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## From the Editors

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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There are many features unique to submarines among modern naval platforms that have long made them attractive to navies around the world. This is especially true today, given the increasing threat to surface naval vessels of all kinds posed by advanced intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision-strike capabilities. As Jan Joel Andersson demonstrates in “The Race to the Bottom: Submarine Proliferation and International Security,” there are today some four hundred submarines in the navies of forty nations, and both of these numbers are on the rise. Because attack submarines are weapons of choice for weaker states, this trend is especially pronounced among second- or third-tier navies. What are the broader implications of such a development? While plausibly contributing to greater stability at the strategic level, for example, does it create a dangerous instability at the tactical level? In fact, Andersson argues, the impact of submarine proliferation is easily exaggerated, and numbers alone can be highly misleading. Daunting maintenance problems, burdensome training requirements, and crew recruitment and retention issues can be expected to remain serious impediments to actual operational capability in many small submarine fleets, and even larger ones, such as India’s or Australia’s, given submarines’ technical complexity and the unforgiving undersea environment. Jan Joel Andersson is currently a senior analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris.

In “Deconstructing Nimitz’s Principle of Calculated Risk: Lessons for Today,” Robert C. Rubel argues that the U.S. Navy would be well served by recapturing an understanding of the principle of “calculated risk” famously formulated by Admiral Chester Nimitz in a message to his fleet commanders on the eve of the battle of Midway. Although concluding—surprisingly—that the principle was for all practical purposes essentially ignored by Admirals Fletcher and Spruance (and evidently by the Japanese fleet commander as well), Rubel argues that at a time when the Navy no longer has assured control of the western Pacific, given the rapid rise of Chinese antiaccess and area-denial capabilities, it needs to think carefully about the level of risk it can accept to its high-value capital ships (its aircraft carriers) relative to the strategic gains at stake in any conflict with that nation. Robert C. Rubel is the former dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

The rise of Chinese naval power, and in particular the apparent Chinese determination to project that power into the Indian Ocean and beyond, continues

to offer circumstances favorable to the development of U.S.-Indian relations in the maritime domain and more broadly. In “The American ‘Pivot’ and the Indian Navy: It’s Hedging All the Way,” Harsh V. Pant and Yogesh Joshi review the current state of Indian thinking about that country’s naval role in the Indian Ocean and, prospectively, the western Pacific, where it has already stepped up maritime security cooperation with American friends and such allies as Australia and Japan. In spite of the logic of a closer U.S.-Indian relationship, however, they argue, India’s political leaders remain wary of too close an American connection. They trace this attitude to the mixed signals emanating from Washington in the first several years of the current administration about the degree of American commitment to the region and to, in particular, containment of a rising China. They conclude, however, that there are steps the United States could take to advance a relationship that is clearly of great potential advantage to both sides. Harsh V. Pant is professor of international relations at King’s College London; Yogesh Joshi is currently a fellow in the Defence Studies Department, also at King’s College.

Two articles address, from different perspectives, the continuing menace of piracy. In “China’s Blue Soft Power: Antipiracy, Engagement, and Image Enhancement,” Andrew S. Erickson and Austin M. Strange review the history of Chinese antipiracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden, with particular attention to their growing role in Chinese naval diplomacy and “soft power” projection generally. They argue that these operations have been a watershed in China’s emergence as a fully “blue-water-capable” sea power as well as a demonstration of China’s interest in being seen as a cooperative player in the global maritime arena—in stark contrast to the poor image it continues to generate by its unilateral actions in the seas closer to home. Ali Kamal-Deen, in “The Anatomy of Gulf of Guinea Piracy,” reminds us that Africa’s pirate problem is no longer confined to Somalia. Indeed, the threat to coastal and international shipping and infrastructure (i.e., oil platforms) in the Gulf of Guinea has gained in intensity over the last five years even as Somali piracy has been much reduced. This comprehensive review of recent piracy trends in the Gulf of Guinea broadly speaking concludes with a series of recommendations for countering this (very underreported) threat. Ali Kamal-Deen is a commander in the Ghana Navy and its Legal Director.

## WINNERS OF OUR ANNUAL PRIZES

The President of the Naval War College has awarded prizes to the winners of the annual Hugh G. Nott and Edward S. Miller competitions for articles appearing in the *Naval War College Review*.

The Nott Prize, established in the early 1980s, is given to the authors of the best articles (less those considered for the Miller Prize) in the *Review* in the previous

publishing year. Cash awards are provided by the generosity of the Naval War College Foundation.

The winning article is “Smart Defense: Brave New Approach or Déjà Vu?” by Paul Johnson, Tim LaBenz, and Darrell Driver, which appeared in our Summer 2013 issue (\$1,000, shared among coauthors).

Three articles won honorable mention: “The Gaza Flotilla Incident and the Modern Law of Blockade,” by James Farrant (Summer 2013); “The Senkaku/Diaoyu Island Controversy: A Crisis Postponed,” by Paul J. Smith (Spring 2013); and “Globalization, Security, and Economic Well-Being,” by Stephen M. Carmel (Winter 2013).

The Miller Prize was founded in 1992 by the historian Edward S. Miller for the author of the best historical article appearing in the *Naval War College Review* in the same period. The winner is Thomas C. Hone, “Replacing Battleships with Aircraft Carriers in the Pacific in World War II,” appearing in our Winter 2013 issue (\$500).

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Our editorial offices are now located in Sims Hall, in the Naval War College Coasters Harbor Island complex, on the third floor, west wing (rooms W334, 335, 309). For building-security reasons, it would be necessary to meet you at the main entrance and escort you to our suite—give us a call ahead of time (841-2236).

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Pelham G. Boyer, Managing Editor