



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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SECNAVINST 1524.2B  
DASN (MPP)  
October 27, 2005

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1524.2B

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: POLICIES CONCERNING THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

1. Purpose. To update and clarify policies concerning the Naval Postgraduate School.
2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 1524.2A.
3. Background. Title 10 U.S. Code, Section 7041-7047, establishes the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and empowers the Secretary of the Navy to prescribe NPS academic policies. To perform effectively in peace and in war, Navy and Marine Corps officers must understand the technologies inherent to the capabilities of their weapons systems and ships, the way in which such capabilities are synergistically integrated and operated within tactical organizations, the manner in which such tactical organizations contribute to the fulfillment of a coherent national strategy, and the way in which resources may be used most efficiently to meet the requirements of such a national strategy. The professional development and education of Navy and Marine Corps officers must, therefore, give them both the knowledge to operate in an increasingly sophisticated technological environment and an appreciation of our nation's defense objectives to include the supporting maritime strategy. Accordingly, the Department of the Navy (DON) offers a number of professional development and education programs designed to prepare Navy and Marine Corps officers for their challenging leadership roles. NPS is part of and subject to the DON's overall higher education and learning strategy.
4. Rationale for NPS. The NPS exists for the sole purpose of increasing the combat effectiveness of the Navy and Marine Corps. It accomplishes this by providing post-baccalaureate degree and non-degree programs in a variety of sub-specialty areas not available through other educational institutions. The NPS also supports the DON through continuing programs of naval and maritime research and through the maintenance of an expert faculty capable of working in, or as advisors to, operational

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commands, laboratories, systems commands, and headquarters activities of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The contributions of the NPS to the combat effectiveness of the Navy and the Marine Corps reflect:

- a. Its ability to develop and offer unique curricula - e.g., Undersea Warfare, C3I, etc. - which are unavailable elsewhere because of lack of civilian interest, uneconomically small classes, constraints on classified research, and the absence of relevant expertise and experience.
- b. Its flexibility in tailoring general educational subjects to the particular needs and interests of the military - e.g., organization, space technology, and manpower management.
- c. Its ability to meet DON requirements, rapidly and effectively, by creating and adapting relevant programs and terminating obsolete programs.
- d. The encouragement of a professional dialogue among officer students and faculty engaged in related efforts to solve significant military problems.
- e. The cultivation of a unique pool of specialized faculty whose expertise is particularly relevant and useful to the Department of Defense.

5. General Program Guidance. The programs of education at the NPS must be uniformly excellent and must meet the requirements of the Naval Service:

- a. The NPS shall strive to benefit the Naval Services through the education of Navy and Marine Corps officers. NPS programs must provide officers the latest technological knowledge relevant to their future duty assignments as well as an appreciation of the fundamentals of the maritime strategy and concepts of naval warfare. Such programs must enhance the ability of student officers to effectively use the knowledge gained at the NPS in their future military careers.

- b. The NPS must support the Navy and Marine Corps with faculty research, faculty advice to DON officials, and work by faculty (both military and civilian) in operational units, laboratories, systems commands, and headquarters of the Navy and Marine Corps. To that end, programs will be instituted by DON and NPS to assure continuing interaction between NPS faculty and DON organizations.

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6. Faculty. Faculty at the NPS shall be fully competent in their areas of academic expertise, and they shall also be able to apply their expertise in support of the Naval Services. DON and NPS policies shall support the selection and the development of faculty at NPS having both academic and naval expertise. Faculty programs shall emphasize and reward teaching excellence; consulting expertise with operational commands and other DON organizations; contributions to the work of DON laboratories, systems commands, and headquarters staffs; and other faculty efforts which enhance the effectiveness and prestige of the Naval Services. The NPS faculty evaluation system for pay, promotion, and tenure shall reflect an equal emphasis on:

a. The quality of teaching;

b. Faculty contributions to knowledge (e.g., publications and research); and

c. The active application of that knowledge to the missions of the Navy and Marine Corps.

7. Academic Curricula.

a. Objectives. The objectives of graduate degree programs at the NPS are to prepare officers to fill sub-specialty positions and to reinforce the self-discipline, integrity, and intellectual standards of the officer corps of the Naval Services.

b. Guidance. The following direction is provided for implementation by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and the President, NPS.

(1) The focus of all curricula at the NPS shall be on increasing the combat effectiveness of the Navy and Marine Corps. Similarly with programs at other educational institutions or adherence to criteria for academic accreditation shall be considered only when congruent with the specific needs of the DON.

(2) Programs of education shall not be offered at the NPS if programs of comparable cost, quality, and focus are readily available at other institutions.

(3) Graduate degree and non-degree (short courses) programs in technical and non-technical fields shall be established by the President of the NPS in response to Navy and

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Marine Corps requirements. Hybrid programs combining technical and non-technical academic coursework also shall be established as required to meet DON needs. The President of the NPS shall ensure that all educational programs at NPS are uniformly excellent.

(4) At least a total of four credit hours of course work in maritime strategy and developments in naval warfare shall be required of all DON students who are in residence for three or more academic quarters. Instruction in maritime strategy will include a review of the historical, current, and evolving elements of maritime strategy. Instruction in developments in naval warfare will include an analysis and comparison of present and emerging tactical and strategic naval doctrine as well as an analysis of emerging technical developments and their potential effect upon the prosecution of tactical and strategic naval warfare by the United States, our allies and our potential adversaries.

(5) The President of the NPS shall conduct an active professional lecture series for Navy and Marine Corps students at the School. Lectures by high-level authorities shall be scheduled at regular intervals during the academic year, with the objective of helping students and faculty link their study, teaching, and research efforts to the defense needs of the Nation.

(6) Each curriculum leading to an academic degree shall be reviewed at least once every two years by the curriculum sponsor. The guidance in this instruction shall be used as a touchstone by each curriculum review committee during its meetings and deliberations.

#### 8. Support of the Naval Postgraduate School

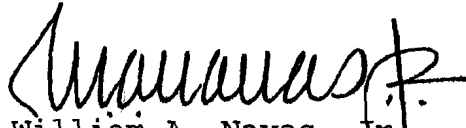
a. Navy and Marine Corps organizations shall work with the NPS to ensure that the School's educational offerings satisfy their requirements. To achieve this objective, DON leaders shall, where possible and appropriate, attempt to involve NPS faculty and students in their organizations' operations, activities and research. DON organizations shall cooperate with the President, NPS to provide experience tours in their organizations for NPS faculty and students.

b. The development and maintenance of educational excellence requires stable resource support. Superior faculty and facilities require relatively constant funding levels for development, maintenance, and growth. The CNO is responsible

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for ensuring the NPS receives adequate, stable fiscal support within the DON.

9. Action. The President of the NPS shall review this instruction with members of the Board of Advisors (BOA) at each meeting of the BOA. Each report of the BOA shall contain a section that specifically addresses implementation of this instruction. In addition, the BOA shall include in each of its reports a discussion of any initiatives required to improve adherence to this instruction.



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