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## Challenge

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## CHALLENGE!

After spending the entire last issue discussing the Naval War College curricula and programs, I shall be brief here and leave the field to more distinguished authors such as Dr. Knox and Admiral Uchida. I would, though, like to commend to you Professor Phil Crowl's abbreviated history of the college which immediately follows.

There are several themes which come through in Phil's article—themes of point and counterpoint in the evolution of the college.

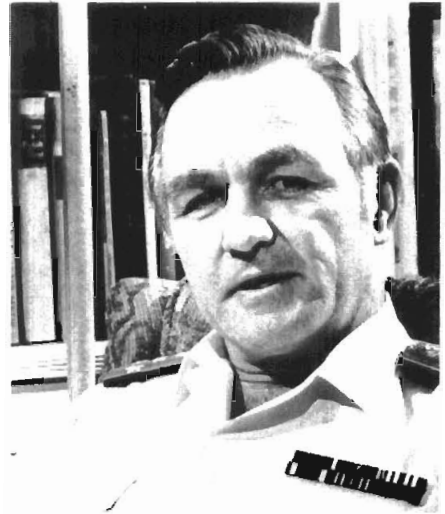
One is the vivid description of the vacillation, the pendulum swinging, that's gone on here over the years between, on the one hand, the theoretical, the historical, and the educational, but on the other hand, the practical, the contemporary, and the training.

Another is the dichotomy between those periods of concentration, almost exclusively, on broad strategy—the periods of Luce and Mahan—and the periods of concentration on tactics—in the twenties and the thirties. Albeit there were periods off and on during those times when logistics or management, or whatever one calls it, was conspicuously interwoven.

A third theme in Phil's presentation, or a third part that I thought was particularly interesting, was his accounting that Admiral Conolly created a 2-year course here in the midfifties, and after he left, they took the first year of that course and made it into the Command and Staff College and made the second year into the College of Naval Warfare.

Finally, there appears the dichotomy again between whether this program should be a rather highly structured academic routine or whether it should be a broad exposure with a great opportunity for freedom to reflect and digest.

Today's course comes down four-square on the side of education, not training, a balance of strategy, manage-



ment, and tactics, one basic course for both colleges and a structured, ordered routine.

I have also enjoyed noting recently how frequently and how strongly these points have been debated in the past. For instance, in January 1919, when Admiral Sims wrote to the Secretary of the Navy requesting that he return as President of the Naval War College, Admiral Sims stated that he would operate the school solely as a post-graduate course causing officers to educate themselves "in many lines which routine duties at sea prevent." The CNO, Adm. W.S. Benson, endorsed the request as follows:

I fully concur in the principle advocated, and the recommended action as outlined by Admiral Sims. The War College may indeed be looked upon in the light of a university where officers are prepared for professional work, and not the professional office from which the applied knowledge comes to the service in the form of concrete work.

I like to feel that our current program reflects this philosophy.

  
STANSFIELD TURNER