

# MISSION IMPACT REPORT



Naval  
Postgraduate  
School  
**Foundation  
& Alumni  
Association**

**ACCELERATE IDEAS.  
EMPOWER LEADERS.  
MAXIMIZE IMPACT.**

**2025**



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**What makes the Naval Postgraduate School exceptional is more than just its mission, it’s the people who live it every day.** The students balancing academics with operational duty, the faculty pushing boundaries in research, and the families who create stability and community here in Monterey all represent what service looks like.

**The Foundation exists to support them. We strengthen the everyday experience that makes NPS exceptional.** This can be a place to study between classes, a hot cup of coffee, transportation to community events, light refreshments at a seminar that sparks collaboration, and so much more. We provide the Foundation Cottage, the new Waypoint Coffee, Retail Shop & Lounge, family programs, and community events that give students and spouses a sense of belonging here in Monterey.

When a student has the right tools and the freedom to explore an idea, it becomes a solution that keeps our service members safer. When researchers and industry partners have a place to collaborate, it becomes the start of a capability that strengthens our national security. And when a family feels supported and connected, **it allows a warfighter to focus fully on the mission ahead.**

**The blend of everyday support and long-term strategic investment defines the Foundation’s role.** It’s what ensures NPS remains a place where ideas turn into action and where those who serve have the resources, community and opportunities they deserve.

From progress on the Naval Innovation Center at NPS to expanding AI research infrastructure and strengthening the partnerships that keep NPS at the forefront of defense innovation, our impact continues to grow.

**Together, these investments ensure that NPS continues to deliver what our nation needs most: leaders who think differently, act decisively, and innovate with purpose.**

RICH PATTERSON  
CEO & PRESIDENT



# 2025 Highlights



## NVIDIA delivers first of its kind AI system to NPS

- In October 2025, NVIDIA announced a gift of the DGX GB300 system, establishing NPS as the Navy's flagship for applied AI education, research and experimentation.
- The DGX GB300 provides advanced computing for large-scale AI model training, inference and mission-driven solution development for the Naval and Joint Force.
- Students and faculty will now have secure, on-premises infrastructure to develop and test AI tools that advance operational decision-making and readiness.
- This builds on the January 2025 gift from NVIDIA, Dell Technologies and Sterling Computers that brought the Omniverse OVX system to NPS, expanding digital twin development, real-time modeling, and simulation capability across secure environments.
- Together, these systems create a fully integrated AI and modeling environment that connects data, simulation, and experimentation for mission applications.
- Both gifts were facilitated through the NPS Foundation as the official partner for technology and infrastructure support to NPS.

## NPS Foundation and Department of the Navy advance the Naval Innovation Center at NPS

- The FY25 National Defense Authorization Act formally authorized the Naval Innovation Center at NPS, establishing it as the Navy's home for defense innovation and technology transition.
- Following the NDAA, the NPS Foundation and the Department of the Navy signed a Memorandum of Agreement defining NPS Foundation stake and shared roles for developing, outfitting and sustaining the facility.
- The Naval Innovation Center at NPS will provide classified and unclassified collaborative spaces for applied research, experimentation, solution development and capability transition.
- The MOA with the Navy allows the NPS Foundation to provide private support, in-kind gifts of technology to outfit and sustain the Naval Innovation Center at NPS and related projects.
- The Foundation's continued leadership in building partnerships, securing private support and developing infrastructure ensures the NIC at NPS will serve as a model for defense innovation and public-private collaboration.

## Foundation Expands On-Campus Presence

- Waypoint officially opened in August 2025, restoring a much-needed campus hub for caffeine refuels, study breaks, and collaboration. Designed, funded, and operated by the NPS Foundation, Waypoint provides high-quality coffee, NPS merchandize and a welcoming environment that brings students, faculty, staff and vistiors together every day.
- After two years without a coffee shop on campus, its opening quickly became one of the most celebrated milestones of the year. Foundation support also subsidizes daily operations, keeping prices low and ensuring the space remains accessible for the NPS community. In the years leading up to Waypoint's opening, the Foundation maintained free coffee services at the Cottage to fill the gap.
- Foundation initiatives enhanced quality of life across campus through student and faculty awards, recreation programs, facility upgrades and graduation and event support.
- Three new student clubs joined the Foundation network, adding Entrepreneurship, Salsa Dancing and Motorcycle, now 20 in total. The Outdoors Club expanded to add more focused activities including surfing, scuba and skiing alongside hiking, fishing, camping and hunting.





