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President's Notes

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Since my last "Notes," the Naval War College has graduated Class 97; Class 98 is now on board. We held a successful Current Strategy Forum, celebrated the 25th Anniversary and Reunion of the Naval Command College, with heavy attendance from around the globe, and hosted, for the Chief of Naval Operations, the Sixth International Seapower Symposium attended by naval leaders from 53 nations. On a more personal note, I had the opportunity of visiting the People's Republic of China as a member of a group of military educators and I hope in a future column to share some impressions of that trip with you. It has been an exciting summer.

We are excited, also, by the recent establishment at the Naval War College of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies. The Center was formed from three existing War College elements—the Center for Advanced Research (CAR), the Center for War Gaming (CWG), and the *Naval War College Review*—and a new element, the Strategic Studies Group (SSG), formed at the behest and in direct support of the Chief of Naval Operations.

In past "Notes" I have written in some detail of CAR and CWG. They will continue to perform the same functions they have in the past, in a generally expanded way, plus operate in mutual support of the SSG. That is, CAR will

retain its primary function of liaison with the civilian and academic community and sponsorship of student advanced research; liaison will be extended to include the relationship between "outside" scholars and the SSG. CWG, with its expanding, more capable Naval War Gaming System, soon to come on line, will continue to support the fleet and other elements of the Navy Department; will continue to contribute to the curriculum support of our resident students; but will also serve as a trial ground for the strategic concepts developed by SSG. The *Review* will be one of several vehicles for the dissemination of the writings of SSG authors.

The Strategic Studies Group, composed initially of six U.S.N. commanders and captains and two U.S.M.C. officers of equivalent rank, has as its mission the development of concepts leading to a broad naval strategy for the United States. The SSG is not intended to perform technical laboratory work nor headquarters-style staff work; neither will its work necessarily be rigorously analytical. Rather, SSG Fellows are charged to conduct what may be termed a macroexamination of national objectives and issues and to deal with Navy problems from that perspective.

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I am confident that the proven elements of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, CAR and CWG, with the addition of the Strategic Studies Group, will keep the Naval War College at the van of strategic thought and will provide a new, valuable resource for our naval leaders as they grapple with the complex issues that surround the struc-

ture and employment of future naval forces.



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