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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

The term “antiaccess/area denial” (A2/AD) is by now so familiar to military officers and analysts that it is virtually taken for granted as a fair description of the People’s Republic of China’s strategic concept for a potential clash with the U.S. Navy in the western Pacific. It is therefore somewhat odd that the Chinese themselves have no equivalent term in their military doctrine. In fact, as Vitaliy Pradun argues at length in the lead article of this issue, “From Bottle Rockets to Lightning Bolts: China’s Missile Revolution and PLA Strategy against U.S. Military Intervention,” the term is highly misleading if it is taken to suggest that the Chinese would only seek to deter, harass, or delay arriving American naval forces in the event of a conflict rather than to defeat them comprehensively. Pradun makes a compelling case that the latter is precisely what they intend and what explains in particular the rapid proliferation of Chinese antiship and other missiles of all types in recent years. This article nicely complements a series of pieces that have appeared in recent issues of the *Review* on related matters: Marshall Hoyler, “China’s ‘Antiaccess’ Ballistic Missiles and U.S. Active Defense” (Autumn 2010); Toshi Yoshihara, “Chinese Missile Strategy and the U.S. Naval Presence in Japan,” and Thomas J. Culora, “The Strategic Implications of Obscurants: History and the Future” (both Summer 2010); and Andrew S. Erickson and David D. Yang, “Using the Land to Control the Sea? Chinese Analysts Consider the Antiship Ballistic Missile,” and Eric Hagt and Matthew Durnin, “China’s Antiship Ballistic Missile: Developments and Missing Links” (both Autumn 2009).

In “Toward an African Maritime Economy: Empowering the African Union to Revolutionize the African Maritime Sector,” Commander Michael L. Baker, USN, proposes an ambitious, holistic program for improving the maritime economy and infrastructure of the African littoral in response to challenges like illegal fishing, piracy, drug smuggling, theft of oil, and other consequences of the virtual lack of effective governance there. He argues that it is very much in the interests of the international community, working with and through the African Union, to provide support and financial aid to such an effort.

In “The Development of the Angled-Deck Aircraft Carrier: Innovation and Adaptation,” Thomas C. Hone, Norman Friedman, and Mark D. Mandeles examine the watershed period in the history of naval aviation immediately following World War II. Then, several major technological breakthroughs—notably

the jet engine and nuclear weapons—raised large questions about the future and led to an array of innovations in the design and operational utilization of aircraft carriers. Central to this story is the collaboration between the aviation communities of the navies of the United States and Great Britain during these years. Strikingly, the most important of these innovations—notably the angled flight deck, optical landing aid, and steam catapult—originated with the British, not the Americans. This little-known story may hold interesting lessons for the U.S. Navy today with respect to its commitment to maritime security cooperation as well as technological innovation in the carrier force. A longer version of this paper will be published later this year as Newport Paper 37, under the title *Innovation in Carrier Aviation*.

Two articles revisit, if from very different angles, the Cold War at sea. Robert G. Angevine, in “Hiding in Plain Sight: The U.S. Navy and Dispersed Operations under EMCON, 1956–72,” tells another little-known story—this one very germane to the challenges the Navy faces today from the emerging Chinese missile threat as discussed in our lead article. In “Alliance Naval Strategies and Norway in the Final Years of the Cold War,” Commodore Jacob Børresen, Royal Norwegian Navy (Ret.), reminds us that Norway was once one of the key fronts of the Cold War and an important focus of U.S. and allied maritime strategy. A historian of the Royal Norwegian Navy as well as a participant in many of the events he describes, Børresen offers us highly relevant lessons in the difficulties of alliance management and the requirements of effective maritime security cooperation.

Finally, in “The Quiet Warrior Back in Newport: Admiral Spruance, the Return to the Naval War College, and the Lessons of the Pacific War, 1946–1947,” Hal M. Friedman revisits a key period in the postwar history of the Navy and of the Naval War College in particular. This article is based on parts of several chapters in Professor Friedman’s recent book *Digesting History: The U.S. Naval War College, the Lessons of World War Two, and Future Naval Warfare, 1945–1947* (Naval War College Press, 2010).

SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION LITERARY PRIZE

Every year the Surface Navy Association, with headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, confers the Surface Navy Literary Award upon the author of the best professional article in any publication addressing surface Navy or surface warfare issues. We’re delighted to report that two articles appearing in the *Review* have won honorable mention this year: “The *Zumwalt*-Class Destroyer: A Technology ‘Bridge’ Shaping the Navy after Next,” by George Galdorisi and Scott Truver (Summer 2010), and “The Most Daring Act of the Age: Principles for Naval Irregular Warfare,” by Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Armstrong, USN (Autumn 2010).