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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

The appearance of this issue of the *Review* coincides with the formal establishment of the Naval War College's China Maritime Studies Institute (CMSI), and our two lead articles serve to introduce the work of the institute to the security studies community in this country and abroad. The first article, "China's Aircraft Carrier Dilemma," by Naval War College faculty and CMSI members Andrew Erickson and Andrew Wilson, offers a detailed account of the state of thinking and program development in the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) relating to aircraft carriers, long a controversial and obscure subject. As future CMSI analyses will be, it is based on a thorough and careful exploitation of the large and growing Chinese-language military and military-technical literature now available from open sources, much of it known only very imperfectly, if at all, in the West. The second article is a translation of an important, wide-ranging article by Senior Captain Xu Qi of the PLAN, "Maritime Geostrategy and the Development of the Chinese Navy in the Early Twenty-first Century," which appeared in *China Military Science*—the leading People's Liberation Army periodical—in 2004. As such, it carries very substantial (if somewhat indeterminate) weight as an expression of views held at senior levels of the Chinese military and political hierarchy, and it should therefore be of much interest to Western scholars and decision makers as they attempt to come to grips with the thinking of a Chinese leadership that is increasingly sophisticated technically, operationally, and as this paper shows, strategically as well.

Second-guessing and recriminations of various kinds over the conduct of the Iraq war continue to roil the arena of civil-military interaction as well as the political arena in the United States today. Mackubin Thomas Owens usefully reminds us that the civil-military relationship is never easy and that there is no simple division of responsibility between civilian and military decision making in time of war. He thereby opens a discussion on the subject of "Leadership and Decision," one we hope to pursue further in these pages in subsequent issues. The importance of military leadership is also a theme of Gary Ohls's article on the little-known Union amphibious operations against Fort Fisher in North Carolina during the late stages of the American Civil War.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the military operations carried out against Egypt in 1956 by a combined Franco-British expeditionary force acting

in conjunction with Israel. Though much has changed since that time, this history, reexamined here by Michael H. Coles, holds some intriguing lessons for the conduct of coalition warfare in today's Middle East.

2006 PRIZE WINNERS

The President of the Naval War College, accepting the nominations of faculty committees, has chosen winners of the Hugh G. Nott Prize and the Edward S. Miller History Prize. The prizes are awarded by letter.

The Hugh G. 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 previous publishing year (in this case, 2005). This year's winners are:

- *First place*: Capt. David C. Hardesty, USN, for "Space-Based Weapons: Long-Term Strategic Implications and Alternatives," Spring 2005 (\$1,000)
- *Second place*: James R. Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara, for "Taiwan: Melos or Pylos?" Summer 2005 (\$650)
- *Third place*: George H. Quester, for "If the Nuclear Taboo Gets Broken," Spring 2005 (\$350).

The Miller Prize was founded in 1992 by the historian Edward S. Miller for the author of the best historical article appearing in the *Naval War College Review* in the same period. This year's winner is "Midway: Sheer Luck or Better Doctrine?" by Thomas Wildenberg (Winter 2005).

FORTHCOMING: NEWPORT PAPER 27

U.S. Naval Strategy in the 1990s: Selected Documents, edited by John H. Hattendorf (the Naval War College's Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History) and scheduled to appear in winter 2006, will collect documents reflecting the evolution of official thinking within the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps during the post-Cold War era concerning the fundamental missions and strategy of the sea services. It will form part of a larger project bringing greater transparency to a dimension of our naval history that is now seen as having urgent interest. Professor Hattendorf initiated the undertaking with his authoritative study in Newport Paper 19 (2004) of the Maritime Strategy of the 1980s. In Newport Paper 27, covering the 1990s, Professor Hattendorf will assemble for the first time in a single publication all the major naval strategy and policy statements of that decade.