collaborate with NPS came from my military experience and military educational opportunities," said Kish. "I was fortunate to receive all my education from U.S. Navy institutions starting with the Naval Academy, but it was at NPS where I was able to participate in a variety of study opportunities that provided us innovative and creative ways to develop solutions to Navy and Marine Corps challenges."

While studying at NPS, Kish remembered how NPS was involved with private industry. He realized that using commercial platforms to help address military challenges can have a tremendous impact, so he discussed the opportunity with the leadership at BNNano who were quick to support the endeavor.

"We believe that our boron nitride nanobarbs may have a tremendous impact on a number of military capabilities. When we first started testing our nanomaterial, it was quickly apparent that the technology could help transform maritime capabilities due to its properties and we thought that NPS was the perfect partner to research opportunities to assist the US Navy and DoD," said Steve Wilcenski, BNNano's CEO and Co-Founder.



Teaming up with private technology companies through CRADAs not only benefits the university and the DOD, but the partnering company as well.

“NPS brings a number of research capabilities to the table that will benefit the DoD and BNNano. They have world-class research and laboratory facilities. The other element that BNNano is excited about is the opportunity for the NPS students to get experience in working with our nanomaterials,” said Jason Taylor, BNNano’s Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder.

[New CRADA between NPS and BNNano to Research Nanomaterial Applications > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

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Naval Postgraduate School, BNNano Form Nanomaterials Research Partnership

(Executive Gov 15 Mar 21) ... Brenda Marie Rivers

The Naval Postgraduate School has partnered with materials engineering company BNNano to assess the capacity of the company’s nanomaterial concepts to support defense missions.

NPS said Thursday it entered into a cooperative research and development agreement with BNNano to test the latter’s Boron Nitride Nanotubes for potential use in electric insulation, radiation shielding, fire retardants, corrosion resistance and metal lightening.

BNNano’s nanomaterials have chemical and physical elements that support high thermal stability and conductivity, electrical resistivity and superhydrophobicity.

As part of the CRADA, the NPS Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department’s students and faculty will work to test the BNNano Nanobarb technology.

Steve Wilcenski, CEO and cofounder of BNNano, said he believes the company’s boron nitride nanomaterial has properties that have potential for maritime capabilities.

Emre Gunduz, a faculty member at MAE, said there are “theoretical potential gains” in using small amounts of nanomaterial additives in regular metal.

“For the most part, the research at NPS is focused on defense or [U.S. Navy] purposes. Ideally, these students will take what they learn and apply it to challenges directly forward [in the Fleet],” said Andy Nieto, an MAE faculty member.

[Naval Postgraduate School, BNNano Form Nanomaterials Research Partnership \(executivegov.com\)](#)

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Demand Is Soaring for US-Bred Working Dogs, So Why Can’t We Supply More?

(American Kennel Club 12 Mar 21) ... Victoria Sanchez

We’re facing a national security issue: there aren’t enough working dogs.

As the need for explosives detection dogs skyrockets, the U.S. struggles to keep up, producing only 7 percent of U.S. government dogs domestically. New research backs our suggested solution: breed more working dogs locally by overcoming the current barriers.

New Research on U.S.-Bred Working Dogs

A recent report from the Graduate School of Defense Management at the **Naval Postgraduate School** revealed the importance of working dogs within the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The report backs concerns previously raised by the AKC Detection Dog Task Force about over-reliance on foreign-sourced dogs being placed as government working dogs (GWD). It also contains an in-depth analysis of the GWD industry and provides recommendations to improve the sourcing of U.S.-bred and trained dogs, including working more closely with the AKC and other stakeholders.



Sponsored by the Acquisition Research Program at the Naval Post Graduate School, this report is the first comprehensive government analysis of the GWD industry in 15 years and explores the disconnect between the demand for working dogs and domestic supply.

Research Findings

The authors, Capt. Jason Passarella (USAF) and 1st LT. Robert Ocampo (USAF) conducted in-depth interviews, industry assessments, and accessed Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security data on the purchase of working dogs. They concluded that dogs are purchased domestically and overseas by a variety of government agencies using an opaque and inconsistent variety of contracts, agreements, purchase cards, and other contracting vehicles, not all of which are identified within the Federal Procurement Data System.

In line with AKC's concerns, they found that the shortage of domestically produced working dogs is due to a lack of consistency in sourcing standards and a lack of communication and transparency with providers regarding pricing and requirements.

Other contributing factors include:

- the economics of importing vs. domestic production
- the challenges faced by domestic dog breeders and trainers in doing business with the government
- cultural factors
- forces influencing decisions by potential suppliers to participate in government contracts

The Solution

Based on all the data acquired, the researchers came up with ideas for the Air Force Installation Contracting team to improve the management of the working dog supply chain. This included the establishment of a GWD acquisition communications and marketing plan.

They believe the key is to gain public awareness of the GWD programs by improving relationships between the government and breeder-trainers through new resources to encourage participation in these programs. This includes better information and availability to help potential suppliers become successful in their role.

Their marketing recommendations include exposure through print and digital media and attending industry events, such as the AKC Detection Dog Task Force conference. They also noted that that GWD programs would benefit by attending AKC-lead events, AKC sporting invitationals, and providing interviews to canine magazines such as AKC Gazette.

Other suggestions they included are in line with concerns the AKC Dog Detection Dog Task Force has previously addressed. This includes improving inconsistencies in contractual agreements to help small businesses navigate the government contracting process, understanding the influence of working dog culture overseas, and expanding regional selection sites across the U.S. instead of relying on a single location (currently Lackland Air Force Base).

These latest findings offer a clearer view of these markets, and the importance of having a reliable source of domestically- bred government working dogs.

Currently, 93% of working dogs across all U.S. government agencies are imported from European markets, and the need for dogs has steadily increased to address security vulnerabilities. This research can be a catalyst for the U.S. government to work more closely with the AKC to achieve this change.

[Demand Is Soaring for US-Bred Working Dogs, So Why Can't We Supply More? – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](http://www.akc.org)

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FACULTY:

UO researcher lands two NSF grants to boost seismic modeling

(Around the O 9 Mar 21) ... Victoria Sanchez

The National Science Foundation has awarded UO computer scientist Brittany Erickson two competitive grants, both of which involve building high-performance code for seismic modeling that will be available to the greater scientific community.

Both grants will help develop a method of modeling earthquake and volcano physics, along with their associated hazards. That could mean better forecasting of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions around the world.

The first grant of \$287,000 is for two years and focuses on volcanic modeling. Erickson, who holds a joint faculty position as an assistant professor in both the computer and information science and the earth sciences departments, wrote the grant with her husband, Leif Karlstrom, a UO volcanologist. Erickson is the co-investigator on this grant.

“We’ve always wanted to collaborate, but Leif’s always been in the volcano realm and I’ve always been in the earthquake realm,” Erickson said. “So, finally we’re been able to do something together.”

The focus will be on the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, she said. The outstanding question in volcano science is how to predict or better understand volcanic eruptions, which happen due to unstable fluids moving around a volcanic conduit. The goal is to develop a computational technique that gives researchers reliable insight into what influences volcanic eruptions.

The second grant of \$489,000 is for three years and comes from a collaboration with Jeremy Kozdon, an applied mathematician from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. Erickson is the primary investigator for the grant.

Their aim is to model the earthquake cycle and show hundreds of years of earthquake activity, which means dealing with large systems of equations. Erickson said the work is groundbreaking and possibly the first of its kind.

“We are trying to answer why some earthquakes nucleate on faults that are unfavorably orientated to the remote stress field,” Erickson said. “Faults in the earth’s crust are usually part of a larger network that intersect in geometrically complex ways. You would assume that those faults more optimally oriented would exhibit an earthquake first, but that’s not always the case. We want to explore this phenomenon through numerical simulation.”

Erickson is also the co-leader of the Southern California Earthquake Center’s working group for advancing codes for simulating earthquake sequences, a group of earthquake modeling researchers from around the world. She said her interests in earthquakes arose from her childhood in California.

“When I was 8 years old, I experienced the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake that hit San Francisco, and it really affected me,” she said. “My adviser in graduate school was a mathematician working on problems in geoscience, and I jumped at the chance to do some mathematical modeling for earthquake processes. I wanted to do something with math that had clear, broader impact.”

Through their research, Erickson said the models she and her collaborators will build will allow them a better understanding of volcano and earthquake physics. The NSF grants will help develop an open-source, high-performance code that will be available to both the scientific community and the public.

