

# Sean P. Henseler, J.D., M.A.

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## SUMMARY

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Retired United States Navy Judge Advocate General and former Naval Intelligence Officer. Multiple combat deployments and member of several tactical and operational level of war staffs. Expert briefer and adviser to senior military decision-makers. Over a decade of experience teaching at the U.S. Naval War College as active duty and civilian to include College of Naval Warfare Studies, Joint Military Operations (Joint Professional Military Education Phases I and II), and College of Operational and Strategic Leadership. Consulted at nearly every numbered Fleet Headquarters on multiple occasions. Highly sought after lecturer by international organizations, military commands, local universities, civic groups, and other professional organizations. Active volunteer in the local community to include linking veterans with students across the state for several years as President of Suzanne M. Henseler Foundation.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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- International Law
- Law of the Sea
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Law of Naval Warfare
- Law of Naval Mining
- Maritime Operational Zones
- Authorities/Rules of Engagement
- National Security Affairs
- Operational Planning/Crisis Action Planning
- Operational Design
- Operational Assessment
- Intelligence/Fires/Targeting
- Detention Operations
- South China Sea

## EDUCATION

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**2001 Naval War College (M.A.), Newport, RI**

- National Security Studies, *President's Honor Graduate*.

**1997 The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (J.D.), Washington, DC**

- One of six naval officers to receive prestigious 1994 Naval Law Education Program full scholarship.
- Graduated *cum laude*; selected by students and faculty as Commencement Speaker.
- Summer 1995 clerked for Chief of Naval Operations Legal Office
- Summer 1994 clerked for Navy and Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity

**1997 Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (M.A.), Washington, DC**

- National Security Studies

**1989 Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC), Dam Neck, VA**

- Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Basic Course

**1988 Babson College (B.S.), Wellesley, MA**

- Business Management

**CIVILIAN PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**2015-Present Operations Director, COSL Operational Level Programs (OLP), Associate Professor**

- Expertly leads the operations department in the design and implementation of various processes and procedures that have significantly increased the effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency of OLP to include the virtual “Prioritization and Allocation Board” and “Fleet Engagement Teams.”
- Coordinates across the NWC for all CSG and ESG I-Stop Flag visits.
- Coordinates across the NWC and the numbered fleets to ensure optimal use of newly hired Highly Qualified Experts-Maritime Senior Mentors (ADMs Gortney, Miller, Van Buskirk, and Thomas).
- Frequently represents OLP during DV visits to NWC.
- Frequently lectures international audiences at the invitation of the NATO Center of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE-CSW) and the driving force behind a recently signed MOU between NWC and NATO COE-CSW.
- On behalf of the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), designed and implemented a 3-day Maritime Defense in the Littoral Environment Seminar for Flag and O-6 level participants. ODC described the event as the most successful interaction yet between U.S. and Indonesian maritime services.
- Provided presentation on the South China Sea to the *Boston Global Forum* (led by Gov. Mike Dukakis) at Harvard University. <http://bostonglobalforum.org/author/huong/page/15/>
- Developed and implemented course curriculum for 2016 S.E. Asian Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) exercise for approximately 20 S.E. Asian naval officers.
- Presented briefing on Mechanisms to Reduce Risk Associated with IRGCN Interactions with US Forces at 2017 NAVCENT Senior Leader Symposium and helped develop and implement 2017 *Eager Lion* International Maritime Exercise Force 2.5 week exercise.
- Helped develop and implement 2016 NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium and the International Mine Counter Measures Staff Exercise.

- Coordinating all COSL OLP S.E. Asian maritime Security Initiative efforts in response to PACOM/PACFT/7F tasking.
- Moderated and presented at NAVCENT 2016 Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium.
- *Naval War College Review*, Editorial Board member.
- Provided South China Sea Lecture of Opportunity to the Naval War College faculty and staff.
- Expertly taught OLP in-residence courses; Maritime Staff Operators Course (MSOC), Executive level Operational Level of War Course (ELOC), and Maritime Operational Planners Course (MOPC).
- Oversaw development of portions of the International MSOC (I-MSOC) curriculum.
- Overseeing development of PNWC/CNO “3 Week Warfighter’s Course” initiative.
- Participant on OLP hiring committee.

