

**There** was the roar of supersonic jets overhead, the rousing graduation address, the unending cheers of family and friends at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. But for the more than 1,000 midshipmen who graduated yesterday from the U.S. Naval Academy, the culmination of four years at Annapolis came down to a single, exuberant gesture—hats off!

Before the traditional tossing of the hats, and after a flyover by the Blue Angels squadron, Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered a graduation address that touched on the challenges facing the midshipmen who would be commissioned while the country was at war.

Naval Academy graduation

## Hats off and anchors aweigh

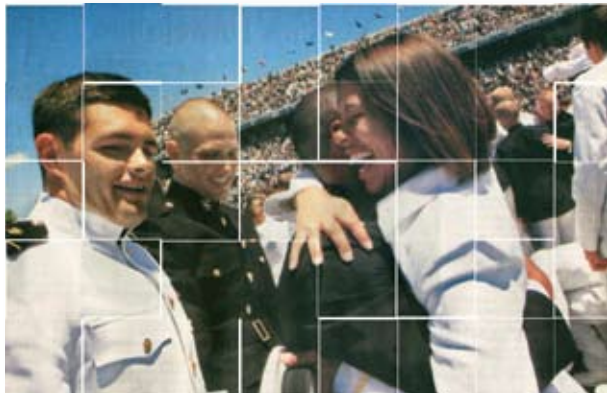


“We live in dangerous times in a very dangerous world,” said Mullen, a 1968 academy graduate.

Of the 1,037 graduates, 247 chose to train as Navy pilots, 235 will be assigned to the Marine Corps, 117 will serve on submarines, 87 will become naval flight officers, and the rest chose assignments ranging from surface warfare to working with the medical corps.

The class had 16 international students, including Chiraz Chakroun, 25, of Tunisia, who will leave her classmates to serve in the Tunisian navy. “I’m sure we will be seeing each other in the Mediterranean,” she said.

— Raymond McCaffrey



Naval Academy graduation


## Hats off and anchors aweigh

— Raymond McCaffrey

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