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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



The Value of NWC's International Programs

ALLIED NAVIES SAILING together in defense of common interests is a tradition going back centuries. The concept is as valid today as it was in the days of the great full-rigged sailing ships of the past. Throughout the College's 138-year history, our institution has been at the forefront of encouraging and facilitating maritime-security cooperation. Our efforts in the twenty-first century reach around the globe and to all levels of leadership. The International Programs at the Naval War College (NWC) directly support developing and strengthening robust global maritime partnerships. We seek to emphasize the "Newport Connection" to enhance trust and confidence and promote cooperation among partner nations. World events confirm the value of developing and maintaining such friendships.

An international focus is not new to our College. The College's first international officers—two commanders from the Royal Swedish Navy—arrived in 1894. But it was then—Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Arleigh A. Burke who, in 1956, provided the vision for our modern-era international programs. He was prescient in understanding the value of maritime engagements and fully cognizant that the global security environment presented an increasingly complex set of challenges and opportunities. Over the years, more than five thousand allied officers have graduated from NWC's formal educational programs. More than 1,800 have gone on to earn flag or general officer rank, and several have become elected heads of state.

At the core of our twenty-first-century international education efforts are a series of rigorous and demanding resident courses taught on our Newport, Rhode Island, campus and in support of our fleet commanders globally. Currently, we educate approximately 150 international military students from around the world

in Newport and dozens more away from our campus. We expect that number to grow to over two hundred within a few short years. The following five international courses appear in our catalog:

- The **Naval Command College** (NCC) course is an eleven-month program designed to prepare senior officers for the highest levels of command. It is open to international naval officers in the grades O-5 and O-6 (commanders and captains) from allied military forces that choose to accept an invitation from the CNO. Students pursue a senior-level core curriculum in classrooms alongside their American counterparts, studying Strategy and Policy, National Security Decision Making, Joint Military Operations, Leadership in the Profession of Arms, and specialized electives in their areas of interest. This multifaceted curriculum meets the requirements levied by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff through which American students earn Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase II (JPME II) certification. Students also participate in a robust Field Studies Program that allows them to travel around the United States to gain an increased understanding of our American institutions, values, and way of life. All graduates earn an NWC diploma. Additionally, we offer the opportunity to pursue a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies to a limited number of NCC students who meet all academic prerequisites and volunteer to undertake additional study requirements. The course convenes annually in July and concludes the following June.
- The **Naval Staff College** (NSC) course is an eleven-month program designed to prepare midcareer officers for the challenges of command and major-staff duty. It is open to international naval officers in the grades O-4 and O-5 (lieutenant commanders and commanders) from allied military forces that choose to accept an invitation from the CNO. In addition to participating alongside their American counterparts in the intermediate-level core curriculum—Strategy and War, Theater Security Decision Making, Joint Maritime Operations, and Leadership in the Profession of Arms—the students complete specialized electives in their areas of interest. This curriculum is based on requirements levied by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, through which American students earn JPME Phase I (JPME I) certification. NSC students also participate in a robust Field Studies Program that allows them to travel around the United States to gain an increased understanding of American institutions, values, and way of life. All graduates earn a Naval Staff College diploma. Additionally, we offer the opportunity to pursue a master of arts degree in defense and strategic studies to a limited number of NSC students who meet all academic prerequisites and volunteer to undertake additional

study requirements. The course convenes annually in July and concludes in June of the following year.

- The **International Maritime Staff Operators Course (IMSOC)** is a twelve-week course designed to provide international naval officers with the knowledge and skills needed to support the planning and execution of maritime operations and effectively integrate with existing operational planning teams on national, allied, and coalition staffs. The course enables students to comprehend, analyze, and apply maritime operational-level processes and procedures necessary to plan, prepare, execute, and assess combined maritime operations. Students also participate in a tailored Field Studies Program that includes traveling around the United States to understand our American institutions, values, and way of life. This course is open to officers in the ranks of O-3 to O-5 (lieutenants, lieutenant commanders, and commanders) from partner military forces that choose to accept an invitation from the CNO. This course convenes twice a year, running in the fall from August to November and in the spring from March to June.
- The **Maritime Security and Governance Staff Course (MSGSC)** is a new, five-month staff course designed specifically for officers from smaller navies, coast guards, and maritime-law-enforcement services. Rather than focusing on major combat operations, it provides graduates with the operational knowledge and strategic perspectives needed to conduct maritime-security operations effectively, evaluate a complex maritime threat environment, formulate effective maritime-security strategies, and achieve good maritime governance at national and regional levels. Students also participate in a tailored Field Studies Program that includes travel around the United States. The course is designed for midgrade naval officers but is open to all uniformed military personnel and government officials in the equivalent ranks / pay grades of O-3 to O-5. It convenes in January and July.
- The **Combined Force Maritime Component Commander (CFMCC)** course is a flag-level professional military education program focused on command and control of multinational maritime forces. The course is designed to prepare U.S. and partner-nation officers for regional leadership responsibilities and to give them a broad perspective of the operational level of war. Periodically, the CNO extends invitations to nations for selected students to participate in this program. Candidates are U.S. and international flag officers (O-7 and above) or service equivalent. The one-week course is taught three times a year at the site of a regional headquarters for U.S. forces. The desired goal is for CFMCC graduates to develop stronger international relationships among

partner nations while deepening their understanding of combined maritime command-and-control concepts and mechanisms.

In addition to formal coursework, NWC supports other major activities and initiatives designed to increase the effectiveness and interoperability of the free world's maritime forces. These efforts include the following:

- The **International Seapower Symposium (ISS)**, held in Newport biennially since 1969, offers a unique opportunity for the world's maritime leaders to discuss and promote international maritime-security cooperation. These discussions provide opportunities for future voluntary regional and international collaboration in seeking solutions to challenges facing the global network of maritime nations. These landmark events often have been called "the largest gathering of maritime leaders in history." ISS-24 was completed in September 2021, with delegates from over one hundred nations in attendance. CNO Admiral Mike Gilday, USN, hosted the chiefs of navies and coast guards from around the globe to seek their respective thoughts and proposals for enhancing regional and global maritime security. Reflecting on the event, Admiral Gilday noted the following:

Providing a safe, secure, and stable maritime system is an imperative to all of mankind, and it is an essential part of what our navies do every day. I believe that robust, resilient, and responsible sea power is an international consortium of like-minded nations. We are the primary guarantors of peace, prosperity, and the open flow of goods along the oceans. Our navies provide these benefits to the citizens we serve every day in peacetime and especially during these times of competition—not just in rare moments of conflict.

- The **Regional Alumni Symposia (RAS)** are cohosted by the President of the NWC and a regional partner navy. Participation is open to all international and U.S. graduates of the College. These academic conferences reinforce the notion that military education continues long after students finish the formal, in-resident education programs at the College, as part of a lifelong pursuit of knowledge about the profession of arms. Symposia include keynote speeches by prominent military leaders and faculty-led panels addressing current strategic and operational issues. All participants are invited to exchange their insights and perspectives. Symposia also serve to facilitate professional interaction among rising military leaders and allow graduates to take advantage of and foster the Newport Connection across many classes. This networking develops professional linkages among military officers useful at critical junctures later in their careers when international relationships prove invaluable. World events continue to confirm the value of working with partners and friends. Our RASs have taken place in many

areas around the globe, including Brazil, Germany, Oman, Peru, Philippines, and here in Newport. We will hold our nineteenth annual Regional Alumni Symposium for African nations in Newport from 13 to 15 September 2022.

- The **CNO Distinguished International Fellows** provide critical support to all the NWC international courses and initiatives discussed in the previous paragraphs. We are fortunate to have former service chiefs from three of our oldest and most respected partner nations on our faculty: Admiral Guillermo Barrera, former commander of the Colombian navy; Admiral Nirmal Verma, former chief of the naval staff of the Indian navy; and Rear Admiral Lars Saunes, former chief of the Royal Norwegian Navy, provide in-depth knowledge of the regional areas in which they served, as well as providing insights into how decisions are made in an international context. This program, which was piloted in 2011 under the sponsorship of CNO Admiral Gary Roughead, is now an enduring and integral component of faculty engagements across the continuum of international programs.

Over the course of the past sixty years, Newport has become a neutral ground for the international maritime community, a place where naval officers from around the world can come to study and, working together, tackle the most pressing security and governance challenges. The Naval War College is the only institution in the world with the facilities, faculty, and reputation for impartiality required to play that critical role. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro recently noted, “Meeting and working with our ally and partner nations to protect our mutual interests and sustain the open, rules-based international system continues to be an important and pressing challenge.” I salute everyone at the College who labors tirelessly to meet this challenge.



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