

1992

President's Notes

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Recommended Citation

Strasser, Joseph C. (1992) "President's Notes," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 45 : No. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol45/iss3/1>

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President's Notes

THERE IS A GROUP OF DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN who for the most part remain in the background but nonetheless provide a great deal of dedicated support to the Naval War College. I have decided to introduce you to the great work that they do through this quarter's President's Notes because their assistance is evident in just about everything we do here. I can tell you that I personally am very grateful for their help since without it we would not be able to do many of the things that make this College such a special place.

The Naval War College Foundation began its service to the College in 1969. It was the brainchild of Vice Admiral Richard G. Colbert, U.S. Navy, during his tenure as thirty-fourth President of the College, and a small number of civilian friends. Over the ensuing years, the Foundation has grown from its founding size of 176 to its current membership of 2,100 and has enabled the War College

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.

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The pillars on which any successful graduate-level institution rest are its faculty and library. The Naval War College is certainly no exception. Our civilian and military faculty is of the highest caliber, and the library was specifically singled out by our accrediting body as a particular strength. Both the faculty and the library have been generously supported over the years by the Foundation.

The Foundation assists with academic research, travel, and the presentation of scholarly papers so essential to having a faculty that is conversant with current academic developments. Fellows in the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, along with an annual conference sponsored by the Center's Oceans Law and Policy Department, are supported by the Foundation, as are the research efforts conducted by the incumbent of the College's Stockton Chair of International Law.

Support given by the Foundation to the College's library is provided annually in the form of three grants. One is for the purchase of missing periodicals, another for the restoration and preservation of rare books and other library materials, and the final one is for the library's world famous Naval Historical Collection, which contains many valuable books and manuscripts.

For many years the War College has held a conference or symposium in November between our first and second trimesters and again in March between the second and third. These one or two-day sessions cover topics of great interest which are not treated in depth in our basic curricula. The November conference traditionally deals with ethics issues while the March meeting has covered military-media relations, military-congressional issues and, this year, Total Quality Leadership. Distinguished speakers under the sponsorship of the War College Foundation journey to Newport to assist our students as they grapple with these tough issues. Additionally, we are most fortunate to have members of the Foundation join us as our guests during these between-trimester activities.

Six times each year the College is the scene for an evening lecture presented by a well-known expert discussing a topic of current interest or one not emphasized in our core course. We rely totally on the Foundation to support this evening lecture program, which consists of presentations in the Contemporary Civilization series, the Admiral Raymond A. Spruance Memorial Lecture, and the International Lecture. These lectures are open not only to our students but also their families as well as friends of the College in Newport and the surrounding areas. These presentations are extremely popular with our civilian neighbors, particularly during the long New England winter.

Recent participants in the Evening Lecture program have included Vice Admiral and Mrs. James B. Stockdale, Mr. Lee Iacocca (Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Chrysler Corporation), Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering (United States Permanent Representative to the United

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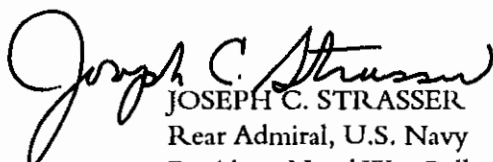
Nations), His Excellency Shaikh Saud Nasir Al-Sabah (Ambassador of the State of Kuwait), Mr. Tom Clancy (well-known author), and Mr. Richard Underwood (advisor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on photographic matters for the manned space program).

The Foundation also provides invaluable help to the Naval War College Press, which is the College's publishing mechanism. The Foundation has supported the publishing of twelve books (including the College's centennial history in 1984 entitled *Sailors and Scholars*), with two more in preparation for publishing. The Foundation also sponsors an annual award for the three best articles published during the previous year in the *Naval War College Review*.

Founder's Hall, the original site of the Naval War College, currently is the home of the Naval War College Museum, which also benefits from steady Foundation support. In general, the Foundation provides some operational assistance for the Museum, one of Newport's popular tourist attractions, and also helps to collect suitable items for museum or exhibit display.

Other projects and areas which the Foundation generously supports include the sponsorship of awards for students at our June graduation ceremony, the coordination of alumni affairs activities for the College, and supporting a biennial conference associated with our senior international college.

I think the above discussion serves to highlight the impact of this organization on our quality of life in Newport. We are indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group of selfless individuals who are interested in our activities and anxious to assist. They certainly enrich the Naval War College experience for our students, staff, and faculty, and make this a more academically pleasant place to be.


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

Individuals interested in obtaining more information about the Naval War College Foundation may contact the Foundation's Executive Director at (401) 848-8300 or by writing the Executive Director, Naval War College Foundation, Naval War College, Newport, R.I. 02841-5010.