Typically, Erickson’s field of study is dominated by male scientists, she said. She considers herself lucky because she has felt supported by her male colleagues and advisers throughout her career.

At the UO, she noted that the Department of Computer and Information Science has four other women faculty members. Still, gender inequality in her field is a challenging problem to address.

“Women in the workforce are struggling through the COVID pandemic, particularly if they have children,” she said. “I was only able to submit these two grant proposals last summer because our day care opened for a couple months. This wouldn’t have been possible if the day care had remained closed due to the ongoing pandemic. I feel for the other faculty around the university who are at home and responsible for their children’s distanced learning. It’s very tough.”

To learn more about Erickson’s work, visit her website.



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ALUMNI:

SECDEF Nominates Next INDOPACOM, PACFLEET Commanders

(Seapower Magazine 8 Mar 21)

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced March 5 that the president has made the following nominations:

Navy Adm. John C. Aquilino for appointment to the grade of admiral, and assignment as commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Aquilino is currently serving as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Navy Vice Adm. Samuel J. Paparo Jr. for appointment to the grade of admiral, and assignment as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Paparo is currently serving as commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command; commander, Fifth Fleet; and commander, Combined Maritime Forces, Manama, Bahrain.

If confirmed by the Senate, Aquilino, a naval aviator, would succeed Adm. Philip Davidson, a surface warfare officer. Paparo also is a naval aviator.

Below are excerpts from the official biographies of both nominees:

Adm. John Aquilino is a native to Huntington, New York. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1984, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He subsequently entered flight training and earned his wings in August 1986.

Operationally, he has served in numerous fighter squadrons flying the F-14 A/B Tomcat and the F-18 C/E/F Hornet. His fleet assignments include the Ghost Riders of Fighter Squadron (VF) 142 and the Black Aces of VF-41. He commanded the World Famous Red Rippers of VF-11, Carrier Air Wing 2 and Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2. He has made several extended deployments in support of Operation Deny Flight, Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Ashore, Aquilino's assignments include duties as an adversary instructor pilot flying the A-4, F-5 and F-16N aircraft for the Challengers of VF-43; operations officer of Strike Weapons and Tactics School, Atlantic; flag aide to the vice chief of naval operations; special assistant for Weapons Systems and Advanced Development in the Office of the Legislative Affairs for the Secretary of Defense; director of Air Wing Readiness and Training, for Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet; and executive assistant to the commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

His flag assignments include director of Strategy and Policy (J5), U.S. Joint Forces Command; deputy director, Joint Force Coordinator (J31), the Joint Staff; commander, CSG-2, director of Maritime Operations, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N04); deputy chief of naval operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5) and most recently, as commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces.

Aquilino graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), the Joint Forces Staff College and completed Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Education Program in National and International Security.

Aquilino assumed duties as commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, May 17, 2018. He is the 36th commander since the fleet's Pearl Harbor headquarters was established in February 1941.

Vice Adm. Sam Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania graduated from Villanova University and was commissioned in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War 2 enlisted Sailor. He has earned a Master of Arts in International Studies from Old Dominion University and a Master of Science in Systems Analysis from the **Naval Postgraduate School**. He is also a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, the Naval War College and the Joint and

Combined Warfighting School. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours in the F-14, F-15 and F/A-18 and 1,100 carrier landings.

Operational command tours at sea include Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 195 in the Forward Deployed Naval Forces, Yokosuka, Japan, deploying in Kitty Hawk Strike Group; Commander, Carrier Air Wing 7, embarked in Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group and Commander, Carrier Strike Group Ten. On the ground, he commanded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan with the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Other operational assignments at sea include Fighter Squadron (VF) 14, flying the F-14 Tomcat with USS John F. Kennedy and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Groups and VFA-15, flying the F/A-18 Hornet with USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Enterprise Strike Groups. He served also on exchange duty with the U.S. Air Force flying the F-15C Eagle with the 71st Fighter Squadron, deploying multiple times to Saudi Arabia and Keflavik, Iceland. In joint operational service, he was Battle Director at the Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Al Udeid, Qatar.

