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President's Notes

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President's Notes

As is generally recognized, Congress recently enacted the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to improve the fighting efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Defense. A responsibility to carry forward the spirit of "jointness" falls squarely on the shoulders of the senior service colleges as they seek to educate officers for positions of high command and responsibility.

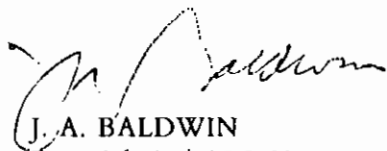
The Naval War College has, for a number of years, addressed this emphasis on "jointness" by creating a curriculum, a student mix, and a faculty which recognize the imperatives of modern coalition warfare. The College has long emphasized—both in its academic curriculum and in its research and war gaming—that strategic thinking and operational planning depend on a broad perspective and on the successful integration of all of the Nation's military resources with those of its allies.

Coherent and fully integrated national strategies are a direct result of carefully reasoned national policies. This has been a central theme of the *Strategy and Policy* curriculum for years. The *National Security Decision Making* course focuses on translating global and theater strategies into an effective future joint force structure. Emphasis is directed at developing balanced future forces that are both flexible and competent to meet the needs of national security to the extent that finite resources allow. Three years ago the focus of the *Operations* curriculum was substantially altered to emphasize the strategies and operational planning of the Unified Commanders within the

various geographic theaters. This has further focused student attention on the integrated use of sea, land, and air forces to achieve national and, where appropriate, alliance goals. The strength and joint focus of these three core courses has given the Naval War College the strongest possible reputation for having a preeminently sound and rigorous curriculum, one which comprehensively addresses joint matters in consonance with both the letter and spirit of the recently enacted Goldwater-Nichols Act. The act defines "joint matters" as those "relating to the integrated employment of land, sea, and air forces, including matters related to national military strategy, strategic planning and contingency planning, and command and control of combat operations under unified command."

The fully integrated use of land, sea, and air forces in execution of national military strategy has been the centerpiece of the College's annual Global War Game and of many other war games and research endeavors for a number of years. A major responsibility of the College's *Center for Naval Warfare Studies*, war gaming emphasizes the vital importance of integrating fully all resources available to the National Command Authority and Theater Commanders.

War gaming is a most effective and efficient vehicle to help the Nation's officer corps develop a comprehensive understanding of the importance of integrating maritime forces with other U.S. and allied forces to achieve national and alliance goals. The Naval War College is committed to pursuing the goals of Admirals Mahan, Luce, Sims, Spruance, Nimitz, and King—to name only a few of the past graduates and leaders of the Naval War College. As one of the Nation's premier institutions devoted to understanding and articulating strategic issues, the College focuses its efforts on the development of a fully integrated national military strategy. Sustained and vigorous scholarship will ensure that successors to these remarkable leaders of the past will continue to emerge to meet future challenges to the security of the Nation.



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