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President's Notes

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President's Notes

In the last issue of the *Review*, I commented on the pace of activity since my arrival at the college last October. The months of May and June, while particularly hectic, were also particularly rewarding.

In May, at CNO's request, I traveled with our Strategic Studies Group (SSG) to the major headquarters of our Fleet and Unified Commanders around the world. The SSG, comprised of eight of the Navy's and Marine Corps's finest

officers, has spent the year in Newport developing innovative concepts of operations to support a global maritime strategy. Building upon the superb foundation developed by Mr. Bob Murray and the first SSG, this year's group has developed new ideas on the employment of our existing forces. They have been careful to avoid the perils of planning future engagements with hardware and systems which are coming "in the out years." Instead they have taken a detailed look at today's capabilities and have developed what in many cases is a more offense-oriented strategy than that currently in use. The SSG briefed the Chief of Naval Operations and his Fleet commanders during the CinCs' Conference in Washington in April 1983; at which time it was decided that the concepts would be of substantial interest at the major headquarters. Briefings were then prepared and delivered in the following staffs: CinCPac, CinCPacFlt, ComThirdFlt, ComSubPac, FMFPac, ComSeventhFlt, ComNavForJapan, Deputy CinCUSNavEur, CinCUSNavEur/CinCSouth, ComSixthFlt, SHAPE, and USMilRep-Nato.

The presentations were well received, and resulted in a lively dialogue between the SSG and the operational commanders. In June, the SSG provided briefings to SecNav, OpNav, the CinCLantFlt General Board, and to resident students at the Naval War College. Though this is only the second year of the SSG's existence, it has made substantial contributions to the way in which the Navy thinks about maritime strategy. Ideas developed at Newport have already been incorporated into revised operational plans. Members of the third SSG have been selected by the CNO and CMC and are now reporting to the college. I am confident they will maintain the momentum generated by their predecessors.

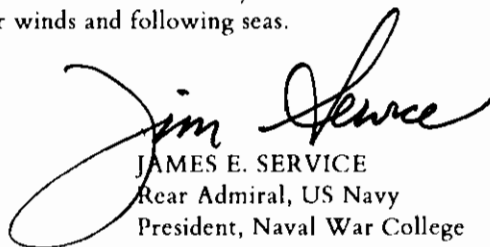
On a new subject, I recently had the pleasure of chairing the 20th meeting of the Naval War College Board of Advisors. This board, comprised of eight distinguished Americans, meets annually to offer advice and recommendations on War College programs and initiatives. We welcome their counsel, as they provide a fresh look at the college from a totally objective and unbiased perspective.

The tempo of action at the College rose to a peak during the last week of June. On the 21st, Navy Secretary John Lehman opened the 34th annual Current Strategy Forum. The purpose of the CSE series has been to bring together prominent civilian

and military guests with Naval War College students and faculty members to discuss future strategic issues facing the United States. To this end, over 350 guests attended the 1983 Current Strategy Forum whose theme was "The Role of Power in U.S.-USSR Relations: The Next Ten Years."

The stimulating discussions and seminar meetings were an outstanding capstone to the year's activities.

On the 24th of June, Navy Under Secretary James F. Goodrich served as our principal speaker at the graduation of the 99th class at the Naval War College. Three hundred and fifty-three students received their diplomas and departed the college for assignments to all corners of the globe. They can all take pride in their accomplishment, as the Naval War College academic program is demanding, challenging, and rewarding. During their year in Newport, they have seen the college reemerge as the foremost center of strategic thinking within the Navy. They join a long list of past graduates who have served their Navy and their nation with pride and distinction. I wish them fair winds and following seas.



JAMES E. SERVICE
Rear Admiral, US Navy
President, Naval War College

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