

Time remains a tremendous constraint in all three colleges, which can do little more than "raise levels of consciousness," as General Pustay put it. Those levels are low to start with in many instances. That is especially true when it comes to national military strategy. Output might improve remarkably if the system provided better qualified students, perhaps by competitive examination, and concentrated on fewer topics of special importance, such as strategic options across the spectrum. The "capstone" course is a good bit better than nothing, but cannot do more than introduce participants to complex subjects in 11 weeks. It currently parrots the "party line."

A good deal of NDU's research responds to occupants of the Pentagon, who know what they want, which is not necessarily what they need most. That practice affects the definition of "relevant" research, which seems somewhat rigid. The balance between applied and basic topics consequently tends to slight the latter, because they are not perceived as practical in the Pentagon.

#### QUICK ANSWERS TO FOUR QUESTIONS

Discussion on preceding pages permits quick answers to the four prompting questions.

Q-1: What are the Joint Chiefs doing to improve the JCS planning process?