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The Cutting Edge.

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Many of the drawings in the French and Italian sections are originals, while none exist in the chapter on Japan. The Russian section, as might be expected, contains relatively little specific information. The few drawings, apparently created exclusively for the book, do not approach those in the European and U.S. sections in quality or in information.

One-fourth of the book is devoted to Great Britain while the U.S. section covers two-thirds as much. The latter provides an excellent complement to the Naval Institute's recent volume on battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, with details of each class's armament components. Much of this deals specifically with the designs rather than the reasons for their development. All torpedo summaries, while good, suffer from too few torpedo cutaways. Where is the famous Mk 24 "mine," the first truly successful homing torpedo?

In summary, *Naval Weapons of World War Two* covers the physical details of the weapons systems that influenced the development of so many combatants that are of interest to historians and others. This volume is not perfection and may elicit a number of reasoned responses to some of the points about which the author speculates. Thus, a second edition, especially if it included comparable details on the Japanese Navy, would be of great benefit and a welcome contribution to this body of knowledge.

RICHARD F. CROSS III
Alexandria, Virginia

Heatley, C.J., III. *The Cutting Edge*.
Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute
Press, 1986. 152pp. \$38

This is the one—this is the one for all the armchair aviators, amateur aviators, poor folks with lead wings, naval aviators, warp drivers, fast burners, and all those who know they have got the right stuff. C.J. "Heater" Heatley is a Navy fighter pilot, and superb photographer whose pictures inspired the movie *Topgun*. He must have the only optically true canopy in the Navy, for his photographs—taken through his canopy with a hand-held 35mm camera—are without blemish and are magnificent. There are so many grand photographs beautifully reproduced in this book that you will find yourself saturated at first and only on the second or third pass realize that each in its own way is a small masterpiece. My favorite is an F-14 climbing through a humid sky with rarefaction condensation waves forming over the wings. Picking yours will be a delightful chore.

Everything photogenic in carrier aviation is here—the people, the sky, the clouds, the sea, the ships, and the planes. All the good ones are here: F-18s, F-14s, A-6s, A-7s, S-3s, E-2Cs, CODs, and choppers. The aerial photographs of Russian aircraft could be sold to them to facilitate their lagging recruitment. Accepting the cliché about a picture being worth a thousand words, Heatley skillfully weaves lean text, from the pilots and crew, between his photographs. Since I cannot show you the photographs with this review, you will have to settle for a few of the best words.

From Heatley: "Morning launches are the best. The dawn patrol. . . . There's something about strapping on 50,000 pounds of fire breathing hardware, roaring off into the heavens and defying the laws of nature."

An A-6 pilot: "Getting airborne is the only phase of carrier aviation that you, as a pilot, have no control over."

The F-14 pilots: "When you go supersonic, you don't feel a thing. . . . Things just happen faster." "Fighter pilots always want to dog-fight. That's the whole reason they became fighter pilots." An F-14 pilot on intercepting Russian overflights: "They speak pretty good English. They ask us what it's like to be on a carrier; we tell them we're there for the dancing girls."

From the pilots flying other aircraft: ". . . I like flying a single

person plane (A-7). You get to make all the decisions." "We say there are only two types of pilots, those who fly the FA-18 and those who wish they did."

On carrier landings: "Trapping on a carrier is violent. . . . You go from 150 miles per hour to nothing in two seconds." "Night landings are definitely the hardest thing that a naval aviator does. . . . One day you may have a great landing, and the next day, it's as if snakes are in the cockpit."

The words are good, the pictures outstanding. For about six times the price of going to see the movie *Topgun* you can buy *The Cutting Edge*. Do so, it has staying power—you won't be hungry two hours later.

FRANK C. MAHNCKE
Naval War College

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Annotated by

Murray Bradley and Patricia Daly

Blechman, Barry M. *U.S. Security in the Twenty-First Century*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1987. 173pp. \$15.95

Applying statistics, Delphic techniques, and expert opinions to factors that influence long-range U.S. military planning, the author arrives at five alternative strategic environments for the beginning of the next century. Among the factors considered are demographic trends, nuclear proliferation, military technology, and public opinion. In general, he forecasts a weakening of international institutions, accompanied by more independent foreign policies and frequent recourse to military force.