



## The United States Naval War College

### Academic Awards for the 2023–2024 Academic Year

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

Mr. Kiet H. Truong, Defense Contract Management Agency	<b>CNCS Jun 2024</b>
Major Francis Martin B. Gudez, U.S. Air Force	<b>CNCS Jun 2024</b>
Colonel Alexander E. Goodno, U.S. Marine Corps	<b>CNW Jun 2024</b>
Major Dylan F. Metzler, U.S. Marine Corps	<b>CNCS Jun 2024</b>
Lieutenant Colonel Curtis A. Goller III, U.S. Army National Guard	<b>CNW Jun 2024</b>

#### **AFCEA RESEARCH HONOR AWARD**

##### IJO/IW/OIE Category

##### Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Brett P. Jansen, U.S. Navy **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: “Unifying Information Warfare for Joint Operations”

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

##### Winner:

Name: Mr. Daniel J. Beans, U.S. Government **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: “Intelligence Collection for Great Power Competition”

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

##### Winner:

Name: Lieutenant Commander Douglas A. Kettler, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: “Peak or Peer: Assessing China’s Strength and the  
U.S. Response”



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

### **Winner:**

Name: Captain Adit Patnaik, Indian Navy **NCC Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Bolstering the QUAD: Options for the United States"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Captain Daniel Vladimirov Todorov, Bulgarian Navy **NCC Jun 2024**  
Essay: "A Second Chance for the U.S. and NATO in the Black Sea"

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

### **Winner:**

Name: Commander Ronald Herrera, U.S. Navy **CNW Nov 2024**  
Essay: "From Atoms to Algorithms: A Critical Assessment of the Nuclear-AI Analogy"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Commander Brandi R. Orton, JAGC, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Supporting a Critical Partner's Ability to Counter-Captagon"

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

### **First Place:**

Name: Mr. Matthew D. Cole, Naval Surface Warfare Center **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Sir Julian Corbett and Maritime Strategy"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Commander Peter E. Cornett, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Maritime Powers and Burden Sharing within Coalitions"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major Benjamin J. Wiemers, U.S. Air Force **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Warfighting and Concentration of Force"



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

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

#### **Winner:**

Name: Commander Nicholas J. Kadlec, JAGC, U.S. Navy **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Use of Force to Prevent Objectionable Solar Radiation  
Modification (SRM): Possible Legal Bases Under International Law"

#### **First Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Curtis A. Goller III, U.S. Army National Guard **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems: Let Them  
Be Autonomous"

#### **Second Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major Alexander E. Hernandez, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Defense in the Red Sea: Why International Law Permits  
the Use of Force Against Iran"

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

#### **Winner (CDE/CNCS/NSC Category):**

Name: Commander Shakur Mahmood, Bangladesh Navy **NSC Jun 2024**  
Essay: "The Rohingya Crisis and Its Impacts on Regional Security:  
A Call for a U.S.-led Collaborative Action Plan to Resolve"

#### **Winner (CNW/NCC Category):**

Name: Colonel Allan S. Chiu, U.S. Marine Corps **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "The 'X' Article for China"



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

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Stephen J. Blackstone, U.S. Air Force Reserve      **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Joint Concepts Enabling ACE in the Western Pacific"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Joseph G. Pasko, U.S. Air Force      **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Good Trap! Why Mobile Arresting Gear Will Enhance  
Joint Expeditionary Operations in the Indo-Pacific"

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

### **First Place Winner:**

Name: Major Ryan C. Brodarick, U.S. Marine Corps      **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "The Multifunction Air Operations Center: Value Added  
to the Joint Force Commander"

### **Second Place Winner:**

Name: Major Dylan F. Metzler, U.S. Marine Corps      **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Army and Marines: Ideal Logistics Partners in the Littorals"

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

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Brett P. Jansen, U.S. Navy      **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Deep-Sea Mining in the Eastern Pacific: Securing American  
Critical Minerals Needs from China's Grip"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Adam Biggs, U.S. Navy      **CDE**  
Essay: "Broken Shield: How Economic Geography Protected Taiwan  
and Why Those Protections Are Failing"



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

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Melanie Conese Lecaroz, U.S. Navy **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Male Allyship and Masculinity in WPS"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Dr. Margaret H. Peirce, Department of State **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "The Power of Women, Peace, and Security Principles:  
Lessons for the Interagency from the 2021 Afghan Evacuation"

## **J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II AWARD FOR STUDENT RESEARCH**

### **Winner:**

Name: Major Justin R. Motenko, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Targeting Defeat: An Evolving Theory of Victory  
in the Middle East"

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Mr. Matthew D. Cole, Naval Surface Warfare Center **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "The Strategic Implications of Submarine Fiberoptic Cables  
in PRC-Taiwan Conflict"

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

### **Winner (CDE/CNCS/NSC Category):**

Name: Major Anthony B. Vanderzee, U.S. Marine Corps **CNCS Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Artificial Intelligence and Assessments: Where to Start?"