His shore assignments include the staff of Commander, Naval Air Forces, as F/A-18 training, readiness and requirements officer. He served as commanding officer of VFA-106. He was Programming Division (OPNAV N80), Strategy and Resource and Requirements Review Board branch head. Executive staff tours include service as executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and executive assistant to the 31st Chief of Naval Operations.

Paparo's most recent assignment was Director of Operations, J3, U.S. Central Command from April 2018 to July 2020. He assumed command of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces on August 19, 2020.

[SECDEF Nominates Next INDOPACOM, PACFLEET Commanders - Seapower \(seapowermagazine.org\)](https://seapowermagazine.org)

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Newly named Bryan fire chief comes with 30 years of fire service

(KAGS TV 8 Mar 21) ... Tristan Lewis

The Bryan Fire Department has named the next fire chief after a months-long, nationwide search. The city announced Richard Giusti will assume the position early next month.

"To be selected for this I am truly humbled, I really am," said Giusti. "It's exciting to me, but not just because I'll be fire chief, it's where I'll be fire chief. Bryan is such an awesome city."

Giusti will be coming from the San Antonino Fire Department, where he has been serving since 1995. He is currently the assistant fire chief and oversees 400 people in the department. His duties include planning, policy, program development, performance evaluation, reporting and training.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security from the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from American Military University and two Associate of Applied Science degrees in Fire Science and Instructor of Technology and Military Science from the Community College of the Air Force.

Giusti believes his experience leading and managing a team makes him ready to take the chief position.

"Teamwork is a huge thing," Giusti said. "Building relationships too. A part of what I have to do is go into the [department] and build trust with our firefighters. You can't go in there and expect trust, that is going to take time."

During the nationwide search to find a replacement for retired BFD Fire Chief Randy McGregor, the City of Bryan received 44 qualified applications. From there a team from the fire department, Bryan Police Department and other city departments were able to narrow it down to eight finalists. It included one internal applicant. The team unanimously chose Giusti.

Leaders from the City of Bryan said his strong background in fire service is what drew them to name him.



"We think to continue the excellence that we have at the Bryan Fire Department, we wanted to select somebody that we thought could take us to that next level," said Hugh Walker, the deputy city manager for the City of Bryan.

What made Giusti want to apply for this leadership position is how Bryan prioritizes safety and service. From his own research, he found out how the department handles devastation among the stations and keeping their people safe.

"I wanted to go somewhere that an organization cared about the firefighters, citizens and provide the best service," Giusti said. "Every time I pulled back a layer of that onion with the City of Bryan it was something better."

Giusti is very excited to get to know the community and start living that 'Good Life, Texas Style.'

"It's about the relationships," he said. "Everything is about the relationships and I truly believe if you get the relationships right, everything is secondary."

[Bryan fire chief comes with more than 30 years of fire service | kagstv.com](#)

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The Viral Global Movement Boosting U.S. White Nationalism

(AOL.com 9 Mar 21) ... Mark Greenblatt, Lauren Knapp

A White nationalist movement that fueled a new rise for Europe's far-right continues to gain momentum around the world and is helping to lure in and radicalize new recruits, according to terrorism experts. The French Government dissolved the world's first major "Identitarian" group in February, but not before its underlying ideology spread to at least 16 countries, including the United States.

"I have a feeling that we are heading for a great conflict," said Detective Chris Adamczyk, a veteran police officer in Mesa, Arizona. He specializes in extremism networks and works in the department's Intelligence and Counterterrorism Unit.

"Something is coming around the corner," he said.

Adamczyk, who is part of an elite national network of local police officers who specialize in terrorism and extremist groups, said White nationalist groups have become increasingly emboldened in their efforts to recruit. He notes an explosion of propaganda, stickers and banners warning of a coming "invasion" of immigrants.

One of the most active groups he is tracking is Patriot Front, which has been operating not just online but also physically hitting the streets of communities throughout Arizona and much of the nation.

"That level of just in-your-face style racism is not something that I encountered in my previous, you know, 16-18 years of law enforcement," he said.

FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Judiciary Committee this March that the threat of domestic terrorism in the U.S. is "metastasizing" and testified, "We saw a huge uptick in violent extremism, in that broad bucket, over the course of last year."

