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President's Notes: Taking Stock

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In assuming the helm of the Naval War College from Vice Admiral Jim Stockdale, I have done so with a great sense of privilege and a great awareness of the responsibilities I have undertaken. It is my earnest hope that my stewardship will measure up to the high standards my predecessors have established and maintained over the long history of this fine institution.

Vice Admiral Stockdale's retirement marked the end of the active naval career of a truly remarkable officer whose contributions will be remembered for a very long time. Jim Stockdale, the man, should give us all food for thought, and his teachings and example are a legacy to all of us in the Navy, the nation, and the world about us. All of us at the Naval War College wish him great success in his important position as President of the Citadel.

During my short period at Newport, I have been greatly impressed with the quality of the War College faculty and staff, the student body, and the physical plant. The curriculum makes sense. The seas of debate that attended changes in the past have subsided and those changes have resulted in a sound, naval-oriented education. I intend to keep the Naval War College pointed toward the fleet, and I look to a good interaction with operator and policymaker, defense analyst and scholar alike. Such a dialogue is essential if Newport is to continue and improve as the nexus for naval strategic thought.

It seems that a corollary to this effort must be an enlargement of our knowledge here at Newport on Soviet naval strategy and doctrine. A great deal has already been done in this area; a great deal more can be done for the Navy and the student body. An important part of this undertaking will be a careful integration of intelligence factors into the education scheme.



The curriculum and our associated work here will continue to evolve as the dynamics of our profession demand. As many of you know, our war gaming facility is being updated to cope with these dynamics. The advance of technology will induce further refinements and changes in the courses. We will continue to seek to produce graduates with an effective blend of intellectual perspective and technological awareness and skills—with the former never surrendering primacy to the latter.

The *Naval War College Review* has earned its place high up on the rolls of professional journals. I urge that each of you, our readers, provide us with comments whenever your urge so dictates. The editor reminds me that all individual subscriptions expire with this issue and that to ensure continued receipt of the *Review* the card at the back should be returned as soon as possible.

I look forward to my tour as President of the Naval War College and I am happy to be aboard.

EDWARD F. WELCH, JR.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College