



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

June 13, 2025



HISTORY OF THE U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Founded in Newport, Rhode Island on October 6, 1884, the U.S. Naval War College is the oldest war college in the world. Commodore Stephen B. Luce was the first President and organized the War College as a place to study the highest aspects of the military profession, defining it as “a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war.” These foundations were built upon by Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, second President of the College, who had originally been selected by Luce to initiate the course in Naval History. Of all the men who were to influence the institution in its early years, none was to have a more profound impact. Mahan’s views deeply affected such leaders as Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt and through them and others helped shape the United States’ destiny at the turn of the century. Mahan’s Naval War College lectures, published as *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660–1783* (1890), gained him worldwide acclaim and first established the U.S. Naval War College as an internationally respected institution. Other early faculty members made pioneering contributions to hallmark areas of enduring interest for the College. Among them were Charles Stockton, who drafted the first international law code for naval warfare in 1898, and William McCarty Little, who developed the art of naval war gaming between 1886 and 1914.

Functioning continuously since 1884, except for brief periods during the Spanish-American War and World War I, the War College numbers among its graduates such distinguished naval officers as Admirals Sims, Spruance, King, Nimitz, and Halsey, in addition to many others who today are holding prominent positions.

The work begun more than one hundred years ago by Luce and Mahan continues today. As graduates well know, the curriculum is both demanding and rewarding. For the military professional, the unique education provided by the Naval War College is unrivaled. In recognition of the academic rigor and educational excellence of its program, the U.S. Naval War College has been accredited since 1991 by first the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and now the New England Commission of Higher Education to award a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. In 2015 this accreditation was expanded to award two degrees. Graduating students in the senior level course now receive a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies while graduating students in the intermediate course receive a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

For centuries, institutions of higher learning have dignified their ceremonies with an academic procession, a custom descending from the clerical procession. The procession is led by a marshal, followed by the student body and the academicians or faculty, attired in the robes prescribed for their respective degrees. Distinguished visitors and delegates follow the faculty, and last in the procession comes the president of the institution.

Each member of an academic procession ordinarily wears a cap, gown, and hood. In the procession today military faculty will not wear academic gowns. The earliest illustration depicts gowns worn at Oxford University that somewhat resemble cassocks worn by English teachers who found good use for the hood, or cowl, as protection against the weather. A uniform American system of academic heraldry displays the level of degree, the field of study in which it was earned, and the institution by which it was granted.

It is the hood which provides academic regalia its color and offers the most information about its wearer. The silk lining of the hood bears the color, or colors, of the degree-granting college or university; its velvet facing reveals the color assigned to each area of study. The Bachelor's gown is relatively simple, falling in straight lines from an elaborate yoke and having pointed sleeves. The Master's gown is slightly more elaborate and fastens about the wrist. The Doctor's gown is marked by velvet panels down the front and around the neck, as well as by three bars of the same material on the well-shaped sleeves. It is cut more fully and may be ornamented. The hood worn is three feet in length for Bachelors, three and one-half feet for Masters, and four feet for Doctors, with velvet trimming of two, three, and five inches in width respectively.

The edging, or facing, velvet of academic hoods indicates the area of study. The principal scholarly fields seen in the procession today include:

<i>Philosophy</i>	<i>Dark Blue</i>
<i>Arts, Letters, Humanities</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Business Administration</i>	<i>Light Brown</i>
<i>Economics</i>	<i>Copper</i>
<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Orange</i>
<i>Law</i>	<i>Purple</i>
<i>International Affairs/Public Administration</i>	<i>Peacock Blue</i>

The American mortarboard, derived from the soft Oxford cap, is black. Its tassel, for holders of the bachelor's and master's degree, is usually black, while gold tassels are worn by holders of doctoral degrees and heads of institutions. The tassel is worn on the right side of the cap by undergraduates, on the left by holders of bachelor's and higher degrees.

