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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

In “Strategic Trust and Cooperation,” Vice Admiral Paul A. Maddison, Commander Royal Canadian Navy, provides a *tour d’horizon* of the emergent maritime operational environment and the challenges it poses to the navies of the United States and its friends and allies around the globe. In an arresting comment, he notes that “the complex and dynamic interrelationships among influence, combat, and stabilization activities may lead to new and more adaptive approaches to campaign planning, as well as more flexible command organizations at the tactical and operational levels both at sea and ashore. Fighting forces themselves will undoubtedly become much more extensively networked to meet the demands of a highly cluttered, confused, complex, and legally constrained battle space.” In such an environment, moreover, it is even more imperative for nations to work together to safeguard international maritime order, beginning with the deliberate nurturing of what he terms “strategic trust.” Admiral Maddison’s remarks were originally presented in the form of an address to students and faculty at the Naval War College.

In “Command of the Sea: An Old Concept Resurfaces in a New Form,” Robert C. Rubel argues that a proper understanding of command of the sea is essential for a correct assessment of the role of the U.S. Navy in the contemporary strategic environment, particularly with a view to the challenge posed by the growing “access denial” capabilities of the Chinese military. Insisting on the distinction between (global and enduring) command of the sea and (local and intermittent) “sea control,” Rubel makes the case that America’s formidable fleet of power projection platforms—aircraft carriers, but also large-deck amphibious ships—should be understood as having a vital role in maintaining command of the sea on a global scale in the interests of safeguarding the increasingly interdependent “system” of global commerce and communication. At the same time, this suggests that they are not necessarily the preferred instruments for asserting sea control in—most particularly—the South China Sea. The argument builds on previous contributions by the author to this journal (“Talking about Sea Control” [Autumn 2010], “The Future of Aircraft Carriers” [Autumn 2011]). Robert C. Rubel, a retired Navy captain, is currently Dean of Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College.

A complementary vision of a future maritime confrontation with China is offered by Jeffrey E. Kline and Wayne P. Hughes, Jr. In “Between Peace and the Air-Sea Battle: A War at Sea Strategy,” the authors propose an alternative to the emerging “Air-Sea Battle” construct being developed by the U.S. Navy and Air Force, one that avoids deep strikes against targets on the Chinese mainland. Like Rubel, Kline and Hughes favor reliance on attack submarines to deny the Chinese sea control of the South China Sea, but they also make the case for developing a new small surface combatant that, together with similar vessels of regional allies, would constitute a “flotilla” (using the term coined by the classic naval theorist Julian Corbett a century ago) to operate in the East Asian littorals in times of peace as well as potential conflict. Captains (retired) Kline and Hughes, of the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School, have both served on the Advisory Board of the *Naval War College Review*.

There is little need to rehearse the litany of budgetary woes currently facing the Department of Defense. In “Building the Purple Ford: An Affordable Approach to Jointness,” Robert P. Kozloski argues that the U.S. military’s quasi-religious devotion to “jointness” today has caused it to turn a blind eye to the real costs imposed by what he insists are the inherent inefficiencies of the joint system in its various aspects. Concentrating primarily on the procurement process and the military personnel system, Kozloski argues that both efficiency and effectiveness are often sacrificed to the real or perceived requirements of jointness. While recognizing that the landmark Goldwater-Nichols Act has genuinely improved the operational performance of the military in important respects, he holds that the problems created by the legislation in other areas can no longer be ignored in the current fiscal environment. His most radical suggestions are the abolition of most combatant commands in their current form, with the drastic reduction in joint billets that this move would allow, and legislative reform that would limit the number of officers in all services required to be joint certified.

Next, Iskander Rehman’s “Drowning Stability: The Perils of Naval Nuclearization and Brinkmanship in the Indian Ocean” revisits the Indo-Pakistani nuclear relationship in the light of the growing trend toward the development or procurement by both sides of nuclear-capable sea-based platforms and weapons, notably, the new Indian S-2 SSBN. Rehman warns that the unstructured and volatile nuclear confrontation on the subcontinent could well become still more dangerous if this trend continues, especially if accompanied by the eventual introduction of Chinese nuclear-armed submarines into the Indian Ocean.

In “Decided Preponderance at Sea: Naval Diplomacy in Strategic Thought,” Kevin Rowlands reviews the relatively scanty literature on naval diplomacy (a.k.a. “gunboat diplomacy”) from the days of Alfred Thayer Mahan through the recent studies of James Cable and Edward Luttwak. He argues that at the present, when

“ballistic-missile defense at sea, theater security cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, enforcement of no-fly zones, forward presence, and global fleet stations are all forms of postmodern naval diplomacy,” more systematic thought needs to be devoted to the ubiquitous functioning of navies in peacetime. This reminder is apposite at a time when the U.S. Navy is preparing to revisit its fundamental maritime strategy for the current century, with its central emphasis on maritime security cooperation. Commander Rowlands is a serving officer in the Royal Navy.

War gaming has held a place of honor at the Naval War College since its early days. Milan Vego reminds us that it has a much longer historical pedigree. In “German War Gaming,” Vego traces the development of war gaming from its origins in ancient India through early modern Europe, its embrace by the Prussian army in the late eighteenth century, its development under the German Empire in the run-up to World War I, and its revival in the 1920s and ’30s. Of particular interest is his account of German army gaming of World War I scenarios, and for those with naval interests, German naval gaming prior to World War II. The central flaw of German war gaming was its consistent failure to address grand strategic or political factors; yet there is much here to stimulate productive thought about contemporary war gaming. Milan Vego is professor of joint military operations at the Naval War College.

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The newest title in our Newport Papers monograph series—*High Seas Buffer: The Taiwan Patrol Force, 1950–1979*, by Bruce A. Elleman, of the Naval War College’s Maritime History Department—is available for sale by the Government Printing Office’s online bookstore (bookstore.gpo.gov, or follow the link on the Press website). It is also available on our website in PDF, downloadable to e-readers. It tells the story of one of the longest naval operations in modern history—officially lasting twenty-nine years, and in a real sense continuing to the present. It was also one of the most successful, since, as a potent symbol of American power, it ensured that frictions over the Taiwan Strait did not escalate into full-blown warfare. In fact, the Taiwan Patrol Force did its job so well that virtually nothing has been written about it until now.

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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).