**2009-2015 Associate Professor, U.S. Naval War College, College of Operational and Strategic Leadership**

- Lead instructor for MSOC.
- Curriculum design and review for MSOC.
- Consultant for nearly all U.S. Navy Numbered Fleets and other major commands.
- Founder, editor, contributing author- U.S. NWC *MOC Warfighter* On-Line Magazine.
- Helped develop and implement 2015 NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium and the International Mine Counter Measures Staff Exercise.
- Led unique consulting effort at the request of the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanology Command (CNMOC) focused on reorganizing in accordance with MOC processes and procedures.
- Regular instructor for ELOC and MOPC.
- Drafted Operational Law and Design sections of *2009 Maritime Component Commander’s Guidebook* and contributed to various sections of *NWP 5-01, Navy Planning*.
- Assisted other professors across the NWC with electives.

**2011-2013 Adjunct Professor, Roger Williams University, Gabelli School of Business, Bristol, RI**

- Designed curriculum for and implemented both “Business Ethics” and “Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business” courses.
- Topic areas included: ethical decision making, ethics and marketing and the corporate culture, property law, contracts, the court system, litigation, intellectual property, agency and employment law, labor-management relationship, the forming of business organizations.

**2010-2011 Owner, Rhode Island Basketball Academy, LLC.**

- Established LLC designed to provide small group instruction to boys and girls 8-18.

## **MILITARY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **2006-2009 Howard S. Levie Military Chair of Operational Law and Joint Military Operations Instructor, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI**

- Seminar moderator for junior and senior Joint Military Operations courses covering over 40 topics with significant emphasis on the military planning process, problem solving, operational design, leadership, and command and control.
- Handpicked by Gen. H.R. McMaster as deputy team leader for high profile 2008-09 U.S. Central Command Assessment Team chartered by Combatant Commander, General Petraeus; included operations in Tajikistan and Qatar.
- Lectured at Harvard University, the German Naval Operations School, the NATO School, multiple law schools and military commands.
- Developed and implemented the International and Operational Law curriculum for resident and web-based College of Distance Education courses; managed over 25 instructors in execution.
- Designed and taught NWC ROE Elective.
- Published in *Naval Law Review*, *Naval War College Review*, and *Providence Journal Op-ed*.
- Coordinated publishing of, and assisted in drafting, 2007 revision of the *NWP 1-14M, Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations*, recognized as the world's foremost maritime legal manual.
- Engaged in planning, design, and execution of war games with various international partners.

### **2008 Legal Advisor, Iraqi Governance Assessment Team, Baghdad, Iraq**

- Handpicked legal advisor to high profile Iraqi Governance Assessment Team chartered by Commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq, General Petraeus, and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ambassador Crocker.
  - Worked directly for then-Col. H.R. McMaster as part of a 12-member team included former U.S. Ambassador and representatives from the World Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of the Treasury, U.S. Army, and the Defense Intelligence Agency.
- Drafted Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption portions of Iraq Campaign Plan.
  - Required frequent interaction with experts in the Departments of Defense, Justice, and State, the United Nations, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, and the Government of Iraq.
- Briefed General Petraeus, Ambassador Crocker, and the U.S. Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Coordinators for Iraq concerning assessment and recommendations.

### **2006 Chief of Detention, Judicial, and Legal Policy, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq**

- Drafted detailed MNF-I Detention Operations policy to conform to U.S. Supreme Court, Congressional, and Department of Defense actions in the wake of Abu Ghraib scandal.
- Policy advisor to Deputy Commanding General for Detention Operations.
- Led U.S.-Iraq "Bi-Lateral Inspection" team on missions throughout Iraq; team comprised of members from various Iraqi ministries, the U.S. Military, and the Departments of State and Justice.
  - Uncovered significant abuse within Iraqi detention system which received international exposure and led to subsequent prosecution of over 50 Iraqi officials.
- MNF-I liaison officer to International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

**2003-2005 Operational Law Department Head, Naval Justice School, Newport, RI**

- Established first-ever Operational Law Department.
- Responsible for curriculum development and training for all new Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard lawyers.
- Managed attorneys and staff responsible for implementing curriculum.