GRADUATION PROGRAM

Processional Music Navy Band Northeast

Procession of Students and Faculty

Arrival of Official Party*

National Anthem* Musician Third Class Cherie Devine, U.S. Navy
Vocalist, Navy Band Northeast

Invocation* Captain Paul S. Tremblay, U.S. Navy
Command Chaplain, U.S. Naval War College

Welcome Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy
President, U.S. Naval War College

Commencement Address The Honorable John C. Phelan
Secretary of the Navy

Student Awards

RADM Joseph C. Strasser NSC International Leadership Prize

RADM Joseph C. Strasser NCC International Leadership Prize

Navy League Awards

Presentation of Graduates

Presentation of Diplomas

Charge to Graduates Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy
President, U.S. Naval War College

Benediction* Captain Paul S. Tremblay, U.S. Navy
Command Chaplain, U.S. Naval War College

Departure of Official Party*

*Guests please stand

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy
President

Dr. Stephen J. Mariano
Provost

Dr. Doyle K. Hodges
Dean of Academics

Captain Brian D. Doherty, U.S. Navy
Dean of Students

Professor Robert S. Winneg
Interim Dean, International Programs and Maritime Security Cooperation

Dr. Sergio A. Costa
Dean, College of Distance Education

Professor Edward B. Cashman, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Dean, College of Maritime Operational Warfare

Colonel Robert E. Flannery, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Dean, Center for Naval Warfare Studies

Dr. Jeffrey R. Macris
Dean, College of Leadership and Ethics

Dr. Derek S. Reveron
Chair, National Security Affairs Department

Captain John Porado, U.S. Navy
Chair, Joint Military Operations Department

Captain Jeffrey DeMarco, U.S. Navy
Deputy Chair, Strategy and Policy Department

Colonel Lawrence T. Brown, U.S. Army
Senior Army Advisor

Colonel Zachary T. Schmidt, U.S. Marine Corps
Senior Marine Corps Representative

Captain Duneley A. Rochino, U.S. Navy
Senior Navy Advisor

Colonel Elizabeth A. Hanson, U.S. Air Force
Senior Air and Space Force Advisor

Captain John M. McTamney, U.S. Coast Guard
Senior Coast Guard Advisor

Mr. Walter M. Braunohler
Senior State Department Advisor



THE HONORABLE JOHN C. PHELAN 79TH SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

The Honorable John Phelan was sworn in as the 79th Secretary of the Navy on March 25, 2025. Secretary Phelan oversees the well-being, readiness, and development of nearly one million Sailors, Marines, reservists, and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy and manages an annual budget of \$263.5 billion and balance sheet assets totaling \$922 billion. His departmental priorities focus on strengthening shipbuilding and the maritime industrial base; fostering an adaptive, accountable, and warfighting culture; and improving the health, welfare, and training of our people.

Prior to his appointment, Secretary Phelan was the Founder and Chairman of Rugger Management, LLC, a private investment firm based in Palm Beach, Florida. Before launching Rugger, he was a co-Founder and co-Managing Partner of MSD Capital, LP, a private investment firm for Michael Dell, and MSD Partners, an SEC-registered investment advisor that managed investments for a select group of third-party investors. Under his leadership, MSD posted double-digit net returns, generated over \$20 billion in profits, and grew assets under management to over \$30 billion.

Secretary Phelan holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude with distinction from Southern Methodist University (SMU) with a BA in Economics and Political Science. He also earned a General Course degree in Economics and International Relations from the London School of Economics (LSE).

A committed patriot and philanthropist, Secretary Phelan served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Third Option Foundation and on the board of the Spirit of America and the Aspen Art Museum. He is a member of Business Executives for National Security. He also serves on the Board of Dean's Advisors at Harvard Business School, the Investment Committee for the SMU Endowment, and the North American Advisory Board for LSE. In 2022, he received SMU's highest alumni honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award. Secretary Phelan and his wife, Amy, have endowed free admission to the Aspen Art Museum and recently established the Phelan United States Centre at LSE.

