

1997

President's Notes

J.R. Stark

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Stark, J.R. (1997) "President's Notes," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 50 : No. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol50/iss1/1>

This President's Forum is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

“It takes an extra degree of dedication to hold down a full-time Navy billet and also take on the demanding NWC program after hours. I salute these hardworking students. . . .”



President's Notes

NEAR THE END OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, Captains Stephen B. Luce and Alfred Thayer Mahan wrote within the pages of the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings* that a place was needed in which naval officers could study the higher aspects of their profession. The need for such study was being driven

Rear Admiral Stark was commissioned in 1965 at the U.S. Naval Academy, studied at the University of Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar, and earned a doctorate in political science at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He has served on the Navy Staff, the National Security Council Staff, and as Executive Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel. His sea service has included command of USS *Julius A. Furer* (FFG 6), USS *Leahy* (CG 16), and, from 1994 to 1995, the Nato Standing Naval Force Atlantic, deployed in the Adriatic Sea. He assumed the duties of President of the Naval War College in June 1995.

6 Naval War College Review

by the increasingly complex nature of naval warfare as the service embraced such technologies as steam power, long-range weapons, and wireless communications. Luce and Mahan advocated the establishment of a “college of naval war,” and in 1884 their dream was realized when our institution first opened its doors on the shores of Narragansett Bay. The nature of warfare has continued to change over the intervening decades, and today’s naval professionals are once again challenged by emerging technologies . . . information warfare, precision weapons, low-observable designs, and space-based sensors. In this rapidly changing environment, the need for Professional Military Education (PME) is greater than ever.

The Naval War College answers this challenge with a superb resident program offered to nearly five hundred students each year on the Newport campus. I encourage every officer to take full advantage of residence study if the opportunity is made available. But the Navy-wide requirement for PME far exceeds the capacity of our on-campus academic facilities and demands that we offer a quality alternative for those students who cannot attend in residence. This alternative is provided by the College of Continuing Education (CCE), which was established in 1914 to expand the reach of the Naval War College far beyond the confines of the bricks-and-mortar buildings which constitute our Newport campus. The modern term “distance learning” is used to describe education which takes place at a distance from the traditional school and classroom. CCE manages two different, but complementary, distance learning approaches: the Nonresident Seminars Program and a correspondence-based Command and Staff Course.


The Nonresident Seminars (NRS) program offers a modified version of the three resident sub-courses through a three-year-long evening study program. In academic year 1996–97, a total of 850 students enrolled in forty-six seminars at sixteen locations around the country. Led by highly qualified adjunct faculty, each sub-course is completed over a thirty-six-week term. Guest lecturers from Newport, either in person or via video teleconferencing, assist in ensuring that the NRS students get the maximum benefit from their studies. Our highly motivated NRS students compete annually for academic honors and awards and have traditionally done extremely well. Completion of the NRS program earns full credit for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I.

The Command and Staff Correspondence Course (C&SCC) enables the Naval War College to have a truly global reach. Recently revised and updated, the course is offered as a series of twelve integrated modules which provide a quality education modeled after the Newport resident program. Though in less depth than either the resident program or the NRS, the correspondence course gives students a concentrated version of the three main sub-courses which constitute our curriculum. The program is designed to be completed within an eighteen to twenty-four-month period, and full JPME Phase I certification is granted upon successful completion. Studies are now underway to determine how technologies

such as teleconferencing and the use of the Internet can add to the overall quality of the program. A recent experiment involved a group of correspondence students aboard USS *Carl Vinson* who received real-time two-way audio and video lectures while deployed in the Persian Gulf. The Newport faculty member who conducted the class indicated that it was the first time in his teaching career that he had a lecture interrupted by flight operations.

We are extremely proud of all three of our educational programs as well as the high caliber of students who participate. It takes an extra degree of dedication to hold down a full-time Navy billet and also take on the demanding NWC program after hours. I salute these hard working students and encourage them to continue this important undertaking. I also commend the faculty and staff of CCE and the resident faculty in Newport, who are key partners in developing and presenting the curricula for these challenging programs.

The Professional Military Education offered through both the resident courses and the College of Continuing Education contributes significantly to the professionalism of the officer corps. It will help ensure that the U.S. Navy, the Marine Corps, and our sister services will enter the twenty-first century fully prepared to meet the challenges of defending our national interests . . . whatever and wherever they may be!


J.R. STARK
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College



 <http://www.usnwc.edu/nwc/press.htm>

The Internet must truly be here to stay, if the Naval War College Press is on the Web—and now we are. That’s our URL above: bookmark it, and from there you can move to the Center for Naval Warfare Studies page, and on to the extensive Web site of the Naval War College itself.

On our new site you’ll find: information about the Press and the *Review*; the full, downloadable text of (eventually) the *Review* (starting with the Autumn 1996 issue); a searchable *Review* article and essay index since 1992 (and, in time, of book reviews as well); abstracts of our Newport Papers; announcements and notices; the Press catalog; and a variety of reader services, complete with e-mail reply features; and links to the Web sites of other military periodicals.

The Press is and will remain primarily a print publisher; we offer this electronic service for the convenience it offers many readers, for the more rapid delivery that will be important to others (several weeks before the journal arrives in mailboxes), and also for the basic access it represents to those for whom surface mail is problematic.

Please let us know what you think of our site—while we still have our expert on board!

NWC PRESS	NWC REVIEW	NEWPORT PAPERS
NWC PRESS CATALOG	CONTRIBUTOR'S GUIDELINES	READER SERVICES
PRODUCTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMENTS