



CALVERT TASK GROUP

DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP

CTG PRINCIPLES FOR RESTORING & SUSTAINING MILITARY EXCELLENCE

The United States Naval Academy's mission is to develop officers of competence, character, and commitment prepared to lead sailors and Marines in peace and war. Admissions, curriculum, faculty, military training, and governance must all serve that mission. Recent debates have raised legitimate questions about Academy policies and culture. Reform, however, should be guided by evidence rather than ideology. CTG offers the following principles:

1 MISSION FIRST

Policy must be judged by whether it produces officers better prepared to lead in combat. If not, it does not belong. Until stronger longitudinal evidence is available, decisions should rest on the best existing evidence and remain open to revision.

2 CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY AND POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

The armed forces serve the Constitution under lawful civilian authority—not a party, ideology, or institutional interest. All military personnel should be evaluated on competence, character, judgment, and performance, not political beliefs. USNA's curriculum should encourage critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and constitutional understanding without promoting any ideological orthodoxy.

3 MERIT AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Merit is demonstrated through intellect, leadership, integrity, resilience, moral courage, judgment, and performance under pressure. Race, sex, ethnicity, and political affiliation are not measures of merit. All should compete under the same standards, which must not be manipulated to achieve predetermined demographic outcomes.

4 OBJECTIVE STANDARDS

Admissions, commissioning, promotion, and command selection must employ mission-related, consistent, measurable standards that are validated against actual results.

5 EVIDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY, NOT IDEOLOGY

Admissions, education, training, leadership development, and governance must be evaluated by outcomes—not assertion, anecdote, tradition, or political fashion. The Navy should establish a permanent longitudinal research program to track officer cohorts and measure operational performance, retention, command success, and strategic leadership. CTG will revise its recommendations when credible evidence warrants. Policies should be continually measured to determine effectiveness.

6 EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Boards of Visitors require independence, preparation time, access to information, and control of their agendas. Meaningful oversight cannot be provided by boards that arrive unprepared or merely endorse institutional decisions.

7 FACULTY AND CURRICULUM

Military and civilian faculty provide different but indispensable strengths. The proper balance should be determined by educational effectiveness, not by institutional or political preference. Every course should periodically demonstrate how it contributes to developing capable naval officers prepared for future conflict.

CONCLUSION

The objective is to produce exceptional officers with competence, character, and judgment to successfully lead sailors and Marines through the uncertainty, complexity, and moral weight of war.

CALVERT TASK GROUP IS AN
INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OF
NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATES
COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING
THE NAVAL ACADEMY, THE NAVY
AND THE MARINE CORPS.



CALVERTTASKGROUP.ORG