

2013

Every ambitious naval officer should want to be a graduate of Newport.

John N. Christenson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Christenson, John N. (2013) "Every ambitious naval officer should want to be a graduate of Newport.," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 66 : No. 2 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol66/iss2/3>

This President's Forum is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



Every ambitious naval officer should want to be a graduate of Newport.

I AM VERY PROUD OF OUR FACULTY. They relentlessly refine the academic program here to meet the always-changing security environment and needs of the Navy. We have always delivered a superb education in naval warfare and grand strategy, but it was essentially a single course that was eventually given to two different seniority classes. In 2007 we made those courses truly different. The College of Naval Warfare (CNW, or Senior Course) is now an executive-level course on grand strategy, national power, and joint warfighting, while the College of Naval Command and Staff (CNCS, or Intermediate Course) focuses on the operational level of warfare, force planning and Navy planning, and the effects of combat operations on strategy.

All Navy Unrestricted Line Officers who graduate from CNCS now earn the AQD (Additional Qualifying Designator) of "JPN," which identifies them as joint planners. Where the Army's Command and General Staff College (with others) used to be the standard for producing planners, we will hold our CNCS graduates against those of any other school. They have been educated with extensive practical exercises and conceptual foundations, as well as in the national security environment, policy and decision making, force planning, and grand strategy. So today there are over five hundred JPNs ready for duty as Operational Planning Team leaders or participants. In addition, our Maritime Advanced Warfighting School, established in 1998, now produces saltwater versions of "Jedi Knight" planners. By adding to the basic CNCS course a number of real-world projects for fleets and combatant commanders, as well as an intensive additional summer of study, they qualify for the "JP1" designator, which enables them to be ordered to the most significant planning positions.

My belief is that every ambitious naval officer should *want* to be a graduate of Newport. For midcareer officers, if they, by background or aptitude, desire a world-class technical degree, they can have the best of both worlds by seeking the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California. In an inspired decision made by my predecessors, we have eighteen Naval War College professors in Monterey, who deliver our curriculum (and the joint education requirement that goes with it) to the students at NPS. For the more senior officers, our CNW course offers the finest education anywhere in the world. Joint Military Operations, National Security Affairs, and Strategy and Policy, as well as cyber, ethics, force planning, civil-military affairs, and case studies on past and future conflicts, prepare students from all services, the interagency arena, and nearly fifty nations for positions of leadership.

A hundred years ago, naval officers came to Newport with their fellow *naval officers* to study “all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war.” Today they continue to do that, but now with a powerfully diverse team of joint, international, and interagency classmates. They also leave with a master of arts in national security and strategic studies.

So thank you, Naval War College faculty and staff. These changes required a tremendous amount of your hard work, loyalty to our history, and a vision for the future. By your efforts, the increasing requirements for joint military-planning expertise, postgraduate education, and joint professional military education are being met in historic Newport, while what made us great 128 years ago is never forgotten. Well done.

JOHN N. CHRISTENSON
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College