Underpinning much of the rise and connecting many White nationalist groups is the adoption of a philosophy called Identitarianism, which began to take off in Europe over the last decade. At its core, Identitarianism is a fear of something called "The Great Replacement", where waves of immigrants are allegedly overtaking White Christian identity. The philosophy, which has been widely debunked by those who say immigration statistics show far less migration in Europe that is being claimed by the groups, is still helping to create new extremists and radicalize some of them.

"I absolutely believe that there's a massive change that's occurred, like on a scale that I can't even put into words," Adamczyk said. In September, he published a thesis on Identitarianism to earn a master's degree in security studies through the **Naval Postgraduate School's** Center for Homeland Defense and Security. The report, which earned the CHDS's Outstanding Thesis Award, issues a warning for fellow law enforcement professionals.

"While based on the same core ideological elements and entrenched against the same enemies, Identitarianism in the United States is much more volatile and unstable than in Europe. Additionally,



American identitarian groups are linked to violence at all levels and seem to view violence as axiomatic in the movement."

Fears of an "invasion" or replacement of Whites came out in full view during the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, where torch-carrying White men chanted, "You will not replace us." Now, the Great Replacement theory is linked to at least six mass murders, according to the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism's Heidi Beirich, who testified before a House subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism in July. She cited a Department of Homeland Security warning that "violent extremists have adopted an increasingly transnational outlook" driven by connecting with "like-minded individuals online." DHS specified the sharing of the "ethnic replacement" idea, which Beirich says motivated shooters who attacked at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, at an El Paso Texas Walmart and at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Adamczyk names at least six groups he says have launched in the U.S. around Identitarianist beliefs since 2015, including Vanguard America, Atomwaffen, the Proud Boys, Identity Evropa/American Identity Movement, Rise Above Movement, Patriot Front and The Base.

"I think the real danger of Identitarianism is that the ideas behind it -- it is essentially White nationalism -- are being mainstreamed," said Marilyn Mayo of the Anti-Defamation League.

Identitarianism first started taking off with the formation of a French anti-migrant and anti-Muslim group called Generation Identity. The group launched in 2012, with a video warning of a confrontation.

"This is not simply a manifesto, this is a declaration of war," a member of Generation Identity declared in the video.

New, younger members began flocking in, attracted by a message that appeals to moderates with a veneer of respectability. No swastikas or shaved heads are seen in most of Generation Identity's videos, but the underlying message is White nationalist.

"They are very philosophical. They come at you from the standpoint of economics, for example. They come at you from the standpoint of mass immigration," Adamczyk says.

Generation Identity became notorious in France for headline-making actions like trying to prevent refugees from reaching the Mediterranean shore and patrolling the mountainous French border regions.

It has become such a threat the French government officially just dissolved the group. In an email to Newsy, a spokesperson for the French government said "its discourse has led to violence."

The group's underlying Identitarian message has already spread to organizations in at least 16 other countries beyond France, which is why Adamczyk says local law enforcement and community leaders need better training to spot it early in people they encounter.

"The lessons of pre-9/11 actually apply right now," he said. "We didn't connect the dots, right? And so let's now take the time to know that what we're dealing with and let's do our best to to stop it from happening again."

Riin Aljas, a Scripps Howard Foundation data reporting fellow, contributed to the reporting for this story.

As journalists, we strive to cover stories that keep our communities safe. This story is part of a series looking into how extremism is impacting our nation. If you have an opinion or a related idea you believe we should be covering, we encourage you to reach out. Mark Greenblatt is the senior national investigative correspondent for Newsy and the Scripps Washington Bureau. Follow him @greenblattmark, email a story tip to mark.greenblatt@scripps.com or send a secure message to markpgreenblatt@protonmail.com. Lauren Knapp is senior video editor for Scripps Washington Bureau and can be reached at Lauren.Knapp@scripps.com or followed at @LCKnapp.

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U.S. 7th Fleet, III MEF Conduct Staff Integration

(Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet 10 Mar 21) ... Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shannon Burns

Sailors and Marines are getting a chance to integrate and expand their combined skillsets through an ongoing liaison exchange program aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet Flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).

According to staff exchange officer Capt. Angel Maldonado, a native of Bronx, New York, assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in Okinawa, Japan, the focus of the ten-week integration is to build 7th Fleet's U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps team in alignment with the U.S. national strategic objectives.

According to the most recent Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, America must contend with the reality that the distribution of power across the world is changing and creating new threats.