### **Honorable Mention (CDE/CNCS/NSC Category):**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Stuart Anderson, U.S. Navy **CNCS Mar 2025**  
Essay: "Helicopter Maritime Strike's Path Back to Relevance  
Is with Stand-in Forces"



**Winner (CNW Category):**

Name: Commander Ian Santicola, JAGC, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Defense of Unmanned Systems: Leveraging the Law, Will,  
and Capability to Minimize Escalation"

**CNW Jun 2024**

**NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Shanzhi Thia, Republic of Singapore Navy  
Essay: "Promises and Pitfalls: Prospects for Submarine Rescue  
Cooperation between the United States, and Russia and China,  
in the Indo-Pacific"

**NSC Jun 2024**

**NAVAL WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Commander Joseph F. Abrutz III, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Seabed Warfare: The Fight Is Changing"

**CNCS Jun 2024**

**NAVAL WAR COLLEGE SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION AWARD**

**Winner:**

Name: Commander Cory Zebian, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Surface Warfare Needs Someone to Play the Bad Guy:  
A Roadmap for Establishing a Surface Warfare Aggressor Squadron"

**CNW Nov 2024**

**Honorable Mention:**

Name: Major Patrick J. Smith, U.S. Army  
Essay: "Rethinking Retreat: Retrograde Operations in the Indo-Pacific"

**CNCS Jun 2024**



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

### **First Place:**

Name: Captain Ismail Kolawole Lawal, Nigerian Navy  
Essay: "Restructuring the United Nations Security Council to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century"

**NCC Jun 2024**

### **Second Place:**

Name: Commander Daniel Läser, German Navy  
Essay: "The Contribution of Distributed Maritime Operations to NATO Deterrence and Defense in the Baltic Sea"

**NCC Jun 2024**

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

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Travis K. Sharp, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Square Pegs, Round Holes: Service Strategic Cultures and Military Department Spending Trends"

**CDE Jun 2024**

## **ADMIRAL STOCKDALE MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS PRIZE**

### **Winner:**

Name: Major Randolph R. Rotte III, U.S. Army  
Essay: "Using the Navy Lessons Learned Program as a Tool to Support Get Real Get Better"

**CNCS Jun 2024**

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Adam Biggs, U.S. Navy  
Essay: "Declining Ethical Standards and Behavior in the Thucydides Trap"

**CDE**



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

### **First Prize:**

Name: Major Jurjen Abma, Royal Netherlands Navy **NSC Jun 2024**

Seminar essay written in response to the following prompt:

“The Second World War was decided on the Eastern Front. All other fighting fronts were of secondary importance. Do you agree?”

## **ZIMMERMAN-GRAY ESSAY AWARD**

### **Winner:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Nikhil Prabhune, Indian Navy **NSC Jun 2024**

Essay: “Relevance of Destroyers and Frigates in the Age of Advanced Maritime Weapon Systems Within Regional Navies”

### **Honorable Mention:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Alin Gionea, Romanian Navy **NSC Jun 2024**

Essay: “What Romania’s Security Strategy Should Be”

## **CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY STRATEGY ESSAY CONTEST (STRATEGIC RESEARCH PAPER CATEGORY):**

### **First Place:**

Name: Commander Thomas Krasnicki, U.S. Navy **CNW Mar 2024**

Essay: “Considering the Utility of Modern Blockade in a Protracted Conflict with China”

### **Second Place:**

Name: Major Patrick J. Smith, U.S. Army **CNCS Jun 2024**

Essay: “Celtic Security in the Atlantic: How Does Ireland Secure Europe’s Western Flank?”

### **Third Place:**

Name: Mr. Nicholas F. Caron, U.S. Senate **CDE**

Essay: “Admiral Rickover in the Pacific Rim: An Argument for U.S. Led Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarine Programs”





**Fourth Place:**

Name: Colonel Alexander E. Goodno, U.S. Marine Corps      **CNW Jun 2024**  
Essay: "Fishing for Opportunities to Counter Chinese Influence  
in South America"

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

Name: Lieutenant Commander Patrick R. Powers, U.S. Coast Guard      **CNCS Jun 2024**

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

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Shanzhi Thia, Republic of Singapore Navy      **NSC Jun 2024**

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

Name: Lieutenant Commander Mark P. Langford, U.S. Navy      **CDE Nov 2023**

**ADMIRAL IKE KIDD NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FOUNDATION AWARD**

Name: Commander Amanda B. Richards, U.S. Navy      **CNW Jun 2024**

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

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Scott Willis, U.S. Marine Corps      **CNW Jun 2024**

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

Name: Lieutenant Commander William F. Jenkins II, U.S. Navy      **CDE Jun 2024**

**CAPTAIN GEORGE E. THIBAUT AWARD FOR U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE CIVILIAN GRADUATES OF  
THE NONRESIDENT FLEET SEMINAR PROGRAM**

Name: Mr. Benjamin K. Tardif, U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC      **CDE Jun 2024**

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

Name: Commander Nicholas J. Kadlec, JAGC, U.S. Navy      **CNW Jun 2024**



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

### **Naval Staff College:**

Name: Lieutenant Commander Edoardo Luzzi, Italian Navy **NSC Jun 2024**

### **Naval Command College:**

Name: Captain Sandro Baptista Monteiro, Brazilian Navy **NCC Jun 2024**

## **NAVY LEAGUE AWARDS**

### **William S. Sims Award:**

Name: Major Grace A. Butler, U.S. Space Force **CNCS Jun 2024**

### **Stephen B. Luce Award:**

Name: Colonel Alexander E. Goodno, U.S. Marine Corps **CNW Jun 2024**

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

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Richard D. I. Becker, U.S. Army **NCC Jun 2024**

## **ADMIRAL JONAS H. INGRAM EMBED OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Name: Lieutenant Colonel Natalie Lamb, U.S. Marine Corps **NSC Jun 2024**