



## The United States Naval War College

### Academic Awards for the 2022–2023 Academic Year

#### **DIANE M. DISNEY WRITING AWARD**

Major David Christian Adamic, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Lieutenant Commander Duminda Dayananda, Sri Lanka Navy **NSC Jun 2023**  
Lieutenant Colonel Denise Renee Little, U.S. Army **CNW Jun 2023**  
Major Jacob Settle, U.S. Army **CNCS Mar 2023**

#### **DRS. DANIEL AND SUSAN THYS ACADEMIC PRIZE**

Name: Commander Charles Gough, JAGC, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2023**

#### **CAPTAIN JAMES T. LARKIN, U.S. MARINE CORPS, AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY A U.S. MARINE CORPS OFFICER**

Name: Major Jonathan Walaski, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2023**

#### **EDWARD H. BRAGG AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY A U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICER**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Kevin H. Murphy, U.S. Coast Guard **CNCS Jun 2023**

#### **VICE ADMIRAL JOHN T. HAYWARD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION**

Name: Captain William B. Nguyen, U.S. Navy **CDE Nov 2022**

#### **ADMIRAL IKE KIDD NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATION AWARD**

Name: Mr. George Patterson Manson III, U.S. Government **CNW Jun 2023**

#### **MATTHEW C. PERRY AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH**

##### First Place:

Name: Commander Jurgen Van Daele, Belgian Navy **NCC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Securing Europe's Green Energy Transition"

##### Second Place:

Name: Colonel Thomas M. Tauer, U.S. Air Force **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Chinese Demographic Collapse Demands Strategic Ambiguity"



## **GENERAL GEORGE C. KENNEY AWARD FOR WRITING ON THE TOPIC OF AIRPOWER**

### **Winner:**

Name: Major Catherine W. Axel, U.S. Air Force **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Enhancing Air Base Resiliency in the First Island Chain:  
Bolstering Active and Passive Defenses while Increasing Base  
Footprint in Competition"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Brendon D. Herbeck, U.S. Space Force **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Moonrush: How the USSF and USSPACECOM Must Evolve  
Their Missions to Support the Coming Economy for Space Resources"

## **THE HONORABLE JULIETTE C. MCLENNAN ESSAY PRIZE FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Alyssa Y. Astphan, U.S. Army National Guard **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "More Effective Coercive Diplomacy: A Gendered Approach"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Sheryll I. Klinkel, U.S. Air Force **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Lessons Learned on Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster  
Relief: A Gendered Analysis of Crisis Communication"

## **LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. MURPHY COUNTERTERRORISM PRIZE**

### **International Student Category**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Kofi Duodu, Ghana Navy **NSC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Securing West Africa: The Case for a Single Multinational  
Joint Task Force to Curb Terrorism and Piracy"



## **JOHN J. D'LUHY PRIZE TO HONOR EXCELLENCE IN STRATEGIC ANALYSIS AND THOUGHT**

### **First Place:**

Name: Mr. George Patterson Manson III, U.S. Government **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "A Fort's a Fool to Fight a Ship: Land Powers vs.  
Sea Powers in Long Term Competitions"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major John C. Tramazzo, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Strategic Reassessment in Wartime"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Commander Charles Gough, JAGC, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Nuclear Weapons and Strategic Competitions"

## **VICE ADMIRAL JAMES H. DOYLE, JR., MILITARY OPERATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW PRIZE**

### **International Student Category**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Shenghao Chua, Republic of Singapore Navy **NSC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Lawfare for the Lawful: Stemming the Tide of Lawfare in  
the South China Sea"

### **U.S. Student Category**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Emily Elizabeth Geddes, U.S. Navy **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "A Constitution for the Oceans: How Would U.S. Ratification  
of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)  
Affect U.S. National Interests?"



