

2014

Intellectual Awakenings

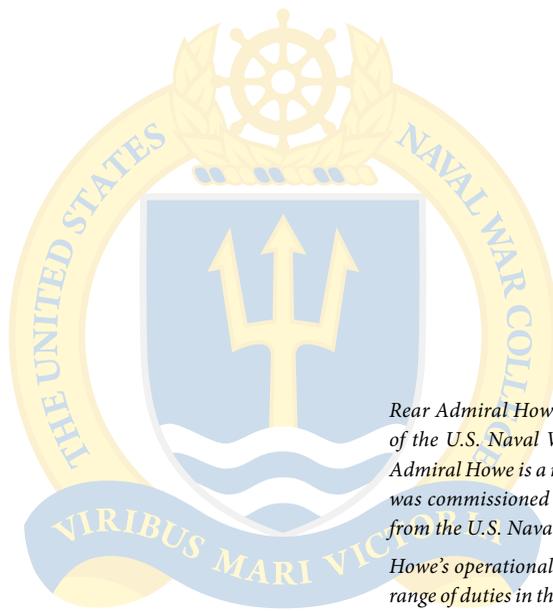
P. Gardner Howe III

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Rear Admiral Howe became the fifty-fifth President of the U.S. Naval War College on 8 July 2014. Rear Admiral Howe is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He was commissioned in 1984 following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Howe's operational assignments have included a full range of duties in the Naval Special Warfare and joint Special Operations communities. He commanded Naval Special Warfare Unit 3 in Bahrain, Naval Special Warfare Group 3 in San Diego, and Special Operations Command, Pacific in Hawaii. His service overseas includes multiple deployments to the western Pacific and Southwest Asia and participation in Operations EARNEST WILL, PROVIDE PROMISE, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM.

His key joint and staff assignments include current operations officer at Special Operations Command, Pacific; Chief Staff Officer, Naval Special Warfare Development Group; Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Policy at Naval Special Warfare Command; Director of Legislative Affairs for U.S. Special Operations Command; and Assistant Commanding Officer, Joint Special Operations Command.

Howe graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1995 with a master of arts in national security affairs (special operations / low-intensity conflict), and from the National War College in 2002 with a master of arts in national security.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



Intellectual Awakenings

IN EARLY JULY 2014, I stood proudly on the stage of Spruance Auditorium and assumed duties as the fifty-fifth President of the Naval War College. As I said at the time, I was incredibly humbled and honored to join the long line of institution leaders going back some thirteen decades to the days of our founding President, Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce. The baton was passed to me by a leader whom I hold in the highest regard, Vice Admiral Ted Carter. I intend to maintain the momentum he has engendered, and I expect that, certainly in the near term, you will see more emphasis on continuity than on change.

I come to the College with a very personal appreciation for the value of higher education. As a young officer, I arrived at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in 1993 pretty sure I “knew it all.” It only took about a half a semester for me to realize that my knowledge of the world was limited to the relatively narrow niche that my engineering-oriented academy education had provided and the mission-focused experience I had gained as a special warfare operator. The broadening impact that my NPS education had on me personally was life changing, as my eyes were opened to the greater world around me. The degree I earned in National Security Affairs (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) symbolized the mastery of the subjects required, but more significantly it signaled my birth as a critical thinker. My equally important second “intellectual awakening” came about a decade later, during my year as a student at the National War College. The experience I had in the classrooms at both institutions was transformational, and I am committed to working to provide the resources and support necessary to keep the Naval War College, as it has always been, at the forefront of Joint Professional Military Education.

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) recently directed the intellectual leadership of the Navy, at all ranks and in all locations, to *Focus* on efforts to reinvigorate our collective strategic mind-set; to *Nurture* those individuals and those processes that create innovative ideas; and to *Align* our thinking to future challenges. After reading the College's 2014–18 Strategic Plan, it's clear to me that the College already plays an important role in each of these lines of effort; that said, I also recognize there is always room for refinement and enhancement. The fall trimester of academic year 2014–15 will be a period of discovery for me as I seek to understand, at a fairly granular level, how this great institution executes its primary mission, and explore with faculty and staff those adaptations necessary to operationalize fully the CNO's guidance. In future "President's Forum" columns, I will share with you the results of these discussions and our plans for the future.

The College began the fall trimester with two long-time leaders missing from the battle roster. Ambassador (retired) Mary Ann Peters, our outstanding Provost over the past six years, will assume the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where she will coordinate President and Mrs. Carter's goodwill efforts across the globe. The mission of the Center, founded in 1982, is to "wage peace, fight disease, and build hope" worldwide. Mary Ann's experience as a diplomat and as an educator will serve her well in this challenging new position. While here, she guided the College through some particularly challenging times and significantly advanced the College's academic, research, operational leadership, and international programs. She will be missed. The second deletion from our roster came with the retirement of Professor Barney Rubel, Dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, who has retired to his farm in Illinois after forty-three years of active-duty and Naval War College service. A retired naval aviation captain with more than three thousand flight hours in A-7 and F-18 aircraft, he spent a cumulative total of twenty-four years at the College as an active-duty officer and as a civilian researcher and educator. One of the most strategically minded leaders at the Naval War College, Barney leaves behind a great legacy—in the minds of the students and faculty he mentored and in the College's very culture of operationally focused scholarship. Our efforts to identify reliefs for both of these exceptional leaders are currently under way.

Erin and I are thrilled to be joining the Naval War College team, and we are grateful for the warm welcome we have received. We look forward to getting to know all of you in the months and years ahead.

P. GARDNER HOWE III
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College