SAKAI MIGRATION CONTINUES

The Educational Technologies team is migrating courses from Blackboard to Sakai before Blackboard goes offline on October 1, 2010. In the event a course has not been moved before Blackboard goes offline, the company did back up and archive all 4000+ courses and provided that data to ITACS which is keeping it on NPS servers.

After October 1, 2010, to retrieve a course in Blackboard that has been imported into Sakai:

- Download the NPS Blackboard course list (Excel document)
- Contact clehelp@nps.edu to request your Blackboard course list
- Determine which course(s) via Course ID you would like to have imported
- Send an email to clehelp@nps.edu with the following information:
  - Blackboard Course IDs
  - What quarter the course will be taught

If you added/modified content in Blackboard after July 4, 2010, please ensure that any material you need is saved outside of Blackboard.

The Sakai transition team at clehelp@nps.edu is available to assist in backing up course content from summer quarter.

Additional information about Sakai can be found at:
http://intranet.nps.edu/ITACS/CLE/index.html

KUALI FINANCIAL SYSTEM (KFS) UPDATE

In an August update to the IT Task Force on Kuali Financial System (KFS), Ms. Colleen Nickles said that the PI equivalency reports have been built, but are still undergoing development and testing. All labor has been uploaded onto KFS through July 31, 2010. As of August 17, 2010, travel has been loaded onto KFS on the development, but not the production side.

DORS will be replaced by KFS; however, all the MAS's will be available as projection tools.

Training for approving officials was conducted in late August; SPIFA trainings are being developed.

Ms. Nickles said that 90-minute meetings have been conducted with representatives from all four Schools to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities for administrative users of KFS, as well as departmental procedures. The same meetings may be conducted with staff from the Institutes. Familiar job titles at NPS have been identified and translated, where appropriate, into KFS system titles, with responsibilities defined according to tasks performed in KFS. Process maps have also been designed, which track KFS roles so that users can identify the tasks for which they are responsible within KFS. Samples of these documents are posted on the KFS site.

Ms. Nickles also reported that the Travel Office is setting the deactivation on all Citibank government credit cards to the year 2018, when the contract with Citibank expires, which should prevent cardholders from unexpectedly having their cards deactivated.
Mr. Alan Pires of ITACS' Enterprise Information Systems provided a recap of concerns that have been identified in JIRA, the issue tracking system first used campus-wide with KFS.

A total of 390 KFS issues (of any type) were reported in JIRA. Of those, 108 are open; 18 are in progress; 5 have been re-opened; 256 have been resolved; 3 have been closed.

Of the 390 issues reported through JIRA, 34 (9%) have been bug reports; 54 (14%) are related to improvements; 163 (42%) are related to tasks; 67 (17%) are related to sub-tasks; 72 (18%) fall into the "Other" category. Of the 34 total bug reports, 7 remain open; 1 has been re-opened; and 26 have been resolved.

DoD MODERNIZATION OFFICE VISIT
On August 4 2010, Drs. Christine Haska and Jeff Haferman hosted visitors from the DoD High-Performance Computing and Modernization Program Office (HPCMP), which manages the largest high-performance computers within the DoD: many of their machines have tens of thousands of processors. The HPCMP visits NPS once every three years to receive an update on how NPS is using their resources and to brief NPS on HPCMP plans and progress. In this visit, the HPCMP was briefed on the status of NPS high-performance computing — especially the "hamming" Sun blade system — and how HPCMP computers are benefiting NPS researchers and the DoD. HPCMP users include Drs. Wieslaw Maslowski (Oceanography), John Joseph (Oceanography), Steve Upton (Operations Research), Jake Didoszak (Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering), Jeff Haferman (Director of Research Computing), Jose Sinibaldi (Physics), Andrew Penny (Meteorology), and Timour Radko (Oceanography). NPS users who "outgrow" hamming can apply for a free account on a HPCMP machine by applying through HPCMP. For information on this process, contact Dr. Jeff Haferman at jlhaferm@nps.edu or Ext. 3076.

CYBERSECURITY AND PRIVACY
Phishing continues to be the most common technique used by our adversaries to gain unauthorized access to NPS data and networks. One way to protect users from this threat is by patching operating systems and applications. Provided by the software makers (e.g., Microsoft or Adobe), patches update the current code of the programs running on a system, and fix vulnerabilities that exist in the application code.

Patching systems keeps them up-to-date and removes the "low hanging fruit" adversaries typically use to try to gain unauthorized access to our network. Patches typically fall into three general categories: regular, DoD mandated, and out-of-band. Regular patches are usually those released by Microsoft on the second Tuesday of every month. DoD mandated updates are received by ITACS throughout the month and have varying deadlines based on the severity of the vulnerability. Out-of-band patches, updates released by vendors outside of the regular patch cycle, fix severe vulnerabilities that require immediate attention.

ITACS tests all Microsoft patches prior to their installation on campus systems, and applies regular patches on the third Tuesday of every month, one week after Microsoft Patch Tuesday. The extra week allows ITACS to observe and test the effects of the patches on workstations and to mitigate issues that may arise. DoD mandated updates are reviewed for appropriateness and tested before being applied to workstations. Several instances have occurred where updates broke the unique applications supported by ITACS, so the department takes out-of-band patches very seriously

and typically applies these immediately. The campus is notified of instances of patching and the reasons for their application through announcements on the Intranet.

ITACS has seen an increase in the amount of patching over the last year: over 104,000 patches have been applied or reviewed, a 5% increase over the total number of patches for the last fiscal year.

ITACS will continue to provide the best possible experience and maintain security for the end user by reviewing and applying patches in a timely and transparent manner.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH
A team of research scientists from **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)** attended the MOVES Summit from July 12-15, 2010. **President Shirley Ann Jackson of RPI** will be attending the NPS Board of Advisors meeting in October.

Avaya President and CEO Kevin Kennedy visited the campus on August 3, 2010, to engage in discussions related to the NPS telecommunications, partnership opportunities, and ITACS' unified communications initiative.

The **Cisco Higher Education Executive Exchange** met on July 26, 2010, and work is progressing with that group. Seven NPS research proposals have been submitted to Cisco; it appears that 4 will be funded.

Mr. Dave Rossetti of Cisco joined Team Monterey for a visit to Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter-Liggett on August 12, 2010, where the group observed a TNT exercise.

Mr. Jim Riedel of PERSEREC is in discussion with Dr. Christine Haska about possibly procuring data center capabilities from ITACS when PERSEREC moves from its headquarters at Heritage Harbor to Ryan Ranch.

Dr. Christine Haska, Mr. Joe LoPiccolo and NPS senior leadership were invited by **Director George H. Miller of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** for a day of briefings and discussions to reinvigorate and expand our strategic relationship. The visit included a tour through the nuclear weapons vault and the Terascale Simulations Facility and Visualization Center.

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER
From August 1 through August --- 2010, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received ---- requests for assistance, ---- of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. The remaining --- requests were escalated to groups outside of TAC for specialized assistance. This number represents a --- increase in requests for assistance from August 2009.

This month, --% of all calls were resolved within the Service Level Agreement (SLA). Those that were carried over are awaiting parts, pending information from the customers, etc.

Requests for assistance were categorized as follows:
> Phone: 3,003
> E-Mail: 1,397
> Walk-in: 266
> Web: 7
> Technician: 16
> Other: 149