## About Naval Postgraduate School

### Where Science Meets the Art of Warfare

The Naval Postgraduate School is a Naval command with a defense-focused graduate university mission, dedicated to advancing the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval and Joint Services. Through interdisciplinary research and education, NPS develops warrior-scholars who solve operational challenges and ensure our military maintains a critical advantage in current and future conflicts.

## Mission & Vision

### The Mission

The Naval Postgraduate School provides defense-focused graduate education, including classified studies and interdisciplinary research, to advance the operational effectiveness, technological leadership and warfighting advantage of the Naval service.

### The Vision

The Naval Postgraduate School will become the nation's leading institution for defense higher education and applied research, delivering transformative solutions and innovative leaders for decisive U.S. seapower and national defense.

## What makes NPS different?

- **Defense-Focused Education** – Graduate programs designed to address the needs of the Department of War and current and emerging military challenges.
- **Operationally Experienced Students** – Over 2,500 students, at any given time, bring real-world missions into the classroom, ensuring research is immediately relevant.
- **Interdisciplinary Research** – Cross-domain collaboration among faculty and students integrates technology, policy, and operations to solve complex defense challenges.
- **Partnerships with Impact** – Collaboration with industry, academia and operational commands accelerates prototyping, experimentation and technology transition.
- **Advanced Technology and AI Infrastructure** – NPS has always been among the first to receive new technologies. The new investment of the NVIDIA DGX GB300 is the first of its kind within the Department of War.
- **Global Reach, Local Connections** – A strategic location in Monterey connects NPS to the innovation hubs of Silicon Valley and the broader West Coast defense ecosystem, and oriented toward threats and challenges in the Pacific.
- **Alumni Impact** – NPS graduates lead across the Navy, Joint Force, and government, strengthening interoperability and global partnerships. Over one in five active U.S. flag and general officers are NPS graduates, applying their education in commands worldwide.







# About Naval Postgraduate School Foundation

## Investing in people, partnerships, research and innovation that strengthen national security.

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation amplifies NPS’ mission by investing in the people, programs and partnerships that keep the school agile, connected and focused on the nation’s most pressing challenges. Through private support, we provide the flexibility, speed and resources that government funding alone cannot, empowering NPS to deliver impact across national security-focused education, research and innovation.

### Mission & Vision

#### Our Mission

To support the people, programs, and partnerships that make NPS a center of excellence for military education and innovation.

#### Our Vision

To ensure the Naval Postgraduate School remains the nation’s premier institution for defense-focused education and innovation—where every idea, partnership, and investment strengthens the readiness and capability of those who serve.

### How We Operate

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation fills a variety of roles in support of the Naval Postgraduate School and the broader Naval, Joint, and Innovation ecosystems. Each of these roles provides a unique framework, structure, and set of authorizations that enable NPS to connect, collaborate and accelerate solutions with partners across government, academia and industry.

Service Category	Description
501(c)(3) Nonprofit	Accepts and manages private contributions that support programs that directly strengthen NPS’ mission, advancing education, research, solution development, and supporting quality of life and community programs.
Partner Intermediary (through PIA with NPS)	Connects NPS students, faculty, and defense innovators with industry to accelerate experimentation, technology transition, and collaborative problem-solving.
Naval Innovation Center at NPS Partner (through MOA with DON)	Partners with the Department of the Navy in the development, outfitting and sustainment of the Naval Innovation Center at NPS, ensuring private resources directly enhance operational readiness and national security.
NPS Alumni Association (through MOU with NPS)	Operates as the NPS Alumni Association, engaging more than 60,000 alumni worldwide to strengthen professional development, connection and innovation in leadership.

### Why it Matters

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation ensures that NPS can move faster, collaborate wider, and support deeper than government funding alone allows.

