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Monterey California

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We MORSians at the Naval Postgraduate School are excited and honored to be hosting the 72nd annual MORS Symposium from June 22-24, 2004. We have been working to make the Symposium a rewarding and pleasant experience. In doing so, it is fitting that we recall our beginnings. It was in 1952 when the world's first Operations Research curriculum began here in beautiful Monterey. Since then, over 3,400 military officers, including officers from 31 other nations, have graduated from NPS with a Masters Degree in Operations Research. Of course, we are proud to count many of you in these numbers. Now, about 50 years after the graduation of our very first students, we continue to deliver the highest quality graduate operations research education possible.

As we look forward, we see a bright future at NPS. In 2002, we founded a MORS Student Chapter and further strengthened the NPS-MORS relationship. We anticipate increasing numbers of students at our school over the next several years and increased participation in MORS. As you may be aware, recent signs from military leadership in the Pentagon suggest a renewed commitment to the use of quantitative analysis in decision-making. NPS, together with MORS, stands ready to support the defense of our nation by ensuring every graduate of our program is equipped with the best modeling skills, analysis tools, and exposure to real problems that we can provide.

New students in the curriculum, as always, can expect a demanding course of study. We have made a few recent changes to better prepare our graduates for the type of analysis military officers might be expected to perform or supervise. For example, all OR students now take a capstone course in spreadsheet modeling using Excel. In some environments, Excel could be the only software tool available to apply their analytical skills in the required time frame. In our optimization courses students now learn not only

how to solve linear programs, but also how to attack them. By the time of the Symposium, our students will be required to take a new decision analysis course emphasizing decision trees, influence diagrams, and games. Of course, some things remain unchanged as cornerstones of our program: The Experience Tour. The Thesis. The Focus - on current and future defense-related problems.

NPS OR Department faculty have taken on new campus-wide roles. Within the newly formed Systems Engineering and Analysis (SEA) curriculum, OR faculty are teaching several analysis classes. We also support a new SEA certificate program taught in San Diego, to allow warriors on the waterfront the opportunity to grow their analytical skills for academic credit. The department will soon begin providing another executive-level certificate program for the Naval War College. The objective is to provide senior military leadership an overview of analytical techniques so they might better draw on their staffs for decision support firmly grounded in sound analysis. Finally, our new Human Systems Integration program, firmly supported by OR department faculty, is expecting a cohort of students to begin in 2004. This interdisciplinary program emphasizes human considerations in systems design and acquisition for optimal system performance at minimal life cycle cost.

Some faces in the OR department have changed. We have recently said our farewells to CDR **Kevin Maher** and CDR **Matt Boensel**. Our newest faculty members include: Professor **Moshe Kress** (applied probability and logistics), Associate Professor **Matt Carlyle** (combinatorial optimization and network flows), Assistant Professor **Roberto Szechtman** (simulation and applied probability), CAPT **Starr King**, CDR **Glen Lintz**, LCDR **Laura Barton** and LCDR **David Meyer**.

The message from all of us here at NPS is: Don't pass up Monterey in 2004! As if the Symposium itself wasn't enough, let us

remind you of all the great things to see and do here. The Wharf: seafood, anyone? The Beach: Beautiful, cheap, and accessible by the paved recreation trail. The Cities: Check out Cannery Row, or take the Walk of History in downtown Monterey – the first state capitol, or take the quick jaunt over the hill to quaint Carmel-by-the-Sea or Pebble Beach. The Highway: Continue past Carmel over the Bixby Bridge towards Big Sur – keep one eye on the road! The Monterey Bay Aquarium: Incredible animals of the deep in a world-class presentation. The Steinbeck Center: A quick jaunt to downtown Salinas gets you up close with the author and the agricultural importance of the area. The Golf: ...need we say more. If you wish to work off those box lunches, the gym at NPS will be open for your use. They even rent bicycles to speed the pace of your discoveries!

As pleasant as we think it is in Monterey, we can't let you come without a cautionary reminder about the weather. June can be quite cool, especially in the evenings near the ocean. So when you come to the Symposium's Wednesday night beach party, bring a sweater or jacket!

For more information on...

NPS: www.nps.navy.mil.

Operations Research Department:
www.nps.navy.mil/or.

Monterey: www.monterey.com or
www.montereyinfo.org.

Local Monterey News:
www.montereyherald.com.

The History of the NPS OR Department:
Schrady, D., "Golden Anniversary: 50 Years of OR at NPS," *ORMS Today*, Vol. 28, No. 1, February 2001, pp. 38-41.

Finally, you can always call us. If you have any questions about the 2004 Symposium at NPS, you can of course contact the MORS office at 703-933-9070 or LCDR **Kelly Cormican** at 831-656-2085. We look forward to seeing you at the 72nd MORS Symposium at the Naval Postgraduate School, 22-24 June 2004! ☺