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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of the *Naval War College Review* completes the transition to a new editor—joined as of the previous issue, as readers may have noted, by a newly minted Editorial Board. A few remarks about this panel and, more generally, the future editorial direction of the *Review* are therefore appropriate.

The new Editorial Board is a working group, representative of all of the major teaching and research departments of the Naval War College. As such, it signals our intention that the *Review* be more comprehensively reflective of the intellectual life of this institution than has sometimes been the case in the past. The board reaches out as well to the broader intellectual community throughout the United States (and, it should be noted, in the United Kingdom) interested in and conversant with naval and maritime affairs and strategic studies more generally. The overall composition of the panel highlights the *Review's* long-standing commitment to scholarly standards of a high order in this field, and the centrality to its overall mission of the naval and maritime dimension of international security. Matters of current (and historical) interest to the sea services of the United States will have the first claim on our editorial attention. At the same time, mindful as we must be of the increasingly joint and interagency character of contemporary warfare, we will continue to pay due attention to military and security issues of relevance across the services as well as to the framework of national policy that shapes and is shaped by them.

The lead article of this issue nicely exemplifies this broader focus. In “Transforming the U.S. Global Defense Posture,” Ryan Henry, currently Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, provides an authoritative overview of the unprecedented effort undertaken by the U.S. government over the last several years to review and realign its overseas basing structure and associated alliance relationships. The implications of these developments have yet to be fully assessed, especially as they affect the Navy and Marine Corps, but they are likely to be far-reaching. Mr. Henry’s paper also appears in a collection of essays on this subject, *Reposturing the Force: U.S. Overseas Presence in the Twenty-first Century*, which was prepared in parallel by the Naval War College Press for publication as the twenty-sixth monograph in its Newport Papers series.

With this issue, the *Review* introduces what we expect to become a regular feature, articles under the rubric “Asia Rising,” this time on India and China’s emerging navy. Our particular focus on the People’s Republic of China will be supported by innovative analyses currently being carried out within the Center for Naval Warfare Studies of the rapidly burgeoning Chinese military literature. Admiral Eric McVadon’s overview of Chinese naval capabilities is based on a paper he delivered at a conference on the Chinese nuclear submarine force held in Newport in October 2005 under the Center’s auspices.

War gaming has a long and honorable history in the U.S. Navy and is a core competency of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies. But the historical and analytical literature on this subject is surprisingly thin. Robert Rubel, currently director of the Wargaming Department of CNWS, provides in his “The Epistemology of War Gaming” a valuable insider’s analysis of the conceptual underpinnings of this arcane subject and, in particular, of the many misconceptions that too often compromise its value. This article is the first of a regular feature, “Research, Analysis, and Gaming,” that will explore various aspects of the methodologies of military-oriented research.

With this issue, the *Naval War College Review* marks the passing of one of our institution’s most distinguished recent presidents, Vice Admiral Arthur M. Cebrowski. Admiral Cebrowski led the Naval War College (and the Navy Warfare Development Command, which had recently relocated to Newport) from July 1998 through August 2001; he retired from the Navy in October 2001 after thirty-seven years of service. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed by the Secretary of Defense as Director, Office of Force Transformation, and served there until January 2005. Admiral Cebrowski passed away on 12 November 2005 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, after a long struggle with cancer, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 9 January 2006. We are fortunate to be able to publish a retrospective essay on Admiral Cebrowski’s life and his intellectual contributions to the Navy and the Department of Defense by Mr. James Blaker, who worked closely with him for some fifteen years.

SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION LITERARY AWARD

At its eighteenth annual symposium, held 10–13 January 2006, the Surface Navy Association announced the newest winners of the awards it confers each year for the best professional articles addressing surface Navy or surface warfare issues. Two of the awards this time went to *Naval War College Review* authors—to whom our sincerest congratulations. The overall winner was Thomas Wildenberg, for his “Midway: Sheer Luck or Better Doctrine?” in our Winter 2005 issue. Honorable mention went to John R. Benedict, for “The Unraveling and Revitalization of U.S. Navy Antisubmarine Warfare,” in the Spring 2005 issue.

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Reposturing the Force: U.S. Overseas Presence in the Twenty-first Century, edited by Carnes Lord, is available from the editorial office and online. It provides a snapshot of the ongoing reconfiguration of America's foreign military "footprint" abroad—a process that is likely to prove of the most fundamental importance for the long-term security of the United States yet that has so far received little systematic attention. Its essays combine rigor and authoritativeness. Ryan Henry and Lincoln Bloomfield, Jr., have been central figures in the Global Defense Posture Review; their papers were specially commissioned for this volume (Mr. Henry's appears also in this issue of the *Review*). Robert Harkavy places current developments in a larger historical and strategic framework. Andrew Erickson and Justin Mikolay provide an in-depth analysis of the role of Guam in the posture of the U.S. military in the western Pacific. Finally, Robert Work examines the emerging concept of "sea basing."