



NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report – Oct. 19-25, 2021

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[Pacific Fleet leverages NPS, Silicon Valley to advance solutions to key challenges](#)

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ALUMNI:

[Former Colombian CNO and NPS Grad Returns to Monterey](#)

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[D. Jeremy DeMar joins NGA 911 Team](#)

(NBC 29 19 Oct 21)

NGA 911, LLC, a leading provider of Next Generation Core Services (NGCS) and Advanced 911 Call Handling announced Monday the appointment of D. Jeremy DeMar, MA, CPE, ENP as Director of Engagement and Outreach... Mr. DeMar holds undergraduate degrees in Fire Science and Emergency Management, and in March of 2017, he completed graduate studies with the **Naval Postgraduate School** (Monterey, California), authoring and publishing a Master's Thesis titled "Next Generation 9-1-1: Policy Implications of Incident Related Imagery on the Public Safety Answering Point". His research has been cited in a number of graduate level works, and the term he coined during his graduate studies, Incident Related Imagery, appears in a variety of public safety publications, most recently in a DHS/CISA white paper titled "Next Generation 911 Incident-Related Imagery Impacts 101". In September 2021, Mr. DeMar was selected to provide the keynote address at the Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference, where he delivered a graduate level overview of his thesis research.

[Mayor de Blasio Names Andrew D'Amora as Acting Emergency Management Commissioner](#)

(NYC.gov 19 Oct 21)

(Harlem World Magazine 19 Oct 21)

Mayor Bill de Blasio today appointed Andrew D'Amora as the Acting Commissioner of New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM). Outgoing Commissioner John Scrivani, who has served in the role since March, will return home to Virginia at the end of October. D'Amora, a seven-year veteran of NYCEM, first served as the agency's Chief of Staff for five years and has served as First Deputy Commissioner since 2019... D'Amora holds a Master of Science in protection management with a concentration in emergency management from John Jay College and a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management from St. Joseph's College. He is also a graduate of the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, and a graduate of the Police Management Institute at Columbia University.

[Chris Eckols is the CEO of AIT Environmental Technology, which is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach](#)

(Ponte Vedra Recorder 21 Oct 21) ... Anthony Richards

Chris Eckols is CEO of AIT Environmental Technology based in Ponte Vedra Beach since 2006. He took on the venture after serving 23 years in the Navy, which is when he was first introduced to the Northeast Florida area... I served 23 years in the Navy, actually getting my start here at Mayport in 1993. After a myriad of assignments, I retired as Lieutenant Commander, Supply Corps and my MBA is from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

[Jacqueline Maguire Named Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Office](#)

(FBI.gov 25 Oct 21) ... Anthony Richards

Director Christopher Wray has named Jacqueline Maguire as the special agent in charge of the Philadelphia Field Office. Ms. Maguire most recently served as special agent in charge of the Criminal Division of the New York



Field Office... Prior to joining the FBI, Ms. Maguire worked at the Office of the Medical Examiner in Suffolk County, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree in comprehensive science from Villanova University; a master's degree in criminal justice from Long Island University; and a master's degree in homeland defense and security from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

October 25-29: [Center for Executive Education NSLS Seminar](#)

October 28: [Women in Computing](#)

November: Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)

November 16-19: [Center for Executive Education SPEAR Workshop](#)

November 25: Thanksgiving Day (Federal Holiday)



RESEARCH:

Pacific Fleet leverages NPS, Silicon Valley to advance solutions to key challenges

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With the constant evolution of Strategic Competition, Navy leaders must explore all avenues to master complex advanced technologies to maintain an advantage over competitors.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Samuel Paparo traveled to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Oct. 15, to do exactly that, leveraging the university's expertise and its proximity to Silicon Valley to engage academic and industry leaders on critical operational challenges facing the fleet in the Pacific.

Paparo, a graduate of NPS' Systems Analysis program, met with 18 faculty members from various departments and eight industry leaders from seven companies ranging from relatively small startups to long-standing military contractors. The diversity of this group, according to NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau, is one of the things that makes NPS such a special place.

"This is one of the only places in the country that can host meetings like this," said Rondeau. "Not only do we possess experienced staff and students, but our geographic location relative to Silicon Valley really enables us to have high-level conversations about problems that the DOD is facing today. NPS' defense-focused graduate education and applied research solutions meet Navy-specific and national security needs."

