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## American Evangelicals and the U.S Military 1942-1993

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experience, of the costs and benefits of the Rickover style on the submarine force and the Navy is in itself enough to make his book valuable reading.

Galantin pursues two themes in *Submarine Admiral*. The first is the need for accountability, seared into his psyche by the failures of the exploder in the World War II Mark 14 torpedo. As a survivor of war patrols in the Pacific, Galantin writes with intensity and authority about the systemic and personal failures that permitted the exploder to be designed, tested, and approved by the same organization. He never forgot that lesson. His second theme is the importance of antisubmarine warfare as a continuing challenge to both the subsurface and surface Navy.

Galantin writes with a fluid and readable style, easily gathering together disparate concepts and facts into sentences and paragraphs that summarize with crispness and efficiency. He includes anecdotes of his meetings with many remarkable people, such as Lord Louis Mountbatten, Robert McNamara, and Arleigh Burke.

In his preface, he modestly describes the book as an "anecdotal account." Nevertheless, it shows extensive research, and rarely will the reader encounter a history that attains such great accuracy in even the small facts. Galantin works hard to set his story in context, to the point that it is sometimes difficult to separate what he observed firsthand from what he learned after the fact or from his own research. A greater use of footnotes and the inclusion of a bibliography (there is none) would have helped make these distinctions, and they would

have guided readers interested in learning more about particular topics.

Readers with little knowledge of the submarine force will find *Submarine Admiral* a useful introduction to the history of the undersea service. Readers with a submarine background will encounter much that is familiar, now illuminated by the observations of a submariner who was there when the decisions were made.

WILLIAM GALVANI  
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Loveland, Anne C. *American Evangelicals and the U.S. Military, 1942-1993*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State Univ. Press, 1997. 356pp \$55

One of the significant demographic changes in the U.S. military since World War II has been the tremendous increase in the presence of Protestant evangelicals throughout the ranks. Loveland's volume provides a thorough history and analysis of the rise of evangelicals within the military and of the work of nondenominational organizations providing ministries to service members. The religious changes within the military have paralleled those of American culture at large. While in the past few decades there has been a steady decline in "mainline denominations," there has been enormous growth in denominations and groups that are more conservative theologically.

Since the Vietnam War the evangelistic efforts and desires of evangelicals for numerical and spiritual growth within the military were accompanied by a growing influence in national

security policy. Evangelicals have generally maintained a pro-defense and pro-military stance, which enabled them to move from the fringes of the chaplaincy and religious life within the services to a much more prominent and influential role. The careers of such senior officers as generals William K. Harrison, Harold K. Johnson, Ralph E. Haines, and John A. Wickham demonstrate the influence of personal religious convictions upon leadership, policies, and programs. Evangelical groups like the National Association of Evangelicals, the Navigators, and the Officers' Christian Fellowship have played a major role in assisting evangelical chaplains and others working within the military for a greater perspective and presence. As a result of these efforts "the success of the evangelicals' campaign within the armed forces matched their growing presence and political influence in American society as a whole."

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s evangelicals gained access to the federal government and public recognition, but their relationship with the military was filled with tension. The high percentage of military leaders coming from the mainline Protestant denominations like the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and Congregationalists, as well as differing theological perspectives among evangelicals, created misperceptions and generated resentment, suspicion, and conflict. Much of it centered on chapel services, religious curricular resources, and constitutional concerns regarding religious freedom violations. In the late 1960s a concerted effort by evangelicals to improve their relationship with the military leadership, and the general

evangelical support of the war effort in Vietnam, opened a new era of military growth for them. Additionally, during the last three decades a shifting religious composition within the military has enhanced the evangelical presence, which has been felt throughout the ranks.

Evangelicals have participated in the debates regarding selective service, national security policy, nuclear arms, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, homosexuals in the military, religious pluralism, and constitutional issues relating to the chaplaincy. In each of these issues the evangelical voice was raised, and its influence increased.

Loveland's volume is thus more than simply a religious history relating to the military. It is a thorough analysis of one aspect of the religious and cultural changes that have occurred in the military in the last fifty years.

Anne Loveland teaches American history at Louisiana State University and has authored several works on American cultural and social history. Her volume is thoroughly documented and well researched. It should reach an audience far greater than the evangelicals in the military, since it affords readers an in-depth case study on the course and dynamics of the organizational influence of ideological groups. For the military leader, the volume offers a history and examination of the religious character of a significant and growing proportion of the armed forces. Over the last half century the evangelicals' mission to the military and their desire and ability to influence national policy have developed along parallel lines. This volume clearly demonstrates that religion in the military is a viable and potent

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force to be understood off the battlefield as well as on it.

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Coye, Beth F. *My Navy Too*. Ashland, Ore.: Cedar Hollow Press, 1997. 415pp. \$16.95

When assessing how the U.S. Navy, or any other branch of the armed services, should respond to changes in society at large, it is important to keep in mind that the U.S. military exists not simply to defend a piece of geography—it also exists to defend a way of life. If defense of the homeland were its sole purpose, its leadership could argue plausibly that it should be composed of single, white, straight, Protestant males. Adding married people, blacks, gays, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, and women to the force certainly makes it more difficult and challenging to develop unit cohesion and maintain readiness, at least in the short run. Yet it cannot be otherwise, because American society, from its inception, has urged its citizens to “be all that they can be.”

In her excellent and timely autobiographical novel *My Navy Too*, Commander Beth Coye, U.S. Navy (Retired), describes how the leading character, Tucker Fairfield, the daughter of an admiral and a Wellesley graduate, deals with the Navy’s prejudices against women and homosexuals as she moves from Office Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1960 to her retirement as a commander in 1980. But this novel is more than just a diatribe against “wrong-headed” regulations

and biased male-officer attitudes against women and homosexuals. It relives, through the eyes of Fairfield and her colleagues, the events of the 1960s and 1970s that shaped the contemporary American political system: for example, the assassinations of President John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy, as well as the tragedy of Vietnam. Moreover, it describes how the offspring of an admiral (even a woman) has access to people in the Navy hierarchy that can help smooth over the rough spots in career assignments. Finally, Coye deals realistically with the dilemmas faced by most career military officers as they move up in the ranks—such as the conflict between loyalty to one’s principles and loyalty to “Big Daddy Navy,” and the needs of the Navy versus one’s own personal needs.

Coye tells her story through journal entries, correspondence with her parents, her admiral mentor, her college roommate, her first (and only) male lover, and her female partner. The book was written with the assistance of Vice Admiral Duke Bayne, U.S. Navy (Retired); Navy submarine commander Captain Jim Bush (Retired); his wife, Dr. Patricia Bush; social worker Kitty Clark; and Lieutenant Commander Sandra Snodderly, U.S. Navy (Retired). These five individuals correspond roughly to Fairfield’s pen pals in the book.

This novel is must reading for anyone interested in understanding the struggle that women have had over the last thirty years in attaining some measure of equality in the Navy, as well as the difficulties that patriotic gay men