**2003 Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa (CJTF-4), Djibouti**

- Recruited by Task Force Deputy Commander as Rules of Engagement expert to help establish new command in area of geostrategic significance to Global War on Terror.

**2001-2002 Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Carrier Group Six, USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67), Mayport, FL**

- Wartime legal advisor to Commander Task Force 50 who commanded over 100 U.S. and coalition warships while deployed in support of post-9/11 *Operation Enduring Freedom* in Afghanistan.
- Member, Crisis Action Planning team responsible for development of courses of action, plans, and orders in crisis situations to include capturing Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists.
- 2001-2002 “*Outstanding Young Military Lawyer for the U.S. Navy.*”

**2000 Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, US Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Virginia**

- Prosecuted felonies and represented U.S. government in probation hearings.

**1998-1999 Prosecutor, Trial Service Office East, Norfolk, VA**

- Represented U.S. government in over 75 trials. 100% prosecution rate for cases taken to trial.
- Managed several attorneys as Prosecution Team Leader.

**1994-1997 Navy Funded Law Education Student, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law**

**1992-1994 Navy Representative to National Military Joint Intelligence Center, Pentagon**

- Briefed Director of Naval Intelligence and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Officer on critical, Navy-related intelligence issues during crises in Iraq, Haiti, Bosnia, and Somalia, among others.
- Recruited for high-profile “Chief of Naval Operations Intelligence Briefer” position; most significant and challenging briefing position in the U.S. Navy.

**1990-1992 Intelligence Officer, Attack Squadron One Four Five (VA-145), Whidbey Island, WA**

- Deployed twice to the Persian Gulf aboard the USS RANGER (CV-61). Participated in *Operation Desert Shield* and *Operation Desert Storm* as a squadron intelligence officer and assistant air wing intelligence officer with focus on targeting inside Iraq and Kuwait.

- Managed over 20 officers and enlisted during *Operation Southern Watch* enforcing a no-fly zone in southern Iraq.
- West Coast Attack Squadron “Intelligence Officer of the Year” 1990, 1991, and 1992.
- Flew multiple hours in various Navy aircraft to include: A-6, EA-6B, S-3, E-2C, P-3, SH-60, SH-3.

#### 1989 Intelligence Officer, Combined Joint Task Force - Four (CJTF-4), Key West, FL

- Briefed and flew with P-3 aircrews flying counter-narcotics missions in Caribbean Sea.

#### ACADEMIC AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT AWARDS RECEIVED

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- Inducted into Bishop T.F. Hendricken Alumni Hall of Fame, 2009
- 2001-2002 “Outstanding Young Military Lawyer for the U.S. Navy.”
- 2001 Naval War College Junior Course, President’s Honor Graduate.
- 1997 Commencement Speaker, Catholic University Columbus School of Law.
- 1990-1992 West Coast Attack Squadron “Intelligence Officer of the Year.”