**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major John C. Tramazzo, U.S. Army

**CNCS Jun 2023**

Essay: "Applying Vague Law to Violence: How the Joint Force Can Master Proportionality before a High-Intensity War"

**CAPTAIN WALTER B. WOODSON, JR., ACADEMIC MEMORIAL PRIZE**

**First Prize:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Shenghao Chua, Republic of Singapore Navy

**NSC Jun 2023**

Essay: "Which Was More Harmful to the American Conduct of the War in Korea: Military Leaders' Failure to Comprehend the Political Objective or Civilian Leaders' Failure to Comprehend What Can and Cannot Be Achieved by Force?"

**NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Captain Pradeep Singh Sethi, Indian Navy

**NCC Jun 2023**

Essay: "The U.S. Needs a Comprehensive Deep Ocean Competition Strategy"

**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant George O. Hageman, JAGC, U.S. Navy

**CDE Nov 2022**

Essay: "From Dunkirk to Ukraine: Using 'Little Ships' to Maintain Maritime Superiority"

**MR. B. FRANKLIN REINAUER II DEFENSE ECONOMICS PRIZE**

**Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Calhoun, U.S. Navy

**CDE**

Essay: "Investing in America's Defense: Using Innovative Financial Tools to Build and Strengthen the Industrial Base"



## J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II AWARD FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

### Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Matthew Staggs Galamison, U.S. Navy **CNCS Mar 2023**  
Essay: "The Failures of the Russian Aerospace Force in Ukraine"

### Honorable Mention:

Name: Commander Frederick Espy, U.S. Navy **CNCS Nov 2023**  
Essay: "Battle Damage Repair during Major Combat Operations in the CENTCOM AOR"

### Honorable Mention:

Names: Lieutenant Colonel John H. Bergmans, U.S. Air Force, and  
Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Glass, U.S. Air National Guard **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "The United States' Strategic Backdoor: Protecting Alaska from Land Attack Cruise Missiles"

## FOREIGN AREA OFFICER ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### ILC Winner:

Name: Mr. Rui Duarte, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Trans-Atlantic Security Issue: Russian Use of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine"

### ILC Honorable Mention:

Name: Major Robert L. Johnson III, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Should the U.S. Continue a Policy of Denuclearization toward North Korea?"

### SLC Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Pruden, U.S. Marine Corps **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Induction of Finland and Sweden into NATO Increases Regional Stability and Deterrence"



**LTGEN VICTOR "BRUTE" KRULAK WRITING AWARD SPONSORED BY THE  
MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION**

**First Place Winner:**

Name: Major Stephan Bohanan, U.S. Marine Corps  
Essay: "The Human Element of Operational Fires: What the  
Stand-In Force Should Do to Increase the Effectiveness of  
Maritime Strikes"

**CNCS Jun 2023**

**Second Place Winner:**

Name: Major Chelsea Scott, U.S. Marine Corps  
Essay: "Failure Is Not Fatal, but Failure to Change Might  
Be: Operational-Level Logistics, *the* Critical Vulnerability  
for the Marine Corps"

**NSC Jun 2023**

**AFCEA RESEARCH HONOR AWARD**

**IO/IW/C2W Category**

**Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Elizabeth Pham, U.S. Marine Corps  
Essay: "Uncovering the Social Cybersecurity Arsenal: Defending  
against China's 'Weapons of Mass Persuasion'"

**CNW Jun 2023**

**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Ms. Audrey Leanne Duke, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Essay: "Harnessing Chaos: Unleashing Electromagnetic Warfare for  
Enhanced Joint Operations"

**CNCS Jun 2023**

**Communications, Electronics, Command and Control,  
Information Systems Category**

**Winner:**

Name: Mr. Michael D. Welken, Defense Intelligence Agency  
Essay: "Japan's Space Situational Awareness Mission: Evolution,  
Challenges and Opportunities"

**CNW Jun 2023**



**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major Jonathan Walaski, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Command and Control Artificial Intelligence:  
AI-Supported Operational Planning in the Maritime Domain"

**NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Nicholas S. Nalbone, Sr., U.S. Navy **CDE Jun 2023**  
Essay: "The Navy Needs New Submarine Tenders: Protecting  
Expeditionary Capabilities Is the Key to Undersea Dominance"