- **Government funding alone can’t always match the speed of emerging technology.** The NPS Foundation fills that gap, delivering flexible resources that move research from concept to capability.
- **We build community and improve quality of life for NPS students, faculty, and families—supporting wellness, education, professional development, and connection that allow service members to stay mission focused during and beyond their time in Monterey.**
- **Through private support, we provide immediate funding for materials, data, and equipment that keep projects moving when timing is critical.**
- **We sustain the programs and partnerships that make NPS a hub for collaboration between defense, industry and academia.**



# Program Overview



## Student & Family Support

Programs that strengthen quality of life and community connection for NPS students, faculty and their families.

- Waypoint
- NPS Foundation Cottage
- Quarterly Welcome Events
- Recreational Clubs
- Wellness Programs
- Mental Health Resources
- Community Events
- Family Trips
- Light Refreshments
- Student & Faculty Awards



## Campus Facilities & Spaces

Investments that improve the NPS campus environment and foster collaboration, creativity and innovation.

- Student Lounge Renovation
- Emerging Technology & Innovation (ETI) Lab
- Innovative Research to Operational Need (IRON) Lab
- Naval Innovation Center at NPS (planning and advocacy)



## Innovation Ecosystem

Partnerships, events, and tools that connect NPS to the national defense innovation network.

- Industry Partnership support
- Emerging Technology & Student Showcase
- Athena Research and Collaboration Platform
- Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) activities that connect NPS with industry partners
- Sponsorship of key NPS -hosted events
- Fireside Chats featuring experts from defense, industry and academia



## Advancing Artificial Intelligence at NPS

Private support accelerating NPS' leadership in AI education, research and experimentation.

- AI Infrastructure & Sustainment Funding
- AI Mentorship & Program Management Support
- AI Education & Experimentation Initiatives
- Digital Trident AI Challenge Funding



## Applied Research & Innovation Programs

Private support connecting NPS research to operational needs through experimentation, testing and collaboration.

- Rapid Research Micro-grants that provide fast funding for software, materials, data, personnel or other resources to keep projects moving
- Field Experimentation Support
- Focused Research Project Challenge coordination and grants
- Award grants for student and faculty research



## Alumni Association

Programs that keep more than 60,000 graduates connected, celebrating achievement and strengthening lifelong ties to NPS.

- Local, Regional and Global Alumni Events
- Communications and Outreach – sharing news, achievements and opportunities across the community
- Global Network Engagement
- Continued education and professional development opportunities

Every investment, large or small, helps NPS deliver new ideas, advanced technologies and educated leaders for the Naval and Joint Force.





# NPS Community Support

The NPS Foundation invests in programs that strengthen the people at the heart of the Naval Postgraduate School including active-duty students, their families, faculty and alumni. These initiatives enhance quality of life, foster community, and ensure that every service member at NPS has the resources, support and connections needed to thrive personally and professionally.

## Waypoint

When the campus coffee shop closed in 2023, NPS lost a hub for collaboration and connection. The NPS Foundation stepped in to fill that gap, reimagining the space as Waypoint, a coffee, lounge and retail space, which officially opened in August 2025.

Waypoint has quickly become one of the most popular spots on campus. A space where students study, faculty connect, and visitors and alumni feel part of the NPS community.

- Provides a comfortable, flexible space for connection, group study, club meetings, community gatherings and events.
- Offers a variety of espresso drinks, smoothies, teas and more at a subsidized price
- A portion of drink proceeds is reinvested in Morale, Welfare and Recreational Programs for NPS community
- Made possible by sponsorship from SoFi and Dell Technologies.

## The NPS Foundation Cottage

The NPS Foundation Cottage is a shared space that fosters community and connection on campus. It’s a place where students and faculty can study, meet, and relax throughout the day, and where clubs, small groups, and Foundation-supported events bring people together in a comfortable, welcoming setting.

- Offers a relaxed, welcoming environment for study, gathering and connection.
- Offers free coffee, snacks, and a shared kitchen where students can store food and prepare meals
- Hosts student club meetings, formal and informal gatherings and Foundation-supported events.

