The administration of Rear Admiral Stark as the forty-seventh president of the Naval War College witnessed the reorganization of the curriculum of the College of Continuing Education so that officers could complete the course in a single shore tour. Stark also oversaw the design and building of McCarty Little Hall, initiated long-term planning for a new library and administration building and effected the incorporation of the Naval Warfare Development Center into College operations.

Earlier in his career, Admiral Stark had attended the University of Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar and had earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in Political Science from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He came to the presidency of the Naval War College after commanding the NATO Standing Naval Force, Atlantic, and directing its operations in support of the United Nations embargo of Serbia and Bosnia. Prior to that assignment, he had served as Commander of the Pacific Fleet Training Command, in charge of technical and operational training throughout the Pacific Fleet. Additionally, he served on both the National Security Council and the Navy Staff.