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President's Forum

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The U.S. Naval War College

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Rear Admiral Shoshana Chatfield is the fifty-seventh President of the U.S. Naval War College and a career naval helicopter pilot. A native of Garden Grove, California, she graduated from Boston University in 1987 with a bachelor of arts in international relations and French language and literature. She received her commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1988 and earned her wings of gold in 1989. Chatfield was awarded the Navy's Political/Military Scholarship and attended the Kennedy School of Government, receiving a master in public administration from Harvard University in 1997. In 2009, the University of San Diego conferred on her a doctorate of education in leadership studies.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



CDE: The College's Global Campus

A WIDE ARRAY of educational and research activities occurs on the Newport campus of the Naval War College (NWC).

While these activities are fairly well known, some readers may not be aware of the significant off-campus educational programs offered through our College of Distance Education (CDE). NWC's Professional Military Education (PME) and graduate education programs are of tremendous value to every Navy and joint leader; however, the limited physical capacity of the College and the need to integrate educational opportunities into each officer's fast-paced career path dictate that we offer nontraditional pathways. To that end, NWC provides, on a "global campus," academically challenging and fully accredited Joint Professional Military Education Phase I (JPME-I) programs that cater to the needs of student officers of all U.S. military services and federal civilian employees of the grade GS-11 and higher.

CDE Offerings

The foundation of the current CDE was laid on 1 April 1914 when Navy General Order 89 established a Navy-wide correspondence program using the U.S. postal system as the conduit. More than a century later, CDE offers a range of programs derived from the core courses offered on our historic home campus by the College of Naval Command and Staff. The three current programs through which students can earn their JPME-I certification are as follows:

- Fleet Seminar Program (FSP). Since 1974, the FSP has provided faculty-led, face-to-face education in evening sessions designed to support after-duty-hours study by students. To a substantial degree, the program replicates the experience that full-time students enjoy when resident on the home campus.

This academic year, those seminar classes are being offered in sixty separate seminars at eighteen instructional locations around the country, located at fleet concentration areas, other Navy and joint activities, and throughout the National Capital Region.

About one thousand students are enrolled in the FSP every September and most students complete one core course per year, yielding nearly 250 JPME-I graduates each June. As an option, an FSP student may apply for entrance into the Graduate Degree Program, in which he or she enrolls in three approved elective courses whose completion qualifies the student for the master of arts in defense and strategic studies degree. Approximately 175 such degrees will be awarded this year.

- The Naval War College at the Naval Postgraduate School (NWC@NPS) Program. This program provides an NWC JPME-I education to students who are studying concurrently on the Monterey, California, campus in pursuit of a Navy-sponsored master's degree. A full-time faculty of eighteen NWC professors teaches in-person, tailored versions of the College's three core courses, which are embedded in the students' NPS degree programs as electives.

We anticipate approximately 350 graduates from the program this academic year, providing the Navy with officers who earn an NPS graduate degree, the JPME-I certification, and a Navy subspecialty code (known as a P-code) in as little as eighteen months of study. This represents a remarkable return on the time the Navy and the officers themselves have invested in their professional development.

- The Naval Command and Staff Online Program. This program replaced the award-winning, web-enabled online program that had been in operation since 2001; it was first offered in 2019. The program provides the three core courses to students who study in an asynchronous online mode in twenty-person, faculty-led cohorts over forty-one weeks of effort.

The program is very popular with officers who already have a master's degree and want to complete their required JPME-I education while at their assigned duty stations, even while on sea duty. We anticipate up to one thousand graduates this year.

The three JPME-I programs discussed above vary by the number and type of faculty-contact hours, the degree of interaction with fellow students, and the depth of coverage in the relevant subject matter areas. They thereby put control of the process in the hands of the highly motivated national-security practitioners who are seeking to improve their professionalism as warriors and enlightened leaders.

“But wait, there’s more!”

CDE also offers four PME courses delivered by Navy e-Learning via the MyNavy Portal for officers, enlisted personnel, and Department of the Navy civilians. These courses provide learners with a 24/7, worldwide PME experience at various milestones in their careers. Dynamic and engaging, these courses are designed to increase professional knowledge, hone an understanding of the art of naval science and joint operations, and enable the servicemember to engage effectively in the joint environment. The four courses are as follows:

- The Introductory PME (Enlisted) course. This course serves as the foundation for each sailor’s PME experience, provides him or her with entry-level PME, and establishes a common PME baseline for all sailors. Created for learners E-1 to E-4, it is approximately twenty contact hours in length and is designed to meet the learning objectives identified by the Enlisted Professional Military Education Program (EPMEP) and fleet requirements.
- The Basic PME (Enlisted) course. This course offers a common PME experience for all petty officers at the E-5 to E-6 level, regardless of rating or warfare community. It was created to build on the Introductory PME (Enlisted) course and to serve as the stepping-stone to the Primary PME (Enlisted) course. It addresses learning objectives identified by the EPMEP and fleet requirements in approximately forty contact hours of education.
- The Primary PME (Officer) and Primary PME (Enlisted) courses. These courses provide a common educational baseline for junior officers (CWO2 to O-4) and senior enlisted personnel (E-7 to E-9) across the spectrum of professional military education, as identified by the Officer Professional Military Education Program, EPMEP, and fleet requirements. The courses consist of approximately seventy contact hours of education online and are tailored to each community.

These online PME courses can be accessed through the Navy e-Learning system, where learners’ progress through the courses is bookmarked, enabling them to return to the point in the course at which they logged off, and learners’ electronic training jackets are updated automatically to document course completion. These four PME courses also help our sailors develop a habit of seeking educational opportunities. They account for more than one thousand course completions each month.

The Chief of Naval Operations NAVPLAN 2021 defined a path for success by noting, “Our Sailors must be able to outthink and outfight any adversary. They will remain the best trained and finest educated naval force in the world.”

The Naval War College is a key source for this critical education, and because of the outstanding programs the College of Distance Education offers, students can complete a world-class education without coming to Newport. CDE's programs are designed and accredited to meet the needs of our global force.



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(Learn more about the full range of CDE courses at <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-distance-education>.)

