

# Naval War College Review

---

Volume 73  
Number 1 *Winter 2020*

Article 2

---

2020

## From the Editors

Robert Ayer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

Ayer, Robert (2020) "From the Editors," *Naval War College Review*. Vol. 73 : No. 1 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol73/iss1/2>

This From the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

## FROM THE EDITORS

---

The tendency of professional military discourse in the United States to embrace buzzwords and jargon is remarked often; less so is the negative impact this phenomenon can have on the way American civilian and military elites actually wage war. Occasionally a senior officer sufficiently loses patience with the use of a certain term or concept to denounce it publicly, but in general the problem seems to be shrugged off. But in “Blurred Lines: Gray-Zone Conflict and Hybrid War—Two Failures of American Strategic Thinking,” Donald Stoker and Craig Whiteside make a vigorous case for expunging the pervasive terms *gray zone* and *hybrid war* from the vocabulary of contemporary military analysis. They argue, first, that the supposedly novel phenomena in question are not new at all; and second, that the failure to distinguish in the traditional way between war and peace creates unnecessary confusion and could have very undesirable consequences in practice. Donald Stoker was formerly, and Craig Whiteside is currently, a professor at the Naval War College’s program at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

It is not widely appreciated that ballistic-missile defense (BMD) has been for some years a key mission of the U.S. Navy. Since the 1960s, BMD also has been an unusual focus of political controversy, both domestically and in terms of the concerns of some allied governments that it would undermine the deterrent effect of offensive nuclear forces. In “A Double-Edged Sword: Ballistic-Missile Defense and U.S. Alliances,” Robert C. Watts IV explores the impact of BMD on America’s relationship with NATO, Japan, and South Korea in the light of the evolving character of BMD as a collaborative alliance project, as opposed to an essentially unilateral American enterprise. He finds that in recent years, in spite of some complications in both Europe and Northeast Asia, the forward-deployed BMD capability that the Navy’s Aegis destroyers provide has served as an important cement to these important alliance relationships. Commander Watts is a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy.

Alliance-management issues are also at the center of Jihoon Yu and Erik French’s article, “Should the United States Support a Republic of Korea Nuclear Submarine Program?” While the authors admit that there are serious cons

associated with this idea—particularly the extraordinary expense of constructing nuclear attack submarines, as well as technology-transfer and proliferation issues—they make a strong case for U.S. support for such a program, particularly in terms of strengthening American ties with the Republic of Korea (ROK) at a time when ROK-Japan tensions have had a destabilizing impact on America's alliance relationships in the region. Lieutenant Commander Yu is a submarine officer in the ROK Navy; Erik French is a professor at the College at Brockport, State University of New York.

Finally, it is well to be reminded that there is more to the history of the U.S. Navy than big battles and war-fighting admirals. In “Neptune’s Oracle: Admiral Harry E. Yarnell’s Wartime Planning, 1918–20 and 1943–44,” Frank A. Blazich Jr. traces the long and eventful career of an exemplary American admiral whose name is hardly known beyond the confines of the Naval War College, which he attended in its early years and where he absorbed a methodology of naval planning that would serve him well in the future. His involvement in postwar planning during World War II reveals an acute grasp of emerging strategic realities, although he surprisingly failed to anticipate a possible revolution in China and the threat of global Communism. Frank Blazich is a military historian at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

#### IF YOU VISIT US

Our editorial offices are located in Sims Hall, in the Naval War College Coasters Harbor Island complex, on the third floor, west wing (rooms W309, 330, 333, 334, 335). For building-security reasons, it would be necessary to meet you at the main entrance and escort you to our suite—give us a call ahead of time (401-841-2236).

#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

Statement of ownership, management, and circulation (required by 39 USC 3685, PS Form 3526-R, July 2014) of the *Naval War College Review*, Publication Number 401390, published four times a year at 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. General business offices of the publisher are located at the Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. Name and address of publisher is President, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. Name and address of editor is Dr. Carnes Lord, Code 32, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. Name and address of managing editor is Dr. Robert Ayer, Code 32A, Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I., 02841-1207. Owner is the Secretary of the Navy, Navy Department, Washington, D.C., 20350-1000. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and its exempt status for federal income-tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months. Average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months is: (a) Total number of copies: 8,373; (b)(1) Requested subscriptions (outside Newport County): 6,580; (b)(2) Requested subscriptions (inside Newport County): 410; (b)(3) Requested distribution outside USPS\*: 628; (c) Total requested circulation: 7,618; (d)(1) Nonrequested distribution by mail (outside Newport County): 66; (d)(2) Nonrequested distribution by mail (inside Newport County): 4; (d)(3) Nonrequested copies by other classes: 41; (d)(4) Nonrequested distribution outside the mail: 395; (e) Total nonrequested distribution: 507; (f) Total distribution: 8,125; (g) Copies not distributed: 185; (h) Total: 8,310; (i) Percent requested circulation: 94%. Issue date for circulation data: Summer 2019;

(a) Total number of copies: 8,466; (b)(1) Requested subscriptions (outside Newport County): 6,610; (b)(2) Requested subscriptions (inside Newport County): 413; (b)(3) Requested distribution outside USPS®: 627; (c) Total requested circulation: 7,650; (d)(1) Nonrequested distribution by mail (outside Newport County): 65; (d)(2) Nonrequested distribution by mail (inside Newport County): 4; (d)(3) Nonrequested copies by other classes: 42; (d)(4) Nonrequested distribution outside the mail: 447; (e) Total nonrequested distribution: 558; (f) Total distribution: 8,208; (g) Copies not distributed: 258; (h) Total: 8,466; (i) Percent requested circulation: 93%. I certify that all information furnished is true and complete.

Robert Ayer, Managing Editor