Rear Admiral Jacob Shuford, the fifty-first president of the Naval War College, led the College through an unprecedented period of mission growth, program expansion, and increased international engagement. He directed an extensive restructuring of the basic curriculum, and created and implemented the flag-level Joint Force Maritime Component Commander course, the Maritime Staff Operators course, and a rechartered Operational Planner Course. At the strategic level, under his direction, the College played the key role in designing the overall process for the nation’s maritime strategy as well as planning and executing the geostrategic analysis that supported it. He re instituted Title X war gaming and initiated a highly influential series of concept-development activities addressing maritime ballistic missile defense, antisubmarine warfare, homeland defense organization, and command and control of maritime forces.

Admiral Shuford conducted personal diplomacy with his counterparts around the world to produce a network of naval colleges and associated institutions to work collaboratively on global maritime security issues. He established a series of regional symposia and reunions for the College’s International Program graduates and a series of flag-level courses with partner navies in the different regions of the world. These efforts contributed to nearly doubling the number of navies participating in the International Seapower Symposium to ninety-eight, thus constituting the single largest gathering of naval leadership in history.