The APL tradition of excellence embodies a culture of systems innovation that sparks continuous systems developments having significant impact and visibility. For seven decades, system user needs, technology enablers, and imposing threats have served as catalysts to develop concepts and practices that foster out-of-the-box thinking and thought leadership for solutions to complex problems. Multiple factors stimulate such diversity of invention and systems innovation:

- APL is a University-Affiliated Research Center whose expectations and attributes provide for multiple opportunities to apply the best systems processes and technologies, with trusted advising roles, and with the highest integrity.
- APL application diversity extends in scope, size, and geolocation with programs from undersea to outer space, from nanosystems to multi-ton satellite systems, and from innovative components to global networked systems.
- APL attracts and retains exceedingly high talent from the nation’s premier universities as well as seasoned engineers and scientists from industry and government who are looking for a challenging career.
- APL has the motivation to succeed: the forward-looking desire to make critical contributions to critical challenges and to recognize the ideas and products that will have significant impact.

Over our history, we are proud of our systems accomplishments as illustrated in the sample montage above. We look forward to the next game-changing systems developments that will serve the nation.