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2022-08-22

## NPS in the News Weekly Media Report - Aug 16-22, 2022

Naval Postgraduate School (U.S.)

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# NPS IN THE NEWS

## Weekly Media Report – Aug 16 - 22, 2022

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Their experiment showed that frequent, automated red-teaming reveals which vulnerabilities are the most dangerous, the easiest for an attacker to exploit with the highest impact—information they wouldn’t have otherwise, said Aaron Weis, the Navy’s chief information officer, or CIO, and Scott Bischoff, the command information officer at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

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Professor Neil C. Rowe from the **Naval Postgraduate School** was front and center for basic introductions into AI but from there it was in the hands of those in attendance.



## **Panel: ‘Protracted’ Taiwan Crisis Will ‘Percolate for Months’**

*(USNI 22 Aug 22) ... John Grady*

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## **ALUMNI:**

### **Cherokee Co. Sheriff Completes Homeland Security Training**

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Cherokee County Sheriff David Groves completed a training program through Homeland Security.

For the past year, Groves was enrolled in the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Only 30 people are enrolled in the program and Groves was the only sheriff. Other participants included members of the Coast Guard and the military.

### **Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, to visit Thailand August 18-21, 2022**

*(US Embassy 17 Aug 22)*

Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), Admiral Samuel Paparo will visit Thailand August 18-21 to meet with senior leaders and counterparts in the Royal Thai Navy. This will be Admiral Paparo’s first visit to the Kingdom of Thailand since assuming his command of PACFLT. His visit is part of our regular and ongoing engagements to strengthen the U.S.-Thai alliance and advance a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Admiral Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania, was commissioned in the Navy in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War II enlisted Sailor. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours and has 1,100 carrier landings. Admiral Paparo graduated from Villanova University and 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**. As Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet – the world’s largest fleet command – Admiral Paparo is responsible for over 200 ships/submarines, 1,200 aircraft, and more than 130,000 Sailors and civilians.

### **USMSM Appoints a New Chair-Elect for its Board of Advisors**

*(Southern Maryland Chronicle 18 Aug 22)*

The University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) is pleased to announce the newest Chair-Elect for its Board of Advisors. Mr. Jack Keane, current Vice Chair of the Board, will serve as Chair for three years beginning in 2023. Mr. Keane was elected by the Board at a meeting held at its quarterly meeting in July.

Mr. Keane was raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and graduated from The Virginia Military Institute in 1980 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Throughout his impressive career as a Naval Officer, Mr. Keane served in many assignments around the world. In 1993, he graduated from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, CA with a degree in Operations Research. He retired in 1995 at the rank of Lieutenant Commander after serving at the Naval Research Laboratory where he flew research missions worldwide.

## **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:**

**Aug: 23–25:** AI Shura (NWSI)

**Aug 30- Sept 1:** [Emerging Technology Awareness \(ETA\) for the Warfighter](#)

**Sept 5:** Labor Day (Federal Holiday)

**Sept 12-13:** [Blockchain and Beyond: National Security Symposium](#)



## SECNAV:

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Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Carlos Del Toro spoke to Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students, faculty, and staff about the value and importance of lifelong learning during the Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL), Aug. 18.

An alumnus of NPS, Del Toro earned a master’s degree in Space Systems Engineering from NPS during his 22-year career as a Naval officer. He talked at length about the importance of continuing education and how it keeps the United States on the cutting edge of warfighting. He also emphasized the Navy’s commitment to investing in and sustaining the future of NPS and other Department of Navy education programs and institutions.

“That culture of lifelong learning is indeed our greatest competitive advantage,” said Del Toro.

During a two-day visit to the NPS campus, Del Toro also met with NPS President retired Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau and other senior NPS leaders, including representatives from the Naval Warfare Studies Institute (NWSI), to discuss the school’s ongoing strategic initiatives.

Del Toro began his lecture at King Hall by underscoring the importance of lifelong learning, and how important it is not just to NPS students or the DOD, but to the United States as a whole.

“We cannot afford to be complacent or assume that we will always have a technological edge on our adversaries,” he said. “Our commitment to lifelong learning is how we stay ahead of the curve.”