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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- October 2016, *MOC Warfighter*, “Déjà vu All Over Again; What Can MOCs Learn from the 2016 IRGCN Seizure of U.S. Patrol Craft,”  
<https://www.usnwc.edu/mocwarfighter/Article.aspx?ArticleID=57>
- November 2015, *The Diplomat*, U.S. A strategic Ambiguity in the South China Sea,  
<http://thediplomat.com/2015/11/us-astrategic-ambiguity-in-the-south-china-sea/>
- November, 2015 *Washington Chronicles*, television show panelist discussing South China Sea Issues,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3xHohqeatE>
- October 2015, *Voice of America, China* radio interview, South China Sea issues.
- October 2015, *The Diplomat*, “Why We Need South China Sea Freedom of Navigation Patrols,”  
<http://thediplomat.com/2015/10/why-we-need-south-china-sea-freedom-of-navigation-patrols/>
- December 2014, *MOC Warfighter*, “Improving the OLV Capability of the Naval Service: The Next Step,” <https://www.usnwc.edu/mocwarfighter/Article.aspx?ArticleID=31>
- November 2013, *MOC Warfighter*, A Naval Approach to Relative Combat Power Analysis (RCPA): Why Conducting a RCPA Can Enhance Planning and Directing Naval Operations,”  
<https://www.usnwc.edu/mocwarfighter/Article.aspx?ArticleID=16>
- April 2013, *MOC Warfighter*, “Left of Splash; Legal Issues Related to the Use of Force to Counter Mining in the Strait of Hormuz,” <https://www.usnwc.edu/mocwarfighter/Article.aspx?ArticleID=13>
- March 2013, *Project 2049*, “Clarifying U.S.-Japan Mine Warfare Roles, Missions, and Capabilities in the Persian Gulf: An Examination of International Legal Issues,”  
[https://project2049.net/documents/countermining\\_henseler.pdf](https://project2049.net/documents/countermining_henseler.pdf)
- January 2011, *The Providence Journal*, “Focus on Pakistan not Afghanistan.”
- January, 2010, *The Boston Herald*, “U.S. Violates the Law of War at Own Peril,”  
[http://www.bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/opinion/op\\_ed/2010/01/us\\_violates\\_law\\_war\\_own\\_peril](http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/opinion/op_ed/2010/01/us_violates_law_war_own_peril)

- 2009 Drafted Operational Law and Design sections of *2009 Maritime Component Commander's Guidebook* and contributed to various sections of *NWP 5-01, Navy Planning*.
- 2007 Coordinated publishing of, and assisted in drafting, revision of the *NWP 1-14M, Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations*.
- April 2007, *The Providence Journal*, "Pushing for Rule of Law in Iraq Crucial."
- 2006 *Naval Law Review Vol. 52*, Self Defense in the Maritime Environment Under the New Standing Rules of Engagement/Standing Rules for Use of Force (SROE/SRUF)," <http://www.jag.navy.mil/documents/navylawreview/NLRVolume53.pdf>

## RECENT INVITED LECTURES

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- 2017 NATO School Maritime Operations Law Seminar, Souda Bay, Crete. "*Law of the Sea Foundations: UNCLOS, Maritime Boundaries, Navigational Rights, National Maritime Claims, EEZ Activities,*" and "*Maritime Operational Zones and Blockade.*"
- 2017 NAVCENT Senior Leaders Symposium, Bahrain. "*Possible Mechanisms to Reduce the Risk of Miscalculation and Escalation Based on Naval Encounters in the Arabian Gulf Region.*"
- 2016 NATO Military Committee. "*The South China Sea Dispute: Potential Impact on NATO.*"
- 2016 U.S. NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium. "*A Partnership Approach to Critical Maritime Infrastructure Protection in the Arabian Gulf.*"
- 2016 NATO Center of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters, 4th Conference on Operational and Maritime Law, Turku, Finland. "*The South China Sea Dispute: An Overview.*" Also moderated breakout panel of 20 foreign officers and military advisors on Russian use of grey tactics in the Baltic Sea.
- 2016 U.S. Naval Post Graduate School. Course observer and contributing visiting professor on S.E. Asian Security Issues.
- 2016 NATO School Maritime Operations Law Seminar, Souda Bay, Crete. "*Law of the Sea Foundations,*" and "*Law of Naval Warfare.*" Also moderated case studies on Law of the Sea and Operational Zones.
- 2016 Doha International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference, Doha, Qatar. "*Maritime Infrastructure Protection in the Arabian Gulf.*"
- 2016 S.E. Asian Commander's Conference hosted by U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, Singapore. "*The U.S Navy's MOC Construct to Command and Control Tactical Forces and Ensure Maritime Domain Awareness.*"
- 2015 German Naval Tactics Center-Legal Dimensions Course, Bremerhaven, Germany. "*Law of the Sea,*" "*Law of Naval Mining,*" and "*Rules of Engagement: A U.S. Perspective.*"

