

2003

President's Forum

Rodney P. Rempt

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Rear Admiral Rempt assumed duties as the forty-eighth President of the Naval War College on 22 August 2001. Relieved on 9 July 2003 by Rear Admiral Ronald A. Route, he reported for duty as Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, in the grade of vice admiral, on 1 August 2003.

Vice Admiral Rempt is a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Initial assignments included deployments to Vietnam aboard USS Coontz (DLG 9) and USS Somers (DDG 34). He later commanded USS Antelope (PG 86), USS Callaghan (DDG 994), and USS Bunker Hill (CG 52). Among his shore assignments were the Naval Sea Systems Command as the initial project officer for the Mark 41 Vertical Launch System; Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) staff as the Aegis Weapon System program coordinator; director of the Prospective Commanding Officer/Executive Officer Department, Surface Warfare Officers Schools Command; and Director, Anti-Air Warfare Requirements Division (OP-75) on the CNO's staff. Rear Admiral Rempt also served in the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, where he initiated development of Naval Theater Ballistic Missile Defense, continuing those efforts as Director, Theater Air Defense on the CNO's staff. More recently, he was Program Executive Officer, Theater Air Defense, the first Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Theater Combat Systems, the first Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Missile Defense, and Director, Surface Warfare (N76) on the CNO's staff. He holds master's degrees in systems analysis from Stanford University and in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimension.

—Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE concisely the mission of institutions like the Naval War College, but if one were called upon to do so in three words or less, it would be to *create new ideas*. New ideas are incredibly powerful, and for this reason they are frequently viewed with skepticism and wariness. An old adage says that the only thing more difficult than getting a new idea into a mind is getting an old one out!

New ideas can arise from many sources, and they can be driven by everything from desperation to quiet contemplation. It can be argued, however, that the best ideas are born from study, reflection, and careful analysis of options—plus passion and drive. It is this process that we seek to nurture at the Naval War College.

The Newport complex, which includes the Naval War College, the Navy Warfare Development Command, and the CNO's Strategic Studies Group, serves as fertile ground for creativity. This process is facilitated by:

- Faculty, student, and staff research and experimentation activities that are conducted in a free and risk-accepting atmosphere.
- The study of current global security events within the context of relevant historical precedents and classical principles of war.
- Mentorship from a world-class faculty that includes proven scholars/educators and experienced military operators.
- Close and frequent interaction and seminar discussions among students from all military services and key civilian agencies within the national security arena.
- The opportunity to understand better, learn alongside, and socialize with top-quality military officers from more than sixty different nations.

- Sharing ideas with visiting lecturers ranging from service chiefs and combatant commanders to world-renowned authors, statesmen, and jurists.
- Having the luxury to step back from operational demands for a year to concentrate exclusively on professional development and intellectual growth.
- Taking advantage of superb academic resources such as the Eccles Library, extensive historical archives, and an informative museum and naval curator.
- Participating in sophisticated war games and crisis exercises with joint and fleet staffs, and with senior federal, state, and local government officials.
- Seeing concepts developed, gamed, tested in fleet experiments, and introduced to the theater of war with great effect.
- Working and studying in a unique collegial atmosphere where new ideas are welcomed and new perspectives are encouraged.

MISSION

The Naval War College serves the nation by providing graduate and professional maritime and joint military education, advanced research and study, gaming, and public outreach programs, to:

- Educate future leaders
 - Prepare U.S. and international military officers and civilians to meet national security challenges as senior leaders in naval, joint, inter-agency, and multinational arenas.
 - Enable students to develop and execute the national military strategy and conduct maritime and joint operations applying sound strategic and operational art.
- Define the future Navy
 - Develop advanced strategic and operational concepts for employment of naval, joint, and multinational forces.
 - Assist the Chief of Naval Operations in defining the future Navy and its role in national security.
 - Provide leadership in shaping the global maritime order to foster peaceful use of the world's oceans.

Creative license exists, in part, as the result of the academic freedom that underpins all of the College's activities. This is reflected in the college's formal guiding principles, which include the following statement:

In order to maintain the quality of an NWC education and the ability to engage in research and other scholarly activities at the highest standards, we are guided by our commitment to:

- Safeguard individual academic freedom and the academic integrity of the institution.
- Maintain our academic independence and ownership of our curriculum.

VISION

The Naval War College will be the world's most respected institution for educating and inspiring innovative leaders who think strategically and act decisively to direct naval, joint, and multinational operations to achieve national security objectives.

- We will be foremost in providing the nation's military leaders and statesmen with rigorous analysis, independent research, and robust war gaming to resolve critical national security issues.
- We will continue to lead the world in the conduct of "original research in all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war or the prevention of war."

No one can count, track, or document the host of new ideas and concepts that arise from this intellectual crucible. But in recent months we have seen evidence of creativity in efforts that served as the foundation for the Navy's vision known as "Seapower 21"; in the development of operational concepts for the employment of a new class of Littoral Combat Ships; and in dozens of point papers and crisis-management games that have helped establish the nation's new homeland security posture. Countless other innovations and concepts have no doubt emerged in the seminar rooms, auditoriums, and game cells of the Newport complex and its extended locations around the world.

As Justice Holmes so astutely noted, once the habit of developing new ideas is developed, it will help generate new ideas for the rest of a career and over an entire lifetime. Education early in one's career guarantees the maximum return on the investment represented by the time and effort dedicated to it. For our Navy and our officers, it is our investment in the future.

In the final analysis, education generates new ideas. New ideas are needed to transform the military services to meet new challenges effectively—and it is transformed forces that will best be able to protect the nation in the demanding and uncertain decades ahead.

RODNEY P. REMPT

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College*