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President's Notes

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“Our academic program is a demanding one. It has to be, given our mission and the nature of the world around us. The profession of maintaining peace absolutely requires that we continue to be ready, willing, and able to defend it if the need arises.”

President's Notes

ON WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST, as this issue of the *Naval War College Review* is distributed, a formal convocation ceremony will signal the start of the 1992-93 academic year at the Naval War College. Our resident U.S. and international students will then begin their seminar and lecture hall interaction with our faculty, in ways very similar to those seen at the Naval War College during 107 previous academic years. However, the challenge of keeping the curriculum relevant in the face of the unprecedented changes sweeping the globe is perhaps more formidable than ever before.

Generally speaking, the faculty, staff, and students will again labor together to satisfy the College's mission, which is to enhance the professional capabilities of its students to make sound decisions in both command and management positions and conduct research leading to the development of advanced strategic and tactical concepts for the future employment of naval, joint, and combined

Admiral Strasser holds a B.S. from the Naval Academy, two master's degrees from the Fletcher School, Tufts University and, from the same school, a Ph.D. in political science. He graduated from the command and staff course at the Naval War College in 1972. He commanded the USS *O'Callahan* (FF 1051), Destroyer Squadron 35, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Three, and Battle Group Foxtrot. His seven years in Washington included two years in the office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

forces. Curricula that have been prepared for the fall trimester will be put into the hands of students. Concurrently, faculty who do not teach in the fall will increase their efforts to get their winter trimester's curriculum finalized.

While a convocation ceremony is a memorable milestone in the academic year that it appears to initiate, the process of professional military education, of preparing to teach, of teaching, and evaluating that effort, is in fact an unending process within the five colleges that constitute the Naval War College. Every major event throughout the world must be examined and principal addresses of world leaders studied in order to ensure that the most current information is presented to our students.

A most significant input to our curriculum development effort was provided earlier this year when President Bush articulated the National Security Strategy of the United States. In doing so, he noted that the world remains a dangerous place and that we must not only protect our citizens and our interests but help create a new world in which our fundamental values flourish. We must work with others, but we must remain a leader. The president identified four broad, enduring, national security interests and objectives for the United States for this decade. Those interests and objectives, from which is derived guidance for the development of our national military strategy, are: the survival of the United States as a free and independent nation, with its fundamental values intact and its institutions and people secure; a healthy and growing economy to ensure opportunity for individual prosperity and resources for national endeavors at home and abroad; healthy, cooperative, and politically vigorous relations with allies and friendly nations; and a stable and secure world, where political and economic freedom, human rights, and democratic institutions flourish.

These bedrock national interests and their supporting objectives were expanded upon in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' National Military Strategy, which in many ways is more complex than the containment strategy of the Cold War era, which focused upon the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. As explained by the Chairman, General Colin Powell, our nation's fundamental military missions are, first, strategic deterrence and defense. Despite recent arms control agreements and unilateral initiatives, a great number of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons exist which could be used to threaten or coerce the United States or its allies. The situation is complicated by the increasing number of governments which have obtained advanced warhead and missile technology. Our nation's submarine-based strategic nuclear missiles are becoming responsible for an increasing share of this mission.

The second military mission, forward presence in regions vital to national interests, is key to averting crises, preventing wars, and demonstrating American participation in global affairs. U.S. forces deployed overseas show American commitment, lend weight to its alliances, enhance regional stability, and provide a rapid crisis-response capability. Naval forces have long been a natural means

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of forward presence, and they will become even more important in that role as the nation reduces the number of its overseas bases. Satisfactory completion of this mission will make it less likely that we will be forced to undertake the following one, particularly on a large scale.

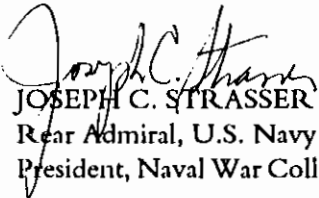
Crisis response is the third military mission. Regional contingencies we could face are many and varied and may arise on short notice. Our forces must therefore be able to respond rapidly to deter and, if necessary, to fight unilaterally or as part of a combined effort. This response might range from a single discriminate strike to the employment of overwhelming force to defeat an aggressor. It is important to note that when the United States is responding to one regional crisis, potential aggressors in other areas may be tempted to take advantage of our preoccupation. Thus, we cannot reduce forces to a level such that as we respond to one crisis we or our allies would be vulnerable elsewhere. Naval forces, because of their forward positioning and expeditionary nature, have frequently been the first called upon to respond to crises.

Reconstitution, the fourth military mission, is the nation's hedge against the possible future emergence of a new global threat. As we reduce the size of our military forces in response to the demise of the global threat, we must preserve a credible capability to discourage any potential adversary from competing militarily with the United States. This ability to reconstitute our force is intended to deter such a power from militarizing and, if deterrence fails, to provide a global warfighting capability. Reconstitution involves forming, training, and fielding new fighting units and activating the industrial base on a large scale. It also involves maintaining technology, doctrine, and innovation necessary to retain the competitive edge in decisive areas of potential military competition.

To ensure we have the military means available to satisfy the missions within the National Military Strategy, the current administration has endorsed the Joint Chiefs of Staff's concept of "the Base Force." It is a total force, a joint force, a carefully tailored core capability which is a combination of all our active components. For the Navy, this equates to a fleet of about 450 ships with twelve aircraft carriers, while the Marine Corps would retain 150,000 troops. The Base Force could be augmented with reserve forces in the event of a major crisis or, as just mentioned, could be expanded further through the reconstitution of general war capabilities if warranted.

I offer this very brief explanation of the National Security Strategy, the National Military Strategy, and the Base Force as just one example, albeit a most important one, of the plethora of material that must continually be reviewed for inclusion in our curriculum. At the Naval War College, in the context of these major policy and planning guidelines, our faculty and students are presenting and studying graduate-level courses entitled Strategy and Policy, National Security Decision Making, and Joint Military Operations. I can think of no better way to explain the professional achievements of our faculty and students, and

the staff which supports them, than to address the nature of the academic challenges they face daily. As I said above, our academic program is a demanding one. It has to be, given our mission and the nature of the world around us. The profession of maintaining peace absolutely requires that we continue to be ready, willing, and able to defend it if the need arises. This was true on October 6, 1884, when the College was founded, and it will continue to be true in the years ahead.


JOSEPH C. STRASSER
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College



**Winners of the
Hugh G. Nott Prize
Awards for 1991**

The President of the Naval War College has announced the winners of the 1991 *Naval War College Review* Prize Article contest:

First Prize (\$500) to Professor George W. Baer, of the Naval War College, for "U.S. Naval Strategy 1890-1945" (Winter 1991);

Second Prize (\$300) to Lieutenant Commander Robert W.H. McKillip, Canadian Forces Maritime Command, for "Undermining Technology by Strategy: Resolving the Trade Protection Dilemma of 1917" (Summer 1991); and,

Third Prize (\$200) to Professor Andrew E. Gibson, of the Naval War College, and Commander Jacob L. Shuford, U.S. Navy, for "Desert Shield and Strategic Sealift" (Spring 1991).

These awards are made possible through the generosity of the Naval War College Foundation, a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of the educational resources of the Naval War College in areas where federal funds are not available. The prizes are given in memory of the late Captain Hugh G. Nott, U.S. Navy (Retired), who made major contributions over a period of ten years to the professional life of the Naval War College.

