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On Space Warfare

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professional schooling, and the second is that even though naval participation in joint doctrine development activity has not been enthusiastic, it appears to be essential.

The general lack of naval interest in doctrine as a topic is becoming dangerous, partly because most future operations will be of a joint nature, and partly because doctrine is becoming embedded in staff planning tools. This embedded doctrine should be that desired by the professional military community rather than that most convenient to the software engineer however well intentioned. Such embedded doctrine is especially pernicious because it subtly teaches its operators specific thought patterns and continuously reinforces them.

This reviewer recommends all these books to a broad professional audience.

Lupton, Donald E. *On Space Warfare: A Space Power Doctrine*. Alabama: Air Univ. Press, 1988. 149pp. \$7

Even before space flight became feasible, the more foresighted strategic thinkers had already recognized its potential military use. This recognition, however, rested more on instinct than on a sound understanding of what could and couldn't be done in space. Space is a very different environment from the earth's atmosphere, though the Air Force insists that the two form a continuous medium, and vague analogies drawn from the history of air power have often misled those who would speculate on the nature of space power.

From the many conflicting currents in the ongoing debate about military space, Lt. Colonel Donald E. Lupton isolates four major trends: the Sanctuary School, which wants to keep space free of weapons in the belief that reconnaissance activities conducted there, left unhindered, strengthen deterrence; the Surviv-

ability School, which stresses the vulnerability of space assets and portrays space war as a tit-for-tat, beggar-thy-neighbor enterprise likely to leave all parties the poorer; the High Ground School, which favors space-based ballistic missile defense, insisting that these systems could decisively affect the outcome of a terrestrial conflict; and the Control School, which stops short of the claims of the High Ground advocates, yet regards victory in space in a future war as a probable precondition for success in other mediums.

Colonel Lupton strongly favors the Control School. He dismisses the sanctuary theorists as unrealistic: asymmetries in the combatants' degree of dependence on satellites would make them almost certain targets in any protracted war. The survivability school, Lupton argues, overstates the vulnerability of space systems. These systems, he contends, are defensible. In fact, they are no more at risk than fixed assets on

earth. Although more sympathetic to the high grounders, Lupton doubts that a shield as permeable as a space-based ballistic missile defense system could significantly reduce the offensive capability of nuclear weapons. Space, he consequently concludes, will be one of four co-equal arenas in any war fought among the superpowers.

But such a hasty summary as this conceals much of Colonel Lupton's originality—that is especially clear in his use of naval analogies rather than the usual shopworn comparisons to air power. For example, to counter the argument that limited maneuverability and high exposure to attack render space stations unsuitable for military use, he likens them to the coaling stations that serviced 19th century steamships. Like the lightly defended coaling stations of yesterday, space stations would be easy targets for attack, but just as the coaling stations greatly extended the range of peacetime fleet operations, so would space stations permit the longer and more complex shuttle missions necessary to fully deploy space power. An admirer of Admiral Mahan, Lupton compares the ability to control passage through the near-earth regions of space to the priority that naval strategists give to dominating the relatively few searoutes over which the majority of vital resources flow.

Despite his fondness for sea analogies, Colonel Lupton is loyal to his branch of the armed services in his prescriptions for the management of military space. He believes that efficient planning, effective program

lobbying, and the command and control requirements of modern war, demand Air Force predominance. Mainly concerned with the force employment side of space doctrine, Colonel Lupton presents the case for Air Force organizational control briefly, almost as an afterthought. Already satellites and other space assets serve a wide variety of functions for a wide variety of military users. This has led, and will continue to lead to conflicts of prioritization and emphasis. Doubtless there will be those who, viewing the matter from different institutional perspectives, will wish to take issue with Colonel Lupton's position, both organizational and otherwise. Nevertheless, most readers will surely agree that as an introduction to an often poorly discussed subject, Colonel Lupton's book sets a high standard for clarity and cogent reasoning.

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Fenner, Milton A., Davis, Scott M., and Parmentola, John A. *Making Space Defense Work: Must the Superpowers Cooperate?* New York: Pergamon-Brassey's International Defense Publishers, Inc., 1988. 209pp. \$21.95

For those who are not intimately familiar with the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and the multitude of arguments and issues related to it, this book provides an easy-to-read and well organized summary of the more