

## From the Editor

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Welcome to the first edition of the U.S. Naval War College's /Luce.nt/, a student-run, online, peer-reviewed Journal of National Security Studies. Why is there a need for another National Security journal and what makes /Luce.nt/ different?

In today's fast-paced, complex, and globalized environment, the one constant to which every leader must adapt is change. Decreasing decision cycle times, overlapping and dynamic spheres of diverse political influences, and instantaneous information access will make the job of future leaders increasingly difficult. According to the United States Joint Forces Command study, *Joint Operating Environment 2010*, "The true test of military effectiveness in the past has been the ability of a force to diagnose the conditions it actually confronts and then quickly adapt."<sup>1</sup> In both waging war and promoting peace, the ability to adapt to ever-changing environments will be critical to future tactical, operational, and strategic success. For 125 years, the U.S. Naval War College has been developing leaders with the ability to adapt to future challenges. As the War College's founding father, Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce, stated so succinctly, "[The Naval War College] is a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war."<sup>2</sup> By studying the thoughts of past and present policy makers, scholars, and practitioners, the War College has been broadening the view and expanding the frame of reference of tomorrow's operational leaders and thinkers.

According to Bernard Brodie in his book, *A Guide to Naval Strategy*, operational leaders "must have the ability to see things whole, to appraise the present in terms of the future, and to see the problems of both the present and the future in all their numerous ramifications."<sup>3</sup> According to Naval War College Professor Milan Vego, the ability to "think broadly and have a broad vision..."<sup>4</sup> is defined as operational thinking. Operational thinking is developed through a variety of ways, including professional education, personal education, and operational training.<sup>5</sup> However, along with these more traditional methods, exposure to a wide-range of ideas and experiences is also an important factor in the development of future operational thinkers. /Luce.nt/'s role lies in opening an avenue of accessibility for mid-grade officers to share ideas in a forum that will aid in the development of this "broad vision." Therefore, to promote this sharing of ideas, our mission at /Luce.nt/ is to advance thinking and to promote dialogue in an online symposium for policy makers, scholars, and practitioners within the

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM), *The Joint Operating Environment 2010* (Suffolk, VA: USJFCOM, 18 February 2010), 5.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen B. Luce, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, Address delivered at the U.S. Naval War College (June 2, 1903), quoted in John D. Hayes, and John B. Hattendorf, eds., *The Writings of Stephen B. Luce* (Newport, RI: Naval War College, 1975), 39-40.

<sup>3</sup> Brodie, Bernard, *A Guide to Naval Strategy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1958), 264.

<sup>4</sup> Vego, Milan N. *Joint Operational Warfare: Theory and Practice* (Newport, RI: U.S. Naval War College, 2009), XI-3.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, XI-7 - XI-9.

international security community “on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war.”

Each edition of /Luce.nt/ revolves around a unifying grand theme. The focus of this inaugural edition is nested with the theme of the Naval War College’s recent Current Strategy Forum, “The Global System in Transition.” The three articles selected for publication represent not only the *joint* nature of Newport’s officer culture, but also its rich *international* fiber: U.S. Army Major Chad Foster’s, “A Risk Worth Taking: Rethinking India’s Position Within the Unified Command Plan;” Republic of Singapore Navy Lieutenant Colonel Chee Hong Joshua Toh’s, “Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC): Reshaping the World Order in the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century;” and U.S. Air Force Major Christopher “Chester” McCarthy’s, “Anti-Access/Area Denial: The Evolution of Modern Warfare.”

Major Foster’s “A Risk Worth Taking: Rethinking India’s Position Within the Unified Command Plan” advocates for greater CENTCOM involvement in nurturing the US partnership with India. Citing American and Indian mutual interests in the ACPAK region, Major Foster argues for new UCP boundaries that embrace historic security links between India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

In his article, “Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC): Reshaping the World Order in the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century,” Republic of Singapore Navy Lieutenant Colonel Toh contends that the rise of the BRIC nations indicates a shift from a unipolar world to a multipolar one. As BRIC nations attain greater economic power, Toh asserts they will play a larger role as responsible stakeholders. Lt Cdr Toh calls on the U.S. to recognize BRIC contribution to the global community and to accord them a representative voice in reshaping the world order.

Major McCarthy’s, “Anti-Access/Area Denial: The Evolution of Modern Warfare” discusses China’s emergence as a regional power with a robust anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capability designed to disrupt U.S. power projection into the western Pacific. Chester argues that in order to conduct successful military operations in the A2/AD environment, the U.S. must address A2/AD as a new way of war, comprehend the associated operational implications, and eliminate any imbalances between military objectives and the means by which to achieve them.

In addition to these three fine articles, /Luce.nt/ presents two regular features as standard components of the journal. The first is the “Old and New Review” where U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander John Gaines reviews Nassim Nicholas Taleb’s, *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* and William L. Shirer’s *Berlin Diary: An Inside Account of Nazi Germany*. The second is the “From the Archives” section, which presents a relevant historical document from the U.S. Naval War College’s Historical Archives. In the inaugural “From the Archives,” U.S. Navy Lieutenant Eric Madonia uncovers an 1897 speech delivered at the Naval War College by then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt. In this address, Roosevelt stresses the importance of a strong navy, yet his words may also be interpreted to stress the necessity of a well educated corps of operational and strategic thinkers with the ability to adapt to changing environments.

Fiscally constrained environments and globalization are changing the character of war. The threats we face today will continue to evolve. Creative thought, innovation, and adaptation are the key components to successfully meeting the challenges of the future. The ability to see, understand, and adapt to the changing environment will be critical to the operational leaders of the future. To prepare for that role, leaders must become operational and strategic thinkers. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt in 1897, “Peace, like freedom, is not a gift that tarries long in the hands of cowards, or of

those too feeble or too shortsighted to deserve it; and we ask to be given the means to insure that honorable peace which alone is worth having." /Luce.nt/ hopes to be a useful and relevant means towards achieving that end.