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## The Naval War College Foundation

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## The Naval War College Foundation

Just before they graduate next June, the students of the Naval War College will participate in the Current Strategy Forum, along with several hundred guests. The latter, from all over the United States and from many different fields of endeavor, will share with the students a number of lectures given by prominent officers and civilians. Then, in seminars, they and the students will wrestle with the issues raised by the speakers.

Later, at graduation, a number of students will be awarded prizes for the excellence of their work. Several people who have written for this journal will also be recognized and rewarded.

Activities and awards such as these serve the Navy and the nation. Yet, because the federal government often is at cross purposes with itself, the Navy cannot always pay for them. Still, these things and many other good works at the Naval War College are made to happen. How do they happen?

In most instances, it is the members of the Naval War College Foundation who make such things happen.

Who are these people? How many of them are there? Who started this foundation? Who presides over it now, and who runs its day-by-day activities?

It was 20 years ago this autumn when the President of the College, Vice Admiral Richard M. Colbert, along with Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, John Nicholas Brown (a prominent Rhode Island citizen who once had been Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air), and a few other people (who saw both the need and the opportunity to do more for the College) created the Naval War College Foundation.

At first this nonprofit organization was intended merely to permit interested people to give historic artifacts to the College. But the founders, particularly Mr. Brown and Admiral Bates, also saw that the new organization had the potential of supporting financially much more than the acquisition of artifacts. They enrolled 176 founding members, each of whom gave \$1,000 or more in order to provide a critical mass around which the new foundation could grow.

Though the Foundation is still modest in scale and assets, the evidence of its work is all about the College. Without the works of art which the Foundation arranged to adorn the hallways, without the historic documents available for scholars' use in the archives, without the various evening lectures to which all citizens are invited, and without the prizes we have mentioned, the College would be a sterile, uninviting place.

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The Foundation has not stopped there. It has provided a TV satellite dish so students can receive up-to-the-minute news of world events, it provides for alumni and Naval Command College conferences, and it helps support the research of faculty members.

The Foundation has now grown to 1,550 members and has a capital of about \$545,000, which it hopes to increase substantially. It is the interest and dividend income from this capital, added to dues and assorted donations, which permit the Foundation to do its work. These funds have allowed the Foundation to support the Naval War College with about \$100,000 annually.

The Foundation is headed by a vigorous and energetic group of twenty unpaid trustees, all but two of whom are civilians. They come from various fields of endeavor, and some have served in the Navy. What they have in common is a strong general interest in the security of the country and a strong particular interest in the role of the Naval War College in assuring that security. The other two members of the board are serving War College officers: the deputy to the president and the staff judge advocate. The latter also serves as the Foundation's treasurer.

Captain Walter B. Woodson, USN (Retired) is the executive director of the Foundation and runs day-to-day operations. He ensures that the Foundation remains carefully tuned to the needs of the College.

Once the College announces these needs and the trustees decide to what extent the Foundation can support the proposed projects, the gift must be accepted by the Secretary of the Navy.

Here are the projects the Foundation supports, with some recent examples of how the funds are employed.

**Research.** Foundation funds enable members of the faculty to travel to research sites and to participate in professional conferences and symposia related to their particular scholarly disciplines. As examples, in the recent past Professor Jack Grunawalt, holder of the Stockton Chair of International Law, took part in a conference sponsored by the Law of the Sea Institute on "International Implications of Extended Maritime Jurisdiction in the Pacific"; Professor Joe Brennan presented a paper before the Joint Services Conference on Professional Ethics; and Dr. Don Daniel of the College's Center for Naval Warfare Studies took part in the annual meeting of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Additionally, funds are provided annually from the estate of the late Captain Rexford V. Wheeler, Jr., for the purchase of reference volumes for the Naval Command College professional library. A long-running project undertaken by members of the Yale University faculty will result in a comprehensive index and catalogue of the papers of the late Rear Admiral Henry E. Eccles in the fields of strategy, tactics, and logistics.

**Prizes.** The array of prizes which the Foundation awards annually at graduation is an important stimulus to original research and writing by officers enrolled in the College. Most involve a \$1,000 cash prize for exceptionally thoughtful essays selected by a faculty selection committee from among dozens of essay contest entrants. A few of the prizes are designed to recognize noteworthy achievement by students enrolled in the College's off-campus Command and Staff curriculum either through correspondence or the evening seminar program at one of a number of sites around the country. The Foundation also sponsors the Hugh G. Nott awards for the best articles published the previous year in the *Naval War College Review* by authors who have written not in the line of duty.

**Conferences.** The Foundation provides substantial support to such College-sponsored activities as the Professional Ethics Conference and a series of smaller conferences sponsored by the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, the College's research arm, which have explored subjects dealing with theater and campaign warfighting issues. One of the most recent conferences sponsored by the Foundation for the benefit of the students dealt with the growing involvement of the Congress with the Executive Branch in determining national security policy. In addition, the Foundation underwrites conferences for the international Naval Command College in an effort to foster a close and continued association among the graduates of this course, who form a significant part of the leadership of over 40 of the world's navies.

**Alumni Affairs.** The alumni program is undertaken by the Foundation to enable graduates and former members of the staff and faculty to remain in contact with the College and its various activities. The principal vehicles to this end are the newsletter *Foundation Briefs* and the alumni conferences sponsored each fall in Newport and each spring at another location where there is a concentration of alumni—such as Norfolk, San Diego or Washington.

**Lectures, Fellowships and Professorships.** One of the most popular and visible manifestations of the Foundation's activity is the Contemporary Civilization lecture series, which enables the College to host evening programs open to the public and featuring a wide variety of nationally known speakers addressing an equally wide array of subjects. Speakers have included Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the wreck of the *Titanic*; strategic analyst Dr. Edward Luttwak; and the "running doctor," Dr. George Sheehan.

Two other annual lectures are also sponsored by the Foundation. These are the Admiral Raymond A. Spruance memorial lecture, funded by the Harry and Flora D. Freund Foundation, and the International Lecture. Speakers who have come to the College for these events include Dr. Henry Kissinger,

Barbara Tuchman, Thomas J. Watson, Senator Sam Nunn, Herman Wouk, Professor Michael Howard, and General Sir John Hackett.

Honoring the memory of a former president of the Foundation, the Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates Fellowship brings eminent retired officers or civilian officials to the College for research, writing, and meeting with student seminars. Among those whom the Foundation has supported in their work here are Admirals Horacio Rivero, U. S. Grant Sharp, Worth H. Bagley, and John P. Weinel; former advisor to the Secretary of State Helmut Sonnenfeldt; and former Under Secretary of the Navy R. James Woolsey. Alternating on a yearly basis with the Bates Fellowship is the Forrest Sherman Lectureship, which has brought similarly distinguished leaders to the campus such as Admiral Robert L. J. Long and Admiral Sir John Woodward, commander of British forces in the Falklands campaign.

**Naval War College Press.** With Foundation support, the College Press has been able to publish individual scholarly works by members of the faculty. Recent examples are a series of International Law studies; *A Bibliography of the Works of Alfred Thayer Mahan* by Professor John B. Hattendorf and Lynn C. Hattendorf; and most recently, *SDI: A Policy Analysis*, by Professor Stephen Fought. A substantial grant by the late Mr. Robert M. Akin, Jr., a former Foundation president and trustee emeritus, enabled the publication of the centennial history of the College, *Sailors and Scholars*, written by Professor Hattendorf, Rear Admiral John R. Wadleigh, and former faculty member Dr. B. Mitchell Simpson.

**Student/Faculty Support.** Modest funds are made available each year to enable the President to take advantage of emergent, unanticipated opportunities to invite guest lecturers to the College, or to schedule events which will enrich the curriculum and for which government funds are not available. Similarly, the Foundation has supplemented the costs of a few student-programmed activities which serve to enhance student morale, esprit and athletic competition.

**Museum and Archives.** A key area of Foundation interest and support, almost since its founding, has been the College museum and its historical archives. The Foundation has enabled the museum to acquire artifacts and to prepare displays related to its core themes of the history of naval warfare as studied at the College and the history of the Navy in Narragansett Bay. Similarly, the Foundation has acquired, or accepted as gifts-in-kind, historic reference materials for the College's historical collections. Among its valuable holdings are important oral histories, original manuscripts concerning naval warfare, and the notebooks and letters of Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan. Related to

these collections is a project which will provide suitable preservation and restoration of these valued documents.

**Museum Gift Shop.** As a service to the College, the Foundation has operated a small gift shop in the lobby of the museum for four years. The shop features memorabilia and gift items related to the themes of the museum and to the history of the College.

Additionally, the Foundation provides indirect support through an initiative begun two years ago, the Long Range Strategic Studies Project. This new and important project is an outgrowth of a proposal developed by Professor Stephen Rosen, then a Secretary of the Navy Senior Research Fellow and now a member of the College's faculty, while he was teaching at Harvard in 1985. As a result of his conceptual thinking, and the fact that there is an exceptionally talented faculty assembled at the College, several major charitable foundations offered to aid the research of faculty members who are seeking to articulate an array of strategies by which the nation might cope with likely future security environments.

The project became a reality in 1986 when the Foundation's trustees approved a proposal that the Foundation coordinate the project by managing the grants offered by these other foundations. These grants support seminars on strategic issues in concert with other research institutes and underwrite a program whereby a few highly select postgraduate civilian research fellows spend a year in residence at the College, studying under the supervision of members of the faculty. The project coordinator and his secretary are members of the Foundation staff.

The Foundation's president and trustees are examining new opportunities for growth and new objectives in support of the College, its students and its research activities.

The reputation of the Naval War College has never been better than it is today. The Foundation's aim is to further strengthen the College's performance in education and research, to the benefit of the U.S. Navy and our country.

Clearly, the work of the Foundation has played a major role in the development of the War College. The relationship is close and the support of the Foundation is constantly apparent.

Those who wish to visit the offices of the Foundation will find them in Luce Hall at the College. Those who wish to write may address the Foundation at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island 02841.

