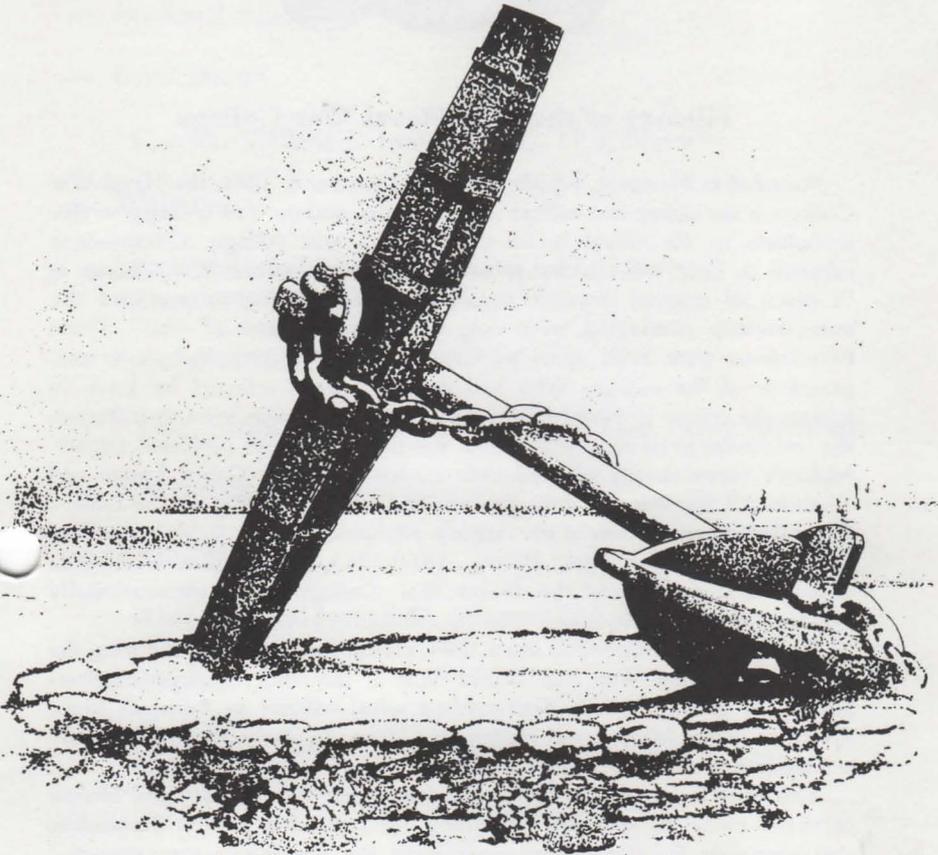




Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island



GRADUATION EXERCISE

15 November 1991



## History of the U.S. Naval War College

Founded in Newport, Rhode Island on October 6, 1884, the Naval War College is the oldest war college in the nation, and the first military service institution in the world to be designated a war college. Commodore Stephen B. Luce was the first president and organized the War College as "a place of original research on all questions relating to war and the statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war." These foundations were built upon by Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, second president of the college, who had originally been selected by Luce to initiate the course in Naval History. Of all the men who were to influence the institution in its early years, none was to have a more profound impact. Mahan's views deeply affected such leaders as Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt and through them and others helped shape the United States destiny at the turn of the century. Mahan's writings, published as *The Influence of Seapower Upon History, 1660-1783*, gained him worldwide acclaim and established the Naval War College as an internationally respected institution.

Functioning continuously since 1884, except for brief periods during the Spanish-American War and World War I, the War College numbers among its graduates such distinguished naval officers as Admirals Sims, Spruance, King, Nimitz, and Halsey, in addition to many others who today are holding prominent military positions.

The work begun more than one hundred years ago by Luce and Mahan continues today. As graduates well know, the curriculum is both demanding and rewarding. For the military professional, the unique education provided by the Naval War College is unrivaled. In recognition of the academic rigor and educational excellence of its program, the Naval War College was accredited in 1991 by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges to award a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

## PROGRAM

— Music by Navy Band

— Student Procession\*

— Arrival of Official Party\*

— National Anthem\*

— Invocation\*

Captain Willard L. James, CHC, U.S. Navy

— Welcome

Rear Admiral Joseph C. Strasser, U.S. Navy  
President, Naval War College

— Graduation Address

Vice Admiral Thomas R. Weschler, U.S. Navy (Retired)

— Presentation of Diplomas

— Remarks

Rear Admiral Joseph C. Strasser, U.S. Navy

— Benediction\*

Captain Willard L. James, CHC, U.S. Navy

\*Guests please stand



**Rear Admiral Joseph C. Strasser, USN  
President, Naval War College**

Rear Admiral Joseph Charles Strasser was born in Camden, New Jersey on 3 September 1940. He graduated from the Naval Academy and was commissioned an Ensign in June 1963. While at the Naval Academy, he took part in an exchange program between the United States and Chilean Naval Academies.

Admiral Strasser's initial assignment following graduation was as an exchange officer with the Argentine Navy, serving aboard the FRAGATA ARA LIBERTAD, the largest sailing ship in the world. In January 1964, he reported aboard USS BUCK (DD 761) where he served as Combat Information Center Officer and Operations Officer until August 1966. From September 1966 until May 1968, he was assigned as Aide and Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 9 and Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Seventh Fleet.

In July 1968, Admiral Strasser entered the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, where he remained until June 1971. He earned Master's Degrees in International Relations and in International Law and Diplomacy, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science. In 1971-1972, he attended the Command and Staff Course here at the Naval War College.

