



4 October 2019

Editorial Board Nominees 2020

New candidates:

1. Sergeant Major Anthony J. Easton, U.S. Marine Corps
2. Commander Ryan Mewett, U.S. Navy
3. Captain Scott Smith, U.S. Navy
4. Lieutenant Colonel William Steinke, U.S. Marine Corps

Sergeant Major Anthony J. Easton, U.S. Marine Corps

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, as the Command Sergeant Major. His tours include 2d Combat Engineer Battalion with deployments to Cuba, 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 deploying to Iraq again and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Major Easton also spent time as a recruiter and staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge of Recruiting Sub-Station Fargo, North Dakota. He is a graduate of the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, Class 165.

Commander Ryan Mewett, U.S. Navy

Commander Mewett is a U.S. Naval Academy permanent military professor selectee currently studying for a PhD in history at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to PMP selection, he served as a submarine officer on board USS *Columbus* (SSN-762), USS *San Francisco* (SSN-711), and USS *Helena* (SSN-725) and in various shore assignments, including most recently as executive officer of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center Tactical Analysis Group. Other assignments include Congressional liaison at OPNAV N97 (Undersea Warfare) and military editor of *Undersea Warfare* magazine. Commander Mewett graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2001 with a bachelor's in history and subsequently earned master's degrees in international relations as an Olmsted Scholar at Waseda University (Japan) and in naval history from the University of Portsmouth (UK). He is a graduate of the Royal Netherlands Navy Submarine Command Course.

Captain Scott Smith, U.S. Navy

Captain Smith is the chairman of the Joint Military Operations department at the U.S. Naval War College. Previously, he was the commissioning commanding officer of the USS *Michael Monsoor* (DDG-1001). He has deployed from the east and west coasts on board the USS *Donald B. Beary* (FF-1085), USS *Cole* (DDG-67), USS *Stethem* (DDG-63), USS *Ramage* (DDG-61) and as embarked staff on board the USS *Eisenhower* (CVN-69) and USS *Boxer* (LHD-4). He commanded the USS *Klakring* (FFG-42) through two independent deployments to the Mediterranean, North, and Black seas, and nine months later, circumnavigated South America as part of UNITAS. Crews from his ships earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy and Meritorious Unit Commendations, and multiple Battle E awards.



Lieutenant Colonel William Steinke, U.S. Marine Corps

Lieutenant Colonel Steinke is a strategic analyst for the Commandant's Action Group. An EA-6B electronic countermeasures officer, he deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2008, Afghanistan in 2009, and Qatar in 2014 supporting combat operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. His qualifications include weapons and tactics instructor, joint terminal attack controller, operations and tactics instructor, MAGTF planner, and basic information operations planner. He served as the operations officer for Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and operations officer for Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4. He is a graduate of the School of Advanced Warfighting and a DARPA Service Chiefs' Fellow.

Incumbent candidates:

1. Lieutenant Commander Natalia Best, U.S. Coast Guard
2. Chief Warrant Officer-4 Carl T. Shipley, U.S. Coast Guard
3. Commander Brendan Stickles, U.S. Navy, *Editorial Board Chair*
4. Captain Joshua Taylor, U.S. Navy
5. Lieutenant Commander Eric Zilberman, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Natalia Best, U.S. Coast Guard

Lieutenant Commander Best was commissioned in 2005 and is a permanent cutterman. She is currently the military assistant to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Her previous assignments include deck watch officer on board the USCGC *Diligence* (WMEC-616); commanding officer of the USCGC *Sturgeon* (WPB-87336); living marine resources program manager at U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area; commanding officer of the USCGC *Adak* (WPB-1333) in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain; and the administration and standards development division chief at the Coast Guard Office of Cutter Forces. Lieutenant Commander Best holds a bachelor's degree in marine and environmental science from the Coast Guard Academy and a master's degree in marine affairs from the University of Washington's School of Marine and Environmental Affairs.

Commander Brendan Stickles, U.S. Navy—*Editorial Board Chair*

Commander Stickles was commissioned in 1999 and designated a naval aviator in November 2001. He is currently the special advisor for defense, Office of the Vice President. Previously, he commanded the Battle E-winning EA-18G electronic attack squadron VAQ-130, after having served as a squadron department head. He served his junior officer tour flying Prowlers with VAQ-136 in Atsugi, Japan, where he was awarded an Air Medal with Combat "V" during Operation Iraqi Freedom and received the CDR Noel Greene Leadership Award. He served two tours as an instructor pilot flying Super Hornets with Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106 and Growlers with VAQ-129. He was the first EA-18G carrier qualification phase head and qualified the first 32 EA-18G pilots with 100 percent qualification rate. Commander Stickles has flown more than 3,500 flight hours and logged more than 500 carrier arrested landings in EA-6B, F/A-18E/F, and EA-18G aircraft. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from the U.S. Naval Academy and master's degrees in business administration from the University of North Carolina and in public administration from Harvard University.



Chief Warrant Officer-4 Carl T. Shipley, U.S. Coast Guard

Chief Warrant Officer Shipley enlisted in the Coast Guard in October 1995. He has a warrant officer specialty in Maritime Law Enforcement and Security (MLES), and currently is assigned to the Office of Specialized Capabilities at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, where he is the equipment configuration control program manager for the Coast Guard's Armed Deployable Specialized Forces. Previously, he served as the program manager for Maritime Law Enforcement Policy Standards and C Schools; Maritime Security Response Team West assistant force manager; and Maritime Law Enforcement and Force Protection division chief, deployable team leader, tactical operator, and advanced marksmanship instructor at Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu. Chief Warrant Officer Shipley holds a bachelor's degree in homeland security from Excelsior College.

Captain Joshua Taylor, U.S. Navy

Captain Taylor was designated a naval flight officer in 1999 and is now a foreign area officer. He currently is the head of International Plans and Policy for the U.S. Pacific Fleet and was previously a Navy Federal Executive Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the U.S. Naval Institute. His operational tours include numerous deployments to the Middle East in support of Operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom with Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 128, the USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74), and VAQ-131. Other assignments include: U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur as Deputy Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation Malaysia; legislative affairs officer at U.S. Pacific Command; and executive assistant to the director, Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Captain Taylor holds a bachelor's in history from the U.S. Naval Academy and certifications from the Naval War College, Joint Forces Staff College, and Naval Postgraduate School. He earned master's degrees in organizational management from George Washington University and diplomacy and military studies from Hawaii Pacific University.

Lieutenant Commander Eric Zilberman, U.S. Navy

Lieutenant Commander Zilberman received his wings in 2008 and completed his flight training in the F/A-18 A-D Hornet at Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 106. He currently is serving at the Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office as the class desk officer. From 2009 to 2012, he flew with VFA-34, completing two combat deployments and flying 40 combat missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. He was selected to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, after which he served as experimental test pilot/project officer at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23. Returning to Virginia Beach to join VFA-37, he completed his department head tour and third combat deployment, flying 19 combat missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Lieutenant Commander Zilberman has more than 2,000 military and civilian flight hours in 28 different aircraft types. He holds a bachelor's in systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and a master's in systems technology from the Naval Postgraduate School.