Paparo described to the group his three priorities for advancing the Naval force: building and demonstrating dynamic combat power, strengthening alliances and partnerships, and improving the Navy's posture in the Pacific.

"We need to make the force as methodical as possible," Paparo said. "We need to streamline how we plan work, the quality of our work, the efficiency of our workforce, and timeliness of our supplies getting to their final destination."

A strategic advantage the Navy has is its strong alliances and partnerships. Those relationships make us a more effective force and are our asymmetric advantage, said Paparo.

"And lastly, we want to improve our posture in the Pacific," he continued. "The future of the Navy is a more mobile force able to be in the right places to execute our objectives."

What followed was a robust discussion of ideas and options from the diverse pool of subject matter experts. Paparo opened the floor to the group of academics, technologists and business leaders, and many solutions and options were presented. Following this initial effort by Paparo to engage academia and industry, the Pacific Fleet commander noted he knew he had come to the right place.

"NPS is the flagship technical graduate school for the Navy and DOD," Paparo said. "This school is ruthlessly focused on warfighting, and in the geography that is the hub of technical innovation in the world."

That combination allows NPS to not only advance the technical leadership of the Naval service, but it also positions the university to act as a catalyst for advancing Paparo's three priorities for advantage in the Pacific.

"U.S. Pacific Fleet will be the largest consumer of NPS' intellect, innovation and zeal," he said.

Following the discussions, Paparo concluded his visit with an exploration of several NPS facilities, including a visit to the additive manufacturing lab to see the Xerox ElemX 3D Liquid Metal Printer first-hand.

"The meeting was a success," said Rondeau. "I look forward to continuing to support the Pacific Fleet through this great partnership."

[Pacific Fleet leverages NPS, Silicon Valley to advance solutions to key challenges > U.S. Pacific Fleet > News \(navy.mil\)](#)

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Doctoral Student Explores Nexus of Media Narratives and Cyber Intrusion

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Through his doctoral research, Mitch McCarthy, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, explored the relationship between the propagation of media narratives and the level of cyber intrusions on U.S. networks in subsequent days, leading to a doctorate in information sciences in mid-2021. He now serves as a lecturer for NPS' Defense Resources Management Institute (DRMI).

McCarthy's dissertation, titled "Media Effects on Cyber Intrusion," explored how national news narratives emanating from other countries about the U.S. on a given day resonate within their domestic populace leading to intrusions on U.S. networks on the following day.

"Dr. McCarthy's dissertation provides one of the first systematic investigations of the drivers of cyber intrusion activities," said Associate Professor Camber Warren, NPS Department of Defense Analysis and an advisor on the research. "His evidence shows that a key element in these dynamics are the narratives transmitted through the global online news media."

The question the dissertation set out to address is, "How do competing narratives, reported by news media sources, between the U.S. and other sovereign states, indicate the level of future cyber-intrusion activity targeting U.S.-based information technology networks?"

Through his research, McCarthy was able to discern that not only does media play a role in the chance for cyber intrusions, but also the country of origin of the media is a factor. The research was based on media from anocratic, autocratic and democratic states and data on cyber intrusions from an anonymous source.

The findings of this research rest upon more than 14 million intrusions captured by the open-source intrusion detection software known as SNORT, over a 302 day period. This intrusion data was then aligned with media events, electronically scraped by the Phoenix Event Data project over the same time period, representing yesterday's foreign media narratives directed at the U.S.

McCarthy said that if you know negative media narratives are occurring today, you could increase defensive efforts against intrusions directed towards U.S. networks.

"Hypothetically, today's negative media narratives about the United States, say specifically about the oil and gas industry, could result in tomorrow's intrusions on those U.S. networks," explained McCarthy. "What would that allow people in oil and gas to do? They would be able to competently defend their information technology systems."

"Dr. McCarthy's research provides new scientific insights revealing, through the use of predictive modeling of cyber intrusion threats, that national narratives play a key role in shaping the behavior of hostile actors," added Warren. "Simultaneously, this research points the way towards capabilities that will be crucial to the broader defense community, to anticipate emergent threats in the information environment, especially in a context of great power competition."

