



The United States Naval War College

Academic Awards for the 2024–2025 Academic Year

DIANE M. DISNEY WRITING AWARD

Mr. Matthew T. Griffith, Defense Contract Management Agency	CNW Jun 2025
Lieutenant Commander Sumit Chandra Wankhede, Indian Navy	NSC Jun 2025
Commander Yen Ming, Chen, Taiwan Navy	NCC Jun 2025
Colonel Maria Costa, U.S. Army	CNW Mar 2025
Major Victor E. Bockman, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps	CNCS Jun 2025

AFCEA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH HONOR AWARD

Cyberspace, Communications, Electronics, Command and Control,
Information Systems Category

Winner:

Name: Major Bradley A. Kramer, U.S. Marine Corps	CNCS Jun 2025
Essay: "War-Ready Communications: Assessing Joint Communications through the Russo-Ukrainian War"	

Honorable Mention:

Name: Ms. Holley D. McBroom, Defense Intelligence Agency	CNCS Jun 2025
Essay: "Distributed Maritime Operations Command and Control in a Contested Operating Environment"	

ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES PRIZE

Winner:

Name: Commander Timothy G. Boyle, U.S. Navy	CNW Jun 2025
Essay: "A New Strategy to Counter Chinese Sabotage of Taiwan's Undersea Cables"	



Honorable Mention:

Name: Colonel Eli S. Adams, U.S. Army
Essay: "The US-India Security Partnership: Aligning National
Interests in a Non-Aligned World"

CNW Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Michelle Costanza, U.S. Navy
Essay: "Changes in US Climate Policy and DoD Options in
the Indo-Pacific"

CNCS Mar 2025

ROBERT E. BATEMANS' INTERNATIONAL PRIZE ESSAY AWARD

Winner:

Name: Captain Shobhit Mittal, Indian Navy
Essay: "A Strategic Approach to Deter Increased PLA Submarine
Activity in the Indian Ocean Region by Enhancing Underwater
MDA through Combined ASW Operations between U.S.-India-Australia"

NCC Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Captain Olliver Pfennig, German Navy
Essay: "Multi-Domain Operations in the Highly Contested Environment
of the Eastern Baltic Sea: Improving NATO's Operational Position"

NCC Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Captain Tomoaki Nakano, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
Essay: "The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's ISR Activities in the
South China Sea"

NCC Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Commander Jan Brunberg, Finnish Navy
Essay: "Finnish Long-Range Strike Capabilities as a Factor of
Conventional Deterrence"

NCC Jun 2025



ADMIRAL RICHARD G. COLBERT MEMORIAL PRIZE

Winner:

Name: Colonel Jason R. Hock, U.S. Air Force
Essay: "Clouds in a Bag: High Altitude Balloon Use in a Peer Conflict"

CNW Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Jordan Alexander Spector, U.S. Navy
Essay: "The Noisy Dragon"

CDE

JOHN J. D'LUHY PRIZE TO HONOR EXCELLENCE IN STRATEGIC ANALYSIS AND THOUGHT

Winner:

Name: Mr. Michael A. Reed, Department of State
Essay: "What Makes for Strategic Success in Overseas Expeditionary Operations?"

CNCS Jun 2025

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES H. DOYLE, JR., MILITARY OPERATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PRIZE

U.S. Student Category

Winner:

Name: Commander Andrea M. Logan, U.S. Navy
Essay: "Ukraine War Termination: Legal Implications for International Security"

CNW Jun 2025

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Julia S. Flores, U.S. Army
Essay: "Hidden in Plain Sight: How Feigning Civilian-Object Status Highlights the Need to Train on the Law of Armed Conflict versus Policy"

CNCS Jun 2025



International Student Category

Winner:

Name: Major Lee Zheng Hao Lester, Republic of Singapore Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Essay: "Contesting China's Lawfare in the South China Sea"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Commander Yen Ming, Chen, Taiwan Navy **NCC Jun 2025**
Essay: "The Law in a Taiwan Strait Conflict and the U.S.'s Intervention"

FOREIGN AREA OFFICER ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CDE/CNCS/NSC Category

Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Md. Abdullah Al Momin, Bangladesh Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Essay: "Countering China's Expansion and Militarization in the
INDO-PACIFIC Region by 2027: Should the U.S. Prioritize and
Strengthen the QUAD?"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Elhadji Ndiaye, Senegalese Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Essay: "What Critical Advantages Does the U.S. Hold Over Russia
and China in the Context of Great Power Competition in West Africa?"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Alexander I. Deardorff, U.S. Army Reserve **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "How to Win in the Western Hemisphere: Theater Strategy
Recommendations to Combat Cartels and Chinese Influence"



CNW/NCC Category

Winner:

Name: Mr. Travis M. Sevy, Department of State **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Deterring PRC Aggression in the South China Sea Through Enhanced U.S.-Philippine Military Cooperation"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Ms. Evangeline A. Baldwin, Department of State **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Containment Reimagined: Why a Repurposed Counterterrorism Strategy Provides a Key Advantage in Strategic Competition with Russia and the People's Republic of China"

GENERAL GEORGE C. KENNEY AWARD FOR WRITING ON THE TOPIC OF AIRPOWER

Winner:

Name: Major Tyler E. Hunt, U.S. Air Force **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Including Strike Fighters in Distributed Maritime Operations"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Samuel T. Darnell, U.S. Air Force **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Nuclear Options for Hard and Deeply Buried Target Defeat"

LTGEN VICTOR "BRUTE" KRULAK WRITING AWARD SPONSORED BY THE MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

First Place Winner:

Name: Major Michael C. Everett, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Optimizing Land Contributions in the Indo-Pacific: Integrating US Army Assets with Marine Corps Stand-in-Forces to Achieve Operational Effects"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Matthew Danielson, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Shaping the Pacific Battlespace: Infrastructure, Exercises, and ANB Optimization"



CAPTAIN JEROME E. LEVY ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD ORDER PRIZE

Winner:

Name: Mr. Kenneth T. Quail, Department of the Army **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Cold Rush: China's Polar Power Play"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Hailey Frances Brunette, U.S. Navy **CNCS Nov 2025**
Essay: "Arctic Security Cooperation: National Security Implications"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major James D. Watson, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Offshore Balancing: Pivoting to the Indo-Pacific begins with Turkey"

THE HONORABLE JULIETTE C. MCLENNAN ESSAY PRIZE FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

Winner:

Name: Major Elizabeth A. Huffman, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Exploiting the Principles of Women, Peace, and Security: Gaining an Asymmetric Advantage in the Operational Environment"

J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II AWARD FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

Winner:

Name: Mr. Kenneth T. Quail, Department of the Army **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Antarctica as Contested Space: The Case for Cold-Weather Deterrence"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Joshua A. Flanagan, U.S. Navy **CNCS Mar 2026**
Essay: "U.S. Surface Navy Missile Capacity: Thinking Outside the Box (Launcher)"



Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Connor Keating, U.S. Navy

CNCS Mar 2026

Essay: "Feasibility Study of an Active and Passive Drone Defense
for a Large Surface Combatant"

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
JOINT SERVICE WARFARE**

CNCS/CDE Category

Winner:

Name: Major Riley A. Feeney, U.S. Air Force

CNCS Jun 2025

Essay: "Creating a Joint Concept for Anti-Submarine Warfare"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Jonathan D. Barnett, U.S. Air Force

CNCS Jun 2025

Essay: "Implementing Artificial Intelligence and Human-Machine
Teaming to Improve Lethality and Achieve Decision Superiority"

CNW Category

Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Luke A. Sauber, U.S. Marine Corps

CNW Jun 2025

Essay: "Engineering Alliances: Leveraging JFEA for Climate
Resilience and Strategic Competition in Southeast Asia"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Captain Aaron J. Casavant, U.S. Coast Guard

CNW Jun 2025

Essay: "Transfer the Coast Guard to the Navy: Now?!
But We're Not Ready!"



NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE AWARD

Winner:

Name: Commander William John Joseph Edwards-Bannon, Royal Navy **NCC Jun 2025**
Essay: "Improving Sub-optimal Lethality: Why US Undersea Warfare Arsenals Need Autonomous Intermediate Force Capabilities"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Cody Allan Stombaugh, U.S. Navy **CNCS Nov 2025**
Essay: "Flexible Waterspace Management: The Case for an Updated Command and Control Structure"

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARD

Winner:

Name: Major Nathan E. Hall, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Adapt or Perish: Peacetime Measures for Improving Wartime Adaptation"

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Jordan Alexander Spector, U.S. Navy **CDE**
Essay: "Destroyers, Oil, and the Atom"

MATTHEW C. PERRY AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

First Place:

Name: Commander Loïc Le Penneç, French Navy **NCC Jun 2025**
Essay: "Telling the European Story Better: How Stronger Strategic Narratives Would Help the EU Increase its Global Power and Influence"

