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Naval Postgraduate School Library

Cohen, Eliot A.

Council for Foreign Relations

Cohen, Eliot A. "Naval Postgraduate School Library", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 80, No. 2 (Mar. - Apr., 2001), p. 173
<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/68936>

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Recent Books

overstatement and dogma from advocates and critics. Both sides resort to badly distorted history, either to prove that leaders such as Ho Chi Minh and Saddam Hussein were utterly undone by airpower or that “bombing just improves morale.” This meticulous study is therefore all the more praiseworthy. Thompson, a professional historian in the highest sense of the term, closely examines American operations against North Vietnam during the Vietnam War. In addition to a careful combat narrative, he describes the evolution of the command organizations behind the operating forces, the experiences of prisoners of war, and the Lavelle affair (in which an Air Force general exceeded instructions to bomb targets in the North). In its lucid prose, ample data, and above all judicious tone, this work is a model of military history.

Naval Postgraduate School Library.

<http://web.nps.navy.mil/~library/>

One often thinks of the Web as an alternative to a conventional library. That may be true, but the best place to access the Web is often a library's site. A number of military educational institutions (including the service war colleges, the National Defense University, and the Pentagon library) have useful Web pages, but this site is particularly rich. In addition to guiding the reader to the library itself—which has some interesting databases, many of them free—it provides a useful portal to other military sites. Of particular value is the resources page, which can point researchers to all kinds of sites where they can download the correct military graphic for sketching an obstacle zone, peruse a bibliography on de-mining, or find meticulous descriptions of terrorist

incidents (by year) in Kyrgyzstan. In other words, a good place to begin research.

Army Relations with Congress: Thick Armor, Dull Sword, Slow Horse. BY STEPHEN K. SCROGGS. Westport: Praeger, 2000, 266 pp. \$69.50 (paper, \$27.95).

A book's subtitle normally explains what the book is really about. Here it reflects the withering scorn that pervades this densely written study. After serving 20 years as a U.S. Army officer, Scroggs seeks to explain why (in his view) the army has been spectacularly inept in dealing with Congress. Relying on both scholarly literature and extensive interviews, he paints a picture of an organization suffering ills far more serious than a few tongue-tied generals being outmaneuvered by wily counterparts in the other services. “Naive, trusting arrogance” is the kindest thing he has to say about the army's leaders. The more serious indictment is that the organization is inward-looking and risk-averse. He also examines the transfer of M1A1 tanks to the Marine Corps before the Gulf War, has interesting chapters on the role of military liaison officers in Congress, and discusses army culture. This book is not an easy read (except when it quotes indignant general officers, whose humor is often unintentional). It is nonetheless an analysis that the new secretary of the army should read with care—and alarm.

Trouble Spots: The World Atlas of Strategic Information. BY ANDREW DUNCAN AND MICHAEL OPATOWSKI. New York: Sutton Publishing, 2000, 324 pp. \$39.95.

The military business generates more than its share of coffee-table books. This volume, however, offers something more.