McCarthy found a direct correlation between today's narratives originating from different sovereign states within anocratic, autocratic and democratic regime types, the manner in which the media narrative was presented, and the impact on intrusions tomorrow.

Although McCarthy is still conducting more research on media narratives affecting cyber intrusions, he is in the process of developing these findings into a potential cyber defense capability.

"I would like to see it automated," noted McCarthy. "I want to work with the currently anonymous organization, who provided the intrusion data, and see if it could work for them in an automated fashion. I'm in discussions, presently, on how to make that a reality."

According to Warren, as we move forward, this line of research may provide predictive models of cyber intrusion threats that allow analysts and planners to anticipate the mobilization of hostile cyber actors, and thereby to shift from reactive to proactive force postures.

[Doctoral Student Explores Nexus of Media Narratives and Cyber Intrusion > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

[Doctoral Student Explores Nexus of Media Narratives and Cyber Intrusion - Naval Postgraduate School \(nps.edu\)](#)

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Gunshot detection systems to be installed in Attleboro schools

(The Sun Chronicle 21 Oct 21) ... George W. Rhodes

The installation of gunshot detection systems in the city's nine schools is expected to begin in November.

Mayor Paul Heroux, who first proposed the systems in January, asked the city council in a letter on Tuesday night for an appropriation to cover the \$508,240 cost.

The actual bid for the work was \$484,038.

A 5 percent contingency amount of \$24,202 was added to pay for unexpected problems with the installation.

Once the cash is authorized the contract will go to HELP Inc. out of Plainville, Director of Budget and Administration Jeremy Stull told The Sun Chronicle in an email.

Three of the five bids received for the work did not meet all requirements and were disqualified. The losing bid came from Digital Decision, which submitted a price tag of \$704,716.

Stull said installation work will start next month and finish in the spring of 2022 with the exception of the new high school, which is still under construction.

Installation of the system in the high school is expected to finish in July of 2022, which will be in time for its opening in September.

Heroux said gunshot detection systems are a critical addition to what will be a "multi-phased" school safety plan.

"First it's important to recognize that school shootings are more common and more deadly than school fires," he said in an email Thursday. "That's why I am addressing this issue. The last time a student died of a school fire was back in the 1950s. Multiple students die each year from school shootings."

He also said he plans to install gun detection systems at school entrances to keep guns out of schools altogether.

The gunshot detection system is the latest addition to a number of security measures that have been described by architects of the new high school as "robust."

For example, officials said that special bullet-resistant glass will be installed to defend against someone trying to shoot his way into the school.

And the interior and exterior of the school will be monitored by cameras.

Electronic sensors will alert officials when a door is propped open.

In previous comments, Heroux said gunshot detection systems are capable of pinpointing the location of the shooter and are not fooled by other loud noises such as firecrackers or thunder.

The system locks down the school, contacts authorities and blares warnings, he said.

Heroux said the system cuts response time for police.

"There's a very low probability we'd ever need anything like this, but school shootings are more common than school fires," he said in January. "It's a sad reality."



Mayoral challenger and security expert Todd McGhee agrees that gunshot detection systems work, but adds he would push to do more.

“The technology works, it’s effective, but it’s reactive,” he told a Sun Chronicle editorial board meeting this week.

He aims to push for more “adjustment counselors” who are trained to pick up on “at risk” students who have issues that may motivate extreme violence.

Heroux said adjustment counselors, or as he called them “social workers,” are important, but finding the money to pay for them will be a problem.

“As a candidate, Mr. McGee can propose extra social workers but he doesn’t have the authority as mayor and he also doesn’t even have a way to pay for it,” Heroux said, pointing out that the school superintendent and the school committee run the department.

Heroux said the planned installation of gun detection systems at school entrances is one of the proactive steps he intends to take.

Meanwhile, in a grim reminder of why tightened security is needed, Nikolas Cruz, 23 pleaded guilty Wednesday to 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted murder. He carried out a massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Valentine’s Day in 2018.

His punishment, which at the minimum will be life in prison without parole and at a maximum will be death, will be decided by a jury in the coming months.

School shootings do not just happen at high schools.

