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## President's Notes: Challenge!

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## CHALLENGE !

For the past 9 years, the Naval War College and The George Washington University have joined together in a cooperative graduate program leading to masters of science degrees in international affairs awarded by the university. The program was established to give qualified students a voluntary, after hours' opportunity to participate in graduate study during their tour here. To date, of the some 2,900 War College students graduating since 1963, half have left here with masters' degrees from one of the Nation's leading universities.

It must be emphasized that the primary purpose for any student being here at the War College is to pursue the regular courses of instruction offered by the separate colleges. The George Washington University program is, therefore, available entirely on an optional and additional basis. This voluntary program requires considerable academic work above and beyond that required by the Naval War College curricula; students are advised to evaluate the constraints of time available to accomplish the requirements of both the university and the Naval War College programs. Continued enrollment in The George Washington University is contingent upon consistently high academic performance in the War College.

The strength of this cooperative program is that it complements and supplements the courses of the two U.S. resident colleges. The George Washington University has accredited appropriate aspects of the Naval War College curriculum. The university curriculum has been designed to complement the War College survey of international affairs with intensive graduate seminars.



Successful completion of either U.S. resident college provides 9 semester hours of credit toward the 30-hour total required for The George Washington master's degree. In addition, the master's candidate may submit the thesis he has prepared to meet our own requirement, provided the subject is unclassified and appropriate, to fulfill the university's thesis requirement; for this, the student receives six academic credits toward completion of a master's degree. The final 15 credits are earned from four classroom and one reading course taken by the students under the university's teaching faculty in residence in Newport.

While a focus of the Naval War College course is military and naval strategy, significant time is devoted to assessments in such fields as international relations, comparative cultures, economics, international law, and geographic regions of the world. This is in keeping with the mission to "provide naval officers advanced education in the science of naval warfare and related subjects in order to improve their professional competence for higher responsibility." As a future military commander, as a future military planner, and as a potential member of the Joint Staff, each student is immersed in an atmosphere in which he becomes acutely aware of and familiar with the "related subjects" which will bear importantly on the type and quality of

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decision he and his peers will be making at the high levels of command tomorrow.

The George Washington program is divided into four groups. Each master's candidate must be familiar with each group prior to sitting for his comprehensive exams at the end of the academic year. The first group concentrates solely on U.S. diplomatic history, thereby providing an historic supplement to the current diplomatic events which our students analyze thoroughly in the regular War College program. Group II covers the arena of international economics, international law, and international organization, complementing in greater depth the exposure provided all students in these three "related" areas.

The third group is divided into two areas, either of which the student can pursue: comparative government or intercultural relations. Students in the former course find a broadening supplement to the geographic area portion of the War College study. The comparative government course examines in some depth the differing political systems of Western Europe, an exercise which is frequently helpful in students' assessment and understanding of other geographic regions of the world.

Finally, it is in group IV that the student has the opportunity of rounding out his 10 months in Newport by selecting one of a number of rich courses ranging from the study of a particular region, such as the volatile Middle East, to a look at public opinion, to a course examining diplomacy, strategy, and arms control.

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In this, my first "Challenge," I have chosen to describe one aspect of the Cooperative Curricula Program. The full Cooperative Program is broader than my

remarks on The George Washington master's program have indicated. It encompasses other areas, namely: a bachelor's degree at the University of Rhode Island for those of our students who have not been provided the opportunity to earn an undergraduate degree; a master's in marine affairs, also from nearby URI, for those students interested in the administrative aspects of oceanography; as well as numerous seminars at Brown University for students who have earned graduate degrees prior to coming to the War College.

I have singled out The George Washington program largely because it is the most popular among our students and the one which on occasion is criticized as detracting from the resident curriculum at the Naval War College. Rather than detracting from the quality of the course of study, however, it has, over the years, contributed to making the War College experience a most valuable one for so many of our naval leaders of tomorrow.

The challenge we in naval education face today, and the one which we will face tomorrow, is to ensure that our educational programs continue to provide the in-depth knowledge and understanding so essential for the successful military commander and strategic planner. If we can maintain the impetus applied so capably by Vice Adm. Dick Colbert and his illustrious predecessors, we can hope to keep our Naval War College high in the national esteem.



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