Second Place:

Name: Ms. Alissa M. Bibb, Department of State **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Improving Integrated Deterrence in the Western Pacific Islands"



MR. B. FRANKLIN REINAUER II DEFENSE ECONOMICS PRIZE

Winner:

Name: Commander Brian J. Naughton, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Artificial Intelligence and Energy: A National Security Issue"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Nathan E. Hall, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Innovation Power: Renewing U.S. Techno-Economic Leadership for Strategic Competition"

ADMIRAL STOCKDALE MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS PRIZE

Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Joshua M. Bloom, U.S. Army Reserve **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Leadership at the Inflection Point"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Jordan Alexander Spector, U.S. Navy **CDE**
Essay: "Judgment, the Phoenix Virtue, and Command"

CAPTAIN WALTER B. WOODSON, JR., ACADEMIC MEMORIAL PRIZE

First Prize:

Name: Major Lee Zheng Hao Lester, Republic of Singapore Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Seminar essay written in response to the following prompt:
"Based on the case studies in the Strategy and War Course, what strategies should weaker naval powers pursue to defeat stronger naval powers?"

ZIMMERMAN-GRAY ESSAY AWARD

Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Sumit Chandra Wankhede, Indian Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Essay: "Securing Naval Supremacy in the Quantum Era: Analyzing the Threats to Distributed Maritime Operations"



Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Lee Zheng Hao Lester, Republic of Singapore Navy **NSC Jun 2025**
Essay: "How Can the US Adopt a Joint Approach to Contest China
More Effectively in the Littorals of the Indo-Pacific?"

WARFIGHTING RESEARCH ESSAY PRIZE

Winner

Name: Major Anthony J. Muscarella II, U.S. Air Force **CNCS Jun 2025**
Essay: "Securing the Arctic in the Gray Zone: A Joint Force
Strategy for Hybrid Warfare Dominance"

WARFIGHTING RESEARCH ARTICLE PRIZE

Winner

Name: Lieutenant Commander Jordan Alexander Spector, U.S. Navy **CDE**
Essay: "Mass Wargaming: Weaponizing the Full Cognitive Potential
of the Defense Establishment"

Honorable Mention:

Name: Colonel Jason R. Hock, U.S. Air Force **CNW Jun 2025**
Essay: "Clouds in a Bag: High Altitude Balloon Use in a Peer Conflict"

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY RESEARCH ESSAY PRIZE

Winner

Name: Mrs. Kaitlyn Wolfe, U.S. House of Representatives **CDE**
Essay: "The Human Element of War: Why Refugee Planning is
Crucial for Military Readiness"

EDWARD H. BRAGG AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY A U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICER

Name: Captain Aaron J. Casavant, U.S. Coast Guard **CNW Jun 2025**



ADMIRAL ARLEIGH A. BURKE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Name: Captain Tomo Nakano, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force **NCC Jun 2025**

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN T. HAYWARD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION

Name: Commander Jason C. Kim, U.S. Navy **CDE Jun 2025**

ADMIRAL IKE KIDD NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATION AWARD

Name: Commander Alex Michael Berenberg, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2025**

CAPTAIN JAMES T. LARKIN, U.S. MARINE CORPS, AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY A U.S. MARINE CORPS OFFICER

Name: Major Matthew E. Danielson, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2025**

MCGINNIS FAMILY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN NONRESIDENT SEMINAR EDUCATION

Name: Lieutenant Commander Christopher J. Martin, U.S. Coast Guard **CDE Jun 2025**

CAPTAIN GEORGE E. THIBAUT AWARD FOR U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE CIVILIAN GRADUATES OF THE NONRESIDENT FLEET SEMINAR PROGRAM

Name: Dr. Connor P. Donahue, Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C. **CDE Jun 2025**

DRS. DANIEL AND SUSAN THYS ACADEMIC PRIZE

Name: Commander Alex Michael Berenberg, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2025**

RADM JOSEPH C. STRASSER INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PRIZES

Naval Staff College:

Name: Commander Matthew Lance Green, Royal Australian Navy **NSC Jun 2025**

Naval Command College:

Name: Commander Sergio Huidobro Bono, Chilean Navy **NCC Jun 2025**



NAVY LEAGUE AWARDS

William S. Sims Award:

Name: Major Joshua Elliott, U.S. Marine Corps

CNCS Jun 2025

Stephen B. Luce Award:

Name: Ms. Evangeline Baldwin, Department of State

CNW Jun 2025-