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Correspondence Course School: Correspondence Courses in Perspective

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*Correspondence
Courses
in
Perspective*

Are Naval War College correspondence courses really worth the effort? Could an officer spend his limited time more usefully in other professional study programs? What real benefits and rewards do such courses confer?

Commander Keith Robertson, USN, the first regular Navy officer to complete all eight Naval War College correspondence courses, has this to say in a letter to the Editor:

Thank you so much for your considerate and unsolicited copies of your *Naval War College Review*. It was a pleasant surprise.

I am also most appreciative of your congratulatory note. Of course, my accomplishments are minor when you consider the faithful and arduous output of the Naval War College Staff that administers the Naval War College courses. Work such as you supervise is the heart of the system that makes advance study possible. Thanks again, and, keep up the good work.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES IN PERSPECTIVE

Other students in the Correspondence School have provided these enlightening observations:

A retired Rear Admiral in the U.S. Naval Reserve who completed the Naval War College course in *Counter-insurgency*:

A good refresher on a world situation that will be a part and parcel of life in the future, and an insight into what should be called 'modern war.'

A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army who completed the course in *National and International Security Organization*:

This course has inestimably improved my understanding of the difficulties faced by our diplomatic and military personnel throughout the world. The interrelationship of the various security pacts and other international complications seem staggering to the lay person.

A Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy who completed Installment TWO of the course in *International Law*:

Every person in the military should understand his rights and immunities in foreign countries. Conversely, he should be aware of the limits and restrictions to which he is subject and his susceptibility to local jurisdiction. Installment TWO of the correspondence course in International Law has given me a better insight in this regard.

A Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy who completed the course in *Military Planning*:

This course has been quite demanding, but rewarding. I don't feel I have previously encountered a course so comprehensive, complete, and instructive. The essay style coupled with practical preparation of the staff study and commander's directive is a particularly effective teaching device. It has whetted my appetite for other War College correspondence courses.