NPS Celebrates with an Inauguration

By MC2 (SW) Corey Trux
The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) recently built on some human connections with the beat and brightness of California and beyond by the 12th Annual Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) Conference 2008. CENIC was formed in 1996 and since then has grown into a state-spanning fiber-optic network serving nearly all of California’s research and educational institutions. “CENIC permitted us to operationalize our .edu domain,” said Dr. Christine Cermak, NPS Chief Information Officer. “This enables us to move high speed national and international networks. It really permits us the network flexibility, capacity and speed you find at other research universities.” It wasn’t until 2005 that NPS became a CENIC Network Associate, transitioning to a collaborative network initiatives program at NPS. DREN continues to be an important network for NPs for its .mil domain.

“My first task when I came here from DLI was to build the Monterey Peninsula DoD [Department of Defense] network and to get CENIC connections,” said Hogan. “When I arrived the school was only connecting at 45 megabits per second DREN connection. With DREN and the limited bandwidth it wasn’t even possible to consider sharing huge data sets.”

Change was needed to keep up with the growing demand of research and collaboration at NPS. With this need in mind, NPS external network capacity was enhanced by being connect- ed to the CalREN backbone. This provides the campus with higher speed connectivity than it previously had, allows NPS the ability to increase its connectivity in the future to meet rising demands for bandwidth, and augments the DREN connection. There are three networks that comprise CalRE- N and they operate simultaneously but independently of each other. The networks are represented by a three level pyramid.

CalREN-DC, the Digital California Net- work. CalREN-DC represents the base of the pyramid and is used for applications that require higher levels of connectivity. NPS researchers rely heavily on the HPR network and its increased speed and bandwidth. “HPR 10 Gigabit backbone speed allows NPS to collect huge data sets from multiple locations and do collaborative research with other schools,” explained Hogan. “With this you can carry huge amounts of data. Any NPS researcher collecting information from sensors at locations from various points around world and using this information to collaborate with other universities is most likely operating in the HPR Network.

“Plans to upgrade the HPR backbone to forty plus gigabits per second are complete and will be implemented after the DC upgrade is complete,” said Hogan.

CalREN-XD, the Experimental/Developmental Network. CalREN-XD represents the tip of the pyramid. This network layer gives researchers access dedicated bandwidths for development and testing of new optical coding systems and network protocols without fear of altering the normal day-to-day func- tions of the DC and HPR Networks. NPS does not operate in the XD layer.

There are some changes in the works. “The HPR backbone is 10 gigabits per second and NPS has a 1 gigabit connection to this network,” Hogan explained. “Plans for the HPR network upgrade to forty gigabits and beyond include a 10 gigabit connection for NPS. Because the bandwidth is there now, people are considering doing collaborative research they couldn’t do before. Enhanced reputation in the research communities and water results are going to come out of the increased bandwidth.”

For more information about CENIC, visit www.cenic.org

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Final preparations are underway for the Inaugura- tion ceremony of President Dan Oliver and Provost Leonard Ferrari, which is scheduled for Monday, April 21, at 1:00 p.m. in King Hall. As a prelude to the NPS centennial, the event will highlight nearly 100 years of superb leadership at NPS. All NPS faculty, students and staff are welcome to attend the ceremony and the reception in Herrmann Hall.

In addition, there will be a black-tie dinner the previous evening, Sunday, April 20. The evening begins with a hosted reception on the Quarter- deck at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom. Also included in the evening’s program are guest speakers Eliza- beth Pate-Cornell of Stanford University, an NPS Board of Advisors member, and retired Adm. Hank Mauz. The evening will include dancing to the All-Star Band with vocalist Lee Darley. RSVP is required. For more information call Alan Rich- mond at Ext. 3649.
Our strategic plan challenges us to continue the trajectory of NPS’ academic accomplishments at an accelerated pace. The recruitment and retention of world-class faculty is the foundation from which we can extend our reach to that next level of academic achieve- ment in our educational programs, our research and our service to the Navy and the nation. We have taken a number of important steps over the last six months to address this priority.

First, President Oliver and I developed a retention bonus program for our Disting- guished Professors. This program provides a salary increase in recogni- tion of the extraordinary contributions they have made to the NPS mission and provides financial incentives for their continued tenure at NPS. Because of the salary limitations of federal em- ployment, we are often not competitive in salary and benefits programs at the senior faculty level with other research universities. This retention program is a significant step to make NPS more competitive with its peer institutions, and to symbolically recognize our most distinguished faculty members. Second, we are implementing a pro- gram to pull all of our assistant professors on a nine-month compensation model. That is, assistant professors will begin their careers at NPS with two years of support from the Research Initiation Program (RIP) and will have subsequent years supported on a nine-month com- pensation basis until the tenure decision is made. This will assure the recruitment of talented assistant professors by pro- viding a stable support foundation for their entire time period at the assistant professor rank.

Third, the Chief of Naval Operations Distinguished Fellows program has de- signated the first three eminent leaders to launch this internationally collabora- tive program: Retired Adm. Thomas Fargo; Leon Panetta, former Congress- man and Chief of Staff in the Clinton White House and retired Rear Adm., Honorable Jay Cohen, Undersecretary for Science and Technology in the De- partment of Homeland Security. We envision Fargo leading a research agenda on maritime security studies; Panetta, leading work in the area of globalization, reconstruction and stabilization studies; and Cohen, directing research in the area of critical infrastructure protection. These renowned leaders will provide conceptual direction and attract other distinguished fellows to NPS to engage in areas of critical importance to the US Navy, DoD and the nation.

Fourth, we received from the NPS Foundation a $100,000 annual fund to support faculty recruitment and reten- tion efforts. The funds are being allo- cated by a committee of the four school Deans and two Faculty Council repre- sentatives, based on recommendations from an excellent report provided by a Faculty Council chairperson chaired by Provost, Kevin Squire.

Finally, President Oliver and I have asked Doug Moses, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, to develop a tran- sition plan to move the nine-month compensation model for all faculty at NPS. This will put us on similar foot- ing with other major research universi- ties, and rationalize our funding model for NPS.

This entire complement of initiatives is focused on our highest priority, the recruitment and retention of world-class faculty. This will mean having to make difficult decisions in other areas, but this has to be our highest and most visible priority – the quality of our educational programs, our research, and our service to the nation – all depend on the talent and intellectual strength of our faculty.

We could not have made this progress without your suggestions, engagement and support – thank you. Please feel free to contact me, the Deans or Associate Provost Moses with any additional com- ments or suggestions. We will continue to rely on your good ideas and support as we make needed changes to improve our institution.