

1973

President's Notes: Challenge!

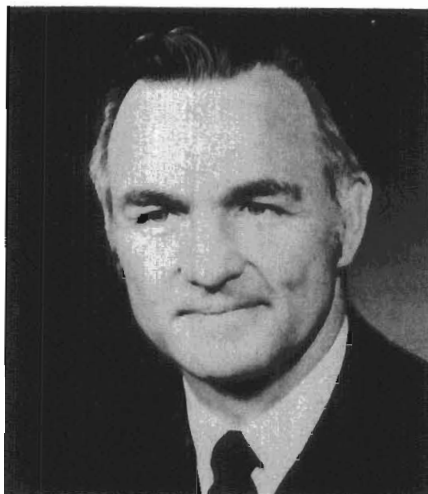
Stansfield Turner
U.S. Navy

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CHALLENGE !

A vital part of our approach to senior service education here in Newport has been that part of our curriculum we call management, or defense economics decisionmaking. Since World War II the military has come to play an important part in the formulation of policy and has been responsible for a large portion of Federal spending. In recent years serious reservations have been expressed over the military's ability to make wise decisions and the propriety of its present size and role in government. Whether or not these or similar doubts would have been aired regardless of how the military had managed its part in the Vietnam war, we as professionals must face up to the present realities of tight budgetary restraints and heightened competition among all Federal programs for the limited dollars available. Today greater sophistication in the fields of management and systems analysis will be required of our top ranking professional military men and women. As the competition for limited resources sharpens at home and the potential dangers inherent in a multipolar world become more subtle and less clearly understood by the electorate, the military must be better able to manage effectively those material and human resources entrusted to it. **The task will not be easy; it never has been, but we have adapted to the**

requirements of change before. We must do so again.

Our goal at the Naval War College is to prepare our students to meet the challenges they will face in Washington, in command, or in staff positions. Our management study introduces the students to the analytical tools, organizations, methodologies, and controversies associated with the allocation of resources to meet defense needs. Whereas strategy traditionally has been the paramount concern of the military and its War Colleges, the political and economic realities of today's world dictate that the study of management take a back seat to no other discipline in the preparation of all officers destined for positions of high responsibility.

The following description attempts to portray for you what the management course has been like this year. Almost the identical course has been taught to the College of Naval Warfare, the international Naval Command College, and the College of Naval Command and Staff.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stansfield Turner".

STANSFIELD TURNER
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College