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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

As the United States enters its tenth year at war with an amorphous yet brutal enemy, it is worth stepping back from the familiar policy issues we continue to debate as a nation to reflect on what it means for our armed forces to be at war today. Ten years ago, the critical issue facing the American military was widely said to be “transformation”—the refashioning of our armed forces principally through the introduction of new technologies that would enable us to retain our competitive edge in the new networked security environment of the twenty-first century. Today, few believe that technology is the answer to defeating the global threat of violent Islamism. In fact, the Islamists have leveraged technology very effectively against us in their own version of networked warfare. We have certainly had our own successes in this arena (drones, innovative anti-IED techniques, and the like), but technology can also be a snare. Soldiers at their computer consoles need to remember that they are not playing games. More generally, we need to remain mindful of the harsh realities of war and of the necessity for our leaders, our commanders in the field, and our soldiers individually to confront them and come to terms with them. In this spirit, we begin with two thoughtful discussions of the moral and psychological challenges of the contemporary battlefield and how the men and women of our armed forces should approach them. In “Moral, Ethical, and Psychological Preparation of Soldiers and Units for Combat,” Brigadier General H. R. McMaster, U.S. Army, emphasizes the importance of values-oriented education and training in our armed forces for the counterinsurgency fight, for which the armed forces were largely unprepared, as he argues, in 2001. He also notes that this kind of preparation is all the more necessary given the debased and debasing violence that increasingly pervades American popular culture. Like General McMaster, Michael Evans is the coauthor of a manual on counterinsurgency—in his case, for the Australian army. Currently a fellow at the Australian Defence College in Canberra, Evans makes in “Captains of the Soul” a powerful argument for the enduring value of the philosophy of the Stoics as a sort of moral armor for today’s uniformed warriors.

There has been considerable alarm in some quarters in recent years over the growing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean, and in particular over the possible establishment of naval bases in the region by the People’s Republic of

China (PRC). In “Places and Bases: The Chinese Navy’s Emerging Support Network in the Indian Ocean,” Daniel J. Kostecka offers a careful and detailed analysis of what is actually known about Chinese activities there and of what can be deduced from them (and from the limited open discussion of the topic in the PRC itself) about likely Chinese intentions. He concludes that there is little to support the idea that the Chinese are pursuing a deliberate plan (the “string of pearls” strategy) to develop a basing infrastructure in the Indian Ocean but that they will probably continue the existing pattern of limited port visits for purposes of sustainment and repair. In particular, he argues that the Pakistani port of Gwadar is unlikely for a number of reasons to be developed by the Chinese for military purposes.

The naval and maritime capabilities of allied and friendly nations continues to be a major focus of interest for the *Review*. In “Franco-British Relations at Sea and Overseas: A Tale of Two Navies,” Alexandre Sheldon-Duplaix, a historian in the naval section of the French Defense Historical Service at Vincennes, offers a uniquely informed discussion of recent interaction in naval affairs between two of our most important European allies. Sheldon-Duplaix opens into third-party naval cooperation generally a window that should be of particular interest to the U.S. Navy as it moves to strengthen its various bilateral naval relationships. With the recent revelation that the Royal Navy is considering draconian cuts to its current force in order to preserve its planned new aircraft carriers, his article is particularly timely and may be an important signpost to the future.

An article in this issue revisits aspects of American naval history. In “Asymmetric Warfare at Sea: The Naval Battles off Guadalcanal, 1942–1943,” Thomas G. Mahnken, a professor in the Strategy and Policy Department of the Naval War College, traces the efforts of American commanders over the course of this six-month campaign to adjust to Japanese tactical and operational advantages in night fighting at sea.

The tragedy of friendly-fire incidents in Afghanistan has become an increasingly prominent issue in media coverage of that war. Michael J. Davidson, in “Friendly Fire and the Limits of the Military Justice System,” addresses the problem of accountability for such incidents and the difficulty of dealing with them in a legal framework. Finally, in her essay “Changing Interrogation Facility Management to Defeat the Enemy,” Virginia Cruse brings us back to the question of how to fight the war on terror, with an innovative proposal for developing a holistic approach to terrorist incarceration and interrogation.

NEWPORT PAPER 36

Jan S. Breemer’s *Defeating the U-boat: Inventing Antisubmarine Warfare*, Newport Paper 36, is now available—on our website and for sale online by the

Government Printing Office (at bookstore.gpo.gov). In it Dr. Breemer assesses the British response to the World War I German submarine threat, a story that holds important lessons for the U.S. Navy today. The Royal Navy's refusal to consider seriously the option of convoying merchant vessels demonstrates the extent to which professional military cultures can thwart technical and operational innovation even in circumstances of existential threat. As previously announced in these pages, paper copies of Newport Papers will hereafter be mailed or available free only to a limited number of institutional subscribers selected by the editor and the College's Ernest J. King Chair of Maritime History. Print copies of earlier titles (Newport Papers 1–35) remain available on request while stocks last.

THE ELLER PRIZE

We are delighted to learn from the Director of Naval History, Rear Admiral J. A. DeLoach, USN (Ret.), that the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) and the Naval Historical Foundation have jointly awarded the Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Prize in Naval History for 2009 to Trent Hone, for his "U.S. Navy Surface Battle Doctrine and Victory in the Pacific," which appeared in the Winter 2009 *Naval War College Review* (and also won our own history prize—see below).

WINNERS OF OUR ANNUAL ARTICLE 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 preceding publishing year. Cash awards are funded through the generosity of the Naval War College Foundation.

- First place: Eric Hagt and Matthew Durnin, "China's Antiship Ballistic Missile: Developments and Missing Links," Autumn 2009 (\$1,000, shared between coauthors)
- Second place: Andrew S. Erickson and David D. Yang, "Using the Land to Control the Sea? Chinese Analysts Consider the Antiship Ballistic Missile," Autumn 2009 (\$650, shared between coauthors)
- Third place: Gary E. Weir, "Fish, Family, and Profit: Piracy and the Horn of Africa," Summer 2009 (\$350).

Two articles were selected for honorable mention: Admiral James Stavridis, USN, and Captain Mark Hagerott, USN, "The Heart of an Officer: Joint, Inter-agency, and International Operations and Navy Career Development," and

Andrew Erickson and Lyle Goldstein, "Gunboats for China's New 'Grand Canals'? Probing the Intersection of Beijing's Naval and Oil Security Policies," both Spring 2009.

The Miller Prize was founded in 1992 by the historian Edward S. Miller for the author of the best historical article appearing in the *Review* in the same period. This year's winner is Trent Hone, for "U.S. Navy Surface Battle Doctrine and Victory in the Pacific" (Winter 2009, \$500). In addition, "Midway and the Indian Ocean" (Autumn 2009), by Jeremy Black, received honorable mention.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

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Pelham G. Boyer, Managing Editor