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SUBJ/UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RESIDENCE AT THE U.S.  
NAVAL WAR COLLEGE //

RMKS/1. The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) is the "Navy's home of thought" and has been since its founding in 1884. Naval leaders from Mahan to Spruance to Stockdale to Cebrowski have developed their skills as leaders and warfighters in the halls of Newport. Since 1987, the NWC has also provided JPME I and JPME II to Naval and Joint officers with a curriculum recognized as outstanding across the Joint Force. Today there are many ways to earn JPME through the NWC, including attendance in-residence in Newport, the Fleet Seminar Program in select Fleet Concentration Areas, online JPME I, and instruction by NWC Faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. All these programs offer a rigorous course of study to prepare officers to assume positions of increased responsibility in command and on major staffs. Some professional development opportunities, however, are uniquely available only to those students studying in-residence at Newport. This message highlights those opportunities and their professional value.

Advanced Research Projects (competitive selection of 25 URL students per year):

a. Halsey A: The Halsey Alfa advanced research program group, named for Fleet Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, conducts classified net assessments of potential operations in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility. This process includes iterative wargaming of various scenarios and capabilities, offering students an in-depth understanding of both US and potential adversary capabilities at the operational level of war. Halsey A students complete the normal 10-month NWC curriculum and devote their electives to their Halsey A work. Successful graduates of the Halsey A program are awarded the 271 Additional Qualification Designator (AQD).

b. Halsey B: The Halsey Bravo advanced research program group conducts classified net assessment of potential operations in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. As with the Halsey A group, Halsey B conducts iterative wargaming of various scenarios and capabilities, offering students an in-depth understanding of both US and potential adversary capabilities at the operational level of war. Halsey B students complete the normal 10-month NWC curriculum and devote their electives to their Halsey B work. Successful graduates of the Halsey B program are awarded the 272 AQD.

c. Holloway Group: The Holloway advanced research program group, named for former CNO Admiral James Holloway, conducts classified net assessment of potential operations in the EUCOM area of responsibility. As with the Halsey groups, the Holloway Group conducts iterative wargaming of various scenarios

and capabilities, offering students an in-depth understanding of both US and potential adversary capabilities at the operational level of war. Holloway students complete the normal 10-month USNWC curriculum and devote their electives to their Holloway group work. Successful Holloway group graduates are awarded the 278 AQD.

D. Gravely Group: The Cyber & Innovation Policy Institute (CIPI) Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Program is a Directed Research Project. This graduate-level program guides advanced student research on cyber operations and the information environment. In honor of this program's namesake, CIPI Gravely students do trailblazing work under demanding circumstances. Each student conducts research on cybersecurity and information-related capabilities, informed by rigorous social scientific theories and analytical methods. This work results in publication-quality writing to help shape operational and strategic thinking for the Navy and Joint Force. Two to three students per year are selected to participate in this program. CIPI Gravely students are supervised by CIPI faculty.

Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS) (13-month program) (JPME I only)  
a. MAWS is the Navy's premier operational planning school. MAWS educates up to 45 officers to lead planning teams in the creation of campaigns and major operations and to advise fleet commanders on the achievement of military objectives. MAWS students complete the standard curriculum of the College of Naval Command and Staff, and additionally complete two staff rides focused on maritime campaigning and planning and complete a significant summer planning project for a Fleet commander in support of real-world operations. The MAWS curriculum is conducted at the TS/SCI level. MAWS is open to Navy and Joint officers of any designator or community who are eligible to be assigned as operational planners. In addition to Master of Arts and JPME I, graduates are granted the Joint and Maritime Operational Planners AQD (JP1) or service equivalent.

Advanced Strategist Program (ASP) (13-month program, JPME I or II) a. The ASP at the NWC is a CNO-directed initiative designed to produce up to 12 officers with specialized skills and knowledge in the theory and application of strategy. ASP provides a specialized track for further developing officers skilled in the practice of formulating, developing, and executing military and national strategy at senior leadership levels in order to provide graduates prepared to fill key billets in Navy, Joint, and interagency staffs. ASP students complete the core curriculum and conduct further study in sea power, coercion, deterrence, political economy, sanctions and inducements, emerging technologies, nuclear strategy and proliferation, globalization, and current strategic challenges in the modern international security environment. ASP particularly values post-command O-5 and O-6 officers. The ASP curriculum includes field study trips, as well as a significant thesis, and a major group project focused on a problem of strategic significance. Successful ASP graduates are awarded the Navy strategic planner (2300P) subspecialty code, or service equivalent.

