



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

March 6, 2026



**Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, USN
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.



**Colonel Patrick M. McCarthy, Jr., USA
College of Leadership and Ethics
U.S. Naval War College**

Colonel Patrick McCarthy is a military professor at the College of Leadership and Ethics. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College. Throughout his military career, he has served in numerous command and staff positions, including as U.S. Army Human Resources Command’s

branch chief at the battalion command and at the company command. Past operational tours include deployments to Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

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Ceremonial Music	Navy Band Northeast
Master of Ceremonies	Captain Brian Doherty, U.S. Navy Dean of Students, U.S. Naval War College
National Anthem	Musician Seaman Tamra Martinez, U.S. Navy Vocalist, Navy Band Northeast
Invocation	Captain Paul Tremblay, CHC, U.S. Navy U.S. Naval War College
Commencement Address	Colonel Patrick McCarthy, Jr., U.S. Army College of Leadership and Ethics, U.S. Naval War College
Recognition of Honor Graduates	
Presentation of Graduates	
Charge to Graduates	Rear Admiral Darryl Walker, U.S. Navy President, U.S. Naval War College
Benediction	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-March-2026>

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
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 (Ret)
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 Timothy J. Scott, 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

Lieutenant Commander Paul J. Bitner, U.S. Navy

Commander Timothy E. Breen, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Lazaro A. Cardenas, U.S. Navy Reserve

Captain Matthew E. Curnen, U.S. Navy

with Highest Distinction

Commander Michael S. Grow, U.S. Navy

Commander Joseph P. Keiley, U.S. Navy

Commander Edwin Kyle Klinkhammer, U.S. Navy

Colonel Lindsay E. Mathwick, U.S. Marine Corps

Commander John David Morris IV, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

Commander Jason Douglas Paradis, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Colonel John Robert Saporita, U.S. Army National Guard

Commander Jonathan U. Tibbetts, U.S. Navy

COLLEGE OF NAVAL COMMAND AND STAFF

Lieutenant Commander Paul S. Ahn, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander George T. Anderson, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Rebecca R. Atkinson, U.S. Navy

Commander John Barachie, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Taylor M. Boosmann, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Aidan Bozzelli, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Brunetti, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Casey K. Callahan, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Brittany Anne Collins, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Bryan W. Collins, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Emery E. Dean, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Samuel F. Deedy, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Charles R. DiBella, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

Commander Nathaniel Joseph Murphy Edwards, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Joshua A. Flanagan, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Careem Yanniz Gates, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander William L. Harber, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Jacob M. Heneman, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Connor M. Keating, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Kevin J. Keeley, U.S. Navy
with Distinction

Major Luke John Kramer, U.S. Army
with Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Rachael A. Kuhn, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Bryan J. McKniff, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Matthew L. Moore, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Edward K. Muffoletto, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Frank Cavell Napier, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Sarah E. Niles, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Matthew J. Nucifore, U.S. Navy

Major Benjamin T. Potter, U.S. Army

Lieutenant Commander Melissa A. Seets, U.S. Navy
with Highest Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Kurt A. Spoons, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Daniel J. Starsinic, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Stephen F. Trippe, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander John Brian Vaught, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Valentine V. Vena, U.S. Navy
with Distinction

Major Rommel Claude Verano, U.S. Army

Lieutenant Commander David Wright, Jr., U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander David M. Yonkings, U.S. Navy
with Highest Distinction

Lieutenant Commander Sara Ann Zanitsch, U.S. Navy

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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.