**NAVAL WAR COLLEGE SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Commander Matthew Ray Garcia-Bragiel, U.S. Navy **CNW Mar 2024**  
Essay: "Unattended Seas: Navy Artificial Intelligence and  
Emerging Technology in the Arctic"

**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
JOINT SERVICE WARFARE**

**Winner:**

Name: Major Jeffrey Ryan Weinmeister, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Decentralizing Maritime Fires Coordination"

**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major Alice Jane Bechtol, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "A Joint Logistics Command in the Indo-Pacific Will  
Prevent Logistic Culminating Points"



## **CAPTAIN JEROME E. LEVY ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND WORLD ORDER PRIZE**

### **Winner:**

Name: Major William J. DeStasio, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Chinese Presence in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Strategic Threat?"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Colonel Jeffrey Marc Dulgarian, U.S. Army Reserve **CNW Jun 2023**  
Essay: "A Strategy to Counter Environmental Security Challenges in Southeast Asia"

## **ROBERT E. BATEMANS' INTERNATIONAL PRIZE ESSAY AWARD**

### **Winner:**

Name: Captain Pradeep Singh Sethi, Indian Navy **NCC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Forming a Combined Maritime Task Force under the Quad in the Indo-Pacific Region"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Captain Scott Robinson, Royal Canadian Navy **NCC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Building a Combined Maritime Force for INDOPACOM"

## **ZIMMERMAN-GRAY ESSAY AWARD**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Shenghao Chua, Republic of Singapore Navy **NSC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Minilateralism: A Way toward a Peaceful Balance of Power in the Indo-Pacific"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Taimoor Sultan, Pakistan Navy **NSC Jun 2023**  
Essay: "Recalibrating the US-China Competition: De-Hyphenating the Indian Ocean Region from the Indo-Pacific"





### **ADMIRAL RICHARD G. COLBERT MEMORIAL PRIZE**

#### **Winner:**

Name: Commander Charles Gough, JAGC, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Why the U.S. Needs to Lead in Lethal Autonomous  
Weapon Systems Development"

**CNW Jun 2023**

#### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Mr. David Iain Nowak-Laird, U.S. Coast Guard  
Essay: "In Space Everyone Loses: Reducing the Risk of Escalation  
in the Space Domain through a Three-Tiered Approach"

**CDE**

### **ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES PRIZE**

#### **Winner:**

Name: Mr. Brian M. Sperlongano, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Essay: "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick: Preventing US-China  
Conflict over Taiwan"

**CNCS Jun 2023**

#### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Michael S. Wilinski, MC, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Combined Joint Military Healthcare: Building  
INDOPACOM's Next Medical Hub Down Under"

**CDE Jun 2023**

### **RADM JOSEPH C. STRASSER INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PRIZES**

#### **Naval Command College:**

Name: Commander Wiremu Leef, Royal New Zealand Navy

**NCC Jun 2023**

#### **Naval Staff College:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Kofi Duodu, Ghana Navy

**NSC Jun 2023**

### **RICHARD COLBERT EMBED OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Winner: Colonel Ellen M. Ellis, U.S. Space Force

**NCC Jun 2023**



**ADMIRAL JONAS INGRAM EMBED OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Winner: Major Chelsea Scott, U.S. Marine Corps

**NSC Jun 2023**

**MCGINNIS FAMILY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN NONRESIDENT SEMINAR EDUCATION**

Prize Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Timothy J. Cadigan III, U.S. Navy

**CDE Jun 2023**

**ADMIRAL ARLEIGH A. BURKE AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICER**

Name: Captain Pradeep Singh Sethi, Indian Navy

**NCC Jun 2023**

**NAVY LEAGUE AWARDS**

Stephen B. Luce Award:

Name: Mr. George Patterson Manson III, U.S. Government

**CNW Jun 2023**

William S. Sims Award:

Name: Major John C. Tramazzo, U.S. Army

**CNCS Jun 2023**