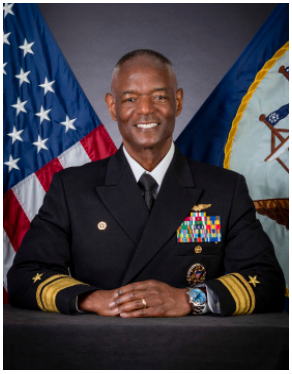
THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Graduation Ceremony

Newport, Rhode Island

November 13, 2026



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

Rear Admiral Darryl "D-Day" Walker is the 59th 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.



Timothy P. Schultz, Ph.D.
Academic Affairs Department
U.S. Naval War College

Tim Schultz is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI. Prior to joining the Newport faculty in 2012 he served as the Dean of the U.S. Air Force's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. Tim earned his Ph.D. in the History of Technology from Duke University, and his research interests include the human-machine interface, interaction between technology and strategy, and the transformative role of automation in warfare. He is the author of The Problem with Pilots: How Physicians, Engineers, and Airpower Enthusiasts Redefined Flight (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018) and co-editor of Air Power in the Age of Primacy: Air Warfare since the Cold War (Cambridge University Press, 2022). He is a graduate of the USAF Academy, Colorado State University, Air Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, and Duke University. Formerly a USAF colonel, he spent much of his aviation career as a U-2 pilot enjoying a high-altitude view of interesting places.

Graduation Ceremony
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Ceremonial Music — Navy Band Northeast

Master of Ceremonies — Lieutenant Colonel Joe A. Whitefield, U.S. Marine Corps
Dean of Students Office, U.S. Naval War College

National Anthem — Musician Third Class Tamra L. Martinez, U.S. Navy
Vocalist, Navy Band Northeast

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

Commencement Address — Timothy P. Schultz, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, U.S. Naval War College

Recognition of Honor Graduates

Presentation of Graduates

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

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-2026

College Leadership

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

Dr. Michael P. O'Hara
Provost

Dr. Doyle K. Hodges
Dean of Academics

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

Professor Robert S. Winneg
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

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

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

Dr. Jessica D. Blankshain
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 Timothy J. Scott, U.S. Marine Corps
Senior Marine Corps Representative

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

Captain Michael P. Chien, 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

Captain Jason E. Coates, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Christopher M. Davis-Miklues, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Colonel Joseph E. Owens, U.S. Army
with Distinction
Commander Michael J. Schwartz, U.S. Navy Reserve
Captain Dirk C. Sonnenberg, U.S. Navy

College of Naval Command and Staff

Lieutenant Commander Myles T. Barbula, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Michael R. Bek, U.S. Navy
Commander Andrew C. Brown, U.S. Navy Reserve
with Distinction
Major Kevin M. Conley, U.S. Army
Lieutenant William B. Drennan, U.S. Navy
Major Jonathan P. Fortier, U.S. Army
Lieutenant Brandon N. Gauthreaux, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Meghan A. Hughes, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Thomas P. Lane, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Larajean S. Lauzen, U.S. Navy
with Distinction
Lieutenant Julia E. Leighton, U.S. Navy
Commander Benjamin J. Lick, U.S. Navy
with Distinction
Commander Marcia L. Mannarino, U.S. Navy
Commander Colcord D. Moore, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander John Paul Mulligan, U.S. Navy
Major Edmund Z. Olivo-Lee, U.S. Army
with Highest Distinction

Ms. Crystal A. Page, Department of Homeland Security
Lieutenant Commander Daniel J. Perrine, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Aaron R. Piontek, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Zachary M. Roecker, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Alec H. Ruppenthal, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Tyler G. Schneider, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Peter L. Segall, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Erick W. Warpula, U.S. Navy

Alumni Relations Contact Information

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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.