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President's Notes

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President's Notes

In November Admiral James D. Watkins hosted the Seventh International Seapower Symposium (ISS) at the Naval War College. This biannual event was attended by naval leaders from 49 nations and included 22 CNOs or Chiefs of Naval Staff, and 51 other officers specifically designated by the Chiefs of Navy.

Since its inception in 1969, the symposium has provided the opportunity to discuss developments on the world maritime scene. ISS brings together a diversity of experience, and differing national aspirations and needs. But as a group we share that common bond, the oceans of the world, which during the ISS once again acted as a flux in examining and dealing with problems of common concern.

The theme of the seventh ISS was "The Role of Navies in the Year 2000," supported by sub topics dealing with the "Ocean Law Regime" and "Implications of Technology in Force Structure." Admiral Jose Merino of Chile addressed the attendees on the central theme followed by a question and answer period and panel discussions. Working committees organized on a regional basis formulated reports that will be included in a final symposium report.

This symposium was an unqualified success, not for pragmatic solutions to problems of today and tomorrow, but for successfully bringing naval leaders of the free world together to discuss problems common to their profession. The Naval War College is the natural setting for such an event—an environment long recognized for its spirit of free interchange of ideas and academic freedom. Only in such a setting can mutual understanding and personal friendships prosper between and among officers from nations with diverse and often divergent perspectives and perceptions. The friendly cooperation present at the seventh ISS will surely pay dividends in the future.

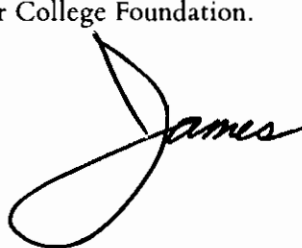
Recently I had the privilege of attending the semiannual meeting of our Naval War College Foundation, and it gave me the opportunity to reflect on how valuable this organization is to the college. The foundation is a private source of support that enriches and strengthens our educational efforts where public funds are not available.


In 1984 the college celebrates its centennial year and the foundation has generously funded the publishing of a definitive War College history of its first hundred years. Substantial support is being provided for selected centennial activities which will ensure that the event will be truly memorable. On a regular basis the foundation provides support to yearly media conferences, the Current Strategy Forum, guest lecturers for the Contemporary Civilization series and student academic awards. Recently there was added a prize articles award for written contributions to this journal. The 1983 awards are in the name of Capt. Hugh G. Nott, a description of which is given in later pages of this issue. The foundation also supports professional conferences, selected student programs, scholarly research and publishing of the historical monograph series.

Besides direct funding, the foundation acts as a vehicle for the donation of gifts and memorabilia to the college, especially for the Museum and Historical collections. In a recent and substantial project, it was instrumental in providing twenty mini-computers to the college for a new computer course—a program destined to pay handsome dividends to the college and its students.

The foundation, established in 1969, is managed by a Board of eighteen Trustees—all volunteers. While its membership lists many civilian friends, it is also well represented by present and past students, staff and faculty of the college. Readers interested in further information about the activities of the Foundation may contact its Executive Director at the Naval War College Foundation, Newport, RI 02841.

The college is indeed grateful for the support of its many friends in the Naval War College Foundation.




JAMES E. SERVICE
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President, Naval War College