## Family Activities & Community Building Events

Each quarter, the Foundation hosts a welcome event for the NPS community incoming students and their families, helping them settle into Monterey and the NPS community.

These gatherings foster connection, ease transitions, and build early relationships that last throughout a student’s time at NPS and beyond.

- Quarterly Welcome Events
- Support for campus milestone events including graduation and quarterly award ceremonies
- Annual community building events: the Grand Winter Ball, America’s Heroes Golf Tournament and “Don’t Mess with NPS” Summer event
- Transportation to Fleet Week
- Volunteer opportunities for students and family
- Monterey Bay Aquarium Passes for Students

## NPS Clubs

With 20 active clubs, the Foundation supports a vibrant campus culture where students, families and faculty can connect outside the classroom and with the local community around shared interests.

Clubs are free to all members of the NPS community, including families and spouses. **Join and learn more at [npsfoundation.org/clubs](https://npsfoundation.org/clubs).**

- Provide opportunities to represent NPS in local and national competitions.
- Free to members of the NPS community, including families and spouses.
- Provide hands-on learning, skill-building, and networking opportunities.
- Encourage leadership, teamwork and balance beyond the classroom.

## Health and Wellness

Foundation programs promote balance, connection and quality of life for the NPS community. These initiatives encourage health, mindfulness, and social well-being helping students and families manage the demands of academic and military life. Reinforces the importance of holistic well-being as a key component of mission readiness and success.

- Mental Health Support and Child Support Services through partnership with Ohana, Montage Health
- **We have more health and wellness programs planned for 2026!**

## Alumni Association

The NPS Foundation serves as the official Alumni Association, connecting more than 60,000 graduates worldwide. Through events, mentorship, and professional networks, alumni remain engaged with NPS and continue to strengthen its impact across the Fleet and Force.

- Local to Monterey, regional and international alumni gatherings
- Professional networking and mentorship opportunities
- Alumni communications and continued engagement with NPS

## Bringing the NPS Family Together

**The NPS Foundation’s quarterly Mix & Mingle Welcome Events bring students, spouses, children, faculty and staff together to build community and connection from the start of each quarter. These gatherings introduce new arrivals to NPS leadership, local organizations including spouses’ clubs and mental health resources, and the many resources available through Foundation programs from recreational clubs to community activities and on-campus support. Held four times a year, the events have become an essential touchpoint for integrating new families into the NPS community and strengthening the network that supports those who serve.**





# Institutional Support

The Foundation amplifies NPS’ mission by supporting the facilities, infrastructure, partnerships and programs that make impactful cutting-edge research and education possible. These efforts connect the academic environment with real operational needs and create opportunities for collaboration across government, industry and academia.

## Naval Innovation Center at NPS

The Foundation supports the establishment and outfitting of the Naval Innovation Center at NPS, funded in the President’s Budget and authorized in the FY25 NDAA. A Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Navy and the NPS Foundation defines the Foundation’s role in providing infrastructure, equipment and long-term support to strengthen capacity for research, experimentation and capability development. **Learn more at [npsfoundation.org/nic-at-nps](https://npsfoundation.org/nic-at-nps).**

- Supports design, equipment, and technology for the Center’s research spaces and collaborative environments.
- Enables integration of private and public resources to strengthen the Navy’s innovation ecosystem.
- Connects students, faculty, industry, and government partners to accelerate capability transition.
- Provides secure classified and unclassified spaces for collaborative research and experimentation.

## Corporate Partnerships

The Foundation builds and sustains partnerships with private industry leaders and innovative technology companies that provide critical expertise, infrastructure, and resources to advance NPS research and education.

Through these collaborations, NPS students and faculty gain access to cutting-edge tools, data and platforms that accelerate experimentation, prototype development, and operational solutions.

- Supports tech development and transfer between NPS and external organizations.
- Provides access to emerging technologies and expertise that accelerate student and faculty research, innovation and solution development.
- Enables curated engagement with industry to accelerate research and align solutions with operational needs.
- Expands awareness of NPS research and capabilities and its role as a global hub for defense innovation and talent development.

