

# America's National Sixty Years of Educating Strategic Thinkers



In the summer of 1946, Roosevelt Hall, named for President Theodore Roosevelt, changed from the Army War College to become the home of the National War College (NWC). Beginning in fall 2005, the National War College's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary began by commemorating the events of the fall and winter of 1945 when military and Federal officials decided that military education needed to include the study of "grand strategy." The initial

cadre set about creating a "high level school to prepare selected ground, air, and naval officers for the exercise of command and the performance of joint staff duties in the highest echelons of the Armed Forces, and to promote the development of understanding between high echelons of the Armed Forces and those of other agencies of government which are an essential part of a national war effort." It is fitting, therefore, that 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special feature occur

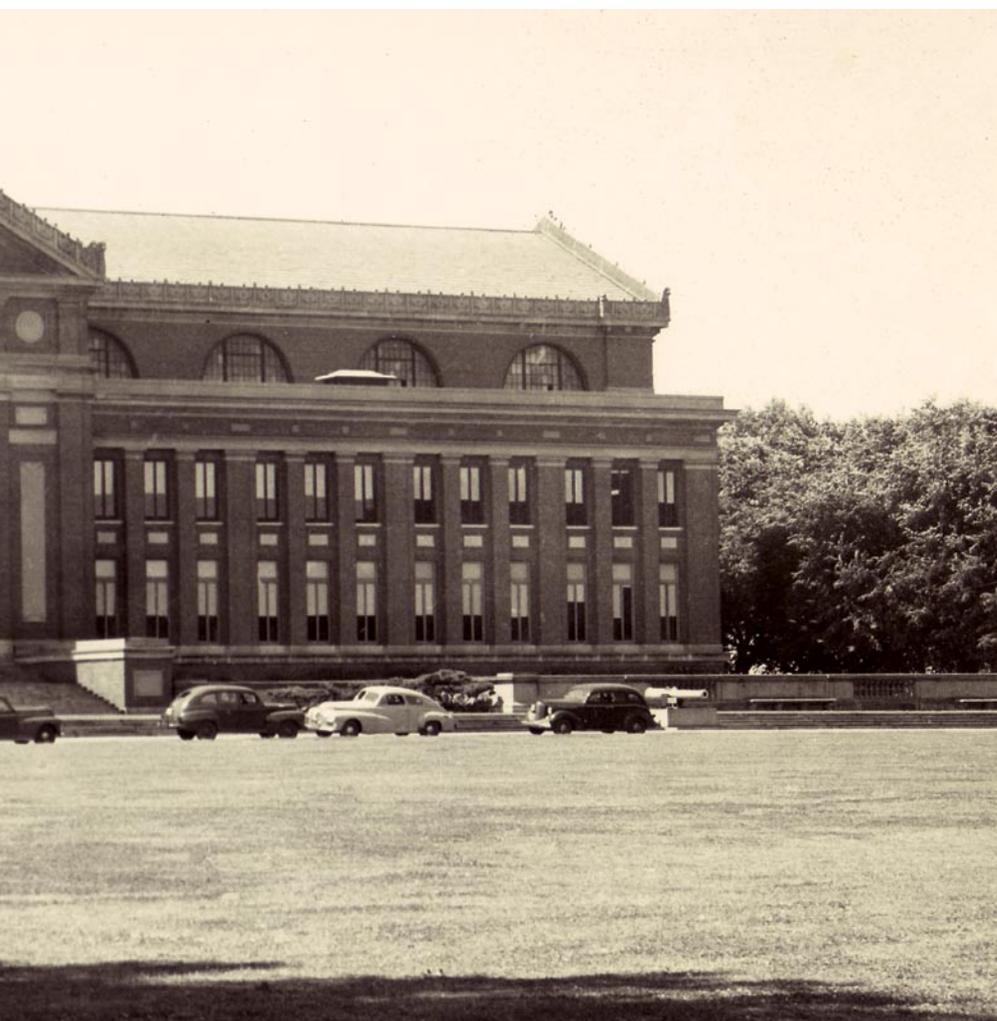
in an issue of *Joint Force Quarterly* focusing on "integrated operations," since joint has become the baseline for the United States military, and security strategies that integrate other agencies and international partners are essential for America and its allies in the current dynamic strategic environment.

The National War College is comprised of students and faculty representing all the U.S. military Services, Coast Guard, Reserve Component, senior civilians in the Department of Defense and other agencies,

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# War College



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as well as international fellows. Students are senior military officers and government officials—leaders all—who spend 10 months studying, reflecting, and debating security strategy and the most relevant issues of the day. This unique learning facility's mission is as critical as ever. The current curriculum contains classical history, which, through constant update of articles and speakers, is tied to understanding how the United States is making history today in Afghanistan and Iraq, globally in the war on terror, and through international security cooperation.

Graduates of NWC have risen to the highest levels of the Armed Forces and government and include Senators, Service Secretaries, Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Service Chiefs, Combatant Commanders, and Ambassadors. Those currently serving or who have recently left the government include Senator John McCain (1974), General/Secretary of State Colin Powell (1976), General John Jumper (1982), General Hugh Shelton (1983), General Peter Pace (1983), General Joe Ralston (1984), General Jim Jones (1985), General

Eric Shinseki (1986), General Ed Eberhart (1987), General Peter Schoomaker (1989), General Norton Schwartz (1989), General Mike Moseley (1990), Ambassador to Thailand William Itoh (1991), and Admiral Bill Fallon (1992). Since 1986, the college has also had a hand in educating international military officers, under the National Defense University International Fellows Program. Many of these students have returned home to serve as Ministers, Chiefs of Defense, and Chiefs of Service, and are honored in the International Fellows Hall of Fame.

In commemoration of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, my predecessor, Rear Admiral Richard Jaskot, USN (Ret.), launched the celebration with a series of distinguished lectures beginning with Colin Powell in September and concluding with a lecture program marking the anniversary of D-Day in June. We also launched the George F. Kennan evening series, which will be three lectures in the area of foreign affairs and national security, and National War College is continuing the noteworthy Empires evening series, which examines historical imperial powers with an eye toward the strategic security issues now facing the United States.

I hope readers enjoy the essays by current faculty and an international alumnus in this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National War College joint professional military education special feature. They should provide an appreciation for the professional, graduate-level programs that prepare future leaders to succeed with tomorrow's most demanding national security challenges. **JFQ**

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