On Dec. 14, 2012, Adam Lanza, 20, shot to death 20 6- and 7-year-olds and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Prior to his attack on the school he killed his mother. After it, he killed himself.

According to a nationwide study covering the years 1970-2018 published by the Center for Homeland Security and the **Naval Postgraduate School**, 2018 was the worst year ever for school shootings.

The number of incidents was 96 and the number of deaths was 56.

The previous high number of incidents was 59 in 2006 and the previous high number of deaths was 40 in 1993.

The **Naval Postgraduate** Study defines “incidents” as “every instance in which a gun is brandished, fired, or a bullet hits school property, for any reason, regardless of the number of victims (including zero), time, day of the week, or reason (e.g., planned attack, accidental, domestic violence, gang-related).”

The number of deaths include the shooters.

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Xerox Tackles Environmental and Societal Challenges in 2021 Corporate Social Responsibility Report

(Yahoo Finance 21 Oct 21)

(Street Insider 21 Oct 21)

(Valdosta Daily Times 21 Oct 21)

Xerox Holdings Corporation (NASDAQ: XRX) has published its 2021 Global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report detailing data, accomplishments, and goals adhering to the company’s work for society, governance and environmental impact.

"Xerox has a social responsibility to do what’s best not just for the company, but for people, the environment and society. Key parts of our corporate social responsibility strategy focus on how we can lessen our impact and our customers’ impact on the environment and help society—all while ensuring we govern ourselves in a manner that makes Xerox one of the most responsible companies in the world," said John Visentin, Vice Chairman and CEO, Xerox. "The Xerox team accomplished so much over the last year, and I couldn’t be prouder of how our team members continue to find new ways to make every day work better for our customers, partners and communities."



With climate change being one of today's defining issues, the company fast-tracked its net zero goal by 10 years to 2040. This year's report marks the first time Xerox is publishing its roadmap to net zero. The roadmap focuses on improving processes and energy efficiency, as well as designing environmentally responsible products and clean technologies. Specific examples include:

Achieving ENERGY STAR® registration for 100% of Xerox's eligible new products

Pioneering a new service experience platform from CareAR, a Xerox company, to enable enterprises to deliver better environmental, health, and safety results

Working with the U.S. Department of Energy on HVAC technology that could cut the energy consumption of air conditioners by up to 80%

Additional CSR highlights from the report include:

Increasing the diversity of Xerox's Board of Directors to 40%

Executing on the company's newly established Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging roadmap that is focused on building a diverse pipeline, partnerships, cultural changes, community outreach and accountability

Aiding in the COVID-19 response efforts by supporting frontline workers, manufacturing and donating single-use, low-cost ventilators and producing facemasks

Launching a new rewards program that allows employees to redeem \$10 per volunteer hour, up to \$500 per year, to donate to a non-profit of their choice

All environmental, societal, and governance initiatives published within the 2021 Global CSR Report stand alongside Xerox's mission of upholding leadership in innovation and its Innovation with Impact program. This program led to Xerox's recent partnership with the **Naval Postgraduate School** to aid in the adoption of 3D printing throughout the U.S. Navy. It also led to Xerox's launch of Eloque™, a joint venture with VicTrack, a state-owned enterprise in Victoria, Australia, to commercialize PARC-developed IoT technology that remotely monitors the structural health of infrastructure assets, like bridges.

Xerox prepared the 2021 CSR report according to Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, Xerox continues to disclose its CSR metrics using the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) standards to ensure our stakeholders have full transparency into our CSR progress.

[Xerox Tackles Environmental and Societal Challenges in 2021 Corporate Social Responsibility Report \(yahoo.com\)](#)

[Xerox Tackles Environmental and Societal Challenges in 2021 Corporate Social Responsibility Report \(streetinsider.com\)](#)

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Drone Research at the Naval Postgraduate School

(Monterey County NOW 22 Oct 21) ... Agata Popęda

A peek inside some of the drone research happening at the Naval Postgraduate School's Sea Land Air Military Research Institute.

Good afternoon.

Agata Popęda here, thinking about how to summarize the Monterey Bay DART (Drones, Automation and Robotics Technology) symposium that wrapped up this afternoon with the third and final day of events devoted to the issue of the environment

While most of the presentations in this annual conference were conducted online during morning panels (day one focused on security; day two, mobility; and day three, the environment) the symposium had some in-person components. Among them there was a hard-to-decline invitation to tour the Naval



Postgraduate School's Sea Land Air Military Research Institute, known as SLAMR and located along Del Monte Boulevard between Seaside and Monterey.

