

THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Newport, Rhode Island

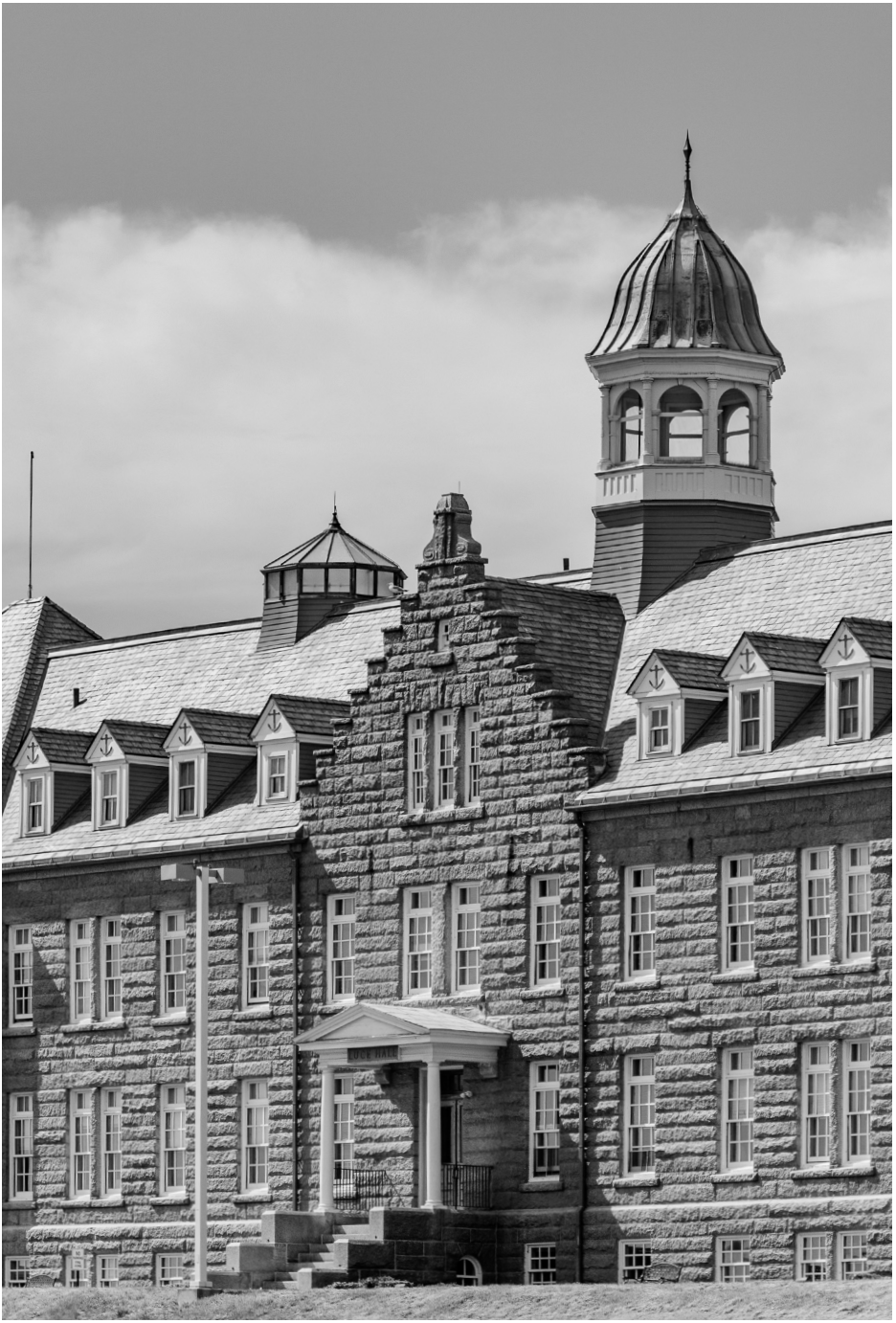
March 5, 2025

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.



