

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER J. MCMAHON (Rear Admiral, USMS) joined the Naval War College faculty in July 2014 as the Emory S. Land Chair for Merchant Marine Affairs – detailed from the U.S. Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. He is a member of the Federal Senior Executive Service (SES).

Professor McMahon is a 1977 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, where he graduated with a B.S. in Marine Transportation, a commission as Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve and a Merchant Marine third mate (officer) license. He sailed for more than a decade aboard U.S. flag merchant vessels engaged in worldwide trade. He is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed unlimited Master of Steam and Motor Vessels with a Master of Sail endorsement.

Beginning in 1984, in between periods at sea and as a commissioned U.S. Maritime Service officer, Professor McMahon served as an associate professor of Marine Transportation and Nautical Science at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and later as Director of Waterfront Activities and Sailing Master. He was founding Director of the Global Maritime and Transportation School (GMATS).

Following the September 11th attacks on America in 2001, the Secretary of Transportation appointed Professor McMahon as his Special Assistant responsible for coordinating surface transportation security. He was promoted by the Secretary to Rear Admiral (Lower Half), U.S. Maritime Service in 2004 and to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in 2005. During this period, he was assigned to Iraq as the Transportation Counselor to the Ambassador and Multi-National Forces Iraq and as Director of the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office of Transportation. In that capacity, he was responsible for rebuilding Iraq's airports, seaports, railroads, and other transportation infrastructure. He later served as Acting Director of the Department of Transportation's Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response. From 2006 to 2008, he served as Deputy Superintendent of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He has held other SES positions with the Department of Transportation as well.

Professor McMahon has graduate degrees from the American University, Long Island University, and Starr King Seminary at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. He is an ordained and practicing Unitarian Universalist minister.