Located in a former water treatment facility, the facility now serves as a playground for combined forces of federal, military and private industry to test the newest technology. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) remain the focus, and Dr. Kevin Jones (Aerodynamic Design and System Integration at Naval Postgraduate School) spoke on Wednesday morning about fifty drones being operated by one man. Security of self-driving vehicles is another matter, presenting a huge challenge that will have to be addressed in the future. Right now, at SLAMR, Jones doesn't have to worry about that, because he has a perfect environment for testing.

NPS Associate Professor Raymond Buettner welcomed the tour (done in small groups, for safety) at the SLAMR facility and explained how the government and the industry work together. The most interesting thing I learned about NPS was the speed at which research is done here, projects are executed and products are produced. Compared to the world of academia, the rotation of young people is constant and fast; and nobody waits six years to finish a dissertation.

Dr. Jones presented his AquaQuad, a "hybrid mobile vehicle" for "persistent surface and underwater reconnaissance." It is being used in the field of marine acoustics, which is the whole evolving discipline of gathering knowledge about the ocean by listening to it, from studying how human life affects animals to anthropogenic sound, the "noise pollution" in the ocean. "It can be used for pretty much anything," Jones says. "For example for conservation work. You can feed it with any data you want. Right now, there's interest in marine acoustics."

Among other ambitious projects, NPS is working with liquid metal developed by Xerox (named ElemX via 3D printer) and has partnered with AT&T to develop 5G and edge computing-based maritime solutions. "The big idea behind this facility is to explore robotic systems underground, underwater, on the ground, on the surface of the water and in the air," Buettner says, leading the group through a series of gigantic tanks for testing. "We want universities and high schools to use it and we support sharing information." The main users of the facility are, naturally, students and faculty members of NPS. The school is just around the corner—it's just a ten-minute walk for students to get here.

Participants of the tour came from all walks of life in the community. There were local officials representing economic development, a teacher who wants to develop a drone course for high school students and private citizens obsessed with technology, who were taking careful notes and followed each move of the AquaQuad with dreamy eyes. We all looked forward to learning more about drones when DART returns—next year.

https://www.montereycountyweekly.com/opinion/mcnow_intro/drone-research-at-the-naval-postgraduate-school-another-chance-to-tour-the-county-s-artists/article_217fdca6-ba7d-568a-a405-d1fa96dc3979.html

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ALUMNI:

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Barrera's career in the Colombian Navy spanned four decades. As Commander of the Colombian Navy from 2006 through 2010, he was part of the governmental team under President Álvaro Uribe that led the country from the brink of failure into an era of stability and prosperity.



Commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in 1971, Barrera also served as the Commander of the Colombian Coast Guard, Commander of the nation's Caribbean Naval Forces as well as Chief of Naval Operations of the Colombian Navy before becoming the Commander of the Colombian Navy.

Barrera retired in 2011 and became a Distinguished International Fellow at the U.S. Naval War College, where he graduated in 1993. He teaches Political Warfare and supports the main curricula and the colleges of Leadership and Ethics and Maritime Warfare Operations.

Today, he considers his time at NPS critical to his success as an O-3 to an O-5.

"NPS gave me the opportunity to be several steps ahead compared with the rest of my mates in the Colombian Navy, in the sense that it provided me with many clear concepts that we didn't have in Colombia, especially regarding the different disciplines of engineering," Barrera said. "Coming to NPS was a fantastic experience, not just for me but for many other Colombian naval officers who came here and would go on to become commanders, flag officers and Commanders of the Navy."

Barrera received his NPS master's in Electrical and Electronics Engineering in 1983 after completing his thesis work in digital controls for hard drive systems, cutting-edge at the time.

"It was future technology! We never imagined the capabilities and capacity that we have today; it was beyond our imagination," he stressed. "NPS gave me a technologically-broader picture of the world. This proved quite important, especially in recognizing new technology that will be needed in the near future."