Graduate certificate programs (10-month programs) (JPME I or II):

In addition to the AQD and subspecialty-granting programs described above, a limited number of highly qualified students are eligible to complete graduate certificate programs, in addition to the core academic curriculum. The graduate certificate programs involve significant individual research and writing and require the completion of 4 additional credit hours (2 elective course equivalents) above the core 30-hour curriculum. The graduate certificate programs are:

a. Ethics in Emerging Military Technology: This program exposes up to 13 students annually to the cutting edge of defense research in technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, synthetic biology, human augmentation, nanotechnology, and autonomous lethal weapons systems, and

pairs this with an examination of the implications of these technologies for the moral and professional norms that guide military service. Students will complete a substantial research paper on a topic mutually agreed with a faculty advisor.

b. Graduate Certificate in Maritime History: This program allows up to 10 students annually to deepen their expertise in maritime history and naval warfare. During the academic year, students will develop and produce a professional, publishable quality paper on maritime history. Paper topics and research will draw from unique resources of the Naval Historical Collections under scholarly supervision of the Hattendorf Historical Center (HHC) and affiliated historians at the NWC.

c. Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Ethics: The Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Ethics is a specialized elective track for students in the Stockdale Leader Development Concentration (SLDC). Named for Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, the SLDC focuses on increasing students' capability and capacity for senior leadership. Participation is limited to 12 students annually who demonstrate proven performance, desire, and the potential for promotion to senior leadership roles. SLDC uses self-assessment and executive coaching to enhance cognitive readiness during this year-long, immersive experience. Students will engage in the study of ethics, self-awareness, critical thinking, and mental complexity. Students work together on a project to help advance a contemporary leadership or organizational challenge of interest to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

International Programs Fellowship Opportunities. (Students interested in applying for embed opportunities with international programs should check with their community manager prior to application).

a. Naval Staff College (NSC) Embedded Officers (Embeds): This program selects approximately four U.S. officers attending the College of Naval Command and Staff annually, ideally from separate services, to serve as student ambassadors for international officers attending the College of Naval Command and Staff's sister school. Embeds support approximately 50 international students academically and socially, fostering strong professional relationships while integrating them into the NWC environment. Participation does not impact graduation dates, JPME requirements, or master's degree completion, allowing officers to maintain their standard academic trajectory. The role requires participation in 6-7 Field Studies Program trips across the United States and attendance at various cultural and social engagements. The program is not compatible with MAWS or the Advanced Research Programs, and the total time commitment is approximately equivalent to one additional elective. This unique opportunity offers unparalleled networking with global maritime leaders.

b. Naval Command College (NCC) Embedded Officer (Embed): This program selects four U.S. officers and one civilian attending the College of Naval Warfare to serve as student ambassadors for senior international resident students. Embeds act as the primary liaison for international officers and their families, facilitating their integration into American culture while simultaneously completing all core NWC academic and JPME requirements. The role requires participation in 6-7 Field Studies Program trips across the United States and attendance at various cultural and social engagements. The program is not compatible with the Advanced Research Programs, and the total time commitment is approximately equivalent to one additional elective. This assignment offers an unparalleled professional networking opportunity with future international maritime leaders, 50% of whom historically become flag officers, and 10% historically serve as their country's Chief of Service.

POCs: If interested in attending the Naval War College, please contact your detailer to discuss career timing, potential options, and attendance desires. For more information on any of the special academic programs, please visit

the NWC website at usnwc.edu. For additional questions, the NWC Electives Office is the initial point of contact for all programs listed above, except those run by International Programs. The Elective Office may be reached at (401) 856-5480 or [electives@usnwc.edu](mailto:electives@usnwc.edu). For international programs, please contact Ms. Dionne Horrabin at (401) 856-5207 or [dionne.horrabin@usnwc.edu](mailto:dionne.horrabin@usnwc.edu). Attending the Naval War College is a tremendous career opportunity. It is a pathway for those officers aspiring to command, leadership, and positions of strategic and operational significance to prepare themselves for the challenges and uncertainties they will confront in their future roles. NWC will make you a better and more lethal warfighter as you improve your depth of knowledge in national security. The additional opportunities presented by the special programs outlined in this message serve only to multiply the effects of a Naval War College education! Viribus Mari Victoria. Victory Through Sea Power!

Released by VADM Y. M. Davids, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Intelligence, Operations, Plans, Strategy, and Force Development (OPNAV N2N3N5N7).//

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