

U.S. Naval Institute 2023 Editorial Board Ballot

Candidate Profiles



CAPT Sharif Calfee, USN

Captain Sharif Calfee is a surface warfare officer who has commanded the USS *McCampbell* (DDG-85) and the USS *Shiloh* (CG-67), the latter forward deployed in Yokosuka, Japan. He currently serves as the Deputy Director, Navy Plans & Policy (OPNAV N5B), and special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans & Strategy (OPNAV N3/N5).

Captain Calfee holds a bachelor of science degree in computer science from the U.S. Naval Academy, a master's degree in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a master's degree in public policy (international relations concentration) from Princeton University. He is a frequent contributor to *Proceedings*.



CAPT Thomas E. Clarity, USN

Captain Thomas Clarity is a military professor in the Joint Military Operations Department at the Naval War College. He has deployed in support of Operations Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve and on multiple occasions to the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility. He previously served as operations officer on board 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.

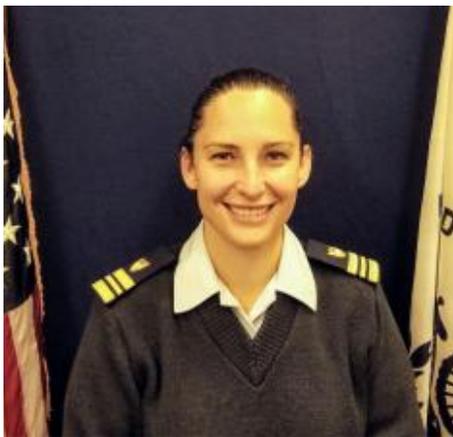
Captain Clarity holds a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from Villanova University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He is a frequent contributor to *Proceedings*.



CDR DeVere J. Crooks, USN

Commander DeVere Crooks is a surface warfare officer and director of the prospective commanding officers' course at Surface Warfare Schools Command in Newport, Rhode Island.

He previously served as commanding officer of the USS *Halsey* (DDG-97), as a special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations, and as a Navy liaison officer to the U.S. Senate. He is a *Proceedings* contributor.



LCDR Michelle Foster, USCG

Lieutenant Commander Michelle 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.

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. She is qualified on six boat asset types, as well as coxswain of the jet-drive 45-foot response boat medium.

At District 13, Lieutenant Commander Foster oversees small boat/station operations and pollution response across Washington and Oregon, and she is adding air operations oversight duties for three air stations. She holds a master's degree in national security studies and is working through JPME Phase I as well as attending pollution courses.



LT Andrea Howard, USN

Lieutenant Andrea Howard, one of the first one hundred women in the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine force, is a blue crew division officer on board the USS *Ohio* (SSGN-726).

Following graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy 2015, she was selected as a Marshall Scholar, earning a master's of science in global governance and diplomacy (with distinction) from the University of Oxford and a master's degree in science and security (with distinction) from King's College London.

Lieutenant Howard is a frequent contributor to *Proceedings*. She won the 2019 Emerging and Disruptive Technologies Essay Contest with her piece outlining why the Navy's hypersonic weapons should have precision that matches their speed.



LtCol Brian A. Kerg, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Kerg is a Marine Corps communications officer who began his career as an enlisted mortarman and SAW gunner. Currently, he is the Northeast Asia plans officer, III Marine Expeditionary Force, in Okinawa, Japan. He is a nonresident fellow with Marine Corps University's Brute Krulak Center for Creativity and Innovation and served as a military fellow with the College of William and Mary's Project for International Peace and Security.

A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, he also has held many teaching and course design roles, including assistant professor of naval science at the University of Michigan, adjunct faculty for Marine Corps University's Continuing Education Program, and adjunct faculty for Expeditionary Warfare School on-site seminar.

Lieutenant Colonel Kerg holds a master's degree in military history from Norwich University, a master's of science in information from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in military operational art and science from Air University, and a master's degree in operational studies from the School of Advanced Warfighting.



SgtMaj Jacob M. Reiff, USMC

Sergeant Major Jacob M. Reiff is the sergeant major for Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. A native of Wisconsin, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in May 1995 and has served in a wide variety of positions over the course of his 27-year career, including company first sergeant for the Marine Security Company at the Presidential Retreat at Camp David. His assignments as a unit sergeant major include battalion sergeant major for 3d Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division and 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command; regimental sergeant major for 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division; and wing sergeant major for 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

His deployments and operational experience include deployments with or in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit; Operation Iraqi Freedom I, II and III; Joint Task Force Liberia; Operation Enduring Freedom–Afghanistan; Operation Inherent Resolve–Iraq; and most recently as the Marine Rotational Forces Europe Aviation Task Force sergeant major in support of NATO’s Eastern Flank Air Policing Mission.



CDR Scott E. Welles, USN

Commander Scott Welles is commanding officer of Tactical Air Control Squadron 12, based in Coronado, California. A career aviator, Commander Welles previously served as a department head at Strike Fighter Squadron 37 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, deploying in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He has accumulated more than 2,000 flight hours and 440 carrier arrested landings.

Commander Welles holds a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from the University of Colorado at Boulder, an executive master of business administration from the Naval Postgraduate School, and is an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is a frequent contributor to *Proceedings*.



LtCol Adam Yang, USMC

Lieutenant Colonel Adam Yang is a former enlisted Marine and 2005 U.S. Naval Academy graduate. A communications officer and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he currently is assigned to the strategy section within the Plans, Policy, and Operations Directorate at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Yang holds a master's degree in security studies from Georgetown University, a master's degree in information warfare systems engineering and a master of business administration in information business management from the Naval Postgraduate School, a master's degree in military studies from Marine Corps University, and is a doctoral fellow at American University.