



Human Systems Community of Interest (HS Col) Newsletter



Winter 2023



Senior Leader Perspective: I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead this group over the next 2 years, hopefully continuing the progress that we made under Dr. Mason's leadership. I have been a part of the Col for a number of years, including the last couple as a member of the Steering Committee. During this time, I have learned a lot about the work across the DoD and the desire of everyone in this community to contribute to helping the warfighters perform their missions to the best of their abilities. I am excited to work with the team to continue to improve coordination and develop opportunities to reach our goals.

My goals for the Col include continuing to strengthen the partnerships among the tri-service S&T community and take the opportunity to work with the steering committee to develop a plan to nurture and support grass-root tri-service S&T initiatives that can lead to bigger, more impactful joint efforts with significant payoff for the DoD. I would also like to increase our interactions with industry since a strong partnership between DoD and industry can help expedite the pace of transition of warfighting technologies. Finally, I would like to use the Col to bring awareness of other relevant issues to the DoD S&T community. Examples of this may be guest lectures during our regular meetings on topics such as policy, requirements and procurements processes that can inform the broader S&T community on potential hurdles they may face as well as how to navigate them early on their S&T planning.

Again, I look forward to the opportunity to lead this group and plan to continue the great work that has been going on for the past decade and hope to take it to the next level.

*Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Chief Scientist, 711th
Human Performance Wing, HS Col Chair*

HUMAN SYSTEMS Col

Vision: Develop/deliver technologies to enable, sustain, enhance and quantify human performance

Mission: Enhance the warfighter through:

- 1) Integrated sims for mission training & experimentation
- 2) Human-machine designs for warfighters,
- 3) Assessment of operator effectiveness
- 4) Operating through battlespace stresses, and
- 5) Mastering the PMESII battle space.

Key Products: Integrated service roadmaps; Col taxonomy; budget & programs; Seedling and ARAP proposals.



Key Personnel:

Col Chair: Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Air Force Research Laboratory

OSD: CDR Wilfred Wells, OUSD (R&E)

Navy: Dr. Patrick Mason, Office of Naval Research

Army: Dr. Jeremy Gaston, Army Research Laboratory

Army: Dr. Robb Wilcox, Soldier Center (CCDCSC)

Army: Dr. Scott Shadrick, Army Research Institute

SOCOM: Ms. Lisa Sanders, Special Operations Command

DIU: Dr. Christian Whitchurch, Defense Innovation Unit

ExecSec: Dr. Jill McQuade, Air Force Research Laboratory

PAE&T Lead: Dr. Elizabeth Uhl, Army Research Institute

SICP Lead: Dr. Mark Draper, Air Force Research Laboratory

PSWP Lead: Dr. Logan Williams, Air Force Research Laboratory

Hails, Farewells & News

Hail/Farewell - Welcome to our new Chair of the HS Col, Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Chief Scientist of the 711th Human Performance Wing who stepped up from his role as Air Force Lead. He's replacing Dr. Patrick Mason who will fortunately stay on as the Navy Lead. Dr. Mason, we greatly appreciate your tremendous leadership and insights the past two years!

Hail/Farewell - Our second senior leader change is from the Army Research Institute, where we welcome Dr. Scott Shadrick who is replacing Dr. Michelle Zbylut as she took a new position as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Equity and Inclusion. Scott is now ARI Acting Director, and we're looking forward to his contributions as a Steering Committee member!

News - Congratulations to Ms. Katie Stilling on being a new mom in January! She's on well-deserved maternity leave for a few months from her role as our Col's lead administrator to be with her beautiful, healthy daughter Vivienne. We miss you!

Questions, feedback or need to reach the POC? Please contact our Col's email at hscoi-contact@sainc.com. Thanks!

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DoD Human Factors & Engineering Technical Advisory Group (HFE TAG) Conference & Call for Abstracts. The 2024 DoD HFE TAG Conference #76 will take place April 22-26, 2024 at the NASA Marshall Spaceflight Center in Huntsville, AL with the theme: “Balancing Risk and Performance”. The goal of human factors engineering is to design systems by considering the respective strengths and limitations of the human and its “machine” counterpart and assigning tasks accordingly, which culminates in a system that operates at its optimum capability. While optimum performance is the goal, the reality of system development requires tradeoffs to achieve system fielding in a timely, cost-efficient manner. These tradeoffs will likely result in a system that is sub-optimal in performance and potentially incurs an amount of risk to, or caused by, the humans in the loop, but ultimately helps meet a critical capability gap.

For TAG 76, abstract submissions that focus on the delicate balance between risk and system performance are encouraged; examples include novel group decision making strategies, tradeoff analyses, experimentation, and modeling and simulations, including results and lessons learned. We hope this year’s meeting will stimulate discussion around roles and strategies for human factors engineering work in complex systems. The Call for Abstracts and more conference information can be found on the official DoD HFE TAG site: <https://rt.cto.mil/ddre-rt/dd-rtl/hfetag/> and social media (@DoDHFETAG)

POC: Ms. Maggie Eliot, Strategic Analysis, Inc. supporting OUSD(R&E)

International

NATO HFM-377 Symposium - Call for Papers.

Presentation abstracts are currently being solicited for a NATO-HFM-RSY-377 Symposium on “Meaningful Human Control in Information Warfare: Encompassing Control of Future Operations across Warfare Domains and the use of Advanced AI” that will take place in Amsterdam, NL on 21-22 Oct 2024. This NATO Symposium will explore ways to achieve responsible use and Meaningful Human Control (MHC) over AI-based systems across all warfare domains including Multi-Domain Operations, cognitive warfare, and cyber operations. MHC encompasses mission effectiveness as well as moral/ethical and legal considerations. MHC has been described in many ways, including “Humans have the ability to make informed choices in sufficient time to influence systems in order to enable desired effects or to prevent undesired immediate or future effects on the environment”. The symposium will bring together scientists from around the world to present and discuss their work and ideas on controllability challenges, concerns, and solutions for future NATO operations across the full spectrum of competition. This forum offers the opportunity to obtain new insights, tools, solutions, and research directions to better inform MHC in future applications and with emerging AI methods including generative and general-purpose AI.

There are four main topics for this symposium:

- ◆ Topic 1 - Characterizes the state-of-the-art understanding of MHC, including key issues and applications in physical warfighting domains (Land, Sea, Air, Space).
- ◆ Topic 2 - Emerging challenges and potential solutions associated with the migration of MHC to information operations (including cyber, influence, and cognitive warfare operations).
- ◆ Topic 3 - Combines Topics 1 & 2 by considering additional challenges to the warfighter/operator/teammate associated with effectively integrating information across multi-domains for joint all-domain operations. This includes the added complexity of managing distributed teams of humans and machines under conditions of variable communications.
- ◆ Topic 4 - MHC challenges associated with novel AI technology that will likely be an increasing part of future warfighting systems to include generative AI. This symposium will chart the state of the art and map future research directions while balancing risks and opportunities associated with this exciting challenge of MHC in future warfighting environments.

The Call for Papers can be found at: <https://events.sto.nato.int/index.php/upcoming-events/event-list/event/26-cfp/544-hfm-377-symposium-on-meaningful-human-control-in-information-warfare>

POC: Questions can be directed to Dr. Mark Draper (mark.draper.2@us.af.mil) of AFRL’s 711th Human Performance Wing. Abstracts from US authors are due by 1 April 2024.



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Col Accomplishments (Continued)

Editor's Note: The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) event is one of the Col's highlighted activities each year where we encourage human systems practitioners to attend. These are a couple of examples of significant progress that can be made at the Conference!