Maldonado added that the partnership between the Navy and Marine Corps requires shifting from traditional power projection to meeting the new challenges associated with maintaining a persistent naval forward presence.

The Indo-Pacific region has a long history of power projection through presence. For more than 70 years the region has benefited from routine U.S. operations to enforce international norms and strengthen partnerships and alliances. Through naval exercises, alongside America's allies and partners, and integrating the Navy and Marine Corps, 7th Fleet can continue to project a strong and stabilizing presence in the region.

Maldonado is one of only a select few officers chosen to participate in the exchange program aboard 7th Fleet.

"I am a supply officer by trade. Currently, I am serving on my **Naval Postgraduate School** payback tour as an Operational Contract Support (OCS) Advisor for III MEF in Camp Courtney," said Maldonado. "So far, my contributions to 7th Fleet have been to provide OCS support because this billet is not organic to the Navy's structure. I also serve as a [liaison officer] to provide the 7th Fleet staff with information on Marine Corps activities."

Maldonado is no stranger to Navy commands.

"Throughout my career, I have served more than six years at five Navy commands, to include an operational tour with 5th Fleet as the supply officer for Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade Bahrain," said Maldonado. "For me, it's another day with my Navy brethren."

Maldonado stated that despite serving at several Navy commands, he continues to gain knowledge and insight from those he meets and the unique opportunities these joint assignments provide.

"Primarily, I have focused my attention on supply operations. Despite my experience with the Navy, this is the first time I am actually learning about an occupational specialty," he said. "The educational experience is quite intriguing, because it provides a new depth of supply operations and responsibilities not present within the Marine supply community."

He said a large part of his focus has been to learn about 7th Fleet's organization and structure, from the staff itself down to each subordinate unit in the Fleet.

Arriving at a new command can be daunting, especially when it's a complete culture shift to how your native branch normally operates. Many Marines go their entire career without having the opportunity to serve aboard naval vessels, but Maldonado was willing to take on the challenge.

"I mostly expected my first time serving aboard a ship to involve a steep learning curve to understand naval operations and the life associated with both living and working on a ship," he said. "I was also expecting to resolve interoperability shortfalls within the Navy and Marine Corps supply systems by creating a method to order Marine Corps supplies from the Navy's supply department."

Maldonado said that, although he had a lot to learn about serving on a ship, being here has given him a feeling of nostalgia for his days as a young enlisted Marine.

"Life aboard a ship brought me back to the experience I felt as a junior enlisted Marine, when everything in my environment felt new. The learning curve was steep, maybe steeper than I expected," he said. "I've also had to shift my focus from my original project on improving supply requisition interoperability between the Navy and Marine Corps. Instead I pivoted my attention towards working with the contracting department at the Fleet Logistics Center in Yokosuka in an effort to improve sea logistics distribution through the use of commercial options in this area of operations."



Maldonado said he feels like he has succeeded in achieving the goals he set out to.

“My interaction with Navy Supply provided information that resolved a Navy distribution requirement in Okinawa,” he said. “Additionally I would say that I am taking other steps towards improving sea logistics distribution that would have never occurred absent my staff exchange.”

Maldonado said that, while the terminology may be different, the supply department acts very much in the capacity of the entire Marine Corps logistics community.

“Marine Corps supply is primarily responsible for property accountability, budgeting, warehouse procurement, and requisitions,” he said. “The ship’s supply officer, Lt. Victor Guan, provided me an in-depth explanation of how supply operates in the Navy. For the Navy, the supply department is responsible for all of the Marine Corps responsibilities I mentioned, and others such as the post office, finance, food service...and a lot more.”

Maldonado expressed his deep appreciation for the Navy team supporting him.

“I want to recognize the entire N4 staff and Lt. Victor Guan for welcoming me to the ship, integrating me into their operations, and educating me on the Navy. I also want to thank Capt. Brickhaus and Lt. Cmdr. Peters at Navy Fleet Logistics Command,” he said.

As the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet employs 50-70 ships and submarines across the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. U.S. 7th Fleet routinely operates and interacts with 35 maritime nations while conducting missions to preserve and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific.

[U.S. 7th Fleet, III MEF Conduct Staff Integration > Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet > Display \(navy.mil\)](#)

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HOUSING:

Two military families sue over horrendous housing conditions in Monterey.

