



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

# GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

November 14, 2025



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

Rear Adm. Darryl “D-Day” Walker is the fifty-ninth President of the U.S. Naval War College and a career naval aviator. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1985 as an Air Traffic Controller and graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics. Walker received his commission in the U.S. Navy through the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School and was designated a naval flight officer in 1992. He graduated from the Naval War College in 2002 with a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. Prior to the Naval War College, Walker served as Deputy Commander of Joint Force Headquarters–Cyber (Navy), U.S. 10th Fleet.



**Dr. Jesse C. Tumblin**  
**Strategy and Policy Department**  
**U.S. Naval War College**

Jesse Tumblin is an assistant professor of strategy and policy specializing in political and military history, ideas of security, and the current and former British world. He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. from Boston College and a B.A. from the University of Tennessee. He is a past fellow in international security studies at Yale University. He is the author of “The Quest for Security: Sovereignty, Race, and the Defense of the British Empire, 1898-1931” (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and an article on Britain’s attempts to secure its Indo-Pacific empire, which won the Saki Ruth Dockrill Memorial Prize for international history from the Institute for Historical Research, University of London.

# **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

## **NOVEMBER 14, 2025**

<b>Ceremonial Music</b>	Navy Band Northeast
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Captain Brian D. Doherty, U.S. Navy Dean of Students, U.S. Naval War College
<b>National Anthem</b>	Musician Seaman Tamra Martinez, U.S. Navy Vocalist, Navy Band Northeast
<b>Invocation</b>	Captain Paul Tremblay, CHC, U.S. Navy U.S. Naval War College
<b>Commencement Address</b>	Dr. Jesse C. Tumblin Strategy & Policy Department, U.S. Naval War College
<b>Recognition of Honor Graduates</b>	
<b>Presentation of Graduates</b>	
<b>Charge to Graduates</b>	Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy President, U.S. Naval War College
<b>Benediction</b>	Captain Paul Tremblay, CHC, U.S. Navy U.S. Naval War College



For more information regarding this graduation, please visit the U.S. Naval War College website at <https://usnwc.edu/News-and-Events/Events/US-Naval-War-College-Graduation-November-2025>

## 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*

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

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

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

Dr. Michael P. O'Hara  
*Dean, Center for Naval Warfare Studies*

Dr. Marybeth P. Ulrich  
*Chair, Strategy and Policy Department*

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

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

Colonel Matthew P. Nischwitz, 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. Robert P. Waller  
*Senior State Department Advisor*

# 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.

## COLLEGE OF NAVAL WARFARE

Commander Joshua T. Bautz, U.S. Navy

*with Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Todd M. Carlson, U.S. Navy

*with Highest Distinction*

Commander Charles J. Crawley, U.S. Navy

Commander Brian R. DeMell, U.S. Navy

Commander Michael C. Maxwell, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Colonel Steven M. Schnurr, U.S. Army

Lieutenant Commander Catherine I. Van Bebber, U.S. Navy

## ALUMNI RELATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

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## COLLEGE OF NAVAL COMMAND AND STAFF

Lieutenant Commander Hailey Frances Brunette, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Paul A. Carpenter, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Justin M. Chapman, U.S. Navy

*with Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Jordan L. Dennis, U.S. Navy Reserve

Commander David T. Hulse, U.S. Navy

*with Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Charles E. Jamison, U.S. Navy

Commander Justin A. Kelch, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Calvin C. Kirtley, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Shuntiyea T. Langston, U.S. Navy

Major Phillip Hoang Phu Le, U.S. Army

Commander Garrett A. Len, U.S. Navy Reserve

Lieutenant Commander Adam B. Lewis, U.S. Navy

*with Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Charles T. Merrill, U.S. Navy Reserve

Lieutenant Commander Ryan P. Miller, U.S. Navy

Major Steven T. Pashko, U.S. Army

*with Highest Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Madison D. Pennington, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Anthony J. Posillico, U.S. Navy

*with Distinction*

Lieutenant Commander Michael Morton Querry, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Rostetter, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Bethany C. Satterwhite, U.S. Navy Reserve

Lieutenant Commander Thomas D. Sharron, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Cody A. Stombaugh, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Maria Francesca Walsh, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Dillon D. Wilson, U.S. Navy



The motto of the Naval War College is

*“Victory through Sea Power.”*

The trident rising from the water symbolizes mastery of naval activities—its three tines are evocative of naval warfare on sea, air, and land. The pilot wheel atop the shield alludes to the mission of the college—education in naval warfare. The wheel’s eight spokes symbolize honor, duty, leadership, command, strategy, tactics, logistics, and weapons. The laurel wreath represents achievement of the mission.