

2019

President's Forum

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The U.S. Naval War College

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PRESIDENT'S FORUM



Global Reach, Global Engagement, and Global Impact

AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE ITS INCEPTION, the Naval War College's primary mission is to educate and develop future leaders. Our talented and highly motivated graduates complete their studies in Newport and then go on to serve in demanding positions in our military services, in those of our allies, and throughout the government's national security sector. In these positions they apply the critical-thinking skill sets that were refined and honed at this great institution. Their close interaction with our extraordinary faculty and staff sparks a desire for lifelong learning that continues to pay dividends for our students both as national security practitioners and as informed and engaged citizens.

At the end of the day, the greatest resource the College provides to our services, agencies, and nations is our alumni! In important assignments around the globe, they are often the critical voices that make the arguments that carry the day. In commands and organizations large and small, they provide a foundation of ethical decision-making in the complex, dynamic, and volatile world in which we live. There is no better case study on the value of networks and interpersonal relationships than the one demonstrated by our extraordinary alumni.

While the majority of our alumni are from the United States, we recognize that the Naval War College is a major player on a global scale. Our *global reach* is reflected in the fact that we are honored to claim more than 4,700 international graduates, representing 137 nations. The record of success for these international alumni is remarkable, with nearly half of all Naval Command College graduates having attained flag or general officer rank, and nearly a quarter of these alumni having become Chiefs of their Services.

Our *global engagement* efforts seek to maintain a robust alumni network that can enhance graduate effectiveness in the international environment. We constantly hear from our graduates, who express praise for the way in which their College experiences enhance their effectiveness in maintaining global maritime partnerships. We continue to strengthen these partnerships through our aggressive Regional Alumni Symposium series of academic conferences. They are designed to encourage professional interaction among like-minded military leaders and allow our graduates to foster the “Newport connection” across graduating classes and generations.

Regional Alumni Symposia are co-hosted by the President of the College and a regional partner navy. Participation is open to all international and U.S. graduates of the College. Past Regional Alumni Symposia have taken place around the globe, including in Brazil, Germany, Peru, the Philippines, Oman, and Malaysia, and on our home campus in Newport, Rhode Island. The College’s seventeenth annual Regional Alumni Symposium will be held in Bergen, Norway, in April 2019, co-sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Navy. The symposium will explore a wide range of topics under the overarching theme of “Challenges in Arctic and Cyber Security.”

Symposia routinely include keynote speeches by prominent military leaders and faculty-led panels addressing current strategic and operational issues. All participants are encouraged to exchange their insights and perspectives. Such networking develops professional linkages among military officers at critical junctures in their careers when international relationships prove invaluable.

These events validate the value of partners and friends in a world where you can surge ships and other assets rapidly to the scene of confrontation, but you cannot surge trust—a commodity that must be nurtured across many years. As former U.S. Chief of Naval Operations and founder of our modern international education programs Admiral Arleigh A. Burke wrote: “Most important among navies or among nations is friends.”

Over the past two years, we have revitalized our alumni programs with an aim to strengthen relationships through real-time alumni-to-alumni engagement by hosting in-person events such as Regional Alumni Symposia, as well as through a significant expansion of our online networks and learning opportunities. You can learn about, and participate in, our alumni programs at myUSNWC.com, or on Facebook at facebook.com/USNWCAlumni, or on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/school/usnwc.

Finally, we trust that you will continue to leverage all aspects of our alumni network and use them as unmatched resources for professional development in war fighting, naval and joint operations, and maritime policy. Together, we will

have *global impact* as we build trust and confidence among our graduates and continue our ongoing efforts to operationalize and internationalize your U.S. Naval War College.

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