

1993

The Law of Naval Operations: International Law Studies, Volume 64

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Recommended Citation

Walker, George K. and Robertson, Horace D. Jr. (1993) "The Law of Naval Operations: International Law Studies, Volume 64," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 46 : No. 2 , Article 31.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol46/iss2/31>

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to world cultural and political trends, and knows first-hand how policy decisions are reached. He writes, "The actual conduct of foreign relations, whatever the persistent demands of those out of office for a disciplining strategy, is more fact-specific than principle-oriented." His brief essay captures most of this volume's debate in a manner which will entrance the thoughtful man or woman of action.

David J. Scheffer's essay, "Use of Force After the Cold War: Panama, Iraq, and the New World Order," contrasts how the Bush administration operated to reinforce the architecture of international law throughout the Persian Gulf crisis with the fact that "none of these objectives [stated by Bush administration officials to justify the 1989 invasion of Panama] survives legal scrutiny with much credibility." In fifty well documented pages, Scheffer argues that U.S. decisions in these two crises "do not form a consistent vision of the 'new world order' President George Bush propounded during the Gulf conflict. Instead, they reveal the difficult choices that governments must make between the national interest, narrowly conceived, and the emerging global interest of the post-Cold War era." As an addendum to the first edition, Scheffer's essay is *vital* reading about what the New World Order should and should not involve.

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Robertson, Horace B., Jr., ed. *The Law of Naval Operations: International Law Studies*. Vol. 64. Newport, R.I.: Naval War College Press, 1991. 540pp. (No cost)

This excellent collection of essays edited by Emeritus Professor Robertson, former Stockton Professor of International Law at the Naval War College and a former Judge Advocate General of the Navy, is an elaboration and commentary on *The Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations* (NWP-9A). The unannotated version of NWP-9A is reprinted as an appendix.

This version of NWP-9A will serve line officers well. Lawyers and researchers, however, should have the annotated version available when consulting *The Law of Naval Operations*. All readers should be cautioned that NWP-9, as an official naval warfare publication of the U.S. Navy, is subject to periodic updating and revision. Therefore, the version of NWP-9 appended to this book will necessarily become obsolete over time. In any event, a prudent commander will consult a judge advocate before acting on the basis of this or any other book concerned with the law of military operations.

The authors of the book rank among the most distinguished international law scholars from around the world, including five former Stockton Professors at the War College. The volume is rightly dedicated to the memory of Professor L.F.E. Goldie; his essay, "Maritime War Zones and

Exclusion Zones," is among the best chapters.

The book, which was in the printer's hands during the Gulf War, is a series of analyses of international law issues relevant to naval operations in peace and war, some points of which may elicit two or more views on the law, even as the conduct of naval operations in peace or war may be subject to debate before and after the event. For example, Professor Mark W. Janis criticizes NWP-9A's recitation of the traditional rules of neutrality. Professors A.V. Lowe and Thomas A. Clingan take sharp issue with the Janis view. This sort of divergence on the law can be disconcerting to a line officer used to the certainty of rules stated in official publications such as NWP-9A. There is a three-point response. First, NWP-9A itself often notes the uncertainty of the law on some situations. Second, these debates reinforce the recommendation above, that a line officer seek the advice of a judge advocate before acting; preparedness is an old principle of leadership. Third, the line community has had its own intellectual disputes, with respectable authority on either side; recall the large-deck vs. small-deck carrier debate.

The Law of Naval Operations, like NWP-9A, is an outstanding achievement despite the occasional opinions of authors that may vary from positions taken by others or are otherwise questionable. Therein, indeed, lies the book's usefulness and strength. Its publication demonstrates the commitment of the college that sponsored

it to promote reasoned discussion and possible amendments of the *Handbook* through constructive criticism in the context of academic freedom. *The Law of Naval Operations* thus fulfills its goals, as stated in Professor Robertson's Preface, of bringing "broader attention to the publication of the *Handbook* and [to stimulate] a renewed debate on naval operational law and the law of armed conflict at sea."

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Smith, Dale O. *Cradle of Valor: The Intimate Letters of a Plebe at West Point*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Books, 1988. 268pp. \$16.95

In recent years, there has been a veritable avalanche of monographs, manuscripts, and other literature commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of World War II. The names of Eisenhower, Marshall, MacArthur, Patton, Bradley, and a host of other army commanders have long been enshrined in the Valhalla of military heroes. Although their paths to greatness varied due to time and circumstances, a common thread binds this remarkable collection of military giants. With a few notable exceptions, the vast majority of America's premier battlefield commanders began their journey to greatness among the Hudson River highlands surrounding the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.