## Event Support & Institutional Advocacy

The Foundation supports the events and engagements that highlight NPS contributions and strengthen the community on campus and beyond. We provide the resources that help make campus gatherings more welcoming, more impactful and more connected.

- Supports on-campus events with funding, refreshments and logistical resources that improve the student and faculty experience
- Promotes awareness of NPS research and its impact.
- Facilitates senior leader visits, donor engagements and partner events that strengthen awareness.
- Engages policymakers, alumni and stakeholders to strengthen understanding of NPS’ capabilities.
- Connects NPS and the Monterey region to the global defense innovation ecosystem.

## Facility Support

The Foundation ensures that NPS students and faculty have access to modern, welcoming, and fully equipped spaces that foster collaboration, creativity and community.

- Renovated and furnished the Student Lounge, transforming it into a bright, functional environment for study, connection and collaboration.
- Equipped the Emerging Technology & Innovation (ETI) Lab with flexible, unclassified workspace for research in AI, autonomy and cybersecurity.
- Upgraded the Innovative Research to Operational Need (IRON) Lab, expanding classified research capacity and integrating new equipment to enable mission-driven collaboration with industry and operational partners.



## Delivering AI Infrastructure to NPS

**The NPS Foundation is delivering the advanced AI infrastructure that enables the Naval Postgraduate School to lead the Department of the Navy in research, experimentation, and education. Through the Foundation’s coordination and support, NVIDIA, Dell Technologies, and Sterling Computers provided the NVIDIA Omniverse OVX system in January, expanding NPS’ capacity for modeling, simulation, and digital twin development across security environments. Building on that progress, NVIDIA’s gift of a DGX GB300 system, announced at GTC DC on October 28, will establish NPS as the Navy’s AI flagship, providing on-premises capability for large-scale model training and mission-focused research and experimentation.**

**As a trusted nonprofit partner to NPS and the Department of the Navy, the Foundation provides the resources and authorizations that make collaborations like these possible. Through this framework, the Foundation connects defense and industry to deliver sustained capability for the Fleet and Force.**





# Research & Innovation

The Foundation strengthens NPS’ position as a leader in applied research and defense innovation by providing the flexibility, resources, and partnerships that accelerate discovery. Through private support, NPS students and faculty collaborate with industry, government and defense organizations and allies to turn ideas into solutions that enhance readiness and national security.

## Emerging Technology & Student Showcase

Held semi-annually, the Emerging Technology & Student Showcase brings together students, faculty, and industry leaders to explore emerging research and demonstrate how NPS projects are shaping the future of defense. These events foster direct dialogue, strengthen collaboration, and showcase the results of Foundation-supported innovation.

- Invites industry and government partners and sponsors to connect directly with student and faculty researchers.
- Features panels, demos, and small-group sessions that foster collaboration and idea exchange.
- Highlights how NPS student research addresses real operational challenges and transitions into deployable solutions.
- Brings technologies and tools to the NPS campus for initial exploration.

## Athena

Developed and operated by the NPS Foundation, Athena is a secure digital platform that links NPS research with the broader DOD innovation network. It gives students, faculty, and sponsors the tools to collaborate, manage projects, and move ideas from concept to capability faster. **Visit [athena4partners.org](https://athena4partners.org) to learn more.**

- Integrates millions of research papers, reports and theses, across educational institutions, research labs and more, helping users identify relevant projects and research gaps.
- Breaks down silos between disciplines, allowing for faster collaboration and visibility across ongoing research.
- Enables sponsors to identify operationally relevant projects for partnership and transition.

## Accelerating AI

The Naval Postgraduate School is leading the Department of the Navy’s effort to operationalize artificial intelligence through education, research, and applied experimentation. The Foundation plays a central role in this effort providing the resources, partnerships and infrastructure that make AI advancement at NPS possible. **Learn more [npsfoundation.org/support/accelerating-ai](https://npsfoundation.org/support/accelerating-ai).**

- Supports the hiring of mentors, research staff, and program management to guide AI-focused education and research.
- Funds the hardware, software, and lab resources that allow students and faculty to develop and test new AI capabilities.
- Enables partnerships with leading technology companies, giving NPS access to advanced computing tools and expertise.
- Provides the mechanism for rapid, flexible funding to sustain and scale AI initiatives.

