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President's Forum—A Return to New England

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PRESIDENT'S FORUM



A Return to New England

IT IS A GREAT PROFESSIONAL and personal honor to address you as the newly installed fifty-seventh President of the U.S. Naval War College. No other institution has contributed more to the history and heritage of our great Navy than this remarkable school. Located along the shores of beautiful Narragansett Bay, this College has been the nexus of nautical scholarship, cutting-edge research, and maritime-security cooperation for 135 years. I recognize that I have some large shoes to fill in assuming the post once held by such distinguished naval officers as Stephen Luce, Alfred Mahan, Raymond Spruance, Stansfield Turner, James Stockdale, my friend John Christenson, and more than four dozen others.

As a career helicopter pilot, I have been fortunate to lead America's most skilled and dedicated men and women in times of peace and in times of conflict. As a lifelong learner, I was able to fall in love with the study of leadership and pursue it throughout my undergraduate, master's, and doctoral studies. This is not to imply that I have all the answers. However, I believe that my experience and education will provide unique perspectives as I work with our world-class faculty and staff to ensure that our compelling curriculum continues to provide educational opportunities for the future leaders of our armed forces, our government, and our partner nations.

Our Navy and our Nation will need to become more agile, innovative, and creative in the ways in which we train and educate our future leaders, in how we adapt to the rapidly changing technological environment, and in how we ensure that the contributions of every citizen are included in framing the future we all hope to see evolve. The Naval War College will not merely observe these changes; it will contribute actively to the conversations and to the solutions needed.

On a personal note, I am thrilled to be returning to New England. Some of my most enjoyable days were spent on the campus of Boston University and in the Kennedy School Forum. While my most recent assignment to the tropical island of Guam was incredibly rewarding, I must admit that the prospect of seeing our historic campus on Aquidneck Island blanketed in snow has a certain charm.

My husband, David Scovel, and I look forward to getting to know the entire Naval War College family and working with each of you to build on the College's remarkable legacy. I commit to you that I will seek to knit together our entire team of active-duty personnel, government-service employees, and contractors. I am grateful for our strong supporters from the Naval War College Foundation. The Chief of Naval Operations recently called the College a "strong and vibrant institution." With your help, we will ensure that it remains so in its 135th anniversary year and far beyond.

SHOSHANA S. CHATFIELD
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
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