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## From the Editors

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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At the Twentieth International Seapower Symposium, held at the Naval War College in October 2011, one thing was strikingly clear: among the leaders of many of the world's navies today there is a growing embrace of the vision of maritime security cooperation first enunciated by former Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Michael Mullen under the label of the "thousand-ship navy." In our lead article, "Networking the Global Maritime Partnership," Stephanie Hsieh, George Galdorisi, Terry McKearney, and Darren Sutton explore this vision and the obstacles that continue to stand in the way of its realization. The rapid evolution of communications and sensor technologies is, ironically, one such obstacle, because one of its major effects is to *increase* the gap between the capabilities enjoyed by the U.S. Navy in this area and the capabilities of allied and partner navies. The authors offer a model for intensified regional collaboration in technology development that can help overcome this problem: The Technical Cooperation Program, a long-standing though little-known five-nation (United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) umbrella organization involving a network of 170 research entities and some 1,200 scientists and engineers.

Since World War II, more U.S. naval vessels have been destroyed or seriously damaged by sea mines than by all other forms of enemy action combined. Sea mines are the naval weapon of choice for nations of limited resources and technological capacity, as we have been reminded recently by the Iranian navy. Today, the People's Republic of China has a robust mining capability and an arsenal of sea mines that may number as many as a hundred thousand. In "Taking Mines Seriously: Mine Warfare in China's Near Seas," Scott C. Truver provides an authoritative, detailed survey of contemporary mine warfare and mine countermeasures generally and explores the implications of China's potential use of this most "asymmetric" of naval weapons in any conflict with the United States and its allies in the western Pacific. He argues that it is time the U.S. Navy took sea mines seriously—not only from a defensive perspective but also as an offensive instrument in the context of its emerging "AirSea Battle" concept.

Recent apparent frictions between American military commanders and the Obama administration over troop drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan serve as a reminder that the civil-military relationship in the United States remains fraught

with controversy and misunderstanding. Two articles in this issue address this subject. In “What Military Officers Need to Know about Civil-Military Relations,” Mackubin Thomas Owens provides a succinct overview and guide to how to think about civil-military relations in a realistic and responsible fashion. He argues that many military officers continue to draw the wrong conclusions from the Vietnam War concerning the proper role of civilian authority in managing military operations, and he sounds an important cautionary note about the tendency observable in today’s military to abuse the notion of “operational art” by using it as a device for excluding perceived civilian meddling in military decision making. A proper understanding of “strategy,” by contrast, shows the necessity of civil-military collaboration in a sustained process aimed at preserving the always delicate balance between military and political considerations. Dayne E. Nix, in “American Civil-Military Relations: Samuel P. Huntington and the Political Dimensions of Military Professionalism,” complements Owens’s account by exploring the various senses in which, given today’s evolving strategic environment, military officers must themselves acquire “political” expertise in order to perform their own jobs effectively. Professors Owens and Nix are both on the faculty of the Naval War College.

If the Korean War as a whole remains a dim memory at best for most Americans, many have heard of its most famous feat of arms—General Douglas MacArthur’s amphibious assault at Inchon, behind the lines of the invading North Koreans. In “A Remarkable Military Feat: The Hungnam Redeployment, December 1950,” Donald Chisholm, of the Naval War College’s Joint Military Operations Department, offers an account of a similar feat that has been undeservedly forgotten—the withdrawal of elements of three American divisions from northeastern Korea under pressure from advancing Chinese Communist forces after their victory at the battle of the Chosen Reservoir. Chisholm argues that this brilliantly orchestrated “amphibious withdrawal” deserves to be carefully studied as a resource for the reconstruction of an aspect of amphibious warfare doctrine that scarcely exists in today’s American military.

Finally, as part of our long-standing effort to understand capabilities and current trends within foreign middle-power navies, consonant with the U.S. Navy’s continuing emphasis on global maritime security cooperation, we offer Deane-Peter Baker’s “The South African Navy and African Maritime Security.” Baker, currently a professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, argues that South Africa’s naval past (focusing on guardianship of the Cape sea line of communication) continues to shape its current maritime outlook, at the expense of a focus on the current challenges of maritime security that South Africa faces, in common with other African littoral nations. South Africa, he believes, can play an important continent-wide role in this regard.

### HISTORICAL MONOGRAPH 19

The nineteenth book in our Historical Monograph series—*Talking about Naval History: A Collection of Essays*, by John B. Hattendorf, the Naval War College's Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History—is available for sale by the Government Printing Office's online bookstore. This collection of twenty articles on naval and maritime history selected from the recent work of Professor Hattendorf is published to mark the more than twenty-five years that he has occupied the College's prestigious Ernest J. King Chair of Maritime History. Professor Hattendorf's articles and essays range widely across five hundred years of history and deal with four major themes: maritime history as a field of academic and professional study, European naval history in the classic age of sail, American naval history, and naval theory.

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