

Former SECDEF Panetta Shared Concerns, Insights During Guest Lecture at NPS

Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta spoke to more than 1,300 students, faculty and staff in a packed auditorium at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

MONTEREY, CA, UNITED STATES, October 11, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Leadership, alliances and speed were key themes stressed by former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta as he shared deeply-informed perspectives and concerns on current events and national security during a 90 minute presentation and Q&A at the [Naval Postgraduate School](#) (NPS) in the latest Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL), Oct. 8.

With decades of public service, Panetta offered frank advice and lessons learned to the more than 1,300 students, faculty and staff gathered in the packed NPS King Hall auditorium.

“Fundamental to everything our democracy stands for is leadership, and that requires character, integrity, and courage,” said Panetta. “Those qualities are abundant in this room, and being selected to come to NPS further sets you apart. When you graduate, you will carry the additional



Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta spoke to the student body and faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) during A “Fireside Chat” format Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) at King Hall auditorium, Oct. 8.



Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta spoke to more than 1,300 students, faculty and staff in a packed King Hall auditorium at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

obligation to do more, take risks, make hard decisions and lead solutions to complex national defense challenges if we're going to remain the world's strongest democracy."

In his opening comments, Panetta stressed the importance of alliances in addressing today's conflicts, and terrorism instigated and supported by a growing axis of autocracies lead by China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

"Our adversaries are actively working to undermine trust," Panetta remarked. "When our nation is distracted, tyrants will fill the void. The leader's job is not to point fingers, but to point out falsehoods and elevate reality so we can agree on the problem, then work together to address it. Across the aisle, or across alliances, that's how leaders get things done. That's how we win."

The "Fireside Chat" was moderated by retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt, a former Special Forces Green Beret and current professor of practice in the school's Department of Defense Analysis, and an NPS distinguished alumnus. When asked the one thing he would do to improve DOD today, Panetta responded, "There are many things, but the one thing I am most concerned about is speed."

"We need DOD bureaucracy to move at the speed of technology," added Panetta. "I'm concerned that we can't act swiftly enough to ensure our advantage by leveraging and learning about cutting edge technologies. Industry is setting the pace, and much of it is American innovation, but we need to apply innovative thinking to how we acquire, adapt and adopt technology to meet capability needs. I believe NPS and the future Naval Innovation Center at NPS are parts of the solution."



A U.S. Navy student poses a question to former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta after his presentation during a "Fireside Chat" format Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture (SGL) at King Hall auditorium, Oct. 8.



Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta meets with students in the Department of Defense Analysis Command and Leadership course (DA 3900) taught by retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt, former Special Forces and current professor of practice at NPS.

During his visit, Panetta also spoke with Defense Analysis students in the DA 3900 Command and Leadership course taught by Wendt, where he further encouraged students to apply their operational experience, NPS education and research to solving the most vexing challenges facing DOD.

Before leading the DOD, Panetta served as a member of the United States House of Representatives, director of the Office of Management and Budget, White House Chief of Staff, and as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.



Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta met with and answered questions from students in the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Department of Defense Analysis Command and Leadership course (DA 3900) taught by retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Eric Wendt.

Today, Panetta co-directs with his wife, Sylvia, the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, based at California State University, Monterey Bay. The Institute is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit center that seeks to instill in young men and women the virtues and values of public service.

- For more information on the Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture program at NPS, and to watch past lectures, visit <https://nps.edu/sgls>
- Learn more about the NPS Department of Defense Analysis at <https://nps.edu/web/da>

Public Affairs Officer
Naval Postgraduate School
+1 831-656-1068

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/751089850>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