ONR Warfighting Performance Department (I/ITSEC) Opportunities

From November 27 - 30, 2023, the ONR Warfighting Performance Department attended (I/ITSEC) to include providing demos of training tools at the Navy booth, conducting meetings with stakeholders and schoolhouses, and cultivating new partnership opportunities:

Maintenance Tools for Operations and Training (MTOT) Highlights

ONR Warfighting Performance Department, USMC Training and Education Command (TECOM), Program Manager for Training Systems, Training Command, as well as the Marine Corps Combat Service Support School and the Marine Corps Communications and Electronics School met regarding the MTOT Future Naval Capability and the Enterprise Ground Maintenance Training System (EGMTS) future Program of Record. MTOT progress and future work was discussed, including the status of schoolhouse leave-behinds to use prototype systems independently. EGMTS requirements were also discussed, including the process for the ONR FY24 EGMTS Candidate User Evaluation. Holding this meeting at I/ITSEC was valuable, as government civilians were able to see the latest maintenance training technologies on the show floor and bring their ideas to the in-person meeting. Next steps include finalizing the Candidate User Evaluation plan and continuing to refine EGMTS requirements development.

ONR also demoed at the Navy booth the training tools of MTOT and Studying the Relationship of Adaptive Training Exercises and Grades in the Classroom (STRATEGIC). For the exhibit, STRATEGIC demonstrated adaptive flashcard tools such as Marine Adaptive Schoolhouse Training with E-Learning Repetition Technology, a Moodle-based plugin that enables course instructors to rapidly generate flashcard content and apply adaptive spacing algorithms that support efficient long-term retention. MTOT showcased a pipeline for creation and deployment of web-based immersive and diagnostic maintenance training content in Moodle and metrics from Veracity LRS to support Adaptive Learning for students. Next steps include following up on the connections made during the conference and report back with any new opportunities for engagements.

JSJ7 I/ITSEC Demonstration

Finally, ONR Warfighting Performance Department representatives successfully demonstrated three capabilities to the JSJ7 Joint Live Virtual Training (JLVC) staff:

- ◆ Streamlined After-Action Review Tool-Visualization (SMART-Viz), a rapid and objective after action review capability for ground forces,
- ◆ Future Integrated Training Environment Software (FITEWARE), simulation interoperability support tool that streamlines simulation design, development and deployment with user-centric automation tools, and
- ◆ Geospatial Analytical and Integration App-3D (GAIA3D), an automated geospatial product generation system enabling rapid development of three dimensional synthetic environments using aerial imagery.

The meeting raised awareness of ONR efforts in support of TECOM Project Tripoli efforts to the JSJ7 JLVC staff. The Marine Corps is the lead service for JLVC integration, and that partnership between will require addressing J7 gaps and the JLVC architecture to meet TECOM requirements using ONR capabilities. Next steps include discussions on ways forward to align development with J7 as well as further consideration for acceptance within the JLVC Modernization Program.

POC: Dr. Peter Squire, Office of Naval Research



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Col Accomplishments (Continued)

HS COI's Tri-Service Effort on Applied Research for Advancement of Science and Technology Priorities (ARAP) Program.

The Department of Defense recognized that synthetic biology was a gap area in the service laboratories and awarded the tri-services in the HS COI a \$45M ARAP program entitled 'Synthetic Biology for Military environments (SBME)'. The objective was to design, build, and test a tri-service synthetic biology pipeline to produce sense and respond probiotics that optimize warfighter performance. This multi-service lab team developed a Design-Build-Test-Learn capability pipeline that facilitated the development of engineered bacteria able to sense and respond to human stress biomarkers and respond by generating performance optimizing compounds. The pipeline was also used to develop a sense and respond probiotic that is contributing to a joint project with an international partner.

