

U.S. Naval Institute 2022 Editorial Board Ballot Candidate Profiles

***Currently Serving on the Editorial Board**



CAPT Thomas E. Clarity, USN

Captain Clarity is assigned to the Naval War College. He has previously served as the operations officer for the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76) and commanding officer of Electronic Attack Squadron 131, an EA-18G Growler squadron based at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington. He is a Naval Institute member and frequent contributor to *Proceedings*.



CDR DeVere J. Crooks, USN

Commander Crooks is a Surface Warfare Officer who commanded the USS *Halsey* (DDG-97). He is now the director of the prospective commanding officers' course at Surface Warfare Schools Command in Newport, RI. In addition to multiple sea tours, he previously served as a special assistant to the CNO and Navy Liaison Officer to the U.S. Senate. He is a Naval Institute member and *Proceedings* contributor.



***SgtMaj Anthony J. Easton, USMC**

Sergeant Major Easton enlisted in July 1994 and earned the military occupation skill of combat engineer. He is currently assigned to Training and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia. His tours include 2d Combat Engineer Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, with deployments to Cuba (Operation Sea Signal), 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Operation Decisive Endeavor), and the 26th MEU (Operations Allied Force, Shining Hope, Joint Guardian, and Avid Response); 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Camp Pendleton, California, deploying to Iraq in 2004 and 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; 3rd Battalion 9th Marines, Camp Lejeune, deploying to Iraq again and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Major Easton also spent time as a canvassing recruiter and the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Sub-Station Fargo, North Dakota, while assigned to Recruiting Station Twin Cities, Minnesota. He was also assigned to inspector-instructor duty in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a graduate of the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy.



***LCDR Michelle M. Foster, USCG**

Lieutenant Commander Foster graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2007 and developed broad experience as a response officer. She served two years as a deck watch officer and boarding officer on a 270-foot cutter; directed search and rescue in Virginia and North Carolina for three years; and oversaw program response for two 87-foot cutters, aids-to-navigation boats, and surf stations in California while also acting as command center chief. During this latter tour, she directed search and rescue operations, this time with aircraft (MH-65) and on-water assets in surf conditions.

From 2015 to 2018, she was commanding officer of Station Cape May, District Five's largest station with two seasonal station smalls—Fortesque and Townsend's Inlet—overseeing the advancement of 58 active-duty and 26 reserve members. She is qualified on six boat asset types, as well as coxswain of the jet-drive 45-foot response boat medium. Finally, she arrived in Seattle and oversaw small boat/station operations and pollution response across Washington and Oregon and is currently adding air operations oversight duties for three air stations. Major projects since coming to Seattle include being a board member on a major marine investigation board following the death of three fishermen off Yaquina Bay, Oregon. She has a master's degree in national security studies and is working through JPME Phase I as well as attending pollution



***LT Andrea R. Howard, USN**

Lieutenant Howard is a blue crew division officer on the USS *Ohio* (SSGN-726). Following her graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2015, she was a Marshall Scholar at the University of Oxford and King's College London, where she focused on the intersection of technology, security, and diplomacy in weapons of mass destruction policy. She won the U.S. Naval Institute's 2019 Emerging and Disruptive Technologies Essay Contest with her essay "Fast and Furiously Accurate" about the need for the Navy's hypersonic weapons to have the precision to match their speed.



Maj Brian A. Kerg, USMC

Major Kerg is a Marine Corps communications officer who began his career as an enlisted mortarman and SAW gunner. He was commissioned through Officers Candidate School/Platoon Leaders Course in 2006. In 2009 and 2010, he deployed to the Western Pacific with the 11th MEU. In October 2011, he deployed in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) 12.1, serving as the detachment's executive officer, as an Afghan Border Police (ABP) advisor, and site commander of an ABP training site in Nangarhar Province. A graduate of the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) and the Air Command and Staff College Online Master's Program, he holds a Master of Arts in Military History from Norwich University, a Master of Science in Information from the University of Michigan, a Master of Arts in Military Operational Art and Science from Air University. Major Kerg is a Non-Resident Fellow with Marine Corps University's Brute Krulak Center for Creativity and Innovation and a Military Fellow with the College of William and Mary's Project for International Peace and Security. His professional writing has appeared in *War on the Rocks*, *Proceedings*, *The Marine Corps Gazette*, *The Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC)*, *SIGNAL Magazine*, and *The Strategy Bridge*. He is a member of the Naval Institute and has won several Naval Institute essay contests.



LCDR Tyson B. Meadors, USN

Lieutenant Commander Meadors is a cyber warfare engineer stationed at Navy Cyber Warfare Development Group in Suitland, Maryland. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Director for Cybersecurity Policy on the National Security Council (NSC) Staff. While serving at the White House, LCDR Meadors advised the President, Vice President, and multiple National Security Advisors on cyber threats, technology, and operations. Tyson has a B.S. in information technology and English from the U.S. Naval Academy, an M.S. in cyber security from the University of Maryland University College, as well as related diplomas and certifications from Old Dominion University, the North China Institute of Science and Technology, the Defense Cyber Investigations Training Academy, and the Escal Institute of Advanced Technologies. Prior to commissioning, he worked in China as an English professor at the North China Institute of Science and Technology. He is a Naval Institute member and contributor to *Proceedings*.



CDR Scott E. Welles, USN

Commander Welles is the executive officer of Tactical Air Control Squadron 12 based in Coronado, California. TACRON-12 just completed a deployment on board the USS *America* (LHA-6). A career aviator, he previously served as a department head at Strike Fighter Squadron 37 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is a Naval Institute member and frequent contributor to *Proceedings*.



LtCol Adam Yang, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Yang is a former enlisted Marine who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2005. He is a communications officer and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom who holds master's degrees from Georgetown University and the Naval Postgraduate School. He is currently assigned to the strategy section within the Plans, Policy, and Operations (PP&O) directorate in Headquarters Marine Corps. He is a Naval Institute member.