He continued: “The knowledge I gained during my time at NPS was foundational, and it was knowledge I continued to build upon over the course of my career. While technology has changed dramatically since then, the core concepts have remained the same. Yet that dynamic is precisely why lifelong learning is critical to the strength of the Navy-Marine Corps team.”

Del Toro also talked about how the Department of the Navy intends to continue its investment in lifelong learning at NPS.

“Our most senior leadership, from the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary of Defense and, of course, the entire Department of the Navy, understands that advanced training is not free,” he said. “NPS provides us all an extraordinary return on investment. Yet we can only reap maximum returns if we make the necessary investments, and I am committed to that cause.”

In closing, Del Toro spoke about the responsibility of the students to not only commit themselves to become lifelong learners, but to pass on that value to those junior officers and enlisted personnel who look up to them.

“As a group, you can do more to foster lifelong education as core value than I could with a thousand memos and speeches,” he added. “Every time you demonstrate how your advanced degree better equipped you to accomplish your mission, you advance our culture. Every time you lead, you create the culture we need. You control whether our people remain a competitive advantage. You control whether our maritime dominance will continue into the next decade and beyond.”

“As you complete your degrees and move on to your next assignments, you will have a host of urgent demands upon your time and expertise. Nevertheless, it is critical you make time to lead and mentor. That is your responsibility to the next generation. You control the future of the U.S. Navy’s culture.”

During his visit to NPS, Del Toro presented the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award to his thesis advisor, mentor and teacher, Professor Emeritus Rudolf Panholzer of the Space Systems Academic Group (SSAG). Panholzer began teaching at NPS in 1964 and was a member of the faculty for all but two years until his formal retirement in 2016. Panholzer served as chair of SSAG from 1987 to 2016, as well as Dean of Engineering and Applied Sciences during the 1990s.

“We are grateful to have an accomplished NPS alumnus like Secretary Del Toro return to our campus to share his vision and insights about the role of education as a strategic imperative for the Department of the Navy,” said Rondeau. “Most importantly, Secretary Del Toro understands the importance of



continuing education as a critical warfighting enabler, and he is working hard to increase investment in Naval education at all levels.”

[SECNAV Emphasizes Lifelong Learning as a ‘Strategic Imperative’ During NPS Guest Lecture - Naval Postgraduate School](#)

[SECNAV Emphasizes Lifelong Learning as a ‘Strategic Imperative’ During NPS Guest Lecture > United States Navy > News-Stories](#)

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## EDUCATION:

### **SUBPAC Commander Speaks to Students and Staff at the Naval Postgraduate School and Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston**

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Jablon’s visit to NPS included speaking to graduate students in the Undersea Warfare Program specializing in courses of study specific to the undersea domain, and graduate students from the Nimitz Research Group, whose research directly supports the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s needs.

Jablon provided an update on the priorities and operations of the Pacific Submarine Force, and his speaking engagements were an opportunity to convey how the knowledge created through the students’ academic work could directly benefit the fleet.

“At SUBPAC, we are searching for new and innovative methods to accomplish our mission while creating an advantage for our forces against a highly capable adversary,” said Jablon. “The Submarine

Force regularly engages with the Naval Postgraduate School and you can help resolve our operational challenges.”

In Charleston, Jablon held a similar dialogue with the officers serving as instructors at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command and NPTU Charleston before appearing as the guest speaker for three NPTU graduation ceremonies. The NPTU is a technical school that trains enlisted Sailors, officers and civilians for shipboard nuclear power plant operation and maintenance of surface ships and submarines in the U.S. nuclear navy.

Characterizing the academic rigor of the course as “the most intense, academically challenging curriculum offered by the greatest military in the history of the world,” Jablon congratulated the students on their accomplishments, offered a look into leadership lessons he had learned over the course of his career, and provided an outlook on what their future holds.

“As prototype graduates, you are now qualified nuclear operators. As you join the fleet, remember the significance of what you are about to demonstrate. You will be the nuclear propulsion plant supervisors and operators who directly enable the sustained forward presence of our nation’s premier front-line assets: our aircraft carriers and submarines,” said Jablon.

The U.S. Pacific Submarine Force provides anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, precision land strike, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and early warning, special warfare capabilities, and strategic deterrence around the world.