"It's important to keep an open mind to this; defining the technology correctly in order to apply it to solve specific problems," he added. "I learned this here at NPS and it allowed me to be more successful."

Equally invaluable were the connections and friendships Barrera forged at the university which became pivotal throughout his career, enduring relationships which continue to this day.

Fellow Colombian naval officers who attended NPS would also go on to become flag officers and commanders of the Navy, forming a tight-knit, synergistic group who directly applied their knowledge gained here to the full spectrum of naval operations.

"NPS allowed us to be one step ahead of the curve when it came to technology," Barrera said. "These were people who were able to transform how we did business."

For example, designing and building the Colombian submarine fleet in the 1970s was made possible through know-how gained at NPS, as was its sustainment. They remain in pristine condition today on active duty. Likewise with Colombian frigates which entered service in the 1980s.

"So that, I would say, is a strong partnership," he said.

The strength of this bond reverberates across the Caribbean to within our own shores.

As their careers progressed, their American NPS classmates also rose in rank and responsibility within their respective services. These connections proved invaluable as the Colombian Navy took on the challenges presented by transnational criminal organizations, narco-trafficking, trafficking of human beings, and waves of human migration.

"These things affect my country, but they're not only in Colombia," Barrera said. "They start and end in other countries. This means that the solution is international and that we have to work together with all those affected."

"If I have a part of the problem, I also have a part of the solution," he continued. "Working together, we'll solve these problems together."

Working with his American colleagues was a "fantastic trust-building partnership experience, and it's still there," Barrera said. "Everything in my case started here at NPS."

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D. Jeremy DeMar joins NGA 911 Team

(NBC 29 19 Oct 21)

NGA 911, LLC, a leading provider of Next Generation Core Services (NGCS) and Advanced 911 Call Handling announced Monday the appointment of D. Jeremy DeMar, MA, CPE, ENP as Director of Engagement and Outreach.

A thought leader and advocate for the emergency communications profession, Mr. DeMar brings close to nineteen years of operational and administrative experience from the 9-1-1 sector to the NGA 911 team. Mr. DeMar first served as a Police Dispatcher at the Emergency Communications Department (ECD) in Rochester, New York. Later, he would be promoted to the position of Dispatcher II (Police, Fire, EMS), and finally, to the position of Shift Supervisor. In January 2018, Mr. DeMar accepted an appointment as Director of Emergency Communications for the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, a position he would hold until April 2020, at which time he would accept an appointment to Executive Director of the Mountain Valley Emergency Communications Center (MVECC) in New Providence, New Jersey.

Mr. DeMar holds undergraduate degrees in Fire Science and Emergency Management, and in March of 2017, he completed graduate studies with the **Naval Postgraduate School** (Monterey, California), authoring and publishing a Master's Thesis titled "Next Generation 9-1-1: Policy Implications of Incident Related Imagery on the Public Safety Answering Point". His research has been cited in a number of graduate level works, and the term he coined during his graduate studies, Incident Related Imagery, appears in a variety of public safety publications, most recently in a DHS/CISA white paper titled "Next Generation 911 Incident-Related Imagery Impacts 101". In September 2021, Mr. DeMar was selected to provide the keynote address at the Missouri Public Safety Communications Conference, where he delivered a graduate level overview of his thesis research.

Mr. DeMar's service to the 9-1-1 profession extends far beyond his work in the emergency communications center. Previously, he served as the co-chair of the National Joint TERT Initiative (NJTI) representing APCO; on APCO's Atlantic Chapter as a Board Member; on NENA's Education Advisory Board, and as a Board Member of the NG 9-1-1 Institute. Currently he serves on SAFECOM as a member of the NG 9-1-1 Working Group; on APCO's Cybersecurity Committee and on APCO's Standards Development Group for Career Progression in the PSAP.

"It is critical for industry partners and solution providers serving the 9-1-1 community to fully understand the needs of their clients and frontline team members. This is absolutely the case when it comes to proposing, deploying, and supporting cutting-edge technologies designed to improve emergency communications center operations," DeMar said. "In conversations with NGA 911's leadership team prior to my appointment, it became clear to me how committed this group and this organization were not only to furthering the advancement of Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies, but more importantly, doing so only after understanding the needs of the client and its public safety partners. I am extremely proud to be joining the NGA 911 team and excited to see what the future holds for this organization and for the 9-1-1 profession."

