

1989

President's Notes

Ronald J. Kurth
U.S. Navy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Kurth, Ronald J. (1989) "President's Notes," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 42 : No. 4 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol42/iss4/2>

This President's Forum is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.



President's Notes

What the Naval War College Foundation Means to the Naval War College

One can argue that while the success of any organization depends ultimately upon the decisions of its leader, the difference between excellence and adequacy rests upon the vitality of its support. The Naval War College Foundation is a highly successful supporting arm aimed at fostering excellence in professional military education. Indeed, the assistance provided by the Foundation has helped drive the College to its current premier position as the locus for naval graduate education, research and strategic study.

Twenty years ago a dynamic group of College alumni and friends of the Navy created a foundation trust not only to support the mission of the Naval War College, but also to advance its execution. The founding members, soon numbering 176, donated \$1,000 each. The trust has since tripled in value. Originally the trust provided funds to purchase artifacts, historical documents of military significance, and art. But it quickly moved toward broader support, funding a range of enrichment programs which could not be sponsored by the Department of the Navy.

The Foundation's annual gift to the Naval War College profoundly enhances this institution's stature. It provides that extra edge which not only deepens and broadens the education of senior and mid-grade warfighters, but also helps create the rich academic environment which enables the President to attract and keep the finest faculty and staff to teach and support 500 U.S. and international students. The return per dollar in professional education, research and strategic conceptualization is remarkably high, especially considering that the War College's annual operating costs amount to only

16 million dollars, less than one-third the price tag of a modern naval fighter aircraft.

The Naval War College Foundation makes possible a number of academic conferences and symposia which bring the students together with members of the government's executive and legislative branches, the media, foreign dignitaries, scientists, political theorists and prominent business figures. Our students wrestle with difficult issues regarding the basis of national strategy, the rationale of our force structure, the best means to integrate forces in joint operations, the ethical obligations of the military to the ideals of the society it protects, military operations and the press, and executive relations with the Congress in the planning and execution of national military strategy. Similarly, Contemporary Civilization and International lectures delivered at the College expose both students and faculty to a wide range of local and international figures who speak on topics varying from American business in the international market to Nato's role in a changing Europe.

In addition, the Foundation makes possible original research on specific strategic problems. Sponsorship of special studies, support for academic fellowships, annual prize awards for superior student essays, and acquisition of archival research materials all provide strong stimuli for faculty, students and visiting fellows to interact and tackle issues of emerging and long-range strategic significance.

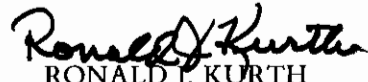
The Foundation also makes some intangible contributions to the War College. For example, it sponsors Naval Command College graduate reunions, held on alternate years, which help maintain ties formed at the College among the present and future leaders of over 40 navies. Thus it promotes unparalleled bonds of international friendship and cooperation among men of a common calling. The Foundation serves as host to many social receptions that welcome both students and distinguished visitors, thus adding a touch of warmth and hospitality to life at the War College. This positive and lasting impression given to each student and visitor contributes to the continued success of the institution.

The importance of the Foundation's assistance to the Naval War College will take on even greater proportions in the future. The new era of jointness and the requirements of the Goldwater-Nichols Act mandate radical changes in personnel management aimed at allowing more Navy officers the benefit of joint military education. Consequently, the College must meet the demands of a larger student body than we now serve. The Naval War College Foundation will probably be a major source of support for this growth. Such support will likely require growth in the Foundation Trust and continued expansion of its membership. The Foundation is currently considering the pursuit of new objectives to meet this challenging but most worthwhile and rewarding future.

4 Naval War College Review

To sustain the critical edge of excellence which this institution now enjoys, and to meet the growing challenges of future joint military education, the Naval War College will depend increasingly upon the Foundation. The fine and dedicated men and women who make up the Foundation—and especially its Board of Trustees—serve in a quiet, steady and deliberate manner. Through their vitality and pride in the Naval War College they have made the difference in the College's achievement of excellence.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *Review*, there is an article which covers more specifically what the Naval War College Foundation accomplishes here.


RONALD J. KURTH
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College