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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

Over the last nine months or so, the Navy has invested significant resources in developing a new maritime strategy suited to the realities of the contemporary security environment. Many elements of the Navy and Navy-affiliated organizations have contributed to this effort, but the Naval War College has played a central role in laying the groundwork for the new maritime strategy through an intensive series of workshops, war games, and analytical exercises. It has also helped to organize an ambitious series of public meetings around the United States (the “Conversation with the Country,” as it has come to be known) designed to engage the attention of the broader American public in issues of concern to the Navy and in the future of American naval and maritime power. It is appropriate, therefore, to start off this issue with two articles that provide some sense of the current state of thinking on maritime strategy issues within the Navy educational establishment. George Baer, a distinguished historian of the U.S. Navy and longtime chair of the Strategy and Policy Department at the Naval War College, offers some broad reflections on how one should approach maritime strategy today. (The article is based on remarks presented by Professor Baer at the first “Conversation with the Country” gathering, held in Newport in February 2007.) Next, Wayne Hughes of the Naval Postgraduate School offers an analytical framework for thinking about the requirements of naval force structure at a time when the Navy is seemingly caught between the conflicting demands of immediate low-intensity global threats—principally but not only the war on terror—and the longer-term yet increasingly formidable high-end threat posed by the People’s Republic of China and possibly other emerging major maritime powers.

On the subject of China, we continue our focus on “Asia Rising” with articles by Peter Dutton, a former Navy JAG officer and now a Naval War College faculty member, on the long-standing and potentially dangerous territorial disputes between China and Japan in the East China Sea, and by Colonel Philippe Rogers, USMC, on the little-known story of China’s participation in recent UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. We are pleased to welcome this outstanding student contribution to these pages.

Milan Vego is well known to a generation of Naval War College students as perhaps the leading historian and theorist of “operational art,” the arena of military action falling between strategy and tactics. The concept of operational art, deriving ultimately from German and Soviet military thought, has for some decades had a central place in U.S. Army doctrine, but its role in naval thinking and practice remains problematic, to say the least. Professor Vego here explores the notion of “major naval operations” as a key component of naval operational art, with particular reference to the Navy’s (as he argues) still-relevant World War II experience. This is a subject we intend to pursue in future issues.

In our final feature article, Gary Solis provides a careful analysis of “Targeted Killing and the Law of Armed Conflict.” This is a controversial subject but one that cannot be ignored by military professionals; particularly in today’s atmosphere of media sensationalism and emotionally driven political commentary, we have to be mindful of the increasing interdependence of military operations and issues of the law of armed conflict and with strategic communications requirements.

ASIA EYES AMERICA

Asia Eyes America: Regional Perspectives on U.S. Asia-Pacific Strategy in the Twenty-first Century, edited by Jonathan D. Pollack, is in preparation for release in late summer 2007. This third book in our Policy Studies Series extends the East Asia focus of the first two volumes, *Strategic Surprise? U.S.-China Relations in the Early Twenty-first Century* and *Korea: The East Asian Pivot*, also edited by Dr. Pollack. The highly distinguished international scholars and analysts represented presented these papers at the Naval War College’s Asia-Pacific Forum of 4–5 May 2006. They examine a contemporary Asia marked by increased competence, confidence, and resilience, and in which the U.S. role is a major variable. This book is a groundbreaking contribution to the study of the contemporary Asia-Pacific and to the wider debate on fundamental issues of national strategy and policy. The book will be sold by the U.S. Government Printing Office, through its online bookstore, at bookstore.gpo.gov/.

EDWARD S. MILLER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN NAVAL HISTORY

The Naval War College Foundation intends to award one grant of \$1,000 to the researcher who has the greatest need and can make the optimum use of research materials for naval history located in the Naval War College’s Archives, Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College Museum, and Henry E. Eccles Library. A guide to the College’s manuscript, archival, and oral history collections may be found on the Naval War College’s website, at www.nwc.navy.mil/museum (under Naval History Resources, then Naval Historical Collection Publications).

Further information on the manuscript and archival collections and copies of the registers for specific collections is available online and from the Head, Naval Historical Collection, by e-mail at evelyn.cherpak@nwc.navy.mil.

The recipient will be a research fellow in the Naval War College's Maritime History Department, which will provide administrative support during the research visit. Submit detailed research proposal (with statement of need and plan for optimal use of materials, curriculum vitae, at least two letters of recommendation, and relevant background information) to Miller Naval History Fellowship Committee, Naval War College Foundation, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I. 02841-1207, by 1 August 2007. For further information, contact the chair of the selection committee, at john.hattendorf@nwc.navy.mil. Employees of the U.S. Naval War College or any agency of the U.S. Department of Defense are not eligible for consideration; EEO/AA regulations apply.

FORTHCOMING: NEWPORT PAPER 29

U.S. Naval Strategy in the 1970s and 1980s: Selected Documents, Newport Paper 29, is the third of a series of volumes in which Dr. John B. Hattendorf, the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at the Naval War College, documents the history of U.S. naval strategic thinking in recent decades. Newport Paper 29 will provide the key capstone documents for U.S. naval strategy in the 1970s and 1980s. This is a selection of documents that are described in Professor Hattendorf's Newport Paper 19, *The Evolution of the U.S. Navy's Maritime Strategy, 1977–1986*, and were the predecessors of the documents that he published in Newport Paper 27, *U.S. Naval Strategy in the 1990s: Selected Documents*.