FY16-18 Educational Skill Requirements

688– Strategic Studies (2301P)

1. Curriculum Number: 688

2. Curriculum taught at NPS or Civilian Institution: NPS

3. Students are Fully Funded or Partially Funded: Fully Funded

4. Curriculum Length in Months: 15

5. APC Required: 265

6. The officers must understand the fundamental concepts and be familiar with the basic functional areas of Naval Strategy and National Security Affairs within the Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Department of Defense (DoD), including:

a. ESR-1. Conduct Research: Assemble information from the full range of data sources to understand international political, economic, and military issues.

b. ESR-2. Analyze Problems: Frame issues as research questions; logically combine evidence and theory to analyze and explain international political, economic, and military developments; and formulate innovative solutions to strategic problems.

c. ESR-3. Communicate Information: Clearly summarize large quantities of information and persuasively present positions and courses of action using a broad range of verbal and written communications formats, including short oral arguments, visual briefs, policy memos, position papers, and comprehensive student theses.

d. ESR-4. International and Comparative Politics: Understand international relations theories, including realist, liberal, and cultural paradigms; the conditions and worldviews that shape state interactions in the international system; the history of modern nationalism and the state system; and the roles of domestic politics, non-state actors, and transnational social movements in shaping international politics.

e. ESR-5. International Economy: Understand the economic factors that shape the international security environment, including the economic dimensions of national security policy and the ways in which economic policies and interests affect military strategy and force structure.

f. ESR-6. International and Military History: Grasp the principal causes of war in the modern era, and understand the political, technological, economic, and other influences that have governed its conduct; understand the social, political, economic, and cultural forces that have contributed to periods of stable peace; and analyze relations between states, including negotiations of peace settlements, military alliances, arms limitation agreements, economic arrangements, and human rights accords.

g. ESR-7. International Organizations: Understand the history of international organizations and their role in world politics, including international mediation and negotiations, formal and informal security arrangements, treaty regimes, and the role of international institutions and non-governmental organizations in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

h. ESR-8. U.S. Security Policy and Strategy: Understand how U.S. national security policy and strategy are formulated. Understand the roles of nuclear forces in the security policies of the United States and other nuclear powers; U.S. nuclear force acquisition, planning, deterrence policy, and employment concepts from the Second World War to the present; and the role of nuclear weapons in alliance politics and international relations.

i. ESR-9. U.S. National Security Policy: Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of US national security policy, military history, and defense, military, and naval strategy.

j. ESR-10. International Environment: Assess the international strategic environment, have knowledge of politico-military affairs, and understand the inner workings of the highest levels of government. Draw policy-relevant conclusions and formulate actionable recommendations.

k. ESR-11. Strategic Guidance and Policy: Demonstrate ability to write strategic-to-operational-level vision and guidance documents calculated to relate the ends of policy to the ways and means of strategic action. Understand the relationship of DIME elements to naval power and joint and maritime strategy. Differentiate and define Service, COCOM, and Naval Component Command roles at the national and theater levels.

l. ESR-12. Strategic Theory and Concepts: Demonstrate ability to evolve concepts and strategy to employ forces at the national and theater levels. Understand how joint and maritime forces may influence the future global security environment. Develop strategic- and theater-level concepts of operations based on higher-level policies and strategies.

m. ESR-13. Coalitions and Alliance Politics: Analyze the principal alliances and international organizations that shape the current security environment, including their role in U.S. national strategy, coalition building, and military missions from peace operations to major wars.

n. ESR-14. Regional Security: Understand the basic security dynamics of at least two major world regions.

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Approved: _____ 5/31/2017
Director, Plans and Policy
(OPNAV N51)
Date

Approved: _____ AUG 09 2017
President, Naval Postgraduate School
Date

Final Approval: _____ 1 FEB 2018
Director, Total Force Manpower,
Training, and Education
Requirements Division (OPNAV N12)
Date