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From the Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

Long-time *Review* readers will notice this editors' letter is longer than normal. We are introducing not only this issue's articles but also important developments in the Naval War College Press and the future of the *Review*. We want this letter to renew scholarly conversation on what clearly is an era in which the sea—and thus navies—will play an outsize and dynamic role in world politics, the global economy, and the future of the planet.

Rear Admiral Darryl “D-Day” Walker, the new President of the Naval War College, is only one of the recent changes for the Press team. Captain Michael O’Hara, formerly chair of the College’s War Gaming Department, has stood up as interim dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, where the Press resides within the College. Steven Stashwick, formerly an associate editor in the Press, has taken over as managing editor. Outside his work for the Press, Steve has long operational and staff experience as both an active and reserve naval officer. His own writing and research focus on Sino-U.S. competition, East Asian naval developments, U.S. defense policy, and the strategic impacts of climate change. Jon Caverley has been appointed interim editor in chief. He is a professor in the Strategic and Operational Research Department, where he was the inaugural director of its Bernard Brodie Strategy Group. A political scientist with wide research interests, he most recently has published on the operational value of Taiwan and the role played by gender and veteran status in influencing security policy. Much of his directed research supports future fleet efforts in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Our new team has set substantive and procedural goals for the *Review*. Substantively, we seek to renew the *Review*'s intellectual focus on encouraging, improving, and disseminating the world's best research on subjects relevant to the mission of the U.S. Naval War College. We publish across a wide range of subjects and disciplines, with a special attention to history, but we prioritize work supporting the strategic guidance conveyed in the College's “sharpened” mission statement described in Rear Admiral Peter Garvin's farewell letter. These subjects broadly include but are not limited to force design, high-end conflict, deterrence, emerging technology, and logistics. We execute our mission with editorial independence, through a combination of an active editorial board with a global

reputation, a rigorous double-blind peer-review process, and an editorial team with open minds and high standards.

The Press prides itself on being a venue for work that is always scholarly but not necessarily or exclusively academic. We seek a wide range of authors with excellent ideas and research, and we possess the editorial talent to work with any promising submission to maximize its intellectual impact. Given the Navy's global orientation, the nature of the maritime world, and the College's status as an international standard setter for professional naval education, we seek a global audience and authorship. Finally, we measure our impact not just in citations and academic engagement, but by placement of *Review* articles on syllabi both within and beyond other war colleges, as well as the delivery of actionable insight to policy makers.

Measured improvements in our editorial process may be the most essential component in executing our renewed mission. The Press currently is hiring multiple associate editors after a significant period of being understaffed. This new team will revise the editorial practices to better serve our authors, reviewers, and readers. This includes modernizing and speeding up our submission and refereeing system, setting high standards for reviewer and editor feedback (regardless of publication decision), posting accepted articles online in a timely manner, resuming a predictable *Review* publication schedule, and publicizing work to the fleet, staffs, and the wider public.

This issue's articles cover a wide range of the subject matter on which the *Review* team will focus going forward: our traditional topics of history and international law with application to contemporary problems, the underresearched problem of contested logistics in wartime, the increased salience of China's People's Liberation Army Navy, and the rapidly developing challenges in artificial intelligence and other emerging and disruptive technologies.

Tobias Kollakowski's "China's Naval Diplomacy in the Baltic Sea at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century" draws on analysis relevant to both of the U.S. Navy's two priority theaters to demonstrate the globalized nature of maritime security competition. Chinese naval activity in the Baltic may not appear substantial or significant to U.S. observers, but given its distance from China and the small size of European fleets, these engagements amount to a significant mutual investment of scarce resources. Kollakowski finds that while the People's Liberation Army Navy's operations were designed to send *cooperative* signals to European actors (including but not limited to Russia), such information was lost within the broader, more adversarial relationship between China and non-Russian Europe. The piece powerfully illustrates how naval diplomacy can only succeed when it is integrated with the larger foreign policy of a state.

Diplomacy among allies often is as challenging as relations with competitors and equally essential. “NATO and Emerging Technologies: The Alliance’s Shifting Approach to Military Innovation,” by Stephen Herzog and Dominika Kunertova, examines the alliance’s approach to emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs). It is an underappreciated fact that while European members have significantly increased military spending on operations and weapons production since Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine, NATO still lags the United States, China, and even countries such as South Korea on research and development spending on both defense and commercial innovation. Herzog and Kunertova note the bureaucratic inertia that stymies NATO cooperation on EDTs. They also acknowledge that the management of these types of dual-use technologies often has a more direct impact on the dyadic relations between member states and China, further complicating coordination among members.

Erik Sand examines one largely forgotten but still venerable mission in “Fighting to Supply the Fight,” providing a framework for scholars and policy makers to begin grappling with a new era of contested logistics. While Russia’s invasion of Ukraine forced militaries to revisit complacent assumptions about supply lines and inventories, Sand observes that a major conflict in the western Pacific would make the Ukraine war look like a milk run. Sand advances a framework of three approaches that encompass—but go well beyond—the tired trade-off between efficiency and effectiveness. Sand emphasizes the particular importance of his third approach, “Forecast and Push.” While Milan Vego is correct in his article later in this issue that history is an invaluable resource for understanding wartime logistics, Sand believes this should be complemented by investments in synthetic data generation and processing, wargaming simulations, and logistics exercises to develop forecasts to begin planning the distribution of limited matériel in war.

In “A Special Operations Approach to Lawfare,” Justin Malzac brings the over-used term “lawfare” back to the basics by applying elements of special operations doctrine to its practice. In the same way that U.S. Special Operations Command emphasizes the military preparation of the environment in advance of a conflict, Malzac discusses the potential for a *legal* analogue in which the state seeks to “shift customary and treaty law in favor of the operational activities that the state desires to pursue.” Malzac then leverages other special operations practices such as “placement and access” and “by, with, and through” to emphasize the need to work with international partners well in advance of conflict.

“The Study and Utility of Naval History,” by Milan Vego, explores the continued importance of studying naval history for naval professionals, a field the *Review* works hard to represent. He also adds a note of caution that there are many poor uses of history. After all, while Vego observes that “almost all great

war-fighting admirals in the modern era were known as lifelong students of history,” we do not know how many mediocre officers study this same canon. History’s careful use nonetheless remains an essential tool as naval officers assess a domain that, while rapidly changing, has precedents, often forgotten, in the past.

These articles support the renewed mission and focus of the *Review* but were very much developed and nurtured by our previous, long-standing leadership: Professor Carnes Lord, who retired last fall after a lifetime of service in government and for seventeen years the director of the Press and editor of the *Review*; and Rob Ayer, who came to the Press after a full career as a professor at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and served here as the managing editor for nearly a decade, where he navigated more than his fair share of severe challenges faced by the College, the publishing industry, and the nation. The incoming editors, the Press, and the College owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to them.

The editorial team is grateful to be entrusted as temporary custodians of this institution, and we seek feedback from both longtime and new stakeholders as we develop the Press for a uniquely consequential period of competition at sea. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the editor in chief or managing editor.

