

1998

President's Notes

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Recommended Citation

Stark, James R. (1998) "President's Notes," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 51 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol51/iss2/2>

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We are pleased to have Coast Guard officer and senior civilian students in all of our academic programs, including our resident program in Newport, our Nonresident Seminars around the country, and in our Command and Staff Correspondence Course. These students are always bright and energetic, and many of them go on to positions of great responsibility.

President's Notes

IHAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST strengths of the Naval War College is in its diversity. Our student body, faculty, and staff are composed of representatives of all of the military services, as well as many defense agencies. But, by design, we still retain a definite "salt water" flavor. We

Rear Admiral Stark was commissioned in 1965 at the U.S. Naval Academy, studied at the University of Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar, and earned a doctorate in political science at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He has served on the Navy Staff, the National Security Council Staff, and as Executive Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel. His sea service has included command of USS *Julius A. Furer* (FFG 6), USS *Leahy* (CG 16), and, from 1994 to 1995, the Nato Standing Naval Force Atlantic, deployed in the Adriatic Sea. He assumed the duties of President of the Naval War College in June 1995.

are called the *Naval* (rather than the "Navy") War College because our primary mission is to meet the educational needs of senior officers of the nation's three sea services: the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Coast Guard. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the third member of this maritime triad and to acknowledge the long and distinguished history of service which this dedicated group of men and women has rendered to the nation.

The relationship between the War College and the Coast Guard goes back over a century. In 1894, less than ten years after our founding, the Naval War College welcomed its first student from the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service (the forerunner of the modern Coast Guard). From that point forward, Coast Guard officers have served with distinction as students, faculty members, and as visiting scholars.

Over the decades, the U.S. Coast Guard has protected the nation's borders, saved countless lives, revolutionized maritime safety and navigation, and served as an important augmentation to the U.S. Navy in times of war. During both world wars the Coast Guard became a part of the U.S. Navy, providing efficient ships with well-trained crews to help meet wartime demands. From the jungles of Guadalcanal to the beaches of Normandy, Coast Guardsmen fought and died alongside their fellow servicemen. During the Vietnam conflict, the Coast Guard retained its independence and provided invaluable service in such areas as port security, aids to navigation, handling hazardous cargoes, riverine and coastal interdiction, and naval gunfire support. (Elsewhere in this issue you will find a fascinating article which sheds more light on the Coast Guard's service in Southeast Asia.) Coast Guard personnel again answered the call during operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, providing their unique expertise and team spirit to this critical national undertaking.

When we speak about the United States Coast Guard, we need to recognize that it is, in fact, one of the largest and most capable "navies" in the world. The service is manned by a uniformed military force of over forty-three thousand active-duty and reserve members, who are supported by over 5,500 civilian employees. Another thirty-five thousand members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary provide additional support on the water and ashore.


With over 210 fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, 225 cutters, and over 1,100 smaller craft, the service has a "blue water" capability as well as the more visible coastal mission with which many people are more familiar. The Coast Guard is expanding its work with our allies around the globe. This is particularly advantageous in the case of many smaller navies, whose missions are geared toward coastal defense, law enforcement, and fisheries protection, and who feel a close functional tie with this smaller U.S. service. Also, since the Coast Guard is an arm of the Department of Transportation, it is sometimes seen as less intrusive than a force representing the U.S. Department of Defense. In recent

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years, several high endurance cutters have deployed to the Mediterranean and Black seas to conduct operations with regional navies and to make calls in a number of exotic ports. It looks like the old adage "Join the Navy and see the world" may have to be modified to include our fellow mariners who sail the seas in white, black, and red-hulled ships.

We are pleased to have Coast Guard officer and senior civilian students in all of our academic programs, including our resident program in Newport, our Nonresident Seminars around the country, and in our Command and Staff Correspondence Course. These students are always bright and energetic, and many of them go on to positions of great responsibility. One example is a young commander named Bob Kramek, who graduated with highest distinction from the College of Naval Warfare in 1981 and eventually became the twentieth (and current) Commandant of the Coast Guard. In January, I was pleased to present Admiral Kramek with the Naval War College Distinguished Graduate Award in recognition of his many accomplishments. He joins the ranks of such previous recipients as the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili, U.S. Army, and the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Joseph Prueher, U.S. Navy. Each of the officers selected for this award is an example of the high caliber of students who study at the Naval War College and then use the skills and knowledge gained here to better serve their nation.

The cover of this issue of the *Review* portrays one of the Coast Guard's newest ships, the buoy tender *Ida Lewis*. This cutter, named for a famous Newport native (and homeported only a mile from the College at the Naval Education and Training Center), provides all of New England with a superb example of the high-caliber personnel and equipment that have made the Coast Guard the world-class professional force it is today. The Naval War College is proud of its role in the professional development of the Coast Guard's future leaders, and we hope our efforts contribute toward keeping them "*Semper Paratus*"—always prepared!



J.R. Stark
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
President, Naval War College