



**NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE
NORFOLK, VA 23511-1702**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

JFSC-JAWS

MEMORANDUM FOR CLASS 2018-2019, JOINT ADVANCED WARFIGHTING SCHOOL
(JAWS)

SUBJECT: Prospective JAWS Student Welcome

Congratulations on your selection to the Joint Advanced Warfighting School!

You have a demanding, but rewarding 10-1/2 month experience ahead of you. Your education here will focus on the skills required to perform duties as a senior campaign planner on any joint, combined, or coalition staff. JAWS is a senior-level, advanced military studies program, and the course work requires graduate-level academic performance as well as mastery of technical military skills. Our program focuses on honing your ability to think about the nature, character, and conduct of war; about the challenges of strategy formulation and strategic leadership in the contemporary and emerging security environment; and about the Operational Art. Please take a moment to look at the enclosed Student Handbook from the current academic year. While things will be slightly different for your academic year, you will see many similarities.

Upon graduation, JAWS students fill key campaign planning billets on combatant command and subunified command staffs, and organize, lead, and facilitate decision-making activities by senior leaders at four-star or equivalent commands and agencies. Our aim is to make you as effective as possible in those responsibilities. To that end, the program includes extensive study in military history, classical and contemporary military theory, strategy formulation, strategy application, strategy translation, and a rigorous practicum in campaign planning. Additionally, you will research and compose a graduate thesis and present and defend your findings.

The thesis is a significant effort involving extensive research and writing. Your thesis topic should deal with a question of relevance and joint interest at the strategic or operational level. To assist you with beginning to think about a topic now, you may wish to visit the JPME Prospective Research Topics Database: <https://prtd.saic.com/prtd/users/intro.jsp> which contains a list of nominated topics from the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, and the Services. If you have the time and desire to discuss a topic with one of the JAWS faculty, please feel free to contact me at miguel.peko.mil@ndu.edu and I will put you in touch with one of our instructors who can help you evaluate the suitability of the topic.

Prior to commencement, JAWS administers a diagnostic writing assessment to all students, which will help us tailor the school's Executive Writing Program to your needs. Please identify either a Test Control Officer or an individual willing to serve as a Proctor for this 60-minute exam. You will soon receive an email with more detailed information regarding this requirement, which we ask that you complete by 1 June 2018. If your current responsibilities precludes this, we will administer the assessment immediately upon your arrival. Additionally, to acclimatize

you to professional graduate-level studies, we are sending you a copy of Donald Kagan's *Thucydides: The Reinvention of History* along with a reader's guide. Please read this short book prior to the JAWS Convocation. While the Peloponnesian Wars occurred almost 2,500 years ago, the themes highlighted by Thucydides and analyzed by Kagan are timeless, consistently emerging in our nation's effort to ensure national security. Your history, strategy, and operational art faculty will refer to these themes throughout the year, drawing parallels where appropriate. An appreciation for these themes will help you get the most from the JAWS curriculum.

If we can assist you in any way, do not hesitate to contact the JFSC Registrar Office at DSN 646-6124; COMM (757) 443-6124 or via email at registrar2@ndu.edu. Again, congratulations on your assignment to the Joint Advanced Warfighting School, the entire JAWS Team looks forward to meeting you this summer.

Sincerely,



Miguel L. Peko
Captain, US Navy
Director, Joint Advanced Warfighting School