## Digital Trident AI Challenge

The Digital Trident AI Challenge, funded and coordinated by the NPS Foundation, empowers interdisciplinary student-faculty teams to apply artificial intelligence to all-domain operational and national security challenges. **Learn more at [npsfoundation.org/support/accelerating-ai](https://npsfoundation.org/support/accelerating-ai).**

- The Foundation provided \$825,000 in direct funding, and additional in-kind support for labor and equipment, for seven selected interdisciplinary projects
- 38 student-faculty teams submitted proposals, showing broad participation and growth in AI research across campus
- Connects teams to sponsors, mentors and industry collaborators, ensuring each project aligns with operational requirements and has potential for scaling and implementation.



## Field Experimentation Accelerates Solution Development

**Field experimentation is a critical part of NPS’ research and innovation cycle, where students, faculty, and partners evaluate emerging technologies in operationally relevant environments. When resources and logistics were needed to move the latest Joint Interagency Field Experimentation (JIFX) event forward, the NPS Foundation provided immediate support, ensuring NPS participation and continuity. This investment sustained one of the school’s most important venues for experimentation and collaboration—where ideas are tested, refined and transitioned into capabilities for the Fleet and Force.**





# FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-25

More than \$8 million invested this year in the people, facilities, research and innovation of NPS.

Program Expenses	July 2024 - June 2025
<b>People</b>	\$1,063,139
Alumni Association	\$190,913
NPS Recreational Clubs	\$164,725
Active Duty, Veteran and Family – Warrior Support	*\$652,847
<b>Research</b>	\$2,821,311
Athena	\$1,567,553
Research Grants	\$343,757
Advisor & Consulting Services	\$910,000
<b>Institution</b>	\$4,374,184
Mauz Innovation Fund (Naval Innovation Center, Corporate Partnerships, Emerging Tech)	**\$3,063,932
Institutional Advancement (Event Support and Community Outreach)	\$747,215
Facility Improvements - ETI Lab, IRON Lab, Student Lounge	\$290,305
Waypoint (formerly Peacock Shop)	***\$272,732

The financial data presented represents Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).  
The programs listed are a representative sample of the wide-ranging initiatives that the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation supports.  
\*Charity Grants not included in FY25 Expense Report  
\*\* Includes in-kind gifts of technology (valued at ~\$1.2 million)  
\*\*\*Does not include capital investments in Waypoint including building improvements, outfitting or infrastructure

## Key Partners



## Corporate Partners of the Year

At the 20th Annual America’s Heroes Charity Golf Tournament, the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation honored NVIDIA, Dell Technologies, and Sterling as the 2025 Corporate Partners of the Year. Their collaboration with NPS and the Foundation is accelerating the adoption of artificial intelligence across the Department of the Navy and shaping how the Fleet and Force experiment, learn, and innovate.

Through gifts made to the NPS Foundation and directed to the Naval Postgraduate School, these partners have established an advanced AI ecosystem that integrates NVIDIA’s Omniverse platform, Dell’s high-performance computing infrastructure, and Sterling’s systems integration expertise. This gift enables the deployment of the NVIDIA DGX GB300 platform, the most powerful AI computing system of its kind, which will dramatically expand NPS’ capacity for large-scale modeling, simulation, and experimentation across multiple security environments.

With a \$2 million commitment from the NPS Foundation to support infrastructure, personnel, and applied research, this partnership is advancing NPS’ mission to deliver trusted, mission-ready AI solutions. By connecting students, researchers, and industry technologists in real-world problem solving, NVIDIA, Dell, and Sterling are accelerating the Navy’s ability to understand, adopt, and operationalize AI for national security impact.







# IMPACTS

## **NPS Students Test Counter-Drone and C2 Solutions at NATO's Bold Machina Exercise**

Students and faculty joined NATO's Allied Special Operations Forces Command in the Netherlands for Exercise Bold Machina 25 (BOMA). A student-built passive counter-UAS prototype detected drones up to 4 km away aboard a Royal Netherlands Navy craft while maintaining stealth. Another team advanced command-and-control interoperability, helping NATO and U.S. special operations forces counter emerging drone threats and strengthen coalition networks.

