

## Rear Admiral John N. Christenson

A surface warfare officer, Rear Admiral Christenson was President, Board of Inspection and Survey, before becoming the 53rd President of the Naval War College. The fourth of six sons of a Navy Skyraider pilot and a Navy nurse, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981. At sea, he commanded USS McClusky (FFG 41); Destroyer Squadron 21 in USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74); and Carrier Strike Group 12, the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Strike Group. In 1993, he graduated with distinction and first in his class from the Naval War College. Later, he was a Navy Federal Executive Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Ashore, he commanded the Surface Warfare Officers School in Newport, and as a new flag officer, he served as Commander, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Corpus Christi, Texas. On leaving the presidency of the College, he went to serve in Brussels, Belgium, as Deputy U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee. As President of the Naval War College, Admiral Christenson stimulated War College innovation, broke new ground in Navy leader education, expanded international outreach and increased support to fleet operational-level training through his promotion of faculty research and war-gaming. The College provided hands-on assistance to fleet staffs in venues such as the Fleet Synchronization Conference, Current Strategy Forum, Leader Development Strategy and the International Seapower Symposium. The portrait shows him with three books: *Lucky Bag* 1981, A. T. Mahan's *Influence of Sea Power upon History*, and John Hattendorf's *Sailors and Scholars*.

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