



**NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY  
NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE  
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066**

15 November 2024

Dear Future Members of the National War College Class of 2026:

Congratulations on your selection to attend the National War College! If you are feeling any hesitation about stepping away from your respective community or agency for a year of focused strategic education be assured this will be one of the most rewarding periods in your professional journey to date, stretching your thinking and building knowledge and relationships to aid you in higher levels of responsibility. The rigorous program comprises substantial reading, writing, and speaking; deep debate and discussion; and interaction with national and global strategists. If we do our work right, you will be prepared to serve at higher level to guide our nations through challenging global security problems.

Our curriculum leads to an accredited Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy. To accomplish this during a compressed calendar will require focused effort to improve abilities to communicate clearly and concisely, assess issues creatively, adapt to ambiguity, and operate with a joint, interagency, and multinational perspective. Consequently, we encourage you to attend to personal matters or other needs prior to the start of the program in August 2025. Leave opportunities during the program are generally limited to a two-week holiday break at the end of the calendar year.

You will be enriched by the quality of fellow students, some of whom will serve as the future leadership of the armed forces and government agencies of our nation and our allies and partners. Historically, over one-third of our graduates have gone on to flag officer rank or the civilian equivalent. Our student body traditionally comprises about 60% U.S. military officers, 25% federal civilians, and 15% International Fellows. American students interested in serving as a co-sponsor for an international fellow can further enrich the NWC experience.

The National War College can also be a memorable experience for family members. Our year-long National Security Strategy Elective, which convenes once weekly, is designed for adult family members, leading to a certificate. This course enjoys great reviews, including from our own two respective spouses. The university and college also have social clubs and offer several academic elective courses that are open on a space-available basis. Each year, the NWC student body organizes outstanding social events and holiday celebrations that are open to family members and help form lifelong friendships.

We, and the entire National War College family, look forward to welcoming you to the College and what will be a very special and enriching year.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. D. Patrick".

C. D. Patrick  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Commandant, National War College

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. P. Murphy".

W. P. Murphy  
U. S. Ambassador  
Deputy Commandant, National War College