

Naval War College Review

Volume 21
Number 5 May

Article 2

1968

President's Notes: Challenge!

John T. Hayward
U.S. Navy

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

Recommended Citation

Hayward, John T. (1968) "President's Notes: Challenge!," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 5 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol21/iss5/2>

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.

CHALLENGE!

It's Tommy this and Tommy that
and Tommy, 'ow's your soul?
But it's Mr. Atkins, please,
when the drums begin to roll.

—Rudyard Kipling



Almost in answer to the long-suffering, unrecognized man in the line so heroically portrayed by Rudyard Kipling a century ago, Armed Forces Day came into being here in the United States. When the might of the British Empire extended 'round the world and her culture and social customs as well as her military conquests stretched to countries throughout the globe, the man in the ranks was as often as not forgotten by his nation during the periods of peace.

The nation pays its respects to our Navy in October. First, because it was in the month of October that the American Navy was founded in 1775 by act of the Continental Congress. And, second, 27 October is the birthday of Theodore Roosevelt who more than any other President can lay claim to the title "Father of Our Modern Navy." Then, in 1950, by Presidential Proclamation the third Saturday in May was designated to honor all the Armed Forces of the United States, thereby clearly expressing the principle of unification. Since that time this day each year officially marks Armed Forces Day. The real purpose of this day is to report to the people on the nation's defense preparedness. Its motto, "Forces for Freedom," symbolizes the American way of honoring its military.

In the words of Mahan, "When the necessity for arms ceases, armaments will disappear. The basic causes of war are not armaments, but in human minds." President John F. Kennedy amplified this statement: "Only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt, can we be certain that they will never be

employed." Hence the symbol "Forces for Freedom" is, in truth, just that. In our rise to world leadership we have demonstrated better than any other nation what man can achieve in freedom's cause. This dedication to freedom is reflected nowhere more vividly than within our Armed Forces.

Many from the Naval War College, from all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, are serving today in Vietnam. Some have made the supreme sacrifice for freedom. They represent many races and religions bonded together not only by the uniform but by a singleness of purpose—the common goal of freedom and equality. In our Armed Forces intolerance of racial differences simply cannot exist.

Our nation today is torn apart by moral lassitude concerning the rights, privileges, and freedoms of some of our fellow citizens. Hopefully, we as a nation will discover what the men and women of our Armed Forces learned long ago: the dignity of the individual regardless of his caste, color, or religion is paramount to the maintenance of a free society. We pray that American fighting men returning from the crucible of combat will be in attendance to

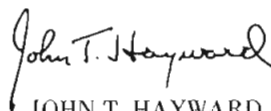
2 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

insure this rebirth of freedom and, as a consequence, a better America.

Those of us in the naval service are proud of the part we have played over the years in projecting the national policy of the United States throughout the seven seas. The mounting of our forward posture over the world is largely possible because of the continual readiness, flexibility, and mobility of our Navy and Marine Corps, together with their own logistic support. For example, in the 7th Fleet off Vietnam some 75,000 Navy officers and men are today supporting free world forces. Some 24,000 more are attached to the Military Assistance Command. Approximately one-third of our entire Marine

Corps, air and ground, is fighting in Vietnam today. The daily exploits of these dedicated men and women, along with their comrades in the Army and Air Force, attest to the fact that they are, in truth, "Forces for Freedom."

The observance of Armed Forces Day by a totally free nation is the honor paid to those in uniform who support freedom. In the words of our Commander in Chief, President Johnson: "In Vietnam, and around the world, they perpetuate the ideals which made and preserve us as a nation. Let our thoughts be with them on this day. And let our prayers attend them always as they unflinchingly defend our legacy and our lives."



JOHN T. HAYWARD
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College