## **Marines' First AI Fellowship Builds an AI-Literate Force**

The U.S. Marine Corps launched its first AI Fellowship with NPS to accelerate AI adoption across the force. Fellows split time between NPS and their commands, combining faculty mentorship and hands-on research. Early projects use large language models to automate maintenance and cyber testing. The program sets a blueprint for future service-wide AI fellowships.

## **Advanced Manufacturing at Trident Warrior 25**

The Marine Innovation Unit and NPS' Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education (CAMRE) demonstrated distributed manufacturing at Exercise Trident Warrior 25, producing 180 on-demand parts in two weeks. This proved how additive manufacturing can sustain forces when traditional logistics fail — closing critical gaps in contested environments.

## **Patent Explores New Power Source for Unmanned Systems**

Physics Professor Emil Kartalov earned his 37th patent for a technique that prints microscopic wiring inside 3D-printed devices, enabling biofuel cells that could one day let underwater drones recharge from bacteria on the ocean floor. The innovation extends unmanned endurance and reduces Fleet logistics burdens.

**NPS students and faculty are delivering solutions to the most pressing challenges facing today's military. From counter-drone warfare and advanced manufacturing to AI adoption and undersea sensing, these examples represent a continuous flow of innovative projects strengthening national security. NPS delivers over 1,000 defense-focused theses or capstone projects annually.**



## **Capability-Cost Inversion in Missile Development**

Maj. Dillon Pierce's doctoral research with Anduril proved low-cost, guided missiles can be built and flight-tested using commercial components. His "capability-cost inversion" model demonstrates how iterative prototyping can flip the cost equation and deliver warfighter solutions faster and cheaper.

## **Cryoacoustics Research Gives Edge in Arctic Operations**

Lt. Caroline Kelly's Arctic field research advanced under-ice acoustic detection and modeling for anti-submarine warfare. Her data improves persistent multi-domain sensing and navigation in rapidly changing environments and supports Navy Arctic readiness priorities.

## **Special Operations Capability Development Through AI and Mission Engineering**

Lt. Cmdrs. Jason Mariscal and Dwight Cornish created a digital framework to modernize Naval Special Warfare capability development. Using AI and mission engineering, their model improves traceability and speed in acquisition planning and is now informing efforts across DIU and SOCOM.

## **ARES Decision-Support Tool for Maneuver Commanders**

Marine Capt. Ryan Helm turned his NPS thesis into ARES (Augmented Reconnaissance and Estimate of the Situation), a tool that compresses hours of combat planning into seconds. Now validated in pre-deployment training and integrated into Marine mission-planning apps, ARES is improving speed and precision in tactical decision-making.

## **Persistent Ocean Acoustic Monitoring for Undersea Warfare**

Partnering with Seatrec, NPS developed the Persistent Smart Acoustic Profiler Voyager, a renewable-powered autonomous underwater drone deployed off Hawaii. It delivers continuous, real-time acoustic intelligence for anti-submarine warfare without requiring manned deployments.



# GET INVOLVED

## MAKE A DONATION

Make your tax-deductible donation.

**By Check:** Write check payable to **Naval Postgraduate School Foundation.** Mail to NPSF, P.O. Box 2316, Monterey, CA 93942.

**By Credit Card:** Visit [npsfoundation.org/give](https://npsfoundation.org/give)

**By Phone:** Call 831-656-2339



## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The NPS Foundation connects industry leaders with the Naval Postgraduate School through partnerships that drive research, experimentation, and capability development. Each relationship is tailored around shared priorities, available resources, and a clear path to impact.

From early collaboration and mentoring to major research investments and technical integration, partners engage at the level that best aligns with their mission and capacity. The Foundation facilitates these collaborations through its authorized agreements, ensuring transparency with the Department of the Navy and support for NPS academic and research goals.

Every partnership is designed for outcomes that advance national security priorities while creating opportunities for innovation, education, and technology transition across the Fleet and Force.

## ADMIRAL HANK & PEGGY MAUZ INNOVATION FUND

The NPS Foundation announced the Admiral Hank & Peggy Mauz Innovation Fund in December 2023. Our goal is to raise \$50 Million towards the Naval Innovation Center, Innovation Leadership Positions and supporting strategic partnerships at NPS. We have so far raised over \$30 Million in donations and committed pledges.

The Mauz Innovation Fund is a tribute to the distinguished United States Naval officer and his wife of over 60 years, who have made a profound impact on the Naval Postgraduate School, the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation, our community and our Nation. More information at [npsfoundation.org/mauz-fund](https://npsfoundation.org/mauz-fund).

## PLANNED GIVING

When you make a planned gift to the NPS Foundation, whether through bequests, trust, or your retirement plan, you are investing in the cutting-edge research and future leaders that give the United States a decisive advantage over our adversaries, now and into the future. There are a variety of planned giving options that allow you to support the Naval Postgraduate School while meeting your financial goals for you and your family. **Contact Carly Olson at [colson@npsfoundation.org](mailto:colson@npsfoundation.org) for more information.**

## 20TH ANNUAL AMERICA’S HEROES CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

In June, the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the America’s Heroes Charity Golf Tournament at Monterey Peninsula Country Club. For two decades, this flagship event has brought together a dedicated community to honor and support service members, veterans, and their families.

This milestone year featured a sold-out tournament, a record-breaking auction and a lively evening performance by The London Essentials. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, and the leadership of tournament chairs Scott and Kim Negri, the event surpassed previous fundraising totals, bringing the overall impact of the America’s Heroes Charity Golf Tournament to more than \$27 million in support of the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation and seven partner charities that provide vital care and connection for America’s heroes and their families. More information can be found at [npsfoundation.org/golf-tournament](https://npsfoundation.org/golf-tournament).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Naval Postgraduate School Foundation brings together students, families, alumni, and community supporters through events that strengthen connection and shared purpose. From social gatherings and informational sessions to golf tournaments, guest speakers, and galas, each event creates opportunities for meaningful engagement and collaboration. These experiences introduce the broader Monterey community to the students and families who live and study here, fostering relationships that support wellbeing, belonging, and a deeper understanding of the NPS mission.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Donate or join clubs to become a member and part of the NPS community network. By joining, you will get updates on NPS Foundation initiatives, programs, NPS research and impacts, upcoming events. Being a member will also allow you to join the 20 recreational clubs and connect with NPS students and their families through shared interests. Become a member at [npsfoundation.org/join](https://npsfoundation.org/join).





# ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Admiral Mike Mullen, USN (Ret), NPS ‘85**  
17th Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff,  
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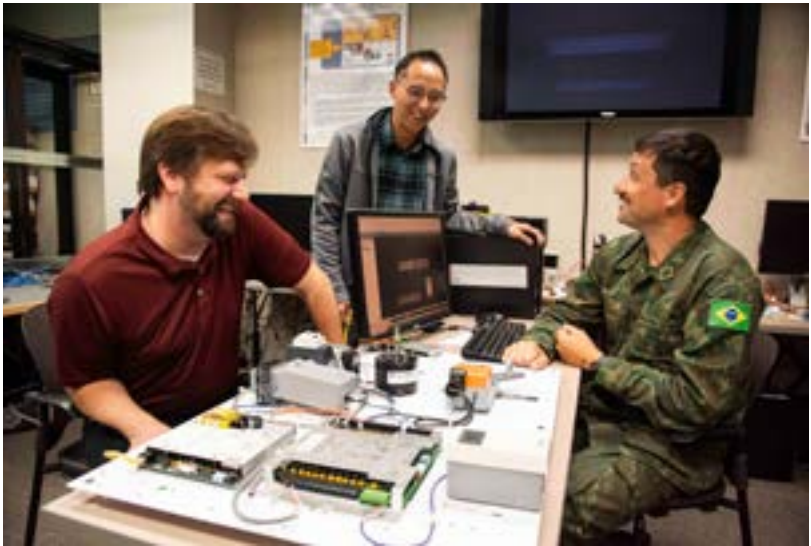
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