To highlight this work, Dr. Goodson of the 711th Human Performance Wing, who chaired the SBME – Human Performance team, guest-edited a special issue of the American Chemical Society journal ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering entitled "Design and Evaluation of Engineered Probiotics". This has been published and contains five articles from the SBME which was a Herculean effort by the tri-service team and is a testament to their dedication and enthusiasm for biotechnology to be a game changer for Warfighter Human Performance. Read More: <https://pubs.acs.org/toc/abseba/9/9>

Authors of the 5 articles include:

- ⇒ *AFRL/711HPW*: Kathryn Beabout, Jorge L. Chávez, Heidi G. Coia, Amy M. Ehrenworth Breedon, Eric S. Greenwood, Matthew W. Grogg, Corey Holt, Vaughn Litteral, Camilla A. Mauzy, Craig McPherson, Elaine A. Merrill, David Metzger, Rebecca Migliozi, Latha Narayanan, M. Tyler Nelson, Peter J. Robinson, Roland J. Saldanha, Blake Stamps
- ⇒ *US Army DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center*: Steven M. Blum, Aleksandr E. Miklos, Matthew W. Lux
- ⇒ *Army DEVCOM Soldier Center*: Steven Arcidiacono, Laurel A. Doherty, Jason W. Soares
- ⇒ *Naval Research Laboratory*: Anthony P. Malanoski, Joseph R. Spangler, Scott A. Walper

POC: Michael Goodson, 711th Human Performance Wing

TCAT – a Toolkit for Assessing Human-Autonomy Teams

The Toolkit for Continuous Assessment of Teams (T-CAT) is a software toolkit that allows users to replay, restream and visualize mission data as it is generated, as well as post hoc. The primary goal of the T-CAT is to allow a heterogeneous team of stakeholders to maximize the use of the data collected and information gained in real time and after missions or training. The toolkit's intended use is laboratory and field environments.

T-CAT has been used to visualize and analyze data from field tests as well as simulation experiments, including platoon-level simulation experiments in the DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory's Information for Mixed Squad (INFORMS) laboratory. In these INFORMS experiments, 14 crew members collaborate and perform different operational missions such as Hasty Defense, Movement to Contact, etc. As Soldiers perform the mission, we collect data from Soldier and agent state, behavior, physiology and communication, as well as various factors of the mission and environment. These data are collected opportunistically, meaning that all data are collected while Soldiers are performing the mission with no additional burden to them — a contrast from traditional methods for assessing human states that require either interrupting the study, or asking participants for retrospective ratings.

The metrics and mission data can be visualized in T-CAT real-time or in an After Action Report (AAR). During the AAR, the user can replay specific portions of a mission noting points in the mission where things went well and identify areas for improvement, for example when a particular autonomous system behaved unpredictably. Users can navigate forward or backward in time, jump between events of interest, or add their own event logs and comments. Conducting AARs using the T-CAT and its capabilities provides a more comprehensive picture of Soldier state, crew interactions, Soldier-autonomy interactions, and performance to enhance individual and team behaviors in subsequent missions.

POCs: Dr. Andrea Krausman and Dr. Brandon Perelman, DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory



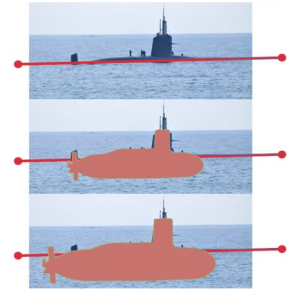
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Col Accomplishments (Continued)

New Patent Issued for ONR Funded Researchers. In October 2023, ONR Warfighter Performance Department funded researchers at University of Central Florida were granted U.S. Patent 11798127. This Naval Basic Research relates to intelligent object magnification including adjusting the logical altitude of the magnified object. This innovation allows warfighters to magnify long-distance targets while intuitively positioning and adjusting these magnified targets within the warfighter's augmented view of the real world, effectively extending their situational awareness while at the same time avoiding disorientation and tunnel-vision effects as seen for regular binoculars or gunsights.



POC: Dr. Peter Squire, Office of Naval Research

Army Wins Government Information Technology Executive Council (GITEC) Emerging Technology Awards

The Army won two GITEC Emerging Technology Awards amongst approximately 50 nominations from organizations across the government. These awards recognize Government teams that have made substantial contributions in technologies that deliver toward their specific agency mission.

Winning the category of "Advancing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics", a DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory (ARL) team was recognized for fundamentally changing the nature of human-machine interactions and the future vision and innovative demonstrations that enable the Army to operationalize it. The team, through partnerships with over 20 academic and government laboratories and stakeholders, developed two primary innovations in Human-Guided Machine Learning:

- Enabled Soldiers to improve AI behaviors through processes that allow operational experts rather than engineering experts to effectively teach machines to execute tasks and adapt to real-world challenges.
- Broadened the conditions under which human-AI partnerships are effective through creating a cycle-of-learning approach that implements multiple human-machine interaction techniques for humans to rapidly teach AI to overcome different types of AI failure. The team's vision is enabling the resilient human-AI partnerships required for the emerging complex, rapidly evolving battlefield of tomorrow.

The other award was a cross-Army team of researchers from DEVCOM ARL and the Army Research Institute who also won the category of "Workforce Innovation" for their efforts in implementing a multi-pronged approach that targets critical skill development through combining several categories: STEM (4th -12th grade) and university training programs; post-doctoral, joint interagency, and government-academia research projects; early career government developmental assignments, and government outreach and training. The team envisioned an agile training model focused on developing individuals with critical knowledge in BOTH human and machine intelligence. To meet this vision, the team has leveraged on-going research efforts into 30+ active developmental efforts that pair neuroscience and machine learning principal investigators/ mentors, along with creating innovative multi-level experiences and training to expose people to novel hybrid intelligence experiences. The team's model has enabled the Army to win multiple awards in major AI challenges and produce research that leads the nation.

POC: Dr. Kaleb McDowell, DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory



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Col Accomplishments (Continued)

711 Human Performance Wing Develops Technologies to Monitor Airmen and Guardians Health and Performance.

The objective of this effort was to develop a high throughput platform to optimize sensing elements for different sensor platforms that monitor biomarkers related to health and performance and can both guide interventions and sustain long duration missions. 711th Human Performance Wing researchers published the journal article “Rational Approach to Optimizing Conformation-Switching Aptamers for Biosensing Applications” in a high impact journal, ACS Sensors. The article describes a platform for optimization of Deoxyribonucleic acid recognition element sequences to undergo a structural change that can be coupled to different sensor platforms to quantify biomarkers in different biofluids.

The standard approach to perform this work requires several months of labor-intensive assays, whereas the published work demonstrated the ability to perform this optimization in only a few weeks. In terms of applications, the cortisol binding sequences optimized by this method have been integrated into a wearable patch being developed to measure cortisol continuously to monitor stress. These wearable sensors are for Department of Defense needs and are being transitioned to commercial partners. The platform was developed with the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate and John Hopkins University with funding from the Nano Bio Manufacturing Consortium and 711th Human Performance Wing.

Authors: Mr. Sean Webb, Ms. Alyssa Cramer, Ms. Monica Wolfe, Dr. Yaroslav Chushak, Ms. Eva Goorskey, and Dr. Jorge Chavez

Read More: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssensors.3c02004>

POCs: Dr. Jorge Chavez, 711 Human Performance Wing.



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Col Contact Information

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| AF (Chair) | Chief Scientist, 711 th Human Performance Wing (711 HPW), Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) | Dr. Gaurav Sharma |
| Navy | Dept Head, Warfighter Performance, Code 34, ONR | Dr. Patrick Mason |
| Army | Chief, Humans in Complex Systems (HCxS) Division—Army Research Lab (ARL) | Dr. Jeremy Gaston |
| Army | Acting Director, Army Research Institute (ARI) | Dr. Scott Shadrick |
| SOCOM | Director, SOF AT&L Science & Technology | Ms. Lisa Sanders |
| Army | Chief Scientist, Soldier Performance and Optimization, US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center (CCDCSC) | Dr. Robb Wilcox |
| Army | Chief, Human Systems Integration Division, Data & Analysis Center | Dr. Thomas Davis |
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| DIU | Director, Human Systems Portfolio | Dr. Christian Whitchurch |
| DARPA | Special Assistant to Director for Strategic Engagement | Dr. John Kamp |
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| OUSD (R&E) | Contractor Support (Strategic Analysis) | Dr. Maggie Eliot |
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| Army | Army Research Institute | Dr. Richard Hoffman |
| Air Force | 711 HPW, Air Force Research Laboratory | Dr. Glenn Gunzelmann |
| Navy | Office of Naval Research | Dr. Mike LaFiandra |
| Army | Senior Research Scientist (ST) for Soldier Performance in Socio-Technical Systems | Dr. Jessie Chen |
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| Air Force | Contractor Support (JYG Innovations Inc) | Mr. Al Livada |



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| Human Systems Col – SUB-AREA LEADS & MEMBERS | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Personalized Assessment, Education, and Training (PAE&T) | | |
| Army | Army Research Institute (ARI) | Dr. Elizabeth Uhl |
| Navy | ASN, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) | Dr. Kendy Vierling |
| Army | Army Research Lab | Dr. Benjamin Goldberg |
| Army | Army Research Lab | Dr. Greg Ruark |
| Navy | Naval Research Laboratory | Dr. Mark Livingston |
| ADL | Director, Advanced Distributive Learning Initiative | Dr. Laura Milham |
| DLNSEO | Defense Language, Nat'l Security Education | Dr. Michael Nugent |
| Navy | Office of Naval Research (ONR code 34) | Dr. Natalie Steinhauser |
| Navy | JAIC—Joint Artificial Intelligence Center | LCDR Pete Walker |
| Navy | Naval Air Warfare Command, Training Systems | Dr. Jim Pharmer |
| Navy | Naval Air Warfare Command, Training Systems | Dr. Melissa Walwanis |
| Army | Army Research Lab (ARL) | Dr. Pete Khooshabeh |
| Army | Combat Capabilities Development Command | Dr. Kimberly Pollard |
| Navy | Nav Surface Warfare Center Crane | Dr. Siddharth Maini |
| Army | Army Research Institute (ARI) | Mr. Richard Hoffman |
| DLNSEO | DLNSEO (Def Language & Nat'l Security Ed) | Dr. Cara Aghanjanian |
| ADL | Advanced Distributed Learning | Dr. Karen Cooper |
| Navy | Office of Naval Research (ONR) Code 34 | CDR Jacob (Jake) Norris |
| Navy | NPS | Dr. Aditya Prasad |
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| Army | NSRDEC | Dr. Jeff Schiffman |
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| Navy | ONR Code 34 | Dr. Tim Bentley |
| Navy | ONR Code 34 | Lt Tracy Morgan |



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| System Interfaces and Cognitive Processing (SICP) | | |
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| Air Force | AFRL, 711 HPW | Dr. Vince Schmidt |
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| Army | Army Research Laboratory | Dr. Katherine Cox |
| Army | Army Research Laboratory | Dr. Jeff Hansberger |
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| Navy | ONR Code 34 | Dr. Jeff Morrison |
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| Navy | ONR Code 34 | Dr. Rebecca Goolsby |
| Navy | Naval Surface Warfare Center | Dr. Jessica Jones |
| Navy | COMPACFLT N5 | Dr. Dale Russell |
| Army | Army Research Lab CCDC Atlantic | Dr. Frederick Gregory |
| Army | Research & Development Command (RDECOM) | Dr. David Scribner |
| SOCOM | SOF AT&L Science & Technology | TBD |
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| Navy | Nav Surface Warfare Center Crane | Dr. Siddharth Maini |