- 2015 NATO Center of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Operational and Maritime Law, Lisbon, Portugal. “Recent FON Missions in the South China Sea,” and “The Mining of International Straits: U.S. Military Perspective.”
- 2015 Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI. “Leadership.”
- 2015 Roger Williams University, Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Bristol, RI. “Strategic Planning.” State Department program for college students from across the Middle East.
- 2015 Boston Global Forum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. “Solutions to Avoiding Armed Conflict in the S.E. Asian Region.”
- 2015 Defense Institute of International and Legal Studies, International Law of Military Operations, Newport, RI. “The Role of Legal Advisors in the Operational Planning Process.”
- 2014 US NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium, Bahrain. Moderator for 4 Flag and senior executive level panel discussions: “Strategic Perspectives: The Middle East in a Rapidly Changing World,” “Military/Industry Partnership: Cooperating in Support of Stability and Security in the maritime Commons,” “Ensuring Maritime Infrastructure Protection into the Future,” and “Commanders Wrap-up: Partnership as a Way Ahead.”
- 2014 Chatham House, London, U.K. U.S. NWC representative to exclusive workshop discussing legal issues related to mine warfare.
- 2014 Roger Williams University, Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Bristol, RI. “Strategic Planning.” State Department program for college students from across the Middle East.
- 2014 German Naval Tactics Center, Legal Dimensions Course, Bremerhaven, Germany. “ROE: A U.S. Perspective,” “Law of the Sea,” and “Legal Issues Related to UAVs and UUVs.”
- 2014 Babson College, Wellesley, MA. “Serving in the Military Post-9/11.”
- 2013 U.S. NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium, Bahrain. “Countering the Mine Threat in a Strategic Strait: Historical and Legal Perspective Focused at the Operational Level of War.”
- 2013 Roger Williams University, Middle Eastern Partnership Initiative (MEPI), Bristol, RI. “Strategic Planning.” State Department program for college students from across the Middle East.
- 2013 Defense Institute of International and Legal Studies, International Law of Military Operations, Newport, RI. “Law of the Sea,” and “Rules of Engagement.”
- 2012 U.S. NAVCENT Maritime Infrastructure Protection Symposium, Bahrain. “The Law of Naval Mining.”

## **MILITARY AWARDS AND HONORS**

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Bronze Star  
 Meritorious Service Medal (3)  
 Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3)  
 Joint Service Achievement Medal



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal  
Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
Navy Unit Commendation  
Meritorious Unit Commendation  
Navy "E" Ribbon (Silver E)  
National Defense Service Medal (Bronze)  
Southwest Asia Service Medal  
Iraq Campaign Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal  
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon  
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)  
Kuwait Liberation medal (Kuwait)  
Rifle marksmanship Ribbon (Expert)  
Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon (Expert)

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

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President, Suzanne M. Henseler Foundation (2007-Present) See [www.thehenselerfoundation.org](http://www.thehenselerfoundation.org)  
Frequently visit and speak with high school students across Rhode Island concerning veterans and national security related issues  
Assistant Coach, Narragansett High School Basketball (2015-present)  
Assistant Coach, Naval Academy Preparatory School Basketball, 2013-2015  
Board Member, Patuxent Valley Homeless Advocacy, 2013-14  
Member, West Warwick Comprehensive Planning Committee, 2011  
President, West Warwick Veteran's Council, 2010  
Chairman, West Warwick Charter Review Commission, 2009-10  
Leader, "Save West Warwick School Sports" Steering Committee  
Assistant Coach, Bishop Hendricken High School basketball (2006-2011)  
Two-time coach of Roger Williams University Law School "Jessup Cup" International Law Moot Court team.