

Rear Admiral Jeffrey A. Harley

PRESIDENT, 26 JULY 2016 – 10 JUNE 2019

Oil on Canvas

Tom Edgerton, 2020

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A surface warfare officer, Admiral Harley's assignments included duty in frigates, destroyers, and cruisers. He commanded USS Milius (DDG 69) during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, where he accepted a Bronze Star on behalf of his crew, as well as Destroyer Squadron 9.

As a Flag Officer, Harley served as Director of the White House Situation Room; Vice Director Strategy, Plans and Policy (J5) at Central Command; Commander, Amphibious Force, 7th Fleet, Expeditionary Strike Group 7; President, Board of Inspection and Survey, and Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (N3/N5).

During Rear Admiral Harley's tenure as 56th president of the Naval War College, he sought to "operationalize, navalize, futurize, and internationalize" the College. This was achieved in part by creating a Cyber and Innovation Policy Institute. He also established the John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research to ground the college in history as well as a College of Leadership and Ethics to emphasize leadership principles. In the international arena, he established the International Maritime Staff Officers Course and created a program to allow international students to earn a master's degree.

Harley took great pride in serving the faculty and creating a more equitable work environment by tackling gender inequities and ageism. His efforts led to an increase in diversity hirings in the College.

