

1974

Challenge

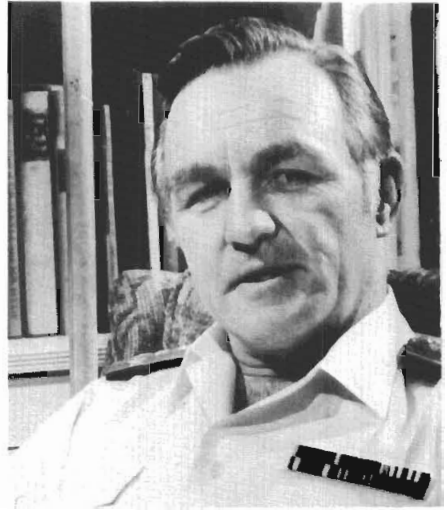
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CHALLENGE!

Last December the Naval War College lost two of its most distinguished and dedicated supporters, Adm. Richard G. Colbert and Rear Adm. Richard W. Bates. Each of these officers made an indelible imprint on our college. Each devoted a large measure of his life and endeavor to benefiting the college. We feel a deep loss at no longer being able to turn to them for advice and support. We take great comfort in recognizing that what they accomplished for education at the Naval War College laid a foundation that will guide those who follow them for years to come. The next issue of the *Review* will carry articles on their contributions to the War College and excerpts from their writings.

In this issue the lead article addresses the question of what the missions of the Navy are today. I believe that there is a pressing need to consider this fundamental issue of what the Navy is, and should be all about. Historically, as the article attempts to trace, the missions of navies have evolved with changes in national interests and with new opportunities offered by developments in technology. Today the United States is simultaneously recuperating from the wounds of Vietnam, gingerly exploring *détente*, and watching warily as new

emerging. We in military service must look carefully at which of our missions most suit the tenor of these times. Which of our capabilities is the Nation most likely to call upon us to employ?

At the same time, we also need to take stock of our purpose in life in order to allocate the diminishing resources available to us in the best possible way. Some naval weapons systems are multipurpose and adaptable to numerous applications. No system can be optimized for two purposes. We should attempt to optimize in the most logical way which deep thinking about our objectives will produce.

This article on naval missions will be used as part of the Naval Tactics course at the Naval War College. This course is essentially built around the mission areas defined by the CNO in 1970. It attempts to make the students grapple with these questions of what tasks the Navy should be prepared to perform for the country and how we can best execute those tasks.

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