(Monterey County Weekly 12 Mar 21) ... Mary Duan

The smell wafted from their daughter’s bedroom closet, a skunky-musty odor that had Amber D’Antonio and her husband, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Louis “Gus” D’Antonio, scratching their heads about the source.

They didn’t smell it initially when they moved into their home in the La Mesa military housing development, Amber says, so Gus could attend the **Naval Postgraduate School**. And that’s because contractors had to come in and deep clean the place after previous tenants left behind a mess.

But over about a month, the dominant smell of carpet cleaner dissipated and the skunk stench took over.

“I had Gus go up into the attic to see if someone had been growing marijuana up there because of the smell, but he came out and said, ‘No, the attic is clean,’” Amber says. Over time, she had to spend multiple hours every other week on a multi-step process using Borax, bleach and then regular laundry detergent in a futile attempt to keep her daughter’s clothes odor-free.

Her daughter’s teacher had called and said, “‘Amber, her clothes smell,’ and I didn’t want her to be the smelly kid in class,” Amber D’Antonio says.

The smell turned out to be mold, and the mold started growing through the walls and floors. The military housing office’s solution – install an ozone machine in the closet and keep it running – is an act that could have killed the little girl had she slept in that bedroom because the machines remove oxygen from the air and should only be used in uninhabited homes.

There was so much mold hidden under tile and behind wallboard and paint that by the time the D’Antonios moved out in February 2020, they had to dispose of every piece of personal property they owned that involved fabric, and former Presidio of Monterey commander Col. Greg Ford wrote a formal memorandum declaring the house uninhabitable until it could be gut renovated.

That is according to a lawsuit filed by the D’Antonios, along with another former La Mesa family, Marine Maj. Ryan Keller and his wife, Samantha. They are suing a number of military housing



contractors, including Monterey Military Housing LLC, Clark Pinnacle Monterey Bay LLC and Clark Realty Capital, LLC, alleging the homes they rented in Monterey were unfit for human habitation, led to the loss of substantial personal property and left their children with persistent health problems due to protracted mold exposure.

It's unusual for active-duty military officers to file this kind of suit. But Amber D'Antonio says the fight came to their doorstep and they intend to see it through.

"I don't want other military families to suffer in silence," she says. "I felt like in Monterey, they brought the war to my house."

Ford, who retired from the Army and now works in the private sector, says he wants to see both families receive full reimbursement for the personal property they had to dump.

"No family," he says, "should have to live through what they lived through."

Congress privatized military housing in 1996 through the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, turning over more than 204,000 homes on 150 military installations to contractors for management. In 2016, a report by the Department of Defense Inspector General found that poor maintenance and oversight throughout the program left military families vulnerable to pervasive health and safety hazards.

The Kellers, the other family suing the contractors, found the home they rented while Ryan Keller was earning his master's in computer science at NPS had interior walls that "swelled" from moisture. They asked for one wall to be repaired before they moved in; when they arrived from North Carolina in May 2017, it had been painted white and they assumed it was fixed.

Over time, though, other problems cropped up: Sewage backed up into their bathtub and outside their front door and the house was infested with ants that no amount of spraying could drive away. When the swelling on one wall increased, contractors put a humidifier in the room and told the family to keep all the doors and windows closed – they all got upper respiratory infections.

When it was decided the wall had to be opened up completely, the contractors put the family in a hotel overnight. When Samantha Keller returned the next day to get more clothing for her and her children, a maintenance manager ordered her off the property and then had the locks on the home changed.

If she wanted to step foot into her own home, she had to have an escort from the housing office.

"We had noticed the remediation practices they were using didn't look right, and we started reaching out to outside professionals asking, 'What should mold remediation look like?'" she says. "The outside sources advised what we were seeing was not correct."

The Kellers also had to discard most of their personal property due to mold infestation.

The House Armed Services Committee, of which U.S. Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Carmel Valley, is a member, was scheduled to hold hearings starting March 10 on privatized military housing reforms. Clark Realty Capital declined the committee's request to participate.

A media representative from Clark Realty Capital LLC, of which the other defendants are related entities, did not respond to multiple requests for comment for this story.

[Two military families sue over horrendous housing conditions in Monterey. | Local News | montereycountyweekly.com](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com)

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