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## From the Editors

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## FROM THE EDITORS

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After the Persian Gulf, the East Asian littoral is the most likely arena of maritime conflict and crisis in today's world. In "The Architecture of Japan's Maritime-Security System in the East China Sea," Kentaro Furuya provides an authoritative analysis of the Japanese government's approach to managing China's activities in its territorial waters, especially in the area surrounding the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. He lays out the details of the policy and legal frameworks that guide the relationship between the Japan Coast Guard and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force in asserting Japanese rights under international law while carefully avoiding actions that could provoke conflict. Kentaro Furuya is a professor at the Japan Coast Guard Academy and a former commander in the Japan Coast Guard.

The Korean Peninsula offers a set of different challenges in the same region. In "Exploring North Korea's Asymmetric Military Strategy," Mirko Tasic argues that the common perception of the North Korean leadership as irrational and unpredictable fails to grasp the extent to which the country has deliberately pursued an "asymmetric" approach to its military strategy with respect to the United States and its regional allies, one that has unfolded over several phases in recent years. He focuses particularly on the too-little-discussed maritime dimension of this approach. Mirko Tasic is a professor at Webster University's Thailand campus.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is perhaps the most hotly debated topic in the defense, technical, and policy communities, mostly in relation to alleged ethical dilemmas stemming from reliance on autonomous weapon systems in scenarios of future warfare. Christian H. Heller's "Near-Term Applications of Artificial Intelligence: Implementation Opportunities from Modern Business Practices" is a wide-ranging and well-informed survey of current uses of AI in the business world that have near-term applications for the U.S. military and the Navy and Marine Corps in particular. Because these uses are nonkinetic, he points out, they are relatively uncontroversial, and offer potentially enormous payoffs in terms of administrative efficiencies and operational capability, notably in areas such as logistics that too often are off the radar in discussions of this subject. Christian H. Heller currently serves as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In "Exploring the Options: The Development of USN Tactical Doctrine, 1913–23," Trent Hone analyzes a formative period in the history of the U.S.

Navy, one that saw the creation of a learning culture that enabled the Navy to survive the initial shocks of World War II and eventually to prevail. Contrary to popular belief, Hone argues, the Navy indeed did possess a “doctrine,” developed in those years through the interplay of experimentation in the Atlantic Fleet, wargaming exercises at the Naval War College, and the experience of World War I. This doctrine, Hone suggests, had more in common with the command style of Admiral Horatio Nelson than with that of the rule-bound Royal Navy of the Battle of Jutland. Trent Hone writes frequently on the history of the U.S. Navy in the twentieth century.

Geoffrey Sloan’s article, “The Royal Navy and Organizational Learning: The Western Approaches Tactical Unit and the Battle of the Atlantic,” nicely complements Hone’s. It offers a case study of successful wartime innovation by the British in antisubmarine warfare in the most critical naval battle of World War II. Sloan also emphasizes the importance of doctrine (and the effective teaching of doctrine) as well as technology and organization in the creation of a military “learning organization.” Geoffrey Sloan is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Reading.

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