GRADUATION PROGRAM

Ceremonial Music.....Navy Band Northeast

Master of Ceremonies.....Captain Brian D. Doherty, U.S. Navy
Dean of Students, U.S. Naval War College

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

Invocation.....Lieutenant Commander Matthew Fore, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chaplain, Naval Station Newport

Commencement Address.....Dr. David R. Stone
Strategy & Policy Department, 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.....Lieutenant Commander Matthew Fore, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chaplain, Naval Station Newport



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. DAVID R. STONE
STRATEGY AND POLICY DEPARTMENT
U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Professor David R. Stone, the William E. Odom Professor of Russian Studies, joined the Strategy and Policy Department in 2015. He received a B.A. from Wabash College and a Ph.D. in history from Yale. He previously taught at Kansas State University. His book *Hammer and Rifle: The Militarization of the Soviet Union, 1926–1933* (2000) won the Shulman Book Prize of ASEEES and the Best First Book Prize of the Historical Society. He has also published *A Military History of Russia: From Ivan the Terrible to the War in Chechnya* (2006) and *The Russian Army in the Great War: The Eastern Front, 1914–1917* (2015). He edited *The Soviet Union at War, 1941–1945* (2010). He is the author of several dozen articles on Russian military history and foreign policy.



DR. STEPHEN J. MARIANO
PROVOST, U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Dr. Stephen J. Mariano most recently served as the deputy commandant and dean of the NATO Defense College, in Rome, Italy. He also served on the faculties of the School of International Service at American University, National Defense University, the Royal Military College of Canada, and the U.S. Military Academy. He holds a B.A. in mathematics and economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, an M.A. in national security affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Ph.D. in war studies from the Royal Military College of Canada.



DR. DOYLE HODGES
DEAN OF ACADEMICS
U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Dr. Doyle Hodges is a national security scholar with expertise in civil-military relations, the Indo-Pacific, and defense and maritime strategy. From May 2019 to April 2023, he was the inaugural executive editor of the *Texas National Security Review,* an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal, and a senior editor at *War on the Rocks.* A retired naval officer, he served for 21 years, retiring at the rank of Commander. He served in a variety of assignments at sea and ashore, including command of USS *Safeguard* (ARS 50) and USS *Ross* (DDG 71). He is a 1992 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he majored in Political Science. He holds Master's degrees from the University of Maryland (Government and Politics), the U.S. Naval War College (National Security Affairs), and Princeton University (Public and International Affairs). He earned a PhD from Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs. He has taught at the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Naval War College, George Mason University, and Princeton University. His work has been published in the *Texas National Security Review, War on the Rocks, Lawfare,* and the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*.

COLLEGE OF NAVAL WARFARE

Lieutenant Colonel Glenn P. Baker, U.S. Marine Corps
Commander George M. Burton, U.S. Navy
Commander Christopher F. Clausen, U.S. Navy†
Colonel Maria F. Costa, U.S. Army National Guard
Commander Miguel Cueva, Jr., U.S. Navy*
Commander David R. LaShomb, U.S. Navy
Commander Brian D. LeGare, U.S. Navy*‡
Commander Mamadou Ndaw, SC, U.S. Navy
Commander Ann K. Patterson, U.S. Navy
Captain Winston E. Scott II, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Colonel Joe A. Whitefield, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps

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Commander Andrew R. Gerry, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Julie C. Hooge, U.S. Navy Reserve
Lieutenant Commander Dong I. Hopkins, U.S. Navy

HONORS
* Distinction
† Highest Distinction
‡ Honor Graduate

Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Jones, Jr., U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Kenneth A. Kinghorn, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Patrick A. Kreek, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Suzanne M. Meehan, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Michael W. Murray, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Ryan T. Nelson, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Christopher R. Novitch, U.S. Navy
Commander Andrew J. Ruisi, U.S. Navy†
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Commander Jared A. Shrader, U.S. Navy*
Lieutenant Patrick B. Snow, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Lyle M. Tomaszewski, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander David L. Visser, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Peter A. Vizzini, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Commander Anthony C. Weiker, U.S. Navy

"[The War College] is a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war."

—Admiral Stephen B. Luce

U.S. Naval War College

Alumni Relations

"Most important among people or among nations or among navies is friends"

Admiral Arleigh Burke, USN 1960

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+1 401-856-5250

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



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.