

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 24, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has received the December 4-5, 1974, Report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy. The Board, which met at Annapolis, Maryland, is required by law to meet annually to inquire into the state of morale and discipline, the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, financial affairs, academic methods and other matters relating to the Academy which the Board decides to consider and to report its findings to the President.

The Board consists of 15 members: six Presidential appointees, three Vice Presidential appointees, and four members appointed by the Speaker of the House. The remaining two members are designated, respectively, by the Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The academic summer school program is effective, permitting a midshipman to catch up or keep pace with his major program.
2. The reduction of tenured faculty is being achieved as planned.
3. The concept of "level funding" without providing for inflation adjustments would have a disastrous impact on the civilian faculty.
4. The FY 1975 budget has not fully supported operations. Deficits were offset only by savings resulting from a civilian personnel hiring freeze.
5. The Academy is currently operating at the minimum level of staffing and any further erosion of personnel levels would have to be taken from the faculty and direct support personnel. This would require a significant reduction in the size of the Brigade.
6. The continued orderly execution of the Academy Master Plan is essential to the maintenance of the excellent academic program.

The Board made the following recommendations:

1. That its recommendations made during the Spring meetings of 1973 and 1974 be reaffirmed in the strongest terms, that the Naval Academy be established as a separate major claimant and that the Superintendent report directly to the Chief of Naval Operations.
2. That the trend towards deferral of necessary construction projects be viewed with increasing concern and that the greatest possible support for the Academy and Naval Station Military Construction Programs be recommended.
3. That future budgets, as a minimum, must be sustained at the current level plus allowance for inflation to avoid decreasing the size of the Brigade.
4. That the increased size of the Brigade and the addition of new facilities in recent years be recognized by granting preferential manning of civilian and military personnel to the Academy, restoring cuts made during FY 1975 and maintaining a constant level adjusted for change in programs to avoid reducing the personnel in direct support of the Brigade.

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The Board was composed of the following members:

Mr. Donald O. Heumann, Owner, Rohms Flowers, New Orleans, Louisiana  
--Chairman

Senator Alan Bible, Nevada  
Senator Howard W. Cannon, Nevada  
Senator Hiram L. Fong, Hawaii  
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Maryland

Congressman Jack Edwards, Alabama  
Congressman Daniel J. Flood, Pennsylvania  
Congresswoman Marjorie S. Holt, Maryland  
Congressman Frank Horton, New York  
Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, New York

Rear Admiral Eugene A. Barham, USN (Retired), President, T. E.  
Barham Company, Inc., Oak Ridge, Louisiana  
Mr. Marion A. Cancelliere, Chairman of the Board and President,  
Equimark Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Admiral Harry D. Felt, USN (Retired), President, Hawaii Foundation  
for American Freedoms, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Dr. James Frank, President, Lincoln University, Jefferson City,  
Missouri  
Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Retired), Vice President,  
Copley Press, San Diego, California

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