"As Director of Outreach and Engagement, Mr. DeMar will focus on creating a welcoming and informative conduit between NGA 911 and the emergency communications community. His expertise in PSAP/ECC administration and operation coupled with his passion for furthering awareness and understanding of emerging technologies in the 9-1-1 space make him a wonderful addition to the NGA911 team," said Don Ferguson, CEO NGA 911.

[D. Jeremy DeMar joins NGA 911 Team \(nbc29.com\)](#)

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Mayor de Blasio Names Andrew D'Amora as Acting Emergency Management Commissioner

([NYC.gov 19 Oct 21](#))

([Harlem World Magazine 19 Oct 21](#))

Mayor Bill de Blasio today appointed Andrew D'Amora as the Acting Commissioner of New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM). Outgoing Commissioner John Scrivani, who has served in the role since March, will return home to Virginia at the end of October. D'Amora, a seven-year veteran of NYCEM, first served as the agency's Chief of Staff for five years and has served as First Deputy Commissioner since 2019.

"Andrew D'Amora has served this city with energy and vision, across multiple roles, and I know he will work tirelessly to keep our city safe and prepared," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "I'm grateful for John Scrivani for his service, and I look forward to working with Acting Commissioner D'Amora to move his agency forward."

"I have been honored to work for the City of New York for more than three decades and at NYC Emergency Management since 2014. The women and men at this agency are among the most dedicated, hard-working people I have ever known and I am humbled to lead them through the end of the year," said Andrew D'Amora.

"I am honored to fill the role of Acting First Deputy Commissioner. The work NYC Emergency Management does with its partners to help New Yorkers before, during and after emergencies is incredibly important, and we will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of all the city's residents," said Christina Farrell.

"Andy D'Amora is an experienced and battle-tested public servant. He will lead NYC Emergency Management with the same dedication that he has exhibited throughout his career. I thank Mayor de Blasio for the opportunity to lead the country's premier emergency management agency. It has been a great privilege," said outgoing NYCEM Commissioner John Scrivani.

Christina Farrell, a 27-year NYCEM veteran who has served as the agency's Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs since 2008, will serve as Acting First Deputy Commissioner.

As NYCEM's Chief of Staff, D'Amora managed the New York City deployment in support of the City of San Juan, Puerto Rico, during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and coordinated the agency's response to events ranging from summer heat waves to building collapses. As First Deputy Commissioner, he has led NYC Emergency Management through a range of disasters, including Tropical Storm Isaias, the COVID-19 pandemic, and snowstorms.

D'Amora joined the New York City Police Department in 1990 and holds the rank of Deputy Chief. He has served in several commands throughout the five boroughs. Prior to joining NYC Emergency Management, D'Amora coordinated the NYPD's response to large-scale events like New Year's Eve in Times Square and Hurricanes Irene and Sandy as the Commanding Officer of the Operations Division.

D'Amora holds a Master of Science in protection management with a concentration in emergency management from John Jay College and a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management from St. Joseph's College. He is also a graduate of the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California, and a graduate of the Police Management Institute at Columbia University.

"Every time there has been a major emergency related to Staten Island, calling Andy D'Amora has been on my short list of actionable steps. His accessibility, professionalism, and desire to help has been constant and most appreciated. He's been a friend to me, our Borough Hall team, and Staten Island. He's one of those people you are glad is in your foxhole, and I am really heartened to see his expertise and years of service recognized via this appointment," said Staten Island Borough President James Oddo.

[Mayor de Blasio Names Andrew D'Amora as Acting Emergency Management Commissioner | City of New York \(nyc.gov\)](#)

[Mayor de Blasio Names Andrew D'Amora Acting Emergency AS Acting Emergency Management Commissioner \(harlemworldmagazine.com\)](#)

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Chris Eckols is the CEO of AIT Environmental Technology, which is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach

(Ponte Vedra Recorder 21 Oct 21) ... Anthony Richards

Chris Eckols is CEO of AIT Environmental Technology based in Ponte Vedra Beach since 2006. He took on the venture after serving 23 years in the Navy, which is when he was first introduced to the Northeast Florida area.

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I served 23 years in the Navy, actually getting my start here at Mayport in 1993. After a myriad of assignments, I retired as Lieutenant Commander, Supply Corps and my MBA is from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, California.

Throughout my Navy and private sector career, I've been heavily involved in supply chain, logistics, operations and strategic planning.

Those roles certainly do not define me but have really shaped my way of strategic focus.

How did you get involved with AIT Environmental Technology and what does the company specialize in?

I was introduced to AIT through a fellow Rotarian in Williamsburg, Virginia. He was excited to tell me about AIT and the growth potential of the company.

After a deep dive into AIT with its owner Jim Thomas and CEO Kristiana Knowles, I recognized that I could really make a positive impact to the brand and the employees.

Since I've had a residence in Ponte Vedra Beach for several years, the opportunity seemed like a no-brainer. It specializes in mold testing and remediation, water extraction and building restoration services. I like to call it "building remedies" because we can tackle a wide variety of problems.

What are the primary goals/services provided by the business?

Our primary service is disaster response with a Fortune 500 retail chain. We handle the disaster repair for close to 9,000 of its stores across 20 states, reaching as far north as Baltimore.

Outside of that relationship, we provide similar services to residential and commercial customers. We've enjoyed a long working relationship with local universities and property managers a like.

AIT's team of technicians are extremely versatile in solving the one-off problems that come up when we start restoration work.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The thing I like most enjoy about this job is that each day is different. Some people enjoy the predictability of knowing what each day is like, I'm the opposite.

If you ask me what's in store for me at work tomorrow, I couldn't tell you because each event has its own unique life cycle.

Hurricane disasters are different than car impacts or fires in buildings.

What are some of the aspects of your job or the business that are more challenging?

The most challenging part of this job is preparing for the next building disaster, since the scope and location is always a moving target.

Although we can handle just about anything thrown our way, managing a small number of technicians across such a large geographic area is the challenge, especially when there is extensive damage, or an event is in a remote location.

It's just important to go event by event and stay organized.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

Northeast Florida is such a great place to live. In the past six months I've golfed Sawgrass, fished the King Fish Tournament, been to several Jags games, bicycled to St. Augustine, saw the Concours (d'Elegance) at Amelia and heard from great speakers at the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary.

My son attends school at Jacksonville University, so being close to him is also a great opportunity. There is just so much to do here and so many opportunities to engage through the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club and the Jacksonville Chamber. It's like no other place.

What do you like to do in your free time?



In my free time I just look for anything to do outside. My golf game is getting better (some would argue) and there is always time to relax on the beach with a fishing pole.

[Chris Eckols | The Ponte Vedra Recorder](#)

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Jacqueline Maguire Named Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Office

(FBI.gov 25 Oct 21) ... Anthony Richards

Director Christopher Wray has named Jacqueline Maguire as the special agent in charge of the Philadelphia Field Office. Ms. Maguire most recently served as special agent in charge of the Criminal Division of the New York Field Office.

Ms. Maguire was assigned to the New York Field Office when she joined the FBI as a special agent in 2000 and was a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. She was the lead agent for the investigation of the five hijackers of American Airlines Flight 77 after the 9/11 terror attacks.

In 2006, Ms. Maguire was promoted to supervisory special agent, and then to unit chief, in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters in Washington. She moved to the Washington Field Office in 2011 as a supervisory special agent. She returned to FBI Headquarters in 2014 when she was named the special assistant to the executive assistant director of the Human Resources Branch.

Ms. Maguire was promoted in 2016 to assistant special agent in charge of the Birmingham Field Office in Alabama, where she oversaw all criminal and administrative matters. She was named section chief in the Office of Public Affairs at FBI Headquarters in 2017 and promoted to deputy assistant director in 2018. She was promoted in 2019 to special agent in charge of the Criminal Division of the New York Field Office.

Ms. Maguire has earned several awards during her FBI career, including the 2006 Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Furthering the Interests of U.S. National Security and the 2009 Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

Prior to joining the FBI, Ms. Maguire worked at the Office of the Medical Examiner in Suffolk County, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree in comprehensive science from Villanova University; a master's degree in criminal justice from Long Island University; and a master's degree in homeland defense and security from the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

[Jacqueline Maguire Named Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Field Office — FBI](#)

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