From September 1972 to April 1974, Admiral Strasser served as Executive Officer of USS MEYERKORD (FF 1058) in San Diego, California. Upon completion of that tour, he was assigned for three years to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as a member of the Strategic Action Group within the Strategy, Plans and Policy Division. He returned to San Diego to command USS O'CALLAHAN (FF 1051) from October 1977 to October 1979. The following month, he was again assigned to the Strategy, Plans and Policy Division.

From August 1981 to 1983, Admiral Strasser was stationed at the U.S. Naval Academy as Fifth Battalion Officer and Officer in Charge of the Fourth Class Regiment. In September 1983, he became Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command—a post he held until May 1985 when he detached to report as Commander, Destroyer Squadron 35.

In September 1986, Admiral Strasser assumed the position of Executive Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In January 1987, he was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral and departed to assume command of Cruiser-Destroyer Group 3 on 24 September 1988. On 17 July 1990, he became the 45th President of the Naval War College.

He is married to the former Barbara Anne Wagner of Camden, New Jersey. They have four children: Patricia, Joseph Jr., Andrew, and Mary Kathryn.



### **Vice Admiral Thomas R. Weschler, U.S. Navy (Retired)**

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania on December 21, 1917, Vice Admiral Thomas Robert Weschler was educated at the Naval Academy and graduated with the Class of 1939. He reported on board the carrier WASP and participated in the defense of Malta, and the capture and defense of Guadalcanal in the Pacific. He swam away from the WASP after her torpedoing in the South Pacific in 1942. From 1943 through early 1945, while assigned as gunnery officer of the destroyer SIGSBEE, he was involved in many Pacific operations. He was executive officer of the destroyer YOUNG, which took part in the Mindanao Landings, as the war closed.

He earned his MS Degree in Ordnance Engineering at MIT in 1946, later attending the Command and Staff course at the Naval War College. Upon graduation in 1951, he joined the staff of the college.

In 1953, Admiral Weschler assumed command of the destroyer CLARENCE K. BRONSON and participated in the Korean War Operations. In May 1955, he reported for a three-year tour of duty as aide to the Chief of Naval Operations, then Admiral Arleigh Burke, and subsequently was assigned as executive officer of the cruiser CANBERRA in 1958. From CANBERRA, he joined the Polaris missile project, then attended the National War College.

Admiral Weschler's next tours were in the area of Amphibious Warfare. For his service as Commander Amphibious Ready Group SEVENTH Fleet, including two amphibious raids, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. At this time he was selected for rear admiral. In 1966, the admiral became Commander of the Naval Support Activity at Danang.

After Vietnam, he joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in 1967. He was awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit for his accomplishments in pioneering and developing the Spruance Class destroyer and the Virginia Class cruiser.

In 1970, the admiral assumed command of the Newport-based Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla TWO, and in 1971 he became Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. For both these tours he was awarded gold stars in lieu of a 3rd and 4th Legion of Merit. In 1973, having been selected for vice admiral, he reported to Washington for duty as Director for Logistics, Joint Staff, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Vice Admiral Weschler retired 30 June 1975 with 34+ years of service, receiving a gold star in lieu of a second Distinguished Service Medal.

Fulfilling a lifelong interest in education, Admiral Weschler joined the faculty of the Naval War College for six years as Director of the Center for Continuing Education, and later as Chairman, Naval Operations Department. He has now left the War College to concentrate on volunteer work.

**Presentation of Graduates  
College of Naval Warfare**

CDR Lou Bernstein, USN  
LTC Patrick W. Button, USA  
CDR James A. Carman, USN  
CDR Earl F. Carter, Jr., USN  
CDR Robert A. Goodwin, USN  
COL Randall E. Heim, USA  
CDR Roger D. Helm, USN  
CDR Lawrence G. Holmes, USN  
CDR David A. Larson, USN  
CDR Mark R. Lenci, USN  
CDR Carl M. Lindner III, USN  
CDR James R. Maris, USN  
CDR John D. Maxey, USN  
CAPT Benjamin P. Riley III, USN  
CDR Janet C. Searls, USN  
CDR William J. Seffers, USN  
CDR Martin V. Sherrard, USN  
CDR Monte A. Squires, USN  
CDR Mark A. Uhron, USN

**Presentation of Graduates  
College of Naval Command and Staff**

LCDR John W. Bolin III, USN  
LCDR Larry I. Carpenter, USN  
LCDR John W. Casey III, USN  
LCDR Dennis Clark, USN  
LCDR Richard S. Colton, USN  
LCDR Dale L. Dean, USN  
LCDR George W. Fleck, USN  
LCDR William L. Frye, USN  
LCDR Deborah L. Grant, USN  
CDR David M. Hassett, USN  
LCDR George B. Hendrickson, USN  
LCDR James M. Hoey III, USN  
LCDR Patricia A. Jackson, USN  
LCDR Paul A. Kast III, USN  
LCDR Karen M. Krause, USN  
LCDR Frank C. Lawton III, USN  
LCDR Jeffrey W. Lee, USN  
LCDR Brian S. Neunaber, USN  
LCDR John M. Quigley, USN  
LCDR Richard T. Robinson, USN  
LCDR John L. Simpson, Jr., USN  
LCDR Joseph A. Spata, USN  
LCDR James J. Thaden, USNR  
LCDR Edward W. Tomko, USN  
CDR Michael L. Tymensky, USN  
LCDR Harry E. Waidelich, USN  
LCDR Craig A. Wilson, USN



UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
COAT OF ARMS

*The wavy white and blue bars at the bottom of the shield represent water. The trident rising from it symbolizes mastery of naval activities. The three tines of the trident allude to an understanding of naval warfare at sea, in the air, and on land. The pilot wheel alludes to the mission of the Naval War College, education in naval warfare. The eight spokes refer to honor, duty, leadership, command, strategy, tactics, logistics, and weapons. The laurel wreath is for achievement of the mission. The motto is "Victory Through Sea Power."*