[DVIDS - News - SUBPAC Commander Speaks to Students and Staff at the Naval Postgraduate School and Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston \(dvidshub.net\)](#)

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## RESEARCH:

### **An Experiment Showed that the Military Must Change Its Cybersecurity Approach**

*(Defense One 16 Aug 22) ... Patrick Tucker*

*(Paradise News 21 Aug 22) ... Patrick Tucker*

Two years ago, a pair of Navy information leaders decided to attack their own networks—and not just once or twice a year during scheduled exercises, but far more frequently, and unannounced. Now they're trying to get the rest of the Navy—and the Pentagon—to follow suit.

Their experiment showed that frequent, automated red-teaming reveals which vulnerabilities are the most dangerous, the easiest for an attacker to exploit with the highest impact—information they wouldn't have otherwise, said Aaron Weis, the Navy's chief information officer, or CIO, and Scott Bischoff, the command information officer at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

And it's far more effective than the way the Defense Department currently handles cybersecurity: with checklists of steps taken, patches implemented, and so on.

"It's a very compliance-driven mentality, like an audit... and it's wrong," Weis told Defense One. "Cybersecurity is not a compliance problem."

Treating cybersecurity like a checklist does answer one question: whether the officer, team, or company charged with "cybersecurity" has done their job to some agreed-upon level of performance—basically, whether they've fulfilled the terms of a contract or the parameters of an assignment. It's an approach that works well for a bureaucracy, but it's not the best way to actually secure your networks, Weis said.

"We've got...15 to 20 years of track record using a compliance mentality that says it doesn't work, right? Because we continue to be exercised by our adversaries in cyberspace," he said.

Weis says the Pentagon needs to measure its networks' suitability for combat the same way it does for soldiers, sailors, tanks, and ships: through the concept of military readiness.

Such an approach would mean prioritizing the biggest problems first, with second-tier or complicated ones set on slower paths to fixing.

"There's 'ready to fight tonight.' But if you are a carrier strike group and you're deploying in three months, are you on a path to being ready? You manage your readiness on a day-to-day basis and it's a function of a whole bunch of things," he said. "Do we have the right people? Are they trained? Are they qualified, or deficient? Do we have the equipment?"

But Weis had to show that getting to a state of "readiness" in cyberspace is a matter of constant testing and drilling, not filling out compliance forms.

He needed a safe space where he could understand readiness without exposing huge problems to adversaries or taking essential naval networks offline. He went to the Naval Postgraduate School, or NPS, in Monterey, California.

NPS' Bischoff says the school lends itself to experimentation because it's on the California research and education network, not a Navy network.

"I have a lot of authorities here that other naval units wouldn't have. It provides the Navy a small chunk of terrain here to do things," like test new cybersecurity concepts, he said. "We have a somewhat unique terrain here to maybe take a little bit of risk on and try some things. That's important for a STEM school, you know. We're very research-intensive, so it's right up our alley."

So NPS forged a cooperative R&D agreement with Rebellion, a defense-focused software startup founded by Chris Lynch, the former head of the Defense Department's Digital Service.

Rebellion brought in a tool called Nova that does automated red-teaming on networks. But it doesn't just hammer away at the vulnerabilities it finds like it's running through a checklist.

"It can identify the system, understand its patch level, catalog its vulnerabilities according to what's generally available, and then try to run an automated exploit against it, based on what it knows," said Weis.

The process revealed a lot more information than just a list of vulnerabilities to be patched. They learned which vulnerabilities were the most important, the easiest to attack, which ones let the attacker



gain wider network access, things they would have learned only if a real attacker was hitting the system and strategizing its next move. That means that different vulnerabilities had a priority that a checklist completely missed.

Said Weis: “Right now, because of our compliance approach, we focus on patching every vulnerability, right?...In no particular order, by the way. We just line them up and knock them down. And what that approach...disregards is the question: Can that vulnerability actually be exploited?”

Some vulnerabilities that seemed large were very difficult to exploit, and some that seemed small were a lot more dire than their position on the checklist would indicate. Running similar experiments on actual DOD networks would probably reveal a similar result: that the Department is not managing its cyber vulnerabilities with a real-world understanding of how an attacker would actually approach the network.

