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Challenge

Stansfield Turner

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CHALLENGE !

In this, my first appearance on these pages as the thirty-sixth President of the Naval War College, I intend to devote my remarks to the personal sense of mission and commitment I bring to this challenging new position. The Naval War College has—traditionally and historically—been a source of new concepts within the Navy. Its role in times of change or transition such as we are experiencing today is absolutely vital. No great institution can afford to become static. In an era of growing responsibilities and diminishing resources, I consider it imperative for the Naval War College to be a dynamic, responsive, innovative center of creative scholarship and thought.

In preparing our carefully selected officer students to be the leaders of tomorrow, we have three principal tasks—sharpening their professional competence in the field of naval science, intensifying their awareness of the social and economic forces which shape the world, and giving them the intellectual tools that they will need in the future as well as today. As the rate of expanding knowledge inevitably accelerates the rate of change in our national and international society, it is essential that the Navy develop imaginative and broadly

versatile officers who can function confidently in any environment—strategy, management, or tactics.

These three fields—strategy, management, and tactics—are the cornerstones of our newly refocused curriculum. The revised curriculum will require a great deal of reading, debate, inquiry, and individual research. The emphasis will be on methods of teaching that will develop the student's ability to think logically, to place issues in perspective, and to establish criteria for making choices, or decisions. We will study fewer things, but those which we address will be examined in depth. The hallmark of our approach will be its intensity rather than its scope of facts.

In anticipation of the contributions our students will make in the areas of original thought, I have altered the publication schedule of this *Review* to an issue every two months rather than every month, in order to free funds for the publication of student monographs and other papers.

I am also seeking, in every way, to encourage an atmosphere of academic freedom here at the Naval War College. True scholarship cannot exist in an ivory tower and to equip our students for effective performance in any future

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environment, we must expose them to the challenge of controversy, the rigor of opposing views, and the needs of a changing society.

In summary, the Naval War College must continue to be an exciting place for students and professors alike and to keep it that way we must adapt to the changing demands of our society and our profession. I am determined that our scholarly undertakings will provide the stimulus for innovative ideas and

perceptive insights. There may be another Alfred Thayer Mahan in this year's class or the next. We cannot afford to miss him.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stansfield Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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