

1981

Presidents Notes

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Recommended Citation

Welch, Edward F. (1981) "Presidents Notes," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 34 : No. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol34/iss3/1>

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In past issues of the *Review* I have focused remarks on various departments and centers of the Naval War College in an attempt to outline the manner in which they support the mission of the College. It is appropriate in this issue, in view of the June 1981 Naval Command College Conference (NCCC 81) commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Naval Command College, to comment on the Naval Command College (NCC) and its importance within the total Naval War College organization.

The mission of NCC, when established in 1956, is still pertinent: to assist specially selected senior naval officers from other countries to prepare themselves for higher command responsibilities in their own navies, and to familiarize them with United States naval methods, practices, and doctrine. This mission does not vary in any meaningful sense from that of the parent War College. The enhancement of professional capabilities to make sound strategic, tactical, and managerial decisions is a fundamental objective of each. The historical development of the Naval War College and mission was most influential in the birth and subsequent evolution of the Naval Command College.

In the present period, the NCC student body consists of approximately 35 captains and commanders from other

nations who have been selected to participate in the senior course of the Naval War College. Their academic regimen is virtually identical to that of the College of Naval Warfare, where they pursue the prescribed studies in Defense Economics and Decisionmaking, Strategy and Policy, and Naval Operations. They follow the same basic schedule and are integrated into the seminars and lectures of their United States colleagues. There are some exceptions within the Naval Operations curriculum, where specific NCC seminars are conducted that are tailored more to the needs of the navies concerned and to satisfy security requirements. On an optional basis the NCC students may participate in the Electives Program. In addition, they participate in a preliminary orientation program that provides them with an introduction to Naval War College facilities and programs, local customs, geography and institutions, the United States Government and Defense Department organization.

A significant part of the NCC educational process is the Information Program. This program is directed and approved by the Chief of Naval Operations with the purpose of enhancing the professional military education received by our international friends by providing them a better understanding of American society, institutions, and people. Inherent in the Information


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Program is a series of trips structured to expose the students to political, economic, and judicial systems, labor organizations, communications media, agricultural methods, and unique American cultural examples. One aspect of this broad exposure is the immeasurable benefit of meeting people and exchanging views. Each student has the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern with political leaders, businessmen, and military contemporaries. Friendships are formed and understandings reached. This is true not only among individual naval officers, but also among countries. Admiral Arleigh Burke, in the dedication speech of the Naval War College International Plaza in July 1976, remarked that the greatest assets a man can accrue are his friends: "Men who know all about him and still like him. Men whom he knows, respects, admires and trusts." The Naval Command College provides a setting for these relationships.

The quality of any program must ultimately be measured by the quality of the participants. With the graduation in June of the 31 members of the silver anniversary class, the ranks of the alumni number 722. Of these, 318 of those eligible have attained flag rank. Many have held cabinet and ministerial posts, one has become head of state, and 55 have become chiefs of their navies.

These statistics illustrate the quality of the students and reflect the international esteem in which the Naval Command College is held.

The importance of the NCC is unmistakably clear. It provides a crucial international forum and opportunity for discussion among a wide variety of individuals possessing broad experiences and varying perceptions. Professional concerns are shared, methods and procedures explored, and techniques discussed. Naval knowledge is broadened while political and cultural gaps are narrowed. Perhaps most importantly, lasting friendships are formed. There is an abundance of pride in both the Naval War College and Naval Command College within the international community, and it is my firm intention to continue the high academic standards and free exchange of concepts that have fostered this pride. The next 25 years of the Naval Command College, initiated by NCCC 81, will continue the proud tradition and will continue to reflect the dynamic changes in technology and society.



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