Bischoff said similar red-team experiments involving humans are great, but they happen once or twice a year. “It’s a snapshot, right. I don’t want a snapshot. I want a movie throughout the year.”

Weis said he’s building off of that experiment.

“We’re in the process of...nominating a set of [Navy] programs that are volunteering to go first and to start to use this different approach,” he said. “We’ve been having leadership-level discussions here since kind of before the holidays last year. It started with a one-on-one with the [Chief Naval Officer] and it’s kind of moved up from there.”

Said Lynch: “Aaron [Weis] is trying to completely change what they’re doing,” not only in the Navy, but potentially across the military.

That is going to be important if the Defense Department is going to move toward the highly-networked joint all-domain command and control, or JADC2, vision at the heart of its plans for the next decade. The more networks, computers, drones, satellites, etc.. are all linked together, the more unmanageable a checklist approach becomes. The only solution will be to assume your enormous networked war machine is under attack at its weakest points—because it is

<https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2022/08/experiment-showed-military-must-change-its-cybersecurity-approach/375925/>

[An experiment showed that the military must change its cybersecurity approach | The Paradise News](#)

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## FACULTY:

### Enhancing the path for artificial intelligence at Yuma Proving Ground

*(DVIDS 17 Aug 22) ... Brandon Mejia*

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Professor Neil C. Rowe from the **Naval Postgraduate School** was front and center for basic introductions into AI but from there it was in the hands of those in attendance.

Break-out groups formed to spark discussion and develop strategies for getting and cleaning data when it comes to areas like preventative maintenance on vehicles to even finding anomalies in aircrafts. However, the possibilities are endless.

“We want to learn how to test and evaluate AI systems,” said Paula Rickleff, who is leading the efforts in the installation’s Employee Modernization Effort for Relevant Growth and Enrichment (EMERGE) program.

Initiated in 2019, the Army’s Future Command activated the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. A task force equipped to lead Army AI efforts and synchronize them across the Army enterprise.



The initiative covers a vast variety of programs such as but not limited to; autonomous platforms, AI and machine learning, data visualization and synthetic environments, assured position, navigation and timing, sensing, computation, human performance, and underpinning methodologies.

While the Army is committed to the design, development, and deployment of AI technologies, senior leaders, and directorate heads at YPG are hoping to evaluate it from a testing perspective.

“Let’s get some basic knowledge of AI, what that means and as we look at Army modernization how it helps shape what we do at YPG and how we can integrate AI to meet future requirements,” said Garry Rosene, chief of development division within the Technology Investment Directorate.

From a technology investment perspective Rosene sees the need to get his team educated on how they can bolster their current technology and tackle investments in the AI sector.

“We went in thinking AI was a huge unknown,” Rosene recalled. “After coming here, it is not so bad, we have a lot to learn but I believe we can do it with the right steps ahead.”

In efforts to assist the human in making better decisions, one could take the various sources of data you want and run it through an AI model for probable solutions.

In theory it is supposed to help you make correlations that you could not do by yourself, according to Rosene. And while it is not so much robotics taking over control like in movies—AI systems have the potential ability to improve YPG’s test and evaluation process.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/427307/enhancing-path-artificial-intelligence-yuma-proving-ground>

[DVIDS - News - Enhancing the path for artificial intelligence at Yuma Proving Ground \(dvidshub.net\)](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/427307/enhancing-path-artificial-intelligence-yuma-proving-ground)

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## **Panel: ‘Protracted’ Taiwan Crisis Will ‘Percolate for Months’**

*(USNI 22 Aug 22) ... John Grady*

China established a new baseline in pressuring Taiwan politically with its most recent exercises, a panel of security experts said Monday.

Following House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-Calif.) visit to Taiwan, China’s military conducted exercises that involved firing missiles over and around the island and sending fighter and strike aircraft and naval vessels repeatedly across the median line in the waters separating it from the mainland.

The nearly week-long series of exercises is “likely the early stages of a crisis that’s going to percolate for months,” said Christopher Twomey, associate professor of national security affairs at the **Naval Postgraduate School**.

The panelists agreed this display of military capabilities was also a signal to the United States and regional allies to be careful when it comes to dealing with Taiwan.