NAVAL COMMAND COLLEGE

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Captain Khaled Aljunaid, Royal Bahrain Navy
Captain André Luiz Dias Sêda, Brazilian Navy
Captain Pavel Krasimirov Panov, Bulgarian Navy
Captain Jeffrey Dargavel, Royal Canadian Navy
Commander Sergio Huidobro Bono, Chilean Navy
Commander Jorge Alfonso Garcia Torres, Colombian Navy
Commander Gabriel Ordóñez Macías, Ecuadorian Navy
Commander Ain Pärna, Estonian Navy
Commander Jan Brunberg, Finnish Navy
Commander Loïc Le Pennec, French Navy
Captain Olliver Pfennig, German Navy
Commander Konstantinos Voskakis, Hellenic Navy
Captain Shobhit Mittal, Indian Navy
Captain Ludfy, Indonesian Navy
Commander Asaf Gabbai, Israel Defense Force
Captain Stefano Luciani, Italian Navy
Captain Tomoaki Nakano, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force*
Commander Jihyung Choi, Republic of Korea Navy
Colonel Meshari Alhooti, Kuwait Naval Force
Commander Mindaugas Andrulis, Lithuanian Navy
Commander Nazley Kamarulzaman, Royal Malaysian Navy
Captain Fernando A. Jerezano Aguirre, Mexican Navy
Commander Nabih Benchekroun, Royal Moroccan Navy
Captain (N) Olavi Twamoneni Shipunda, Namibian Navy
Commander John Julius McQueen, Royal New Zealand Navy
Captain Adebawale Samuel Omotosho, Nigerian Navy
Commander Senior Grade Kjetil Eldevik Fosse, Royal Norwegian Navy
Captain Zia Rehman, Pakistan Navy
Captain Eduardo ZEVALLOS Roncagliolo, Peruvian Navy
Commander John C Lobaton, Philippine Navy
Captain Jarosław Iwańczuk, Polish Navy
Captain George-Victor Durea, Romanian Naval Forces
Commander Naif Mohammad Alghfari, Royal Saudi Naval Forces
Colonel Manuel Colino, Spanish Navy
Captain Dinesh Chandana Bandara, Sri Lanka Navy
Lieutenant Colonel Johan Wallin, Swedish Amphibious Corps
Commander Yen Ming, Chen, Taiwan Navy

HONORS

Distinction *

Highest Distinction †

Commander Suppachai Prakob, Royal Thai Navy
Captain Faouzi Sahli, Tunisian Navy
Captain Ahmet Kaçar, Turkish Naval Forces
Colonel Rashed Ali Alsuwaidi, United Arab Emirates Naval Forces
Commander William John Joseph Edwards-Bannon, Royal Navy*
Colonel Chad Backes, U.S. Air Force
Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Luke Golike, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander Carleigh Rebecca Gregory, U.S. Navy
Colonel Jeremy A. McHugh, U.S. Army
Captain Leonardo Raissignier, Uruguayan Navy

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Lieutenant Colonel James W. Bass, U.S. Army National Guard
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Lieutenant Gloire Michel Etati, Congolese Navy
Lieutenant Commander Anisa Bitsch-Jørgensen, Royal Danish Navy
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Lieutenant Commander Haneul Kim, Republic of Korea Navy
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Major Michael P. Magyar, U.S. Marine Corps
Mr. Brent R. Mantzke, Department of State
Ms. Holley D. McBroom, Defense Intelligence Agency*
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Major David W. Teubl, U.S. Air Force*
Lieutenant Commander Shane D. Thames, U.S. Navy
Major Brenden M. Torphy, U.S. Air Force
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Lieutenant Commander Prenolin Veerasamy, U.S. Navy
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The Army Goes Rolling Along (U.S. Army)

*First to fight for the right,
And to build the nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadance loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.*



Marine Corps Hymn (U.S. Marine Corps)

*From the Halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.*



**The Air Force Song
(U.S. Air Force)**

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flames from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*



**Semper Supra
(U.S. Space Force)**

*We're the mighty watchful eye,
Guardians beyond the blue.
The invisible front line,
Warfighters brave and true.
Boldly reaching into space,
There's no limit to our sky.
Standing guard both night and day,
We're the Space Force from on high!*



**Semper Paratus
(U.S. Coast Guard)**

*We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory too.
To fight to save or fight and die,
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you!*



Anchors Aweigh
(U.S. Navy)

*Anchors Aweigh, my boys,
Anchors Aweigh.
Farewell to foreign shores,
We sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.
Through our last night on shore,
Drink to the foam,
Until we meet once more:
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.*



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“Most important among people or among
nations or among navies is friends”

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE, USN 1960

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“Victory through Sea Power.”

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