The Chinese could introduce its coast guard and naval militia into the maritime activity or fire even more missiles closer to Taiwan and into Japan’s exclusive economic zone, said M. Taylor Fravel, director of the security studies program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to demonstrating longer-range military capabilities, China used a number of unmanned aerial systems to monitor islands closer to its shores that Taiwan claims, said Cristin Garafola, policy researcher at RAND corporation. They could also launch more of these intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems to better monitor Taiwan’s moves there.

Beijing also imposed new import and export controls on the eve of Pelosi’s visit and launched cyber attacks on the island’s infrastructure, including the defense ministry’s website.

Garafola said these “escalatory tactics” in the gray zone will continue to sway Taiwanese political thinking. China views Taiwan as a breakaway province. Beijing’s goal by 2049, the centennial of the Communist takeover of China, is to bring it under its control – peacefully or through military force.





Adm. Phil Davidson said an attack was possible with six years when he was Indo-Pacific commander and questioned on the threat of an invasion.

China is not likely to back away from its position, Fravel said.

Several panelists noted that China had indications of a high-level U.S. official coming to the island later in the year since spring, and they used that time to expand the scope and range of exercises that were already planned for the summer.

Although the United States and allies have not yet responded to this display of military capabilities, including joint and theater operations, Twomey, speaking for himself, said expected new transits of the Taiwan Strait by the Navy “is going to be provocative to China.”

He added Beijing feels it needs to draw “some clear line” in what it regards as acceptable in these extensive exercises and what capabilities it has.

Beijing said its display of military resolve was brought on by the early August visit of Pelosi and a delegation of congressional Democrats to the self-governing island. She was the highest-level U.S. official to visit the island in 25 years.

As reported in the state-controlled Global Times, Foreign Minister Wang Yi condemned the visit as a rejection of the United States’ announced policy of a “One China” and “a malicious violation” of its sovereignty. He added in his speech to the Association of South East Asian Nations that Washington was the “biggest destroyer” of peace and regional stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Twomey said Beijing views the administration’s action and words as counter to the “One China” policy with visits like those by Pelosi. The Chinese also cite Seventh Fleet’s beefed-up presence with a carrier strike group accompanied by an amphibious assault ship during the visit, increased arms sales to Taiwan and remarks by President Joseph Biden about defending the island if attacked as examples of American attempts at hegemony.

Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies event, Roderick Lee, director of research at the China Aerospace Institute at the Air University, added Chinese leadership see all these actions as “manufacturing a political crisis to contain China.” The Chinese Communist Party uses crises to build up support domestically and “setting conditions [to become] the dominant narrative” externally, he said.

In this case and others, the narrative is the “United States started it.”

As for Taiwan’s response, Kathrin Hille, Financial Times correspondent, said while the political leadership avoids using the word “crisis” to describe recent events, the island’s military is again looking to “the full-range of capabilities” as being necessary to defend itself.

That would include buying advanced fighter aircraft, armor for ground forces and larger surface combatants and submarines.

This attitude flies in the face of Washington’s push to “prioritize fight tonight” defenses with its strong reliance on anti-ship and aircraft missiles, mines and integrated active and reserve components, which the government of President Tsai Ing-wen is pursuing, she said.

This “will be regarded as another important milestone in the deterioration of Sino-American relations. We have already crossed a number of worrisome thresholds, and the two main actors continue to posture for various strategic and domestic reasons. China, in particular, seeks to prevent a slow but steady shift in Taiwan’s status, while the United States seeks to reassure Taiwan and other allies. With careful statesmanship and a little luck, outright war can be avoided — but neither of these is ever guaranteed,” Twomey wrote for War on the Rocks.

[Panel: ‘Protracted’ Taiwan Crisis Will ‘Percolate for Months’ - USNI News](#)

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## ALUMNI:

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For the past year, Groves was enrolled in the Executive Leaders Program at the **Naval Postgraduate School** Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Only 30 people are enrolled in the program and Groves was the only sheriff. Other participants included members of the Coast Guard and the military.

Groves traveled to California several times over the past 12 to 13 months focusing on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges.

“And we just worked through different issues facing our nation as a whole and some topics that were relevant during the time frame that we were there was the border issues which has been ongoing for quite some time, gun violence as it relates to school safety, the January 6th situation occurred while we were involved in this process,” said Sheriff David Groves, Cherokee County.

The program is funded through FEMA at no cost to the participants. Groves says this also provided networking opportunities and he’s already talked to some of the people he went through the program with to collaborate on different situations.

[Cherokee Co. Sheriff completes Homeland Security training | KSNF/KODE - FourStatesHomepage.com](#)

[Groves Completes Executive Leaders Program at Naval Postgraduate School — Galena Sentinel Times](#)

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Admiral Paparo, a native of Morton, Pennsylvania, was commissioned in the Navy in 1987. He is the son of a former enlisted Marine and the grandson of a World War II enlisted Sailor. A U.S. Naval Aviator, he is a TOPGUN graduate and has flown over 6,000 hours and has 1,100 carrier landings. Admiral Paparo graduated from Villanova University and 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**. As Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet – the world’s largest fleet command – Admiral Paparo is responsible for over 200 ships/submarines, 1,200 aircraft, and more than 130,000 Sailors and civilians.

[Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, to visit Thailand August 18-21, 2022 - U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Thailand \(usembassy.gov\)](#)

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Mr. Keane was raised in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and graduated from The Virginia Military Institute in 1980 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Throughout his impressive career as a Naval Officer, Mr. Keane served in many assignments around the world. In 1993, he graduated from the **Naval Postgraduate School** in Monterey, CA with a degree in Operations Research. He retired in 1995 at the rank of Lieutenant Commander after serving at the Naval Research Laboratory where he flew research missions worldwide.

Since his military career, Mr. Keane has been heavily involved in research and education. He served as a member of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory's Principal Professional Staff, Branch Supervisor of the Precision Strike Systems Branch in the Force Projection Sector, and a member of DoD's Simulation-Based Acquisition Joint Task Force. Additionally, He was a member of the adjunct faculty of the JHU Whiting School of Engineering. He is a past president and Fellow of the Military Operations Research Society (MORS), having received the MORS Wanner Award, the Society's highest award for lifetime contributions to the field of Operations Research in 2014. In 2016, he was appointed to the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) Board of Governors by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and in September 2019, he was appointed to the Board of Advisors for USMSM.

Mr. Keane believes in USMSM's mission to offer world-class education and degree programs in the Southern Maryland region. "I've lived in Charles County since 1993. In the nearly 29 years I've lived here, I've watched my neighbors come and go and, if they stayed, their children went away to college and never returned. Some went off to become engineers, mathematicians, and analysts. Others to become doctors, veterinarians, and teachers. All that talent was leaving Southern Maryland. I thought this would be my opportunity to give back to Southern Maryland and demonstrate to the youth of the tri-county area that there are great opportunities right here at home."

He added, "I'm incredibly excited about the new SMART building and the opportunities it has to bring in research dollars for robotics, uncrewed systems, and autonomy – all of which will benefit not only the military, but law enforcement, first responders, and the medical profession, to name a few."

Mr. Keane's mission in his role as Chair is to reach out to the tri-county area to expand the reputation of USMSM and ultimately educational opportunities for underserved members of the community. "We can do this by working with the local school systems, students, and their parents to increase their awareness about affordable educational opportunities available right here at home," he said. "Additionally, we need to expand the number of non-STEM programs, particularly in the agriculture and aquaculture areas. We also have a national shortage of teachers and veterinarians and I believe USMSM can work to close those gaps for our community."

Mr. Joe Anderson, current Chair of the Board of Advisors, is looking forward to transitioning the Chair-Elect. "Since Jack joined our board three years ago, he's been integral to everything we've accomplished and I think that's significant. From our very successful merger with the University of Maryland to fighting for funds to build the SMART building, and then seeing the building constructed and opened for business, Jack was there every step of the way."

He added, "Jack gets the big picture very well, but he also pays impeccable attention to the details of how we must get there. He gets the job done. I can't think of a better person to chair the USMSM Board of Advisors, and I sincerely look forward to working under his leadership as we bring USMSM to great heights."

"Jack has a long history of supporting access to education in Southern Maryland," said Eileen Abel, Executive Director of USMSM. "We are